



## LINCOLN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

July 21, 2014  
Commission Chambers  
Lincoln County Courthouse  
181 Main Street  
Pioche, Nevada

### Trustees

Paul Mathews  
Kevin Phillips  
Adam Katschke  
Paul Donohue  
Ed Higbee

### **#1-CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Ed called the meeting to order at 10:52 a.m.

PRESENT: ED HIGBEE  
PAUL MATHEWS  
KEVIN PHILLIPS  
PAUL DONOHUE  
ABSENT: ADAM KATSCHKE

LISA LLOYD, Clerk  
RICK STEVER, Fire Chief

There is a quorum and the agenda was posted on 7-14-14 to comply with the open meeting law.

### **#2-PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ed called for public comment. None offered.

### **#3-MINUTES**

**Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Paul D. All voted in favor.**

### **#4-FIRE CHIEF UPDATE**

Fire Chief Rick Stever reported the two large fires are out. A bill for \$2,592,264 was received. Approximately \$64,000 of that is private. The agreement we have in place with NDF will cover the county's portion of the bill. Rick questions whether or not the county should have any responsibility for payment due to location where the fire started. Rick will call the Ely District Office to discuss this matter. There has been a lot of lightning. There is a very large fire south of Sunnyside that is being monitored.

### **#5-VOUCHERS**

**Paul M. made a motion to approve the vouchers with the exception of the bill for Vanguard; seconded by Paul D. All voted in favor.**

### **#6-WILDFIRE ASSISTANCE**

This item concerns the discussion of assistance with wildfires by providing manpower and equipment. We have a mutual aid agreement with BLM, and Rick asked if the Board would like to continue providing them assistance. Rick sent a bill for \$6,200 for recent equipment/manpower assistance he offered. There is an individual who is willing to help staff some of the wildfires; this person has limited training. Rick spent a great deal of time at the airport helping BLM with the fire. Rick is a salaried employee, yet he was given another duty that he hasn't been compensated for. With the fire district growing, it requires Rick spending a great deal more time in various areas of the county. Rick has been spending a great deal of time on weekends working wildfires and talking to the people in the district. Rick advised that it would be nice to receive compensation for all of the extra time he's spending. Rick has more than one job and when he drives the water tender it almost needs to be classified separately from Emergency Management Coordinator or Fire Chief. Either a policy needs to be created providing that someone else has to drive the truck to fires or Rick has to be compensated. Paul M. stated he isn't familiar with the law and how it provides for someone to handle two different jobs. Paul M. feels that the time Rick spends driving the water tender needs to be handled completely separate from Rick's current positions. Kevin stated that this issue needs to be handled like a mini-enterprise fund. When a truck is needed, the county ought to hire someone to man it. Driving a water tender for BLM is separate from Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator. It isn't really possible to hire someone and tell them they may or may not work this month. Rick advised that there are a couple of people who are trained and available, but when they're not able to go he does it. This is the reason he ended up doing it. The Board discussed the various aspects of

having Rick continue in this capacity or hiring someone else to do it. Paul M. asked if a seasonal fire employee would help. This person could be hired to work from May 1-October 1; he could not only tend the water truck but could perhaps do other things within the district during that time. How can this be set up to provide a reliable paycheck? Could this person work on things at the various locations and help lighten Rick's workload? Yes. There are some things this person could do, including maintenance and meetings. There is training that a person could attend if the Board desires. Vehicle and building maintenance as well as GPS could be done by this individual also. Paul D. asked what Rick recommends as a solution. If there is a way to get compensated for weekends, Rick would like to see that. PERS is another thing to consider; fire has a higher rate. The legality of a salaried person being compensated over and above needs to be researched. The Board needs to see if it's better to go hourly as well as whether or not it would be more beneficial to hire someone part time for either fire or emergency management. The wildland issue is another thing altogether and could be a money making opportunity. Daniel stated that it is permissible to have someone salaried be paid for additional duties. The contract with Rick would have to be rewritten to account for the additional hours. Rick will research this item and bring information back to the Board. The contract would have to clearly state that Rick is to be compensated only when there is additional revenue coming in. Rick's preference is to be compensated, not hire another individual. No action was taken.

**#7-FIRE CHIEF COMPENSATION**

This item was addressed under Item 6.

**#8- PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ed called for public comment. None offered.

**#8-ADJOURN**

There being no further business for the Board to attend, Ed adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approve: \_\_\_\_\_