

MINUTES

Nevada State Board of Fire Services

July 9, 2025

9 a.m.

Location:

Nevada State Fire Marshal Division

107 Jacobsen Way, Carson City, Nevada

And Via TEAMS

Board Members Present:

Jayson Andrus

Mike Dzyak

James Johnston (via TEAMS)

Kacey KC (via TEAMS)

Jacob Lightfoot (via TEAMS)

Charles McCall

Thomas McCleister (via TEAMS)

Brandon Potts (via TEAMS)

Dave Ruben

Dale Way

Board Members Not Present:

Stephen Neel – reflected in “others present” as he was an applicant for the State Fire Marshal position

Others Present:

Connie Etchison, Executive Assistant, State Fire Marshal Division

Joe Rodriguez, applicant for the State Fire Marshal Position

Stephen Neel, applicant for the State Fire Marshal Position

Dennis Pinkerton, State Fire Marshal Division

Rich McKnight, State Fire Marshal Division

Sean Stratton, State Fire Marshal Division

Nicole Hoekstra, State Fire Marshal Division

Mike Heidemann, Nevada State Firefighters Association (via TEAMS)

Mary Gordon, DPS HR Mgr.

Kelli Baratti, Nevada Fire Chiefs Association

George Togliatti, DPS Director (via TEAMS)

1. CALL TO ORDER (Non-Action Item.)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Dale Way.

2. VERIFICATION OF NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW (Non-Action Item)

Connie Etchison confirmed compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

3. **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS; verification of quorum (Non-Action Item)**
Connie Etchison called roll. Ten (10) board members were present. A quorum was established. Introductions were made.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Action Item)** There were no public comments.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 7, 2025 MEETING MINUTES (Discussion/For Possible Action)** Dale Way made a motion to approve the minutes. Jayson Andrus seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. **REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND CONDUCT INTERVIEWS FOR THE POSITION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL.** (Discussion/For Possible Action) The Two applicants were interviewed (two applicants declined an interview) by the Board Members.
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Action Item)**
There were no public comments.
8. **SELECTION OF CANDIDATES.** (Discussion/For Possible Action) The two applicants were agreed upon and will be forwarded to the Director of Public Safety for his final appointment. Dale Way made a motion to forward, in no particular order, the following applicants to the Director of Public Safety. Stephen Neel and Joseph Rodriguez. Dave Ruben seconded the motion. Motion carried.
9. **STATE FIRE MARSHAL ADVISORY REPORT (Non-action item)**
Chief Mike Dzyak stated that the State Fire Marshal Division has acquired 6 new positions, a Training Officer position in Las Vegas, and Administrative Assistant III in Las Vegas, an Administrative Assistant III for Training here in Carson, an Inspector position in Carson, an ASO II position in Carson and an Officer position in Carson. He announced a "public information" item – had a rash of stolen fire alarm panels in Reno. Someone went into at least 7 different buildings and removed them. That means they had to have the technical experience to remove those panels. So that's currently under investigation by us with the assistance of Reno Fire. Be on the lookout and get us the information as soon as possible. Over the holiday there was a fireworks incident in West Wendover with injuries, so we will be investigating that. He stated that this will be his last Board of Fire Services meeting and the State Fire Marshal. Has been a privilege and an honor to serve in this capacity for the last 6 years and thanked everyone for their time to devote to this and making it more actionable than it has been in the past. Jayson Andrus thanked Chief Mike Dzyak for his 6 years in this position. Dale Way also congratulated the Chief on his upcoming retirement.
10. **STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIVISION TRAINING ADVISORY REPORT (Non-action item)**
Dennis Pinkerton stated that within the last 6 months they have tested 966 people that resulted in 802 professional certifications. There was a brief stop in all National Fire Academy direct delivery courses due to budget issues at the federal level. Since then, those direct delivery courses have been rescheduled. He gave a run-down of courses that are being scheduled and a brief description of the training contracts.

Jayson Andrus asked if there was an estimated ETA for the Training Officer in Clark County and Dennis stated that it will take approximately 3 months to go through the process. Dennis also announced that he will be retiring in January 2026 with nearly 25 years at the Fire Marshal Division and 40 years in the Nevada Fire Service.

11. NEVADA STATE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION ADVISORY REPORT (Non-Action Item)

Mike Heidemann stated that they had to cancel the NSFA Annual Conference again this year which was to be held in Fallon. The cancellation was due to poor registration numbers. They are looking at partnering up with FireShowsWest. The Association is kind of reorganizing and gearing up for potentially the next conference. Dale Way asked about the tax incentives or tax abatements for some of the volunteers. Mike indicated that AB 313 was sponsored by Assemblyman Koenig and went to the first hearing but there was some confusion over the fiscal impact and the next hearing didn't move.

12. NEVADA FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION ADVISORY REPORT (Non-action Item)

Kelli Baratti stated that they have been successful in getting a BLM grant. These are small grants and designed to be a stop gap between much larger fire prevention or risk reduction programs. They produced a weekly report summary during legislature and sent it out to all of the fire chiefs. The roundtable meeting will be at FireShowsWest on October 2nd. Kacey KC commented that they had to apply to the Great Plains and they've accepted their application and they are still working on the Northwest. They can start utilizing the State to State ability to mobilize wild land assets across the US for anybody who can share in those compacts.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Action Item)

George Togliatti, Director of the Department of Public Safety stated that he thanked everyone and it really helps to receive the Board of Fire Services input. He thanked Mike Dzyak for bringing the division to a new level.

14. ADJOURNMENT (Discussion/For Possible Action.)

Dale Way made a motion to adjourn. Charles McCall seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.