

IN A SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION AND THE LUND TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON JUNE 11, 2019 AT THE LUND COMMUNITY CENTER IN ELY, NEVADA

The Following Were Present:

County Fire Commission

Richard Howe, Chairman
Travis Godon, Vice-Chairman
Ian Bullis, Commissioner
Nichole Baldwin, Clerk of the Board
Susan Lujan, Deputy Clerk

The Following Was Absent:

Shane Bybee, Commissioner

Lund Town Council

Jim Allred, Chairman
Lance Matheson
Ann Hamilton
Lee Ringueberg
Charis Maynard

Also Present

Elizabeth Frances, County Finance Director
Ralph McClintock, Interim Fire District Coordinator
Ron & Neva Horsley
Seth Hooley
Christiann Griffin
Chellie Jensen
Carol McKenzie, Lund EMT
Tim & Sandy McGowan
Hal Jensen, Lund VFD
Bill Harris
Cheryl Mangum, Lund EMT
Gilbert Griffin
Donna Lani
Micah Griffin

Moroni Perez
Den_____
Shawn Hamilton
Sondra Adams

Fire Commission Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Commissioner Travis Godon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION

This was duly observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Travis Godon thanked everyone for coming this evening, and noted everyone is here for the same purpose. He is looking forward to getting some positive results from these discussions; Commissioner Ian Bullis and Chairman Richard Howe agreed. Chairman Howe advised this Board has plans to go to all the outlying areas in the County to receive their input, and it's the Board's pleasure to be here.

Lund Town Council Member Lee Ringueberg wanted to know why their Commission liaison, Commissioner Ian Bullis, hasn't been attending their meetings. Commissioner Bullis explained that he had a client that was booked routinely at the same time as their meetings, but that will soon be cleared up and he will be able to make the Lund Town Council meetings in the near future.

Mr. Tim McGowan wanted to know the current status of the Lund VFD; are there any active members left? Is there any fire protection in place down here? Chairman Richard Howe noted these concerns will be addressed during the agenda item discussions.

Commissioner Godon introduced the County's Interim Fire District Coordinator, Ralph McClintock, to the assemblage and advised he will be addressing all the outlying areas.

Lund Town Council Chairman Jim Allred advised that over the past 3 months he's held discussions with the outlying area VFDs, and didn't find one who felt secure with this Interlocal Agreement. He added that they all feel like they've been left out, and he wished to make that known this evening.

WHITE PINE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION & LUND TOWN COUNCIL:

DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE NEEDS OF THE LUND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. AND ITS FACILITY AS THEY RELATE TO THE FOLLOWING: STRUCTURAL REPAIRS AND/OR UPGRADES, EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL, AND/OR TECHNOLOGY

Lund EMT Carol McKenzie produced a list that was a result of a meeting they held last week; these items consist of those things which are needed by the Lund VFD:

1 - Radios/pagers for the EMTs and Firefighters. They don't all have the means to be called to go on a run, and she cited 2 instances where that happened; however, she did show up at one incident. She advised they would need at least 5 radios/pagers. Commissioner Ian Bullis noted an inventory of everything is being done in the County, including the number of radios/pagers that we do have and still require. He added that part of the process is finding out what equipment doesn't work. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances confirmed this inventory is being done; EMT McKenzie advised they need that communication equipment as soon as possible, and there is a big issue because the pagers aren't programmed for everyone to be on them. They might be programmed for Ely, Lackawanna and Station 1, but if Lund isn't on there it won't work. She added that due to the mountaintop and poor signal, sometimes people are getting double-pages; that also needs to be fixed. Commissioner Bullis cited the phone alert system, but EMT McKenzie didn't know how to get into that. She added that cell phones' working depend upon your location in the valley, as to if the signal would be even picked up.

2 - Turnouts for the Firefighters. Coordinator McClintock advised we have quite a few sets of turnouts, and he's brought a bunch of them down tonight; he will see about the sizes that are needed. It was pointed out that turnouts have an expiration date. Commissioner Bullis asked if when there was a full-time Chief in Station 1, was the Lund VFD getting the things that they needed? Chairman Allred noted that he had obtained all the sizes and they were ordered, and they're probably in the stack Coordinator McClintock has brought. Commissioner Bullis was concerned about having a backlog of stuff and the stations not getting what they need.

3 - The Lund VFD restroom needs major work; there's a sewer problem. Coordinator McClintock advised this is a health problem that needs to be fixed ASAP. Chairman Howe noted he had talked with Public Works Director Bill Calderwood about that issue.

4 - The ambulance has always gotten their supplies from Station 1; where would they be getting them from now? The Ely Fire Station was cited, but it was noted that sometimes that station isn't manned, and they wouldn't be able to get in to get their supplies. Commissioner Bullis felt they should still be able to get their supplies from Station 1. It was added that shirts for the EMTs were always at Station 1; some EMTs don't have any shirts or uniforms. EMT McKenzie explained they need to wear identifying clothing for when they make runs to the different hospitals, etc.

5 - EMT McKenzie advised that they had been getting reports from the Sheriff's Dept. showing the time periods spent on movement of the EMTs in connection with a working roster. Due to confidentiality, she continued, the Sheriff's Dept. can't fax them to their homes or email them. They used to come to the fire chief there although not always on time, but they aren't getting any now. Commissioner Bullis felt that problem could be solved by getting a laptop with a dedicated email down at the Lund VFD; he will work on that.

6 - A dumpster is sorely needed. EMT McKenzie talked with Director Calderwood about this previously, and she will try to catch up with him during tomorrow's regular Commission meeting.

7 - EMT McKenzie advised of a request for a ground transport that had been made for an inmate, and while it wasn't critical medically they still needed to go to Reno. The EOC paid staff made all the arrangements, including the EMTs who would be going, and it was explained people were being transported to other areas rather than flying them there due to the cost. Commissioner Bullis advised we need to find out how Station 1 handled that in the past; EMT McKenzie noted that they had called on the volunteers to go on those kinds of transports. She continued that they called the Ely Fire Dept. and was told they don't do transports; Chairman Howe advised that if this incident occurs again, they should call him. He felt that this would be more of a Dispatch matter; there's no one at Station 1 to handle it, the City has it, and Coordinator McClintock isn't officially on board yet. He reiterated how arrangements are made through Dispatch. Coordinator McClintock noted that the backup ambulance in McGill is willing, for example, but we need to find volunteer EMTs to do the transport. During the discussion, Commissioner Bullis voiced concern over lack of coverage in the event of transports being done; he added that nothing should have changed with this other than someone should still be calling the volunteers, like it was before.

8 - There is an air compressor; people are needing to be trained on filling the bottles.

9 - An automatic lift gurney is needed in their ambulance. EMT McKenzie explained there are 5 EMTs, all female, and there are some days when it's difficult to lift heavier people onto them. She noted they only have one ambulance and therefore they would only need 1 of those, in reply to a query from Commissioner Bullis. Micah Griffin noted that it needs to be the same equipment as the City of Ely has, to allow for smoother movement of people from one gurney to another.

10 - Regarding EMT training, EMT McKenzie advised they're holding that on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month; she feels it's working well for now. She added that personal property and garbage are being cleaned up at their station, in order to make it usable. As to changing the locks, it was noted Director Calderwood would have to do that. There was a brief discussion, after which Chairman Howe asked WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin to send a letter to the previous Fire chief requesting all keys in the possession of former volunteers be turned in and asking them to retrieve personal items by June 30, 2019. After that deadline, everything will be rekeyed. That would give everyone plenty of notice, if things are removed by that date, then we can either store it or get rid of it. EMT McKenzie advised she did send people a note advising them to remove their stuff. It was generally agreed the deadline would be June 30th, after which everything would be rekeyed and no one except those authorized could have entry. EMT McKenzie advised that there were boxes of fireworks that our former Fire Chief was coming to retrieve 2 weeks ago, but they're still there. Micah Griffin noted a letter would suffice for these things, it shouldn't be confrontational, just to get things moving along. She advised that both the Training Center and the Fire Station have lots of things in there.

Micah Griffin advised that last Thursday, volunteers were contacted and they will be meeting twice a month. Chairman Howe asked them to keep Coordinator McClintock informed so he'll know what's going on as well. The Board extended their thanks to EMT McKenzie and everyone else who put together the list she read today regarding Lund VFD's needs.

Chairman Howe reiterated that the County is dedicated to taking care of the outlying stations; the materials and equipment we do have belong to the entire County, and the primary focus is on the outlying stations to be fully staffed and supplied with everything they need. He continued that while the City of Ely is the command center, our job remains to be committed to the outlying areas; he assured them that their supplies will be taken care of first, even if we would need to buy some of them; they will have first choice, it was noted. Chairman Howe continued that due to Hwy 318, our Lund VFD is very important; he commended EMT McKenzie for doing a great job with all this.

Micah Griffin noted that it isn't easy to get EMS certifications, but over the next few months he felt that he could build up their Firefighter roster up to 12-14 people. Also, once another EMT receives her certification, there will be 7 EMTs in the Lund VFD.

There followed some interesting conversation on different topics, including: The Lund VFD is quite well-equipped; the new County Fire District Chief's most important qualification would be their ability to "unify this mess," even more than their other qualifications; battery-powered extrication tools would be nice, and that would be easy to put in and be considered for; and if anything is going to leave Lund—equipment, apparatus, etc.—and the Lund VFD would like to be the first to know. Chairman Allred pointed out that the Lund Town Council had located funding and matching grants, and that all of those things purchased through grants belong to Lund; Micah Griffin corrected not everything, but most of it, belongs to Lund. Commissioner Bullis asked the difference between what is Lund's and what would be the County's; it admittedly is hard to differentiate, but Director Frances can look up the funding sources for the items that were tagged. Those without tags, however,—which amounts to over half the items—are assumed not to belong to Lund, per Micah. Coordinator McClintock emphasized that "what is yours is yours," and he wouldn't take anything out of the Lund VFD without consulting them.

When asked if people were generally happy with the way everything sits at this time, the response was affirmative. EMT McKenzie did note some deep depressions in front of an ambulance shed in which water collects that makes entry/departure difficult, and Commissioner Bullis suggested perhaps a driveway poured might help that problem. The drainage issue is what magnified that depression problem, and during the discussion, Commissioner Godon noted he would like to hire a contractor and get it fixed, just to get it done without having to go through the work order process.

Chairman Allred asked about their budget cuts going down from \$4,800 to \$1,000; Director Frances explained that the amounts allocated to the individual fire stations were reduced once Station 1 ceased. Those funds are available but will be drawn down on an as-needed basis by the stations. It was clarified the line item for tee shirts and other promo items is separate from the line item for extrication tools, for example. During the discussion Commissioner Bullis advised the District is letting the individual fire stations work things out the way they would like, with the new Fire Chief to have some oversight; that will remove the previous issues with bottlenecks and redundancies. The new Chief's job will be to support the stations, not necessarily giving directions, but helping to ensure each VFD will be able to get what they need.

(At this point, the Fire Commission and Lund Town Council/citizens began to discuss the issue of communications.)

Mr. Tim McGowan asked if there is a Fire Dept. that can respond to Lund events? Chairman Howe advised that once they are on the roster, that would be correct. Commissioner Bullis apologized that from the beginning there has been a lie perpetrated that the County had shut down all the outlying stations. This decision was meant not to shut

them down, but rather to support them. He commented "it was a mutiny." Mr. McGowan then asked what they should do in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or medical emergency; the reply was they need to call 911 ASAP. Once 911 is called, then a notification to respond occurs and the volunteers here in Lund should be getting that. However, it was noted there are some communication problems with the equipment. Micah advised that the 911 notification would be dispatched via cellphones and the pagers as well, so every volunteer would have both options for notification; this would also include the radios. That is the process, although it was recognized "there are some holes to fill" in the system to make it work. Simultaneously once 911 is called, the City of Ely will roll as a backup; it will depend upon the decision to either have the City continue forward or to call it off, if the situation is deemed to be under control.

Chairman Allred stated that according to the newspaper, the City of Ely can respond to the Airport in 5 minutes; Station 1 could respond to McGill in 7-9 minutes; but Ely responds to McGill in 22 minutes. He noted that's actual information and we've gone backwards, not forwards. Commissioner Bullis advised that part of helping the City to respond quicker is to get staffed back up to speed, and that we're aiming at going forward. The reduction in pay hadn't been brought up by the City, he noted. Chairman Howe interspersed that the process is starting to work; he can't wait until the City gets their full staff. So when the Sheriff's Dept. gets the 911 call, they dispatch Ely and the closest VFD to the incident simultaneously. He commented that some people are trying to put a wrench into the works, but the main focus of the County is the outlying fire stations; he stated that we are the County, not the City. "Your stations and communities are safe, and that's the County's job." Our volunteers ARE coming back, and added that Lund is basically our center of operations for Highway 318. We're moving in a new direction; he cited some positive communications had occurred with a couple of accidents and that's what we need to have happen. The stations in Lund, Baker, etc. will be able to get the apparatus they need to keep everyone safe.

Mr. McGowan was "guardedly encouraged" by tonight's discussion, and it sounds like things are moving in the right direction. However, who is administering the Fire/EMS services? Commissioner Bullis clarified the City did NOT take over the Fire District; it is still viable, and still in charge. The City of Ely simply took over how the paid staff are being paid, which was the major change. Coordinator McClintock confirmed this, noting that the VFD's don't work for the Ely Fire Chief; the Incident Command System will always be in place. Ely is just running this way in case not everyone is needed to man an incident, as he explained. He added that they don't have the resources to take care of our business, they're happy to have us to do that. Commissioner Bullis noted that the people working at the County had the first opportunity to apply for the City jobs and while they initially said, "No, thanks," people are coming around and staff will be trickling in. And following a short discussion about the ability of EMTs to be able to restock without having to climb into an attic, it was noted that they should be able to stock at Station 1 like it was for them before.

WHITE PINE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION & LUND TOWN COUNCIL:
DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE WPC FIRE COMMISSION AND LUND VFD

Chairman Richard Howe wished to open this agenda item as well since we've been discussing communication problems for awhile. This was done; he is very pleased about our discussions and the way we're progressing. He commented that he's also happy that the Lund community is grateful for the City of Ely to come down and assist; he felt things are going better than anticipated in that regard. He asked for further comments, either regarding the repairs/upgrades of the previous agenda item or communications as indicated in this item.

Mr. Hal Jensen wished confirmed that all 911 calls get funneled through the Sheriff's Dept. He also wondered about the Sheriff's Dept., the Ely City Fire Dept. and County Fire District/EMS; is there just one Dispatcher taking all of the calls and trying to handle all of them at the same time? Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised that the County Commission spent \$225,000 for upgrading Dispatch, a system to encompass everyone in the same Sheriff's Dept. system, and the 911 system enhancement. This would improve communications from the centralized standpoint of Dispatch, it was noted. Mr. Jensen noted that as Lund serves 3 different counties on Hwy 318, there is an issue in identifying milepost markers as being from White Pine, Lincoln, or Nye. EMT McKenzie explained all the different areas they fan out to from Lund, and that they work very well with the different entities; they've cultivated friendships from working that way, and it's like a big family.

A problem of communicating with the Nevada Highway Patrol was discussed; it was felt that no volunteers or County people have been able to talk with the NHP, and that a relay system had been used in the past to get their attention, which usually ended up in a disaster. Commissioner Ian Bullis advised that he has friends in the local NHP and he'll go talk with them about this. Micah Griffin added we also need to be able to communicate with NDOT. It used to be that we were able to talk with everyone, as they shared the same radio frequency, even if the systems were different. If we're planning to upgrade, everyone must be compatible; it was felt that Director Frances could look into this along with our IT people.

EMT McKenzie noted she had discussed a piece of equipment with Director Frances that would allow for the EMTs to do their reports en route. Director Frances advised that a monthly feed could be done, and the monthly cost

would be included in the budget. Something like that would require it to be operational while traveling on the highway; also, once the reports were finished, they would need to be able to take that information and download it into other equipment in order to be able to store/retrieve their records. This would allow for sending the required reports to where they need to go in a more efficient manner. Initially, she added, Nye County was going to give them a laptop but that didn't happen since they ran out of funds. Commissioner Travis Godon felt that a laptop with a dock would be the way to go with this.

Mr. Tim McGowan appreciated this meeting being very informative, and all the unpleasantness might have been avoided if the Commission had held these meetings and started to implement the agreement afterward. He continued that by cancelling the evening meeting, it sounded like there were things that the Board didn't want the public to know. He felt that the Commission should have been holding this meeting in Lund a long time ago. Commissioner Bullis explained it was largely due to the Open Meeting Law. More than the two Commissioners that were working on the draft agreement would have been involved, which was a violation of the OML. The agreement couldn't be discussed because it wasn't ready to present in an Open Meeting. However, both he and Commissioner Godon agreed there was definitely a lesson learned from the experience, and this Board will be more mindful of that in the future.

Chairman Richard Howe appreciated Lund Town Council inviting the Board into their community; he reiterated that the Commission is 100% behind the Fire District, which IS the outlying areas. He added that the County is in the process of advertising for a new Fire Chief.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Richard Howe invited everyone to make comments during this time, and explained that the Board can't take action at this meeting, but rather this was to initiate discussion. He was pleased that we now have a lot of notes and lots of information. Commissioner Travis Godon will meet with Micah Griffin and get these points moving forward.

Lund Town Council Chairman Jim Allred didn't see how taking the full-time staff away from the County and giving it to the City gets us ahead. Although the City has control now, 51% of our constituents are County, not the City. People have been coming to him and saying that their power is taken away, i.e., the County employees moving to the City and the money involved.

Mr. Tim McGowan noted that the staff who used to be at Station 1 who declined employment with the City; he had a concern over who would employ them? Commissioner Ian Bullis clarified it would be the City of Ely. Both he and Chairman Allred are troubled by the full-time County staff going to the City for their employment.

Ms. Lee Ringueberg thanked the Fire Commission for coming tonight, and wished that more people could have shown up. Commissioner Bullis advised he will try to attend more meetings as their liaison in the future.


EMT McKenzie invited the Fire Commission to look at the Lund Fire Station and ambulance area, she'd be happy to give them the tour.

ADJOURNMENT: THE JOINT MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED BY AN APPROPRIATE MOTION OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION

At 7:27 p.m., Fire Commission Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Travis Godon made the motion; Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

WHITE PINE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:



CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:



WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD