

**STATE OF NEVADA
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES**

October 23, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.
Reno-Sparks Convention Center
4590 South Virginia Street, Room A-12
Reno, NV 89502

MINUTES OF MEETING

Board of Fire Services

Members

Present:

Domingo Cambeiro (in Las Vegas) – Principal, DCC Architects, Las Vegas, Nevada
Timothy DeHaven - Fire fighter, Carson City Fire Department
Steve DiGiovanni (in Las Vegas) – Professional Engineer, Clark County Fire Department
Chair Guevin – Fire Marshal, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District
JoAnne Hill – Board Member
Elaine Pace – Chief of a Volunteer Fire Department, East Fork Fire & Paramedic District
Pete Mulvihill – Chief, Nevada State Fire Marshal Division
Michael R. Johnson (in Las Vegas) Clark County Fire Department
Thomas Tarulli – Deputy Chief, Carson City Fire Department

Also Present:

Lori DeGristina - Training Officer, State Fire Marshal
Nathan Hastings – Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Michael Heideman –Director, NSFA
Denesa Johnston – Administrative Assistant, Nevada State Fire Marshal Division
Tom Martinez - Training Officer, Nevada State Fire Marshal Division
Mark Regan – Assistant Fire Marshal

- I. Call to Order** – Fire Marshal Chair Guevin called to order the meeting of the Board of Fire Services. at 12:06 p.m. Roll was called for the Board of Fire Services. **Non-action Item**
- II. Verification of Notice of Compliance with Open Meeting Law** - Denesa Johnston confirmed that the information for the meeting was posted.
- III. Roll Call and Introductions** - Was called and introductions said. Denesa Johnston confirmed there was a quorum. Chair Guevin welcomed everyone.
- IV. Public Comment** – No action may be taken on matters raised in the context with this agenda item prior to inclusion of that matter itself as an action item on a future agenda. Public comments are limited to three minutes and comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint. **Non-action Item**

Chair Guevin wished Happy Birthday to Denesa Johnson and JoAnne Hill.

Thomas Tarulli mentioned it would have been easier if the board had met at 4:00 p.m. so they could attend the sessions, then meet really quickly and, if applicable, leave back out of town.

Michael Heideman stated there were concerns in the rural areas of Nevada of qualified driver operators and how to get them certified. He stated that it falls upon the F endorsement that is required for fire fighters and the lack of certifier classes for third-party certifiers. He said there are offers from other agencies to fulfill this lack. He stated that there are no rules stating that people from other agencies are not allowed to do this

certification, only that they must hold a class when there is a request of six or more persons. He stated these requirements should be better monitored. He explained a couple of bad circumstances that had arisen before and admonished the board to treat this seriously and either change it or give them the tools to get it done correctly. He offered to give the members copies of the rules and said they may be turning to the board if they can't get the problem solved.

There were no further comments. The floor was open for questions.

Chair Guevin asked if Michael Heideman had worked with the State Fire Marshal yet. Mr. Heideman stated they had had conversations but stated that the fire marshal does not have the jurisdiction to monitor it. Chief Pete Mulvihill stated that this was the DMV's program and requirement. He stated that he and Michael Heideman will continue to try to work with the DMV and that every time they have spoken to anyone in the upper levels they are willing to help but the issue is at a lower level. He agreed it is an issue, in the rural areas particularly. A member the DMV contacted them the other day stating they were starting to research this problem and had some questions. This member referred the DMV to the 477 and felt the DMV understood the problem and the rules better. Pete Mulvihill stated they would follow up and have a report on an agenda item at the next meeting for discussion and possible action.

Chair Guevin closed the agenda item.

V. Approval of the June 3, 2014 and June 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes Discussion/Possible Action

For the June 3, 2014 minutes, an unidentified person stated that page 11, under 477.425 "Service Tax, Fire Extinguishers" in the last sentence, "\$10,000, \$30,000, and \$50,000 for the individual," individual should be "company." Denesa Johnston said she would make the correction. There were no further corrections.

Elaine Pace moved to approve the June 3, 2014 meeting minutes as corrected. Domingo Carneiro seconded the motion. The motion carried.

For the June 20, 2014 minutes, an unidentified person thanked Michael Heideman and Thomas Tarulli for calling in on the meeting. There were no corrections on the meeting minutes.

Steve DiGiovanni moved to approve the June 20, 2014 meeting minutes. Domingo Carneiro seconded. The motion carried.

VI. Review Nevada's State Fire Marshal's Division Activities Since the October 24, 2013 Meeting of the Nevada State Board of Fire Services by Chief Mulvihill. Non-Action item.

Chair Guevin turned the floor over to Pete Mulvihill.

- He appeared before the legislature's interim finance company and received approval to receive an AFG grant for two items. FEMA set aside money for state fire training organizations to apply for. He stated they received two mobile training props: one is an SCBA training maze. Tom Martinez stated they went with the smaller 24 foot version, which will work well. The second mobile prop is an LPG vehicle fire simulator. Chief Mulvihill stated it will be a popular program. It is trailored and will travel around the state for training. A condition of the grant is implementation by June 30th, 2015.
- The HazMat software permit and database system underwent a major overhaul and upgrade. There were some difficulties and it is not online yet due to them. One new feature will be to accept electronic payments for permits.
- The next offering for the Hazardous Materials technician course will be near Carson City. The vendor will be in town to coordinate and schedule soon. The next fiscal year, July 2015-June 2016, the course will be offered again and they will work with fire departments around the state for locations, rotating between

western Nevada, northeastern Nevada, and southern Nevada. The Fire Officer Series Program has been very popular and the Tahoe/Douglas area will offer it in the spring.

- There are three regulations that are in process, two by the state fire marshal and one by the board. They received the revised drafts of the regulations based on the workshop input for all three of them. They will begin the information document and the posting notice soon. It requires a 30 day posting for a public hearing and they will work with the chair to schedule a special meeting. The LBC legal staff spoke with him and with Nathan Hastings as they went over the revisions and made a couple of suggestions for clarity which will probably be adopted, especially for the different fines. This should be posted on the LBC website.
- Allegations have been raised by two fire chiefs in the Reno/Sparks area regarding a rash of fires caused by electric meters. They collected information from the district and some of the departments, NV Energy and NFIRS, on the incidents and this information is posted on the website.

Tom Tarulli asked if the Fire Officer series would kick off again in the spring. Tom Martinez answered yes, one in the north, one in the south, for nine courses and then testing. Tom Tarulli asked if they still needed to report any incident with the smart meters. Chief Mulvihill answered yes. He said there is heightened public concern but there is no indication in the reports submitted to them that the meters were responsible for fires. The trend for electrical fires is down state-wide; electrical safety has been significantly improving in the state in the last 10 years, looking at the data from NFIRS. NV Energy has been very helpful and given them information as well. Chair Guevin asked if the Utility Commission was still looking into it. Chief Mulvihill stated that the PUCM staff, to be cautious, has asked the commission, which was approved, an order for information from NV Energy on meters. NV Energy is putting that information together and expect to have it all compiled before the timeline within the order and will turn it over to the PUCM. There will probably then be a technical workshop regarding the data where all sides can be present and questioned. Chair Guevin asked if it had been scheduled and Chief Mulvihill said it was not scheduled yet.

Steve DiGiovanni asked about the legislation for 124-13 and the schedule. Chief Mulvihill went over the process: there was a workshop to receive input, which were significant enough to send it back to the LCB staff. They incorporated the input into a revised document. The next step will be for the board to have a public hearing and if the revised document is approved, then it will go before the legislative commission or their subcommittee. That commission will review the document and if there are any concerns from the public, etc., they can tell the legislature, which will then either concur with the document as is or return it to the board with recommendations for amendment. Steve DiGiovanni then asked if the ordinance would be approved in the next legislature session. Chief Mulvihill answered no. Domingo Cambeiro asked when it would be available to the board; Chief Mulvihill stated it should be on the LCB's website now. Chief Mulvihill stated they may try to hold the public hearing before the legislature meets and will work through the Chair on the scheduling. Steve DiGiovanni made sure that if the document gets returns with more comments, they do not have to wait because of a missed deadline and Chief Mulvihill let him know they would keep working on it. An unidentified person asked if the public hearing would be concurrent. Chief Mulvihill stated that because it affects the industry they would look to videoconference the hearing again. Domingo Cambeiro asked about the rural counties. Chief Mulvahill said they could include an Elko videoconference site. Chair Guevin closed the agenda item.

VII. Review and Possibly Revise Nevada State Board of Fire Services List of Priority Items that Will Enhance and Improve Services Provided to Nevada's Fire Services Discussion/Possible Action

The priorities currently established are:

- Maintain certification and credentialing process for professional qualifications.
- Require Nevada certifications for instructors of high hazard training.
- Rural inspections and reductions of staff cutbacks responsible for those inspections.
- Division of Industrial Relations Mechanical Unit issues for public safety protection.

Chief Mulvihill offered that the renewal of the accreditation package has been completed and submitted to IFSAC and they will audit the program. He stated that Dennis Pinkerton, in working with the IFSAC office

staff, recommended that they renewed the certification for the disciplines the board has now and then immediately following that renewal, send IFSAC the packages for expanding the accreditation to include the Fire Officer series and the Fire Prevention series which they will process as a desk audit in their office. He stated that process is underway. Tom Martinez stated it will be the Fire Services Instructor series. Instructor I and II are included with the recertification; the officer and prevention will be subsequent in the spring. Chief Mulvihill stated the high hazard training is included in the three regulations spoken of earlier, 125-13. There will be a public hearing on this with notice about it soon. Chief Mulvihill stated that a chief from eastern Nevada expressed some concern about getting people certified at the fire service instructor level II and that the board will make sure that appropriate instructors are available to rural departments to meet that requirement and also getting training in rural areas to get their staff up to the level II instructor certification. Chair Guevin asked about staff cutbacks for those responsible for those inspections. Chief Mulvihill explained that they have hired a person, and are pleased to have him onboard, who will work also on the eastern side of Nevada. The chief stated that they have entered into several interlocal agreements since the last board meeting with Humboldt County, the city of Winnemucca, Esmeralda County and Lander County, as well as talking with the city of Elko. The agreements state that they are going to conduct the inspections in those jurisdictions on SMF's behalf. The districts will have the option to give this task back, as well. Chair Guevin asked if this was a priority or if support from the board was needed. Chief Mulvihill said there was a major cutback four years ago but they haven't lost or replaced any additional positions since then. Elaine Pace suggested they leave this on the priority list. Steve DiGiovanni asked about the Tesla Project, which has gotten a lot of press in the south in Storey County, would impact the SFM's workload in the future. Chief Mulvihill explained Storey County has an interlocal agreement with them and some competent workers. He stated that the facility is going to have some unique hazards and configurations and that it's a very large building. There will be some unique code applications and the designers are top international engineering firms. He stated that Storey County will take the lead on the project with technical assistance from the board as needed.

Chair Guevin verified the revision of wording for priority item three: "The rural inspections and reductions of staff cutbacks responsible for those inspections". The board agreed. Rewording is needed because the fire marshals have the initial responsibility, even though jurisdictions apply to the SFM for an interlocal. Steve DiGiovanni asked if there were impact on the staff due to Tesla Project, etc., does the SFM have flexibility with contract employees to augment the plan. Chief Mulvihill answered in the affirmative, and explained they had also entered into a program with the University of Nevada Las Vegas to help. Chief Mulvihill stated they were meeting the demand for service at present but could not say whether demand would increase or decrease. He stated he could keep the board informed on that subject. Tom Tarulli suggested they leave both indications in the priority sentence and started with the term "continually support". Elaine Pace suggested "monitor". Chair Guevin agreed with the wording of "monitor". Chief Mulvihill suggested "monitor rural inspections and staff levels responsible for those inspections."

JoAnne Hill had to leave the meeting but it was determined there was still a quorum.

Chair Guevin changed the wording to "monitor rural inspections and staffing levels responsible for those inspections" in front of the priority sentence.

Chair Guevin went on to the last bullet point and stated that it could be removed. He added that he would like to add a priority bulletpoint for Wildland Urban Interface. He stated there was an issue of the insurance companies pushing for more defensible space, which is affecting all the jurisdictions. He stated it's costing the taxpayers and the state money as well. He stated some of it is being done by the university but they will need the board's support in the future. There were no dissenting comments. The board had nothing to add or change. The wording of "Wildland Fire and Urban Interface issues" was added to the priority list.

Elaine Pace made a motion to change and correct the priority list as stated. Domingo Cambeiro seconded. The motion carried.

VIII. Special Meeting

Discussion/Possible Action

The board decided to meet at the June conference in Virginia City which would be on June 25th or 26th. Denesa Johnston will work with Michael Heideman on scheduling as information about the conference is solidified.

Chair Guevin asked to direct staff to include the board and work with the association to schedule a special meeting for the June conference, with no conflicts. Domingo Cambeiro suggested scheduling the meeting one day ahead of the conference. The SFM employees will work with the chair and the association's executive director on scheduling.

IX. Public Comment

Chief Mulvihill reminded everyone about a special event at the Atlantis at 1:00 p.m.. The National Fallen Fire Fighters Association is having a stair climb event. There will be media coverage. The goal is for fire fighters to climb the stairs 17 times to replicate what the FDNY fire fighters climbed in the World Trade Center, each one in the name of one of the fallen. Chief Mulvihill also mentioned that the Governor's Office of Appointments informed them that they don't have applications for Mike Johnson's vacant position. He stated that the application needed to be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a fire chief. He urged everyone to help find applicants for the position. Chair Guevin spoke about an arson course offered by the Nevada Association of Arson Inspectors on fatality fires, saying it was an interesting course.

X. Adjournment

Discussion/Possible Action

Steve DiGiovanni moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Domingo Cambeiro. Motion carried.

Minutes Approved 3/27/15



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CERTIFICATION

The signature below certifies that the proceedings and evidence transcribed are true and accurate summary minutes created to the best of our ability from the digital media and/or recording provided from the proceedings of the below referenced matter for the Nevada State Fire Marshal Division, Department of Public Safety

NAME OF MEETING:

DATE OF MEETING - 10-23-2014

LOCATION - Reno-Sparks Convention Center

4590 South Virginia Street, Room A-12

Reno, NV 89502

Michelle Vincent

Aegis Rapidtext

11-15-14