

North Lyon County Fire Protection District
195 East Main Street
Fernley, Nevada 89408
District Office (775) 575-3310 District Fax (775) 575-3314

MINUTES

NORTH LYON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

March 20, 2024

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1805.

Directors present included Paul Murphy, Harry Wheeler, Jay Rodriguez, and Michael Toombs. Director McCassie was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Rodriguez. A moment of silence followed.

2. Public Comment (No action will be taken on any subject during public participation until it has been properly placed on an Agenda for a subsequent meeting. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes.)

Mrs. Linda Carr wanted to thank everyone for all the help getting her husband, Steve Carr's services together, and what a phenomenal job everyone did.

Mrs. Kasey Miller apologized to the Board, staff, volunteers, Mr. Hannan, and the public for her demeanor at the last meeting and added that it was unprofessional and out of character.

3. CONSENT AGENDA*(All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered routine and may be acted upon by the Board of North Lyon County Fire Protection District with one action, and without an extensive hearing. Any member of the Board or any citizen may request that an item be taken from the consent agenda, discussed, and acted upon separately during this meeting.)

3a. Review and approve of Board Agenda

Director Rodriguez made a motion to approve the CONSENT AGENDA.

Director Wheeler seconded the motion.

The motion carries as follows: 4-0-1

Murphy	Aye	McCassie	Absent
Wheeler	Aye		
Rodriguez	Aye		
Toombs	Aye		

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4. Discussion and possible action regarding Fire Riser at Station 61*

Captain McCoy shared that he has no new information regarding the riser. He contacted Q & D after the last meeting, and as soon as he gets approval, they will come out to paint the lines, we will wait for USA Dig 48 hours and they will probably start on Monday or Tuesday. Chairman Murphy asked if that was the total of \$20,400.00 and \$5,750.00 total, per the quote that we have been looking at for the last two meetings, and Captain McCoy answered yes.

Director Rodriguez made a motion to approve the quote from Q & D Construction to service the Fire Riser at Station 61.

Director Wheeler seconded the motion.

The motion carries as follows: 4-0-1

Murphy	Aye	McCassie	Absent
Wheeler	Aye		
Rodriguez	Aye		
Toombs	Aye		

5. Discussion and possible action to appoint Interim Fire Chief*

Chairman Murphy stated that we have a need to bring somebody in until we can properly have a hiring process. The Board has not gotten that far with their discussions yet. This item was added as a placeholder so that we could discuss an Interim Fire Chief. He thinks that we should look at an Interim Fire Chief and that we have qualified candidates regionally and he has proactively reached out to other Fire Chiefs in the area, mainly Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Reno Fire, and Sparks Fire Department. He stated that he had one heard back from back from Chief White, with Sparks Fire who gave him a name and contact. He was also given a contact from Chief Moore with Truckee Meadows Fire District and that candidate came with several letters of recommendation. He added that he will release those after this meeting for all the Board, and also available to the public.

Chairman Murphy stated that there were some interested candidates internally, and he spoke with them explaining what the challenges would be moving forward for them. He added that given the current political environment, it might be better to look outside but keep it regional. He mentioned that we have always discussed having people who are close to the department, who know this area and the politics, know the players, and have relationships with our friends and neighbors in the fire service. He added that as a Board we can make this as low-risk as possible. He stated that they will need to discuss a contract and that he can work on providing a baseline contract that can be amended as needed to save time for the next meeting. He mentioned that if anyone else has any other candidates that they would like to bring forward for the Board to assess and put to a vote for an Interim Fire Chief. Chairman Murphy shared the reason they haven't made it public is because they haven't decided if they're going to have an Interim Fire

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Chief. This item is specifically for the Board, and they do not have to take action on it, but this is just the Board saying they are going to move forward with a search for an Assistant Fire Chief, and at the next meeting we will have another special meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2024. Mrs. Kasey Miller stated that the Budget Workshop is on March 27, 2024, at 6 p.m. and it was discussed to possibly have a meeting at 7 p.m. Chairman Murphy stated that it may turn into a late night. He added that they have not heard back from Accountant David Silva, so that meeting might be short because we do not have anything to look at yet. We might be able to get right into the discussion about the Interim Fire Chief, bringing candidates and talking to them, and begin to move forward.

Director Toombs shared that he thinks the best approach is to look outside to protect the whole process. Director Rodriguez asked what the budget difference is compared to an Interim Chief to hiring an Assistant Fire Chief. Chairman Murphy responded that is a moving target and that whichever individual they choose to sit down with and move forward with. We can move as early as the next meeting to appoint a person and even begin a discussion on the negotiations portion of what those numbers look like. He shared that coming to that meeting with a contract is going to save us time and additional meetings to try to get the language down, and we can just talk numbers. He added that over the next week if we want to have a more open discussion with candidates, they can and they can get an idea of what they are looking at for money. Opposed to the Assistant Chief, it would probably be at that pay level, not to exceed the original starting pay for the Fire Chief, which was \$145,000.00. Chairman Murphy added that he didn't see what we were looking to pay an Assistant Fire Chief, but it was less than the Chief. He stated that could be anywhere from \$110,000.00, up to \$145,000.00.

Director Toombs shared that based on this current year's budget, it would be about two months, not a full year. Chairman Murphy commented that it will be the final two months of this fiscal year and the beginning of the next fiscal year. We will need to look at that budget to determine what we have, but once we have those, we should be safe to move forward. He shared that he looks at it as it was built into the budget and he understands things have changed, but it is just a matter of looking at the numbers and seeing what is safe for us right now, bringing a candidate in, and moving forward.

6. Discussion and possible action to reimburse Western Fire Chiefs Association for travel expenses of the two Assistant Fire Chief candidates*

Chairman Murphy shared that he spoke with Mr. Groom following the last meeting, and he had some concerns about the candidates coming out and based on the vote that the Board made to stop that process and withdraw from that MOU. Mr. Grooms did ask if the Board would consider reimbursement since we did not move forward with anybody. Chairman Murphy told him that he would advocate for that, and that is why it is on the agenda. He added that he thinks it is the right thing to do and he feels like this amount is within the budget, and for this amount, he thinks they can find that money to make them whole. He commented that the second page of

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the packet is itemized and covers both the candidate's travel, including receipts and some expenses for Mr. Grooms, and some advertising. Chairman Murphy added that they can part this out, they can accept the entire total, and that they can do so. He stated that there is nothing in the MOU that says that they have to do this, but it is in good faith and the right thing to do.

Director Rodriguez asked if one of the candidates was a resident of Fernley, and Chairman Murphy responded, yes, and that he only saw one of the candidates on the list for expenses. Chairman Murphy stated that this process cost the district nothing upfront. Had they moved forward with a candidate, we would have paid 18% of that individual's annual base salary for the first year.

Director Toombs made a motion to reimburse the Western Fire Chiefs Association for the travel expenses of the two Assistant Chief candidates totaling \$3,960.20.

Director Rodriguez seconded the motion.

The motion carries as follows: 4-0-1

Murphy	Aye	McCassie	Absent
Wheeler	Aye		
Rodriguez	Aye		
Toombs	Aye		

7. Discussion and possible action on Grievance 24-03 Step 1*

Chairman Murphy shared that the Fire Chief reached out to him a couple of weeks ago and designated him to handle grievance 24-03. He added that Director Toombs joined him on this one, and he added that he would like to go back to having two people so there is no question as to what happened. Chairman Murphy stated that he was notified by the Union three days ago that they would be withdrawing that grievance. The Board had a discussion and agreed to let this go.

Director Rodriguez made a motion to accept the Union's withdrawal from Grievance 24-03 Step 1.

Director Wheeler seconded the motion.

The motion carries as follows: 4-0-1

Murphy	Aye	McCassie	Absent
Wheeler	Aye		
Rodriguez	Aye		
Toombs	Aye		

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8. Public Comment (No action will be taken on any subject during public participation until it has been properly placed on an Agenda for a subsequent meeting. Public comments are limited to 3-minutes.)

A Fernley resident stated that she has a concern with something Paul Murphy said. Chairman Murphy asked her to state her name for the record, and she responded that she was a Fernley resident and did not have to. She stated that he should not be the sole person drafting a contract, and this is a member Board and is more than one person. She added that she has a conflict with that and will be addressing it if there is not more than one Board member or the contract does not go before the Board.

9. Adjournment*

Chairman Murphy adjourned at 1822.

NOTE(s): All items indicated by an asterisk (“*”) were Action Items. A complete and detailed record of this meeting was recorded on Micro SD Recorder March 20, 2024

Respectfully Submitted by:



 Shannon Moffett, Administrative Assistant
 North Lyon County Fire Protection District

April 11, 2024
 Date

Approval of Minutes
 March 20, 2024

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved as Read	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved with Corrections	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____



 Paul Murphy, Chairman
 North Lyon County Fire Protection District

April 11, 2024
 Date