

**IN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON APRIL 19, 2019
IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM IN ELY, NEVADA**

The Following Were Present:

County Commission

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

County Officials

Lance Gale, Airport Manager
Tim Bunch, Human Resources Director
Carl Gregory, Emergency Mgmt. Director
Mike Wheable, District Attorney
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director

Also Present

Jesse Ciscar, McGill VFD
Timothy & Sandra McGowan, Lund
Susan Wetmore, Baker
Michael Bongard, McGill VFD
Dave Kuiper, Baker
Gary Perea, Baker
Alicia Wheeler, Garrison, UT
Raleene Makley
Cynthia Angelopoulos, McGill
Laurie L. Carson
Cheryl Noriega
Carol McKenzie
Kay McMurray, Ely Times
George Chachas, KGTV-10
Geri Wopschall
Mark Drain
Keith Prezler, Baker
Raymond Maestes, McGill
Chris Maestes, McGill Town Council
Joy Asher
Angela Simpson, EMT
Josh Vann, NPS
Patricia Dore, Baker
Samantha Jewett, McGill
Micah Griffin, Lund
Richard Barber, Baker

Michelle Schaller, Willow Creek
Laurie Cruikshank, Baker
Debbie Whipple, Lund
Bunny Hill, Silver State Classic Challenge
Mathew Jensen, McGill
Ross Rivera, Ely Fire Chief

Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Ian Bullis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION

This was duly observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Richard Howe first advised that everyone may speak, but all comments must be addressed to the Commission as a whole, not individually. There would be no more questions or public input during the regular Commission meeting. All letters that were received will be read into the record. He assured the assemblage that no one will be denied to speak; respect must be shown to the public and also to the members of this Commission.

McGill Fire Dept. member Jesse Ciscar brought a set of turnouts to the podium; he explained that each piece of the turnout protects both his life and those in the community. He is a volunteer; he has never turned in a paper stating that he wants to be paid by White Pine County. He continued: The mask protects his breathing; the helmet, his thoughts, dreams, and prayers; the jacket protects his internal organs; the boots have protected and carried him through 15 years of his life as a volunteer. Never once has he said he would not help someone in need of his service. He's a

disabled veteran, and a proud member of the McGill Volunteer Fire Dept. and the WPC Fire District. He asked the Commission to please reconsider what they're about to vote on. Without anyone to fill those positions, your homes, families' lives, and folks traveling through White Pine County are at risk. He continued that they've lost volunteers over this conflict more than in any catastrophe, and that we're destroying what is meant to be something pure, by going through with these agreements. It's not about whose Fire Dept. is better, it's about the money. He's never once turned down any other Fire Dept. for training or interagency help; McGill has extended the olive branch to every fire station in Ely and in White Pine County. Time was called.

Timothy McGowan, Lund resident, came forward and read his statement into the record.

Airport Manager Lance Gale advised that it isn't on the agenda today to address issues at the Airport, so he is providing the information during Public Comment. He noted he hasn't seen a copy of this interlocal agreement with the City, but wants to know how Med flights will be covered and how they would be responded to. He added that today he is meeting with the FAA to discuss how to bring air service into the Airport. Manager Gale added that trained people need to be on call 15 min. prior to and after each flight, and wondered how this would be handled. He also has a concern about the June Air Show and how the EMS side would be taken care of. He needs some clarification; he added that ARFF training needs to be done during the next 30 days, plus there must be a "mock emergency" staged at the Airport as one of the FAA requirements. Commissioner Steve Stork asked Manager Gale to provide a list of documents and who would be needed to sign those next week.

Susan Wetmore, Baker resident, read her letter into the record.

Michael Bongard, McGill VFD member and McGill citizen, compared the 2008 ObamaCare to today's interlocal agreement; in 2008 American citizens would have to wait until the law was passed until they could find out what was in it. The White Pine County Commission is forcing the same conditions upon their citizens. There is lack of accountability in the agreement with the entity this Board is contracting with. He suggested malfeasance and misfeasance with respect to including those things in the contract. He asked why the Board now wants to reach out to the volunteer Fire Depts., on today's agenda, and why hasn't that been done before. He noted only 1 Commissioner has attended McGill Town Council meetings prior to this issue. He cited lack of input as well as negligence, malfeasance and misfeasance. Chairman Richard Howe halted the comment as now this was getting into legal matters. Mr. Bongard noted that these are his opinions, and asked about transparency; there's also nothing addressing ISO ratings that he is aware of, and asked if any research had been done on that prior to today.

Dave Kuiper, BACAB member, supports the Fire Services/EMT letter that was sent in; BACAB met last night and they also support it. He felt something of this magnitude needs to be placed on the ballot, for the voters of White Pine County to decide. He continued that this is dealing with people's lives; it's already a 1+ hour to Baker, and it would extend the hours their EMTs would need to transport people on the road. He added that a bad interlocal agreement won't fix bad financial management; he asked the Board to think of the legal/financial consequences when something goes awry.

At this point, letters from the following people were read into the record: Bill Ward, including 60 signatures in support of his comments; Lester Robison; a letter from McGill signed by 43 residents; John & Susan Geary, Evie & Robert Pinneo, Donald & Veronica Duff, Patricia Dore. Someone in the back of the room advised they couldn't hear; District Attorney Mike Wheable advised readings of these won't be repeated, and continued to read the letters into the record. He added that copies of all the letters are at the back of the room for anyone who needs them.

Gary Perea, Baker resident, took the podium and first apologized for what he has to say: He wished to explain on record why he resigned from being a Baker EMT. He cited an EMT call he received over a decade ago that haunts him to this day; it was detailed and heartbreaking. In that sad emergency, he emphasized that it was Station 1 that provided him the support that he needed that day.

Alicia Wheeler, from Garrison, Utah, spoke next, reading from the statement she submitted to the Board.

Raleene Makley stood and read her letter into the record, adding that she will make her mission to ensure this Board is accountable for their actions.

Cynthia Angelopoulos, of McGill, stated that the citizens' concerns haven't been heard, with respect to the City. She asked if they would guarantee the response time to McGill and other outlying areas? She pointed out that there's a staff shortage now, and if our service ratings go down, the ISO ratings will go up. She commented that at least the City of Ely residents can sleep well at night.

Laurie Carson then read her letter into the record. She pointed out that her comments aren't said to be against the City of Ely; she recalled that White Pine County was once in a severe financial emergency.

Mark Drain advised that he was a volunteer in the past for both the Fire/EMS. He publicly thanked the City and County fire people who volunteer their time on a daily basis. He followed this issue for many years in the paper; he never say anything from the City stating that they wanted to do it all because they couldn't provide it from their available resources. So now this is changing; he totally disagrees with doing away with the County paid system and going with the

City. He feels this will jeopardize peoples' lives; if the City is on a call outside the City limits, someone could be dying waiting for a response here in town, and visa versa.

At this point, more letters were read into the record: From Robin Crouch; Rodney Gamble; Gretchen Baker; Ryan Baker, Acting Fire Chief for Snake Valley VFD; Lynn & Roxanne Ballandby; Ann Schroeder; Rebecca Gordon; Melissa Renfro; Meg Horner; and John Woodyard III.

At 10:17, Chairman Richard Howe recessed the regular Commission meeting for a break. The meeting was reconvened at 10:24 a.m., at which point more letters were read into the record. Those were from: Heather Yacapraro; Carol Ferguson; Abigail Johnson; Mike & Jo McDonald; Cheryl Noriega; Geri Wopschall; and Bunny Hill. Public Comment continued:

Angela Simpson advised she has been an EMT for 9 years; she is now an Advanced EMT and had initially wanted to become a paramedic, but now she's in real estate. She noted that when her mother had a stroke, due to her training she was able to respond properly. She cited an ambulance call out at Blue Diamond took 25 minutes to arrive. She continued that they want to get rid of 15 EMTs and not to let them finish their classes. She noted the County has already gotten rid of 5 Advanced EMTs that usually help in the outlying areas. She asked who would help the Commissioners, if one of them needed CPR? And, she reported, although there might not be people here who would want to, they WOULD. She asked the Board to think about the 60 volunteers that have already quit.

Debbie Whipple started by noting that "common sense tells you there's something wrong with this agreement." In Lund, 3,000+ cars go by daily, and they often have major accidents out there. She spoke of an incident whereby as she was working at Whipple's Store, some illegals came in and they asked her to fix them something to eat. She tried to explain that she had no help and she was getting ready to leave; she was all alone at this point. She pretended to call the Sheriff's Office and while that worked, she had to bluff her way through that. She asked the Commissioners if they thought the City of Ely needs to run all these things; she felt this is a really bad idea. She added that Lund is a long ways away, and it's really frightening and a bad deal for the County.

Tim Bunch, Human Resources Director, advised the Board that he's just received a notification from Airport Manager Lance Gale. The FAA arrived early, and they got wind of all this; if this Board makes the decision to close Station 1 and we don't have the ARFF truck, Fire/EMS, he stated that "the Airport will be CLOSED TODAY." District Attorney Mike Wheable noted that Manager Gale doesn't have all the facts; Director Bunch replied that he's just relaying a message.

George Chachas commented on the agenda item to rescind the Interlocal Agreement with the City for Fire/EMS, and stated the Commission needs to do that NOW. There is no provision stating County personnel will be transferred to the City. He asked, "Will you just trash your people?" He also cited the agenda item regarding replacement of paid and volunteer staff once they resign or terminated. He noted the City of Ely will be hiring 4 new personnel; he asked if County staff will be considered. He also made a vague comment about a new Commissioner not having the experience to be well-informed. He feels that our program will lose \$500,000 from EMS services alone. Also regarding the County budget, he cited one department receiving a 15% increase over others; there's no P.A. system here for Commission meetings to assist people with hearing disabilities, while there was one at the old Annex.

At 10:47 a.m. there was no further Public Comment; Chairman Richard Howe informed the assemblage that none will be taken until the end of today's meeting. He noted that the County WILL be hiring a Fire Chief to help all the outlying Fire Depts. He added that he had discussed the response format with WPC Sheriff Scott Henriod: If a call comes in from Baker or another outlying area, Sheriff Henriod will contact the closest dispatching office to get them out first. He wished to make it clear to the public that the closest station WILL respond to a call.

District Attorney Mike Wheable advised that these agenda items are under both the County Commission and the Fire Commission; they were opened simultaneously.

A) Discussion/for Possible Action/Approval to rescind the Interlocal Agreement for Fire/EMS Services with the City of Ely.

Commissioner Steve Stork provided his disclosure statement in accordance with the Commission on Ethics, regarding that his brother Patrick has been with the City of Ely for 22 years and is covered by the collective bargaining unit. Further, this County Commission and the Fire Commission have no authority to affect his brother's pay, benefits, employment, etc.; and that he can comment and vote on this agenda item. He clarified that any action this/these Boards take will have no effect to a greater or lesser degree than anyone else in his brother's class. D.A. Wheable stated that this disclosure statement will be applied to both the County and Fire Commission boards. Chairman Richard Howe advised that he had put this on the agenda, and recalled that this item had been brought up from the first day he became a Commissioner, and that how important it was to get rid of Station 1 from that point onward. He's lived through many

other boards and over the years has developed a strong attitude towards the WPC Fire District. He continued that he understands how far we've come since he came on board in 2012; we have excellent trained young people, and the volunteer Fire Depts. work great together. He added that he's seen countless mutual aid agreements with the City; the last one he felt was the best until June 30, 2018 when the County received a communication from City Clerk Bob Switzer that as of 12:00 midnight the City would no longer respond to calls outside the City limits. Chairman Howe believes that is what brought us to where we are today. White Pine County has 61% of the total population, and the City of Ely has 39%. In his opinion, it would be ludicrous for us to dismantle our Fire District. He also wanted to know why so fast an agreement is being made? He noted we've been discussing this matter since January, but during the past month "all hell broke loose." He cited the draft of the Abstract for the Interlocal Agreement, which states that the Commission voted to accept this at their last meeting. He recalled the history of the City's proposal and our counterproposal, and that the Commission voted 4:1 with him voting in opposition. The City agreed to our counterproposal unanimously, he noted. He had some statistics put together, and noted that the City's ending fund balance was \$143,175, for example. He asked if that was equal to the 5 % as mandated by the State; Finance Director Elizabeth Frances assured him that it was. Therefore, if this agreement passes, the City will be in much better shape. Currently, the County is sitting at 22.29% over what the State wants us to keep. There followed some detailed discussion regarding percentages and costs, and it revealed that while the City would be helped by the agreement, it will hurt the County's budget. He explained how the County would have to support most of our revenue services. He reiterated that he's against this 100%, and asked again why are we getting into this agreement so quickly? It was suggested that the end of the fiscal year was probably part of it; the County must be "ready to roll" by July 1st, he does get that. But this is a one-sided agreement. He recalled that we've really built up our Fire District during the past 2 years; if the City is busy, the County is available, and right now the City is on call right now, until further notice. Another concern is that we'd be giving the City a blank check; they have no HR, payroll, finance or administration, although Ms. Jennifer Lee just got hired as the City Clerk. He wanted to know who would be handling the funds we give to the City to handle this? Also, he cited the reduction in force agenda item set for the April 24th Commission meeting. He contacted our HR Director Bunch and they both went to talk with the employees that are affected to advise them they wouldn't have a job as of that date. He reported they appreciated being told ahead of time, although they didn't like to hear it. He continued that this Board was elected to make strong decisions, and the majority dictates policy. He asked the Board members for their opinions.

Commissioner Steve Stork commented that everyone thinks the City is taking over, yet nothing could be further from the truth. He feels this Board has been getting misinformation from a core group of people; he noted they're here to serve all of White Pine County. For example, Baker residents feel they wouldn't be met by someone halfway out there; he didn't think that was factual. He doesn't like the fact that people think this Board is doing something that they aren't in fact doing. He continued that this Board is listening to you and what he's hearing is you haven't really read what's being presented. He hears the public but he doesn't agree with them.

Commissioner Shane Bybee disagreed with the building of Station 1 when it first came up. He noted that our outlying fire stations didn't exist up to a few years ago, and most of the Fire District revenue was spent building a fire station 5 miles away from the other station; he felt that was the reason it choked up the other fire stations' revenues. He noted that Station 1 was being subsidized over \$500,000/year to make it work. Commissioner Bybee added that the Cooperative Efforts Feasibility Study, which cost \$50,000, outlined one of the options which was to contract with the City to do the job they had done in the past for many years. He maintained it's an illusion that this agreement would adversely affect our outlying areas. He explained that those stations will now have better training, equipment, the stuff they've been needing but has been choked out of due to our revenues, which had been duplicated 5 miles away. By getting the General Fund back operating as it had before with this, we'd be operating a better service to our outlying stations, building them up, and that's what he feels our Fire District should be doing. The funds belong in our outlying stations, he reiterated; he believes this is the best course of action, although it's a tough decision. He noted that's the cost of running a business and every so often this has to be done, and he hates doing it as much as anyone else. But by supplying the services with available revenues and still balancing the budget, is what we're up against.

Commissioner Ian Bullis advised that he doesn't wish to be repetitive in his comments, but he's made notes of the reasons given to be going with this agreement. He felt that if half the things were true, the public would have every right to be upset; however, he maintained, we aren't doing those things. He doesn't know where the false ideas come from, but people have been perpetuating those. He assured the assemblage that he has no hidden agenda or attachments with this issue. What he sees is the repetitiveness of the 2 fire stations, 5 miles apart. We are consolidating resources so that we can be more effective in our outlying areas.

Commissioner Travis Godon presented a handout to the Board and the public and explained this is from the Cooperative Efforts Feasibility Study done in 2016, which he asked if anyone in the assemblage had read. He read the third-party analysis statement on page 114, as follows: "To the extent that those (figures) are reflective of future

performance in a status quo model, then the white Pine County Fire Protection District fire and ambulance funds are not sustainable given the current level of service and funding streams beyond 2018.” The stats provided, he noted from the study, indicate this will occur if there’s no significant infusion of new revenue, or a reduction in expenses. He advised that the reason we do have a fund balance, is because we haven’t put the money out to take care of our outlying areas. He can’t sit by and let things collapse; the mine is going now, but in the event of a shutdown, then what? He concluded that the City is actually helping us, rather than the other way around. He wants to be prudent with the taxpayers’ money; there’s over \$1 million for us to utilize and get things to where they need to be. He’s done his homework and is basing his viewpoint on the facts he was presented as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Bullis echoed the last part of Commissioner Godon’s statement and stated, “Jesus forgive them for they don’t know what they’re doing.” He won’t hold any insults against anyone in all this; in fact, he noted that if the things the public has been hearing were actually true they’d have every right to be upset. He agreed that it’s sad the way this has occurred, with our paid staff, but he emphasized that isn’t how things started. When he was helping to draft this original proposal, he knew there was an appetite to shut down Station 1 and consolidate. So he requested D.A. Wheable to add that the City would hire 4 new positions and the County would have first crack at those positions. The reality is, he continued, that many of the guys out there have conducted themselves unprofessionally and are causing problems that have actually pushed this forward. This could have been a very smooth, lateral transition; however, if the City and the County were able to work together, he concluded, we wouldn’t be having this difficult discussion.

Chairman Richard Howe cited the “good faith” interviews in the interlocal agreement; he was told that the City had passed an Ordinance that stated you can’t work for the City unless you reside within the boundaries of White Pine County; the employees we are looking at will do everything in good faith. However, 3 of our employees were let go; one lives in Lincoln County and two live in Spring Creek. Therefore, they wouldn’t qualify to work for the City under that Ordinance, passed by the City just a couple of weeks ago. During the discussion, Commissioner Ian Bullis noted that the people who don’t currently live here now have gotten jobs here because they wanted to make sure their jobs were secured before moving here. Also, Mr. Gary Perea wished to make a comment but he was advised by District Attorney Mike Wheable that further public comment may be made at the end of the meeting today.

Commissioner Ian Bullis advised that in the condition that the Fire District is in now, he didn’t think we would be responsible by rescinding the agreement, since it’s already going down the road. We don’t have a fully staffed station, and it no longer exists like it did before. Chairman Richard Howe felt we were ready to proceed, so he entertained a motion to rescind the interlocal agreement. After asking twice, and after ensuring with D.A. Wheable he could do so, Chairman Howe made a motion to rescind the Interlocal Agreement for Fire/EMS services with the City of Ely. Motion died for lack of a second. It was noted this motion suffices for both the County and Fire Commissions, one for each entity. The Board agreed with this.

B)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval/Ratification to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Ely for automatic aid for Fire/EMS calls as previously approved by the White Pine County Fire Protection District.

District Attorney Mike Wheable advised that two motions would be needed for this agenda item, one for the County and one for the Fire Commission; also, Commissioner Steve Stork needed to make his disclosures for both entities. Commissioner Stork complied and provided his disclosure statements. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to ratify, noting this is the same agreement without modification or changes. He called for a motion as a Fire District; Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to ratify the interlocal agreement as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried 4:1, with Chairman Richard Howe voting in opposition. Chairman Howe then entertained a motion to ratify as the County Commission. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to ratify the interlocal agreement as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried 4:1, with Chairman Richard Howe voting in opposition.

C)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval of Resolution 2019-17 of the White Pine County Fire Commission declaring its intent to enter into and/or be bound by a Cooperative Interlocal Agreement between White Pine County and the City of Ely for the performance of Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services pursuant to NRS 277.045.

Commissioner Steve Stork provided his disclosure statements. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion, as the Fire Commission, to approve as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-17, declaring the intent of the WPC Fire Commission to enter into and/or be bound by the cooperative interlocal agreement with the City of Ely for the performance of Fire/EMS services pursuant to NRS 277.045. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried 4:1, with Chairman Richard Howe voting in opposition.

D)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval of Resolution 2019-18 of the White Pine County Board of County Commissioners declaring its intent to enter into and/or be bound by a Cooperative Interlocal Agreement with the White

Pine County Fire Protection District and the City of Ely for the performance of Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services pursuant to NRS 277.045.

Commissioner Steve Stork provided his disclosure statement. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion as the County Commission to approve this as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-18 for the County Commission to declare its intent to enter/be bound by an interlocal agreement with the City for Fire/EMS services as requested. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried 4:1, with Chairman Richard Howe voting in opposition.

E)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to accept the resignation of Carl Gregory as the Interim Department Head for the White Pine County Fire Protection District.

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch advised that as of April 10th, Carl Gregory resigned as the Interim Department Head for the WPC Fire District. It was clarified that he is still the Emergency Management Director. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to accept the resignation of Carl Gregory as the Interim Dept. Head for the WPC Fire District. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Commissioner Shane Bybee felt this was all an unfortunate misunderstanding; he felt Mr. Gregory had been advised of the pay scale the Board was looking at, and he apologized to him for that misunderstanding. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve as requested. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to accept the resignation of Carl Gregory as the Interim Dept. Head for the WPC Fire District. Commissioner Steve Stork seconded. Motion carried.

F)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to delegate the Department Head duties of the White Pine County Fire Protection District to include a stipend as previously discussed.

HR Director Bunch advised that he hadn't put this on the agenda; District Attorney Mike Wheable noted this is still a topic for discussion, but wondered if it's even necessary at this point. It was added that this was placed on the agenda prior to the disintegration of the Fire District. Chairman Richard Howe advised he's transferred all calls over to the City of Ely as there's no longer any personnel at Station 1. D.A. Wheable added that we still have IT and assets over there, but no point of contact. There was some discussion about possibly utilizing the meeting room at the Aquatic Center to meet and continue the training, since Station 1 will be closed. D.A. Wheable felt that could be done, and this Board could ratify that decision. It was generally agreed this should be tabled; Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to table this agenda item. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

G)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to determine and establish proper protocol for call-outs in order to ensure EMS/Fire calls are not disrupted (Fire Commission/State Duty Officer/Dispatch).

D.A. Wheable advised this is strictly an agenda item for the Fire District, to discuss how to handle callouts. Commissioner Steve Stork provided his disclosure statement. HR Director Bunch clarified that people starting calling the HR Dept. wanting to know who they should notify for sick calls, etc., and he doesn't have a volunteer roster, as that's not part of his County role. He is directed by policy to refer the people with such questions to their Supervisor, but we have none; to their Chief, but they have none; next in line is this Fire Commission, which is why this is on today's agenda. Director Bunch directed people to contact the County Clerk and the Commission Chairman so they could both make a decision. D.A. Wheable felt a motion to ratify that direction by HR, and that Chairman Howe had the authority to do that. Commissioner Steve Stork made a motion to ratify the authority vested in the interim meetings involving the Dept. Head for EMS/Fire callouts. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

H)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval regarding to whom the staff of White Pine County Fire Protection District reports to as Supervisor (Interim).

D.A. Wheable explained this is similar to the above agenda item; a motion and appointment for Chairman Howe to be this interim until the next meeting. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Steve Stork made a motion to appoint Chairman Richard Howe as Interim Fire District Supervisor until the next meeting. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

I)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to create a modified Job Description for District Fire Chief.

HR Director Tim Bunch advised he's waiting for the Board to make a decision regarding the Fire Chief at Station 1. The current Job Description shows that person acting at a higher level; therefore he's wanting to meet with this Board to help create a modified Job Description. Recruiting for this position will be unique; it needs to be applicable to what it really entails. Commissioner Steve Stork felt that we should be reaching out to the outlying Fire

Depts. to find out what they would need from that person as well. Director Bunch advised he doesn't know the Chiefs or the volunteers and he's uncertain as to how to go about accomplishing this; he added that already many people have dropped out. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised that rosters are maintained, for PACT and for other purposes. D.A. Wheable felt that the Chiefs of Baker, Ruth, etc. could advise Director Bunch of what they would need. Commissioner Travis Godon felt that someone who is people-oriented and focused, who could be a true leader and make the volunteers feel appreciated, as well as willing to take direction from this Commission, is who we would be looking for. D.A. Wheable noted that training is a priority, such as for the Baker VFD; training should be provided for, and then recruitment, in that order. The physical items—such as broken bay doors, or a need for another ambulance—needs to be reported to this Board. During the discussion, items to focus on would be someone who could also function as an EMS Director, to be able to schedule/coordinate the City of Ely's Fire Dept, and also to have this Fire Chief spend time in each fire station, working hand-in-hand with the volunteers. It was added that this Chief needs to spend equal time with the City as well. Per D.A. Wheable, "Contract Administration" is what all those things would fall under; the Fire Chief would have to monitor if the service being rendered by the City of Ely is adequate or not. He added that we need to start drafting this. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to direct HR Director Tim Bunch to redraft the Job Description as discussed. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

J)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval for District Fire Chief compensation.

HR Director Tim Bunch advised that if this is modified, what would it entail? One concern he has is that the Fire District Chief starting salary is at \$61,000 but there's only \$30,000 in salaries available. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances explained that was based on the old wage scale, starting at Step 3, with 50%/50% split between Fire and EMS. District Attorney Mike Wheable advised that we need a completed Job Description first; Commissioner Shane Bybee added that we would want the right person who can give the fire stations the support they need. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to table this agenda item. Commissioner Steve Stork seconded. Motion carried.

K)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval regarding Fire Commission's desire to recruit for District Fire Chief with modified Job Description.

Director Bunch asked if this could be approved now, contingent upon the salary and Job Description being approved first. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve recruitment for the District Fire Chief with a modified Job Description, and the pay scale would be decided during the first meeting in May. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

L)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval of Fire Commission directive to implement letters of notification per the White Pine County Fire Protection District Policy regarding Reduction of Force (1 & 2), page 36.

Director Bunch clarified that this does not mention "termination" but rather a "reduction," per policy. A 90-day certified letter must be submitted if a reduction in force is done. Commissioner Travis Godon asked if a paragraph in the notice could be added stating there will be openings in the City of Ely. Commissioner Steve Stork provided his disclosure statement. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to send letters of notification per the WPC Fire District Policy regarding reduction of force as requested. Commissioner Steve Stork seconded. It was noted the motions need to be amended to include sending the letters out today, per the policy regarding 90 days' notice. Commissioner Ian Bullis amended his motion and Commissioner Steve Stork amended his second to reflect that addition. Motion carried.

M)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval of a plan to allocate and/or reallocate equipment, personnel, and other White Pine County Fire Protection District assets located at Fire District Station #1.

Commissioner Steve Stork provided his disclosure statement. Commissioner Travis Godon felt we need to discuss the assets in Station 1, depending on what happens on April 24th; also, as to how those will be allocated out to our outlying fire stations. Also, what we don't have now we need to get out to them if they need it. D.A. Wheable advised this is a good time to have the stations send letters prior to April 24th as to what they may need, but for now we just need to contact the rural Fire Dept. Chiefs. He added that Director Bunch could identify who those people are. Commissioner Shane Bybee wants a current list of assets, as well as the disposition of titles for those. It was noted this will be on the April 24th agenda. D.A. Wheable added that since Chairman Howe was appointed as Interim Supervisor out there, the stations can contact him with their needs. During the brief discussion, it was added that measuring the different vehicle bays in those stations needs to be included. This item was for discussion only.

N)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to direct the District Attorney's Office to review and/or revise and/or draft policies related to the operation of the White Pine County Fire Protection District, including policies related to operations, policies related to personnel, and policies related to the hiring and termination of District staff.

D.A. Wheable asked what needs to be changed in the policy; also, copies will be made available as needed. He suggested that the Board review these policies over the next week and email their suggestions back to him. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to direct the D.A.'s Office to review/revise/draft policies related to the operation of the WPC Fire Protection District, as set forth in the agenda item. Commissioner Ian Bullis made the motion; Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

O)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to direct the Human Resources Director as to a course of action on replacement of White Pine County Fire Protection District paid and volunteer staff upon resignation and/or termination.

Commissioner Travis Godon advised that we have volunteers leaving, new one coming in, and we need to determine why they left. He continued that we need to develop something so that when they sign up, "we need to make sure their hearts are in the right place." Director Bunch advised that's not paid staff, so that's nothing he's been coordinating; further, it's not in his Job Description. District Attorney Mike Wheable had a concern regarding when paid staff or volunteers come on board or are leaving, the keys need to be turned in and signed off. He added no action is needed on this agenda item, it's for discussion only. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances reiterated the concern for equipment and a formal process to check those items in and out as well; that also needs to be included in the policy.

P)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to direct the White Pine County Sheriff as to the Fire/EMS Dispatch protols in light of recent action taken by the City of Ely and the Interlocal Agreement between the County, the White Pine County Fire Protection District, and the City of Ely.

Chairman Richard Howe felt this was already taken care of since the City is doing all calls until further notice, as he had done this. Therefore this is to ratify that the City will be responding to all the calls, and the Sheriff's Dept. will be dispatching for the Baker/Lund/other outlying volunteer stations. Commissioner Steve Stork provided his disclosure statement. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to ratify that the City will respond to all the calls, and the Sheriff's Dept. will dispatch for the Baker, Lund, and other outlying volunteer stations. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

Q)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to designate White Pine County Fire Protection District Department Head administrative duties in light of the absence of a District Fire Chief and approval of compensation and/or stipend in exchange for undertaking such duties.

Per advice from District Attorney Mike Wheable, Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to table this agenda item. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

R)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to direct the White Pine County Finance Director to research and create a stipend program for White Pine County Fire Protection District volunteers.

Commissioner Travis Godon felt it would be a good idea to provide something to our volunteers to help show our appreciation for all that they do. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to direct the WPC Finance Director to research and create a stipend program for the WPC Fire Protection District volunteers. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

S)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to direct the Human Resources Director as to the White Pine County Fire Protection District Fire Chief Job Description, duties, salary, and hiring protocols.

Commissioner Travis Godon noted this is a duplicate of earlier agenda items discussed today. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to direct the HR Director as to the WPC Fire Protection District Fire Chief Job Description, duties, salary, and hiring protocols. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

T)Discussion Only: Regarding the needs of each White Pine County Fire Protection District Station and/or facility as they relate to the following: Structural repairs and/or upgrades, equipment, personnel, and/or technology.

Commissioner Travis Godon explained that this relates to an upcoming agenda item; it involves getting a contractor in to make repairs, obtain turnouts or other needed apparatus/equipment, etc. Commissioner Shane Bybee agreed, adding that if we "talk the talk, we need to walk the walk." This will ensure the stations receive their upgrades so they are all equipped properly and ready to go. This item was for discussion only.

U)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval of the Interlocal Agreement between the Nevada Division of Forestry and White Pine County to participate in the Wildland Fire Protection Program at a cost of \$29,858 for FY2020. District Attorney Mike Wheable advised this was done last week. He directed the Board that a motion should be done both as a Fire Commission and also the County Commission. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement between NDF and White Pine County to participate in the Wildland Fire Protection Program at a cost of \$29,858 for FY2020. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

V)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to set and hold Special Fire Commission Meetings at the outlying volunteer Fire Departments (Baker, Lund, Ruth, McGill, Cherry Creek, Cold Creek) in 2019.

Commissioner Travis Godon felt we could do all of these in just a week or two; these would be meetings for discussion only, with no action to be taken. Chairman Richard Howe recommended instead of having the full Commission go, we could just send the liaisons and then also do the inventory, since no action would be taken. Commissioner Shane Bybee wanted the full Board to go. D.A. Wheable felt these meetings should be coordinated with the VFD's, and it's unknown what/who at this point in time. Following some discussion, Chairman Richard Howe felt Town Hall meetings could be held at the same time, where we could listen to community concerns during meetings of those town councils. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to set and hold Special Fire Commission meetings at the outlying VFDs (Baker, Lund, Ruth, McGill, Cherry Creek, Cold Creek) in 2019. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Then, Commissioner Bullis amended his motion to hold Town Hall meetings in those places at the same time. Commissioner Bybee amended his second. Amended motion carried.

W)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to schedule one ambulance at SR 490 on May 17 & 18, 2019 and 4 ambulances at specific locations on SR 318 on May 19, 2019 for the Silver State Classic Challenge.

Silver State Classic Challenge Executive Director Bunny Hill advised that she had no one to contact after Tony Gilbert and Carl Gregory left; she has no idea who to coordinate with. Commissioner Ian Bullis was sorry she had to deal with that. District Attorney Mike Wheable advised that after seeing the letter, he's been trying to coordinate because we DO have ambulances. As SSCC is a high priority he's trying to find out what the EMTs at the City can do, and we could use the County ambulances if needed; he added he should know the information by this afternoon. To clarify, we can commit our ambulances to this event, we just need to find the EMS personnel to man those. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to schedule the ambulances for the SSCC on the dates requested. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

X)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to accept the resignation(s) of paid and volunteer White Pine Fire Protection District Staff.

HR Director Tim Bunch provided an update on the personnel: Tony Gilbert resigned effective April 6th, Shaun Mayo resigned April 30th; then Shaun rescinded that when Director Bunch and Chairman Howe went to Station 1. As of right now, just Tony Gilbert has resigned. He added that he knows of 5 quitting from McGill but they haven't reported that officially. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Steve Stork felt we could accept Tony Gilbert's resignation from the date of April 6th. D.A. Wheable advised that the process is, you submit a letter to HR and that is your resignation; the Board needs to decide. Commissioner Ian Bullis preferred that if Shaun wants to rescind his resignation fine, and then we can just accept Tony's as he has left. During the discussion, Director Bunch noted that Shaun had a job application out there, he didn't get the job, and so he rescinded his letter of resignation. D.A. Wheable stated that you surrender all your rights when you resign, and you're at the mercy of your employer if you want it back. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to accept the resignations from Tony Gilbert and Shaun Mayo, per the dates on the letters. Commissioner Steve Stork seconded. Motion carried 4:1, with Chairman Richard Howe voting in opposition.

Y)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval of a plan to establish meetings with Fire District staff throughout the County, including the possibility of meeting with staff at each respective County Fire Station.

D.A. Wheable advised this should be tabled, as this was taken care of in a previous agenda item. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to table; Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

Z)Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to direct Human Resources Director on course of action regarding reduction of paid Fire District staff and relevant notice requirements.

D.A. Wheable advised this agenda item is redundant, and it needs to be tabled. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to table; Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

AA) Discussion/For Possible Action/Approval to direct the District Attorney's Office to draft and publicize, as required by Nevada law, a Request for Proposal to lease the portions of White Pine County Fire Protection District Station #1 which may be leased consistent with existing law and agreements.

Commissioner Travis Godon advised this was for an RFP, but it's unknown about the next Commission meeting's agenda at this point in time. D.A. Wheable noted this could be going forward; if so, it would be effective sometime during July. He clarified that the Emergency Management Director would be stationed out there; it's partly funded by grants, and we would be leasing out portions of Station 1 in that event. He added it's up to this Board to decide. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances noted that the County has IT data out there and we have to ensure its protected. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to direct the D.A.'s office to draft and publicize an RFP to lease portions of WPC Fire District Station 1 as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alicia Wheeler advised she's been taking an EMT class through the County; she cited a portion of the interlocal agreement directing students to join the City of Ely class. She explained that there are instructors willing to continue on with this class, and they're over halfway through it. She asked the Board to please allow them to continue the class under the same instructors; their tests will be on June 1 & 2. She has no idea where in the textbook the Ely EMT class is; changing their schedule would greatly affect the volunteers, most of whom she noted are from the outlying areas. She is pleased to see that the Board is listening and addressing this, but it should have been in the agreement before. She again asked if they could please continue with their instructors, and to "take the politics out of it." Following some discussion, D.A. Wheable felt this could be tabled and they could continue with their class. He suggested discussing a stipend for when the instructors are teaching while on duty, and this could be ratified later. Chairman Richard Howe advised they could even utilize the Aquatic Center room for training if needed, and the rental would be paid for; however, D.A. Wheable clarified that they need to finish the EMT class at Station 1 since that's the location listed for holding the class on their permits.

Michael Bongard voiced disappointment that there's no accountability with the interlocal agreement. He noted that it's not the public's job to inform themselves. He continued that if there's misinformation out there, then this Board needs to push to ensure the right information is sent out instead. He continued, "shame on you (the Commission) for having that attitude." Also, he's heard many comments and letters against the City of Ely if they don't provide good service; those letters are mistaken, they should be against the County if we don't provide good service.

Bunny Hill advised she was a Commissioner for 4 years and on the School District for 12-1/2 years; she knows what it's like to have to sit on this Board. She noted that when the Murry Street School was closed, they didn't put information out there before they motioned to close it. As could be imagined, the public was in an uproar; she added that the School District learned that hard lesson real fast.

Gary Perea cited the Mary Walker Study that was done, and noted many steps must be taken prior to something happening, for example getting the City and the County working on training and establishing some trust prior to this interlocal agreement taking place; that hasn't happened. He suggested creating the Fire District Board, let the District collapse, and let it be rebuilt again in the future. He continued that this Board and the City Council always has conflicts with every agreement they've ever had. This agreement blurs the lines so more areas of conflict will arise. He posed some questions: If the Baker EMTs do meet the City of Ely ambulance, then who would be paid, the County or the City? Who would restock the Baker ambulance, the City or the County? He added that the comments that have been made are no different from those made in the past. He's all for consolidating into one Fire/EMT Dept., but due to the lack of detail in the agreement the County has just made it open to more areas of conflict. He concluded by noting that we all have to get along, and as a Commissioner he clashed with this Board several times, but we do have to move on. He stated that this is a foolish thing to do.

Keith Preszler says he sees this Board is really concerned and trying to make something good come out of this; however, if more information came out ahead of time, that would have been helpful. There probably also wouldn't have been so many letters to go through. Action ahead of time, he added, could head off problems. Commissioner Steve Stork advised that we did try to get the word out on this. Commissioner Ian Bullis added that we're also bound by the OML regarding the details that could be released. He has a website with over 4,000 viewers and they publish once a week or so, for example. Commissioner Travis Godon agreed that while this happened, he heard the "social media drums banging" and he was uncertain how to handle that. We should have done something better, he added, but it all comes back to the individual; it's your life, it's your responsibility.

Alicia Wheeler approached the Board with one more statement; that the Fire Chief needs to be full time. The Board agreed and assured her that it will be a full time position. She added that "We will need a Superman to unify us."

HR Director Tim Bunch commended the Commissioners for the communication comments, noting that communication is very important in this community. He does have a concern; when there's a disaster, having "all hands on deck" will be imperative. He gave the example of a mock incident that took place; however, no one was informed about it. He emphasized that we need to ensure the word gets out, that we have open doors. Commissioner Steve Stork asked that Director Bunch meet with him, District Attorney Mike Wheable, and the FAA representative about that incident.

Chairman Richard Howe cited the division of the Board on the agreement, but the decision was made and a lot more work needs to be done now; this Board needs to understand that. He felt that we could have good dialogue with the City as we have had in the past, and we need to try to make the best out of a bad situation.

Ely City Fire Chief Ross Rivera commented on the recent mock disaster drill; it was initiated by the School District, and both the City, and the Sheriff's Dept. were in communication about it. He added there is a Safety Committee in place, and it meets once a month. He has suggested to the Ely Shoshone Tribe that they might like to attend those meetings as well.


ADJOURNMENT

At 1:05 p.m., Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ian Bullis made the motion; Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WHITE PINE COUNTY
STATE OF NEVADA

BY: 
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD