

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE TWENTYNINE PALMS WATER DISTRICT
72401 HATCH ROAD, TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277**

MARCH 29, 2014

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Moore called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., 72401 Hatch Road, Twentynine Palms, California. Those responding to roll call were Directors Bo Bourikas, Chancey Chambers, Suzi Horn, Sam Moore, and Roger Shinaver. Also present were Fire Chief Jim Thompson, General Manager Tamara Alaniz, Financial Consultant Cindy Byerrum, and District Secretary Cindy Fowlkes.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

Mr. Gerard Laferriere, of Twentynine Palms, spoke against the proposed tax measure and recommended the Board approach the city for funding.

Ed Vallerand, of Twentynine Palms, proposed several alternative scenarios.

Carol Giannini, of Twentynine Palms, spoke in favor of a tax measure and a tax sharing agreement with the city that will sustain the Fire Department on a permanent basis.

Adam Lunn, of the Citizens' Advisory Committee, has not heard support from the community in favor of a tax measure but reminded the audience that costs for retaining the downtown station will continue to escalate.

Randy Leazer, of the Citizens' Advisory Committee, has not heard favorable support for a tax measure but asked the audience to consider the necessity and importance of having adequate fire protection.

Greg Mendoza, of Twentynine Palms, suggested the Board look at a tax measure that is sustainable and hopes the Board finds a successful marketing strategy.

Bob Coghill, of Twentynine Palms, expressed concerns of putting forth a failing tax measure.

John Campbell, of Twentynine Palms, was in favor of Option One with a good marketing plan.

Gary Daignault, of Twentynine Palms, informed the Board that public education spots are being used by Hi Desert Water District to educate their constituents.

1. Review and Discuss Fire Department Projected Future Expenses, Future Revenue Requirements, and Options for Special Fire Tax Ballot Measure

Chief Thompson presented the Board with the Citizens' Advisory Committee's recommendation and options, including an overview of the Fire Department's revenue, staffing levels, and budget history. Currently the Adobe Fire Station has five personnel on duty daily, three paid personnel and two volunteer firemen.

- Option One - \$22.40 increase per year for three years; 3% inflation adjuster to be reviewed annually and implemented at the discretion of the Board; 8 personnel staffing level; reopen the Lear Fire Station with two firemen. The committee supports Option One.

- Option Two – \$32.00 increase; 3% inflation adjuster; 7 personnel staffing level; retain current 5 personnel staffing level at the Adobe Fire Station; open the Lear Fire Station with two firemen.
- Option Three - \$12.00 increase, 3% inflation adjuster; retain 5 personnel staffing level at the Adobe Fire Station; Lear Fire Station remains unstaffed.
- Chief Thompson informed the Board that another possible option is the District may enter into a tax sharing agreement with the city or county.

The Board adjourned for a break at 10:23 am and reconvened at 10:37 am.

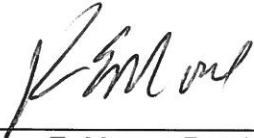
After discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to bring back options I, II, and III at the April Board meeting with the following scenarios:

- 50% tower revenues included in the budget scenarios
- Budget scenarios without an inflation adjuster
- A fourth option, should the ballot measure fail

The Board asked General Manger, Ms. Alaniz, to draft an RFP (Request for Proposals) for potential marketing firms. The Board will address paying for the service once proposals are received.


2. Adjournment

On motion by Director Shinaver, seconded by Director Horn and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 p.m.



 Kerron E. Moore, President
 Board of Directors

Attest:


 Tamara Alaniz, Board Secretary
 Twentynine Palms Water District

APPROVED APR 23 2014