

Minutes Approved 10/25/10  
**NEVADA STATE  
BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES  
September 23, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.  
Nevada State Fire Marshal Division - Classroom C  
107 Jacobsen Way  
Carson City, Nevada**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bertral Washington (Chairperson – *via telephone*) – Training Officer, Las Vegas Fire Department  
Dale Smith – President, Smith Design Group  
James Wright (Secretary) – Nevada State Fire Marshal Division  
Michael Brown – Fire Chief, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District  
Pete Anderson – State Forester, Nevada Division of Forestry  
Elaine Pace – Training Officer, East Fork Fire-Fish Springs Volunteer Fire Department

**GUESTS:**

Samantha Ladich – Deputy Attorney General  
Denesa Johnston – Administrative Assistant, Nevada State Fire Marshal Division  
Chris Magenheimer – Battalion Chief, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District  
Peter Mulvihill, Assistant Fire Marshal, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Lynn Nielson (*via telephone*) – Professional Engineer, City of Henderson

- I. **Call to Order** – Chairperson Washington called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- II. **Verification of Notice of Compliance with Open Meeting Law** – Denesa Johnston verified the meeting was noticed, according to Open Meeting Law.
- III. **Roll Call and Introductions** – Roll call was heard and a quorum of eight members was determined.
- IV. **Approval of January 20, 2009 and June 29, 2010 Board of Fire Service Minutes – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the January 20, 2009 and June 29, 2010 meeting minutes as presented.**
- V. **Discussion and Report from Chair Washington regarding the restructuring of the Board of Fire Services in combination with the Fire Service Standards & Training Committee (FSSTC)** – Pete Mulvihill distributed copies of the proposed language and stated he would make notes of any changes for re-submission to Chairperson Washington. He stated positions were broadened because it had been a challenge to find individuals to fit narrowly-defined slots in the past. The Board discussed the following changes to the proposed language in NRS 477.075:
  - To replace section 5(c) with an arrow to indicate that wording would apply to all section 5 and for the wording to be: “The majority of the voting members on the Board must not be from one county”.
  - To remove the word “shall” and change “four” to “two” under section 8.
  - To change language in Section 1(h) to read: “A member of the public with an interest in public safety who is not currently employed in the Nevada Fire Service” since the language relates to a non-working member of the Fire Service.
  - To remove “or is otherwise engaged in the work of the Board” under section 9 due to the fiscal problems that may arise.
  - And, in NRS 477.080, to remove section 7.

Member Anderson asked when there should be discussion regarding NACs. Chief Wright explained wordsmithing should be completed immediately before department budget discussions are held.

**Dale Smith moved to authorize the Chair to work on the proposed draft language. Elaine Pace seconded the Motion. Motion carried.**

- VI. **Discuss recommendations to the State Fire Marshal Division concerning necessary Legislation in the field of Firefighter and Fire Protection** – Chief Wright commented on the need to be aware of what is happening with Nevada Fire Chiefs. Chief Brown stated an update would be provided at the next meeting. Chief Wright reported North Las Vegas denied imposing mandatory residential sprinklers. Regulations will not be applied in Clark County until July 2011, but Chief Bell was finding issues in their current codes. Chief Brown noted 450B would be watched closely for changes and there were potential language changes for 474 regarding Fire Districts.
- VII. **Review of current appointments/reappointments and vacant positions of the Board of Fire Services** – Denesa Johnston confirmed there were two vacancies on the Board. Chief Wright reported on the resignation of the Haz Mat Specialist and that there will be no new appointments after November. Member Anderson stated, in his opinion, it was important for the Board to be as full as possible when going into the Legislature so it is demonstrated that the Board is functioning. Chief Wright stated they would begin the process of filling the one vacancy by appointment and looking for a new Haz Mat Specialist.
- VIII. **Discussion regarding the Board of Fire Services development of a campaign to increase state and local fire department compliance with National Fire Incident Reporting System (N.F.I.R.S.)** – Chairperson Washington stated this item was discussed at the last meeting and that Chief Wright had suggested developing a pamphlet that would increase department compliance with NFIRS. Chief Wright reported staff was in the rural northeast this week and that Danny Brennan has created a packet, showed departments how to get on-line to file reports and explained the importance of this type of reporting. To-date, there have been only six fatalities. Information was being waited on regarding the body that was found in the gas station that exploded in North Las Vegas. Budget goals were submitted at 86%, which they were a few years ago. Member Anderson suggested obtaining a list of departments in rural areas that need computers. Chairperson Washington offered Board services in providing assistance to departments in rural areas for NFIRS reporting.
- IX. **Discussion of Fire-Based Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** – Chairperson Washington stated this item was agendized to start a discussion about EMS in order to be ready for any Legislation that might come across and provided some examples. Chief Brown stated he was glad this item was agendized because it was a topic being discussed in the north as it varies at different levels. He commented that many organizations do not play by the same rules, such as Clark County, which is its own jurisdiction and does not answer to the State. Chief Wright suggested this item continue to be discussed because there has been great interest in pulling out State EMS and placing it in a more appropriate arena. Chairperson Washington stated this item would be kept on future meeting agendas and requested feedback from other counties about how fire-based EMS would work for them.
- X. **Discussion of a statewide public safety communications system** – Chairperson Washington stated this issue has been discussed for several years. Chief Brown commented that a Cadillac system was in place, but there was difficulty in getting all agencies to recognize the system. Member Anderson stated it was a huge issue in the State because agencies were still in the dark about the system, with the deadline approaching. Chairperson Washington requested this item be agendized for future meetings to gather more information.
- XI. **Presentation of the Tahoe Regional Interoperability Partnership (T.R.I.P.)** – Chief Brown commented on the origins of T.R.I.P. Chris Magenheimer, Battalion Chief, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, provided a brief synopsis of T.R.I.P. and the different links being created around the State of Nevada. He reported a public partnership was being developed in California with Motorola that would develop a public safety broadband network in ten counties and that a \$51 million grant was received that would be matched by Motorola for the project.
- A question was asked regarding if Cal-Fire was involved in this partnership. Chief Magenheimer stated Cal-Fire has been informed, but their focus has been on their narrow-banding project. Discussion followed about providing T.R.I.P. information to different counties and the different projects being developed by counties. Chairperson Washington requested updates on this item be agendized for future meetings.
- XII. **Discussion to allow the Chair of the Board of Fire Services to meet with the State Fire Marshal, Legislative Representatives and the Director of the Department of Public Safety as directed per Nevada Revised Statute 477.020, section 6, which states: “The Board shall make recommendations to the State Fire Marshal and to the Legislature concerning necessary legislation in the field of fire fighting and fire protection” – Dale Smith moved to allow the Chair of the Board of Fire Services to meet with the State Fire Marshal, Legislative Representatives, and the Director of the Department of Public Safety pursuant to NRS 477.020, section 6 to discuss upcoming and future legislative issues that may affect the firefighter and fire protection industry. The motion was seconded and carried.**

**XIII. General Announcements and Call for Public Comment**

Chairperson Washington commented on consolidation in Clark County and suggested the Board make recommendations regarding that consolidation. He also congratulated Chief Peterson on his move.

Chief Wright provided an update on the code adoption process. He reported LCB was reviewing legal documents and that they were being requested to have it complete before final hearings. He will notify Chairperson Washington, when the final hearing could be held for code adoption.

**XIV. Adjournment** – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

**A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting.**