

CALIFORNIA TAHOE EMERGENCY SERVICES OPERATIONS AUTHORITY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 22, 2014 at 9:00 am

**Lake Valley Fire District Station #7 - Classroom
2211 Keetak St, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

- **Regular Meeting**

- Call to Order – 9:01 am - quorum was established
- Roll Call – Present at the meeting were:

Board Chairperson Robert Bettencourt
Board Director Dave Huber
Board Director Angela Swanson
Board Director JoAnn Conner
Fire Chief Jeff Meston City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department
Fire Chief Gareth Harris Lake Valley Fire Protection District
Battalion Chief Brad Zlendick Lake Valley Fire Protection District
Executive Director of the JPA Ryan Wagoner
Brian Uhler Chief of Police South Lake Tahoe
Dave Hekhuis Battalion Chief Lake Valley Fire District
Tony Gasporra Lieutenant Firefighter Lake Valley Fire Protection District
Tom Watson, City Attorney for the City of South Lake Tahoe
Sallie Ross-Filgo Administrative Assistant South Lake Tahoe Fire / Recording minutes

- Pledge of Allegiance

No Communications from the Audience on Non Agenda Items.

- Approval of Agenda –Dave Huber made a motion to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded by JoAnn Conner. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of Minutes 4-28-14 - A motion was made by Dave Huber to approve the minutes of 4-28-14 and the motion was seconded by JoAnn Conner. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
Regarding the minutes from 4-2-14, they had never been approved so at this time Dave Hekhuis requested a change in the minutes, on page 3 #16, he was the one who wrote the letter. JoAnn Conner requested a change on #15, she does not feel comfortable with faxing. Dave Huber made a motion to approve the 4-1-14 minutes with the aforementioned changes. Angela Swanson 2nd the motion to approve the minutes with changes. All were in favor. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

- **New Business**

- Bettencourt said we have been meeting about the dispatch contract for quite some time and it has become a primary concern for the JPA.
Brian Uhler spoke about this topic and recalled the JPA Board meeting on October 4th of 2012, when this topic was first brought up and noted that it has been nearly 2 years there has been an ongoing conversation about the cost of dispatch services.

There was a proposal made to the JPA by City dispatch, offering a 1 year contract for service at a price of \$150,000. This will allow some breathing room time for the new Executive Director to put out an RFP for dispatch service and the City dispatch would like to have an opportunity to compete for a long term contract. This issue began in contract year 11. The next years have been billed incorrectly. The City is willing to forgive any payments owed to them by the JPA. The City would like to collect for past invoices that are in the JPA's budget. Tom Watson will make sure invoices have been sent out and get paid for.

Angela Swanson stands with the City with the proposed \$150,000 for the year.
JoAnn Conner stands with the City on the \$150,000 proposal.

Ryan Wagoner said the County is moving forward with dispatch upgrades. Wants to go forward with the RFP. Would hope the \$150,000 price will not change much after 1 years' time. Recognizes the subsidation that happens on the City's part.

Gareth Harris has some concerns about CQI in dispatch. JoAnn Conner has concerns there is no contract between the JPA and dispatch.

There was further discussion about having a contract between the JPA and City dispatch.

Ryan Wagoner said he will follow up with any concerns the Chiefs' bring to him.

JoAnn Conner expressed concerns about the subsidies being provided by the 2 agencies.

Bob Bettencourt asked how much it costs to run the EMS portion of dispatch.

Brian Uhler explained that it would all depend on the amount of calls and the amount of dispatchers. He said it could be between \$300,000 and \$350,000.

JoAnn Conner talked about using ambulance replacement funds to pay for the new ambulance.

Tony Gasporra said the ambulance has already been ordered.

Angela Swanson and JoAnn Conner expressed their concerns about this purchase without Board approval.

Angela Swanson made a motion to approve the 1 year JPA dispatch service as proposed by the City dispatch.

JoAnn Conner 2nd this motion.

Bob Bettencourt called for a vote – all approved. Motion carried.

There was further discussion about possibly postponing the purchase of the new ambulance to pay for dispatch.

Bob Bettencourt has asked the 2 Chiefs for a contract between the JPA and dispatch.

Angela Swanson said we need to look at our operational costs and go to the County to ask for more money.

Gareth Harris talked about the original contract and how the proposal came to be 2 million dollars per year – there were concerns about losing the contract to a private ambulance

company so the bid was low. Both member agencies are subsidizing this contract and we knew we were going to do that at the time of the proposal we were awarded. Gareth Harris suggested that we look at the big picture and include the extra needs we have and give the County a new number we need. The Board of Supervisors will be the governing body that decides if we are able to receive more money for operations.

Dave Hekuis said there is a dollar figure in the budget that it costs to pay for dispatch. It should be around \$100,000.

Tony Gasporra talked about a couple of ways to make sure our response times are good and we are in compliance with the County contract. Talked about putting ambulances on the corner now that we have ALS Engines.

Brian Uhler said the approximate price to run the EMS side of dispatch is \$300,000-\$350,000 but the 1 year cost of \$150,000 is being offered now while they wait to submit a proposal for permanent service.

Bob Bettencourt suggested we look at the budget to see if we can afford to pay for the extra \$90,000 that is needed right now.

Gareth Harris said the money needs to either come from the end of year revenue meant for the 2 agencies, or from Capital Replacement.

Angela Swanson said she would like to look at the budget. Hasn't seen one in quite a while.

Tony Gasporra gave an April budget to all to see.

Dave Huber said Tony Gasporra was within his rights to order the ambulance. Said he doesn't like the way the budget looks.

Tom Watson said the JPA owes \$55,000 to make this work.

Dave Huber would like Chief Uhler to consider withdrawing his proposal and write up another proposal for \$95,000 instead.

Brian Uhler does not have the authority to withdraw the proposal and also said it was a generous offer.

Jeff Meston explained more about the subsidies that occur on fire calls. He talked about the benefits of the fire service to the JPA.

There was further discussion about the dispatch contract.

Dave Huber talked about how the \$90,000 price for dispatch came about. Angela Swanson did not agree with Dave Huber's memory of how the contract was put together.

Bob Bettencourt read from the current contract.

Jeff Meston recommends accepting the proposal and use reserve money to pay for it.

Gareth Harris recommended accepting the proposal as given.

Bob Bettencourt has asked that the JPA have a packet to propose to the County to ask for more money.

Ryan Wagoner wants to have a discussion of where the money to pay for that will come from, possibly the June meeting.

Bob Bettencourt asked Ryan Wagoner to come up with a concrete number to bring to the County as soon as possible.

Tom Watson said to get the realistic cost to run the JPA. Then you have a basis to start with.

Angela Swanson said the fundamental case should include the high level of service we provide.

Bob Bettencourt said we should have a back up plan if the County decides not to agree to pay for the service.

Gareth Harris talked about the last EDC Board of Supervisors meeting. Gareth Harris and Jeff Meston attended the meeting and recognized 3 people from each agency for EMS Week.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

Next meeting June 23, 2014 9:00am City Airport Council Chambers

- **Adjournment** - The open meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM - Next meeting is scheduled for June 23rdth at 9:00am at the South Lake Tahoe City Council Chambers.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Sallie Ross-Filgo

Minutes Submitted by Ryan Wagoner Executive Director/JPA:

Minutes approved by Robert Bettencourt Chairperson Cal Tahoe JPA Board of Directors:
