

CALIFORNIA TAHOE EMERGENCY SERVICES OPERATIONS AUTHORITY

May 12, 2015

**Special Agenda Meeting of the Board of Directors
Lake Valley Fire Protection District
2211 Keetak Street, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Training Classroom Fire Station 7
at 2:00 pm**

MINUTES

I. Special Meeting – 2:00 p.m.

A. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bettencourt at 2:00pm

B. Roll Call – Present at the meeting
Chairperson Robert Bettencourt
Director Wendy David
Director Dave Huber
Director Tom Davis
Executive Director Ryan Wagoner
SLTFD Chief Jeff Meston
LVFPD Chief Gareth Harris
Public Health Program Manager Chris Weston
LVFPD Battalion Chief Dave Hekhuis
LVFPD Battalion Chief Brad Zlendick
City Manager Nancy Kerry
LVFPD Lieutenant Tony Gasporra
SLTFD Captain Marty Creel

Chairperson Bettencourt welcomed back Director Tom Davis

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Communications from the Audience on Non Agenda Items - None

D. Approval of Agenda
Executive Director Wagoner asked to remove Item G. Dispatch RFP, from the agenda as after the Agenda was set the Dispatch RFP had already been signed. A motion was made by Director Huber and seconded by Director David to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously

E. Approval of Minutes of 04-13-2015
A motion was made by Director Huber and seconded by Director David to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2015 meeting with the change of the title from Agenda to Minutes. The motion passed. Tom Davis Abstained

F. County Council letter dated April 14th, 2015

Chairperson Bettencourt would like clarity from the City regarding whether or not, they would like to exit the current JPA contract earlier than anticipated. He stressed that clarity is needed so that the Board can address the urgency in doing business. The letter from the County indicated that they wanted clarity as well. They are holding up releasing GEMT money and discussion on IFT's until the future of the JPA is addressed. Executive Director Wagoner indicated that there is approximately \$150,000-\$200,000 being held up. Director Davis wanted to know why this was of concern to the County, since currently the JPA is under contract until 2016. Director Davis also questioned whether the current JPA contract expires in 2016 or 2021. Chairperson Bettencourt went on to explain that there are two distinct opinions on the JPA contract. One is that it is a 5 year contract with one year extensions after each year, if performance criteria are met. This is the opinion of both, Attorney Hale and the Board. It is also Chairperson Bettencourt's belief that each year the contract extends and at the end of the five years you have already extended five years. The other interpretation is that after the initial five year period you apply for the extensions. This discrepancy is causing controversy. If you go on the first premise, and assuming performance criteria are met, The JPA is under contract until 2019. No matter which way you interpret the contract, the bottom line at this time, is whether or not the County is ready to extend and how this impacts the City. It is Director Davis' belief that we are only having this discussion because of the cost of IFTs and that we should have fought harder for IFT reimbursement when the JPA negotiated its contract, but we were too afraid of losing it.

City Manager Nancy Kerry indicated that the City's perspective on the JPA is that they have talked with the County. This is the contract we agreed to. What can we do to get more? She indicated that the County is in a difficult financial position itself. She also made it clear, that in the big picture, we all agree that we want the JPA's service. She mentioned that Lake Valley may have a different perspective than the City. The City feels that Fire is their job first, and that EMS is the County's responsibility. Her proposed solutions were to have the County issue and RFP, have the City go out for an RFP, have Lake Valley go out for an RFP, or have Lake Valley take over the City's portion. The City Council has not discussed this in open session.

Chairperson Bettencourt agreed we need more money to run the operation, and that City Manager Nancy Kerry was right, we can keep arguing but what good will it do? He again asked if it was the City's position to look at a different service model. Chief Harris has done tremendous amount of work looking at options for Lake Valley. The JPA would like to know the City's plan so; if they choose to exit we can help make the transition smooth. The City indicated that if Lake Valley wants to take over they would we need to address the needs of the City. City Manager Nancy Kerry believes that the Board needs to retain its structure until at least Aug 2016 to see how things run. Director Huber stated Lake Valley is committed to 100% fire based EMS. There was question as to if the Board would look at moving forward with Lake Valley taking over. No formal decision has been made by the City. If Lake Valley has indicated interest then the City will take that as a starting point. A subcommittee needs to be formed to discuss what needs to be addressed.

There was discussion as to whether the JPA applied for a three year extension. Public Health Program Manager Weston believes there was a request for a 3 year extension and that the County is waiting for data to be approved by the Medical Director. Executive Director Wagoner confirmed that a 3 year extension had been requested. Executive Director Wagoner spoke with Rich Todd. He indicated we are waiting on Dr. Brazil to review criteria.

A Motion was made by Director Huber and seconded by Director David that the JPA pursues the three year extension and works to get the three year extension as soon as possible. The motion passed unanimously. Executive Director Wagoner made it clear that the term and renewal position to earn each extension must be applied for and approved annually. The five areas that must be considered in granting extensions are; response time and performance, certification, qualification and training, Quality Assurance Process, Policy and Procedure/Protocol Compliance, Teamwork and Leadership.

An Amendment to the motion was made by Director David and seconded by Director Davis to go for three year extension with looking at a change in service. Director David and Director Davis voted in favor of the motion. Chairperson Bettencourt and Director Huber voted against the motion.

Director David made a motion that was seconded by Director Huber to form a subcommittee to work on changes in service for the JPA. The subcommittee is to consist of LVFPD Chief Harris and SLTFD Chief Meston or their delegates, 2 board members Director Dave Huber and Director Tom Davies and Executive Director Ryan Wagoner. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Dispatch RFP

The City is interested in maintaining a local dispatch center. They believe the current dispatch contract is fair. The JPA also wants dispatch to remain the same. The main purpose of forming a subcommittee is to determine an exit strategy for the City to take to the Council. Since Lake Valley is interested in being the main EMS provider, the City will use this as a starting point. Questions as to the negative financial aspects of subsidizing the JPA could look bad to Lake Valley constituents. Lake Valley operates differently and believes a joint delivery system could work effectively. The Board asked the City if the county came back with more money, would the City be interested in staying? The answer was maybe, if county provided \$1,000,000 per ambulance. The question of how others do IFT's arose. Chief Harris stated that he is on the negotiation committee for West Slope JPA. The County is proposing covering all their costs including renting stations. This is because of 201 rights established prior to the early 1980's. Even though their benefit assessment for west slope is \$25 per parcel, specific language dictates it is to fund fire based EMS. Our benefit assessment does not state that. The minimum County standards state two ambulances are sufficient for our jurisdiction. The JPA proposed 3 ambulances because with only two ambulances we would not meet the designated performance criteria. Consequently, we are facing a \$1,000,000 disparity. If we could get what CSA 7 gets we wouldn't be here today. City Manager Nancy Kerry stated we always need to negotiate differently since we are further away and things cost more. The county does have to resources available to pay for the services.

Media – Director Bettencourt asked that no one comment to the media on the JPA except Executive Director Wagoner, and only with Board approval.

V. Closed Session

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: (The Board is only considering one potential case)

No Closed Session Needed.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.