

**North Lyon County Fire Protection District**  
**195 East Main Street**  
**Fernley, Nevada 89408**  
**District Office (775) 575-3310 District Fax (775) 575-3314**

MINUTES

of a Meeting, of

NORTH LYON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

November 9, 2017

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Director Osborn at 1807 hours.

Directors present included; Director Osborn, Director Carr, Director Watson, Director McCassie and Director Hon.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chris Murphy. A moment of silence followed.

**2. Public Comment (No action will be taken on any subject during public participation until it has been properly placed on an Agenda for a subsequent meeting. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes.)**

Citizen, Kevin Standlee stated he watches the Board, “spin your wheels in doing things that are just procedural in nature, that are not necessary”. He said they are a Board of five people and he provided the Board with copies of a couple of pages out of the current edition of, ‘ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER’ specifying ‘HOW TO HANDLE A MOTION’. He stated using “unanimous consent” would save time and speed things up. He said he would be available to answer any questions the Board may have.

Rehab member Shelley Pringle submitted a letter via-text message, read aloud by Director Watson;

“Dear NLCFPD Board of Directors, and community members.

I have missed very few meetings in the past year and I have to say that the meeting of last month (October 25, 2017) was one of the most interesting I’ve attended, and one of the most disturbing. Jim Jenne mentioned something about “kicking the Chief around”, I have to agree. What I am seeing is a trend that appears to discredit the Chief and make him look bad. To the head of the posse, shame on you! Also, in the greater picture, time is taken away from less tedious issues faced by this board and district. I would implore, beg if I have to, that the person(s) responsible for this current dilemma let the better side of themselves step up and stop this. Now! It is unacceptable behavior. Knock it off and stop wasting our time; and for Pete’s sake, LET THE MAN DO HIS JOB!!”

Shelley Pringle

Page 1 of 11

**TEAMWORK\*\*INTEGRITY\*\*SERVICE**

North Lyon County Fire Protection District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**North Lyon County Fire Protection District**  
**195 East Main Street**  
**Fernley, Nevada 89408**  
**District Office (775) 575-3310    District Fax (775) 575-3314**

Citizen, Chris Murphy stated he is a little confused by these people that stand up and make these comments. He said in his perspective, everything is going the way a meeting should go, and he doesn't see anything wrong. He said there are five Directors and it is their job to put things on the Agenda, they overlook the Chief and the District, and he doesn't see what they are referring to. He said he thinks it is over-zealous.

**3. Consent Agenda\* (All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered routine, and may be acted upon by the Board of North Lyon County Fire Protection District with one action, and without an extensive hearing. Any member of the Board or any citizen may request that an item be taken from the consent agenda, discussed, and acted upon separately during this meeting.)**

- 3 a. Review & Approve Meeting Agenda
- 3 b. Review & Approve Minutes
- 3 c. Review & Approve Revenues and/or Expenditures
- 3 d. Review of Summary Reports

Director Carr made a motion to approve Meeting Agenda 3 a, b, c and d.  
Director Watson seconded the motion.  
The motion carried as follows: 5-0-0

Osborn	Aye
Watson	Aye
Carr	Aye
McCassie	Aye
Hon	Aye

**4. Discussion and action regarding the use of District vehicles to commute out of District for personal use\***

Director McCassie requested a letter that went to all Directors via email read into the record.  
Director Carr read the email as follows;

“Dear Board Members,  
As a concerned long-time resident of Fernley, I have been looking into the role of Chief Scott Huntley’s commitment to the men and women who work tirelessly serving our community, and this commitment or apparent lack-there-of, for our community in general, has limited available hours locally at the main station as well as many concerns extending from his apparent lack of desire to communicate with the City of Fernley Manager and Mayor, solutions regarding budget issues, ballot questions, impact fees, etc.



**North Lyon County Fire Protection District**  
**195 East Main Street**  
**Fernley, Nevada 89408**  
**District Office (775) 575-3310    District Fax (775) 575-3314**

His lack of knowledge or limited understanding of the expenses related to additional EMS/Fire personnel has limited understanding regarding the expenses related to building a new fire station, as if required, and certainly no vision or plan to move the North Lyon County Fire Protection District forward to support the continued growth in Fernley. Ultimately to serve our community, first and foremost I would like to address the Chief having a fire department vehicle for commuting to work. The Chief lives approximately 54 miles away, one way in Yerington. 54 x's 2 is 432 miles per week if he drives back and forth 4 times per week. 432 x's 52 is 22,464 miles per year. He, the Chief, just replaced a mechanically sound 2009 F-150 with 140,000 miles. Based off these numbers and calculated above, he intends to buy a brand-new \$50,000.00 vehicle every 6 years simply to drive to and from home in Yerington, which does not include any work-related mileage. Additionally, at a recent Fire District Board Meeting, he, the Chief, was adamant that it only takes him an additional 30-minutes to drive to the District. So, 54 by 30 miles is 107 mph to make that time. If he thinks he can use North Lyon County boundaries as in District, the Chief is ignorant, as the Southern Boundary of Damen's Curve, which is at least ten miles SE of the Main Street 95-A Intersection. Travel time response to an emergency, and there are very few emergencies in the desert or in Silver Springs. The above numbers do not reflect gas, oil changes, maintenance or other associated costs related to driving a vehicle. He, the Chief, chose to change the rules not having to live in the community as Fire Chief. He is the first Fire Chief in the history not to live in District. This choice should not come with a commuter car. As a reminder of the chaos this past summer during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July; why on God's green earth would you think it would be okay for the Chief to be unavailable on one of the busiest days of the year in Fernley, and has been for many, many years. When there are multiple incidents that require Fire, EMS support or pulling support from outlying districts, as the Chief who shows up one hour and ten minutes after multiple calls from 5 houses on Englewood. This response is unacceptable; he, the Chief, being unavailable to this community is unacceptable. I do not feel the Chief in any way shape or form should be provided a Fire Department vehicle to commute from home. It is impossible for him to respond to any emergency in Fernley properly within 30 minutes. I am appalled that anyone on this Board would consider this to be okay, and an expense that definitely should not continue. I also feel the Chief living outside of the District is outrageous. How does this allow him to provide support to North Lyon County Protection personnel or the residents of Fernley if they had an emergency. Is the City of Reno really his priority? Any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,  
Kendal Cameron-Lash".

Director McCassie stated the email came out to all Board Members, and he does not know who the author is. He said that is why it is important to discuss the District vehicle issue.

Director Osborn asked Chief Huntley what the response time would be if he were called out in an emergency. Chief Huntley stated it is approximately 30-minutes to respond.



**North Lyon County Fire Protection District**  
**195 East Main Street**  
**Fernley, Nevada 89408**  
**District Office (775) 575-3310    District Fax (775) 575-3314**

Director Osborn asked if that response time would be the same in his personal vehicle. Chief Huntley said no, that it would be greater than that, it would be more like 50. He said with his personal vehicle, “essentially I would not make myself available and carry my pager on the weekends”. He said if the District chooses not to make that vehicle available, it would not be feasible to make himself available as much, it is impractical. He said as far as putting a radio in his personal vehicle, he does not think that is a good use of District equipment and he wouldn’t allow it in his personal vehicle.

Director McCassie stated that was one of the ideas that came out now that we have Captains, and Command Staff here, so on the days Chief Huntley is off, they are covered. Chief Huntley stated that he does carry his phone, and there is a large portion of that time he does make himself available.

Director Carr asked Chief Huntley if he put the new Command vehicle in-service in July, to which Chief Huntley affirmed. He asked how many times he had responded back to an emergency since July. Chief Huntley stated he responded July 4<sup>th</sup> and off the top of his head since then, there have been at least 5 or 6 times. He said it directly relates to downed power lines as well as days he stays in District for storms coming in. He said he was called in July 4<sup>th</sup> while he was on approved leave. Chief Huntley stated he disagrees with the numbers calculated in the letter read aloud.

Director Carr agreed and said the information can be clarified by reviewing fuel logs, etc. He asked Chief Huntley how many miles are now on the vehicle. Chief Huntley stated it had been, “to Elko last week and training in Reno this week, so it’s not just a commuting vehicle, there is also in District miles and trainings and there is 6,000 or 7,000 miles on it”. He said the vehicle is a multi-purpose vehicle and when mileage can be reduced it will.

Director Carr stated the Chief’s contract states that the vehicle is for official business and he doesn’t know how official the 100 to 110-mile round trip home three nights per week is.

Chief Huntley stated it’s 3-nights per week and he stays here generally 2-nights per week and the question is; “does the District want me available or not? Because essentially if they’ll have the vehicle, why make myself available? You’re going to have a delayed response and that’s your decision”. He said, “You say it’s for District purposes; I feel when I make myself available, I am on District time, that’s why I am a salaried employee. That’s why I carry a phone with me, that’s why I respond to Directors phone calls when they want me to come in the District. That’s why when there’s a fire, there’s times I go sit in my vehicle and listen to the radio. Sometimes I don’t roll, I listen to the outcome or sometimes I call up the Captain and say, ‘what’s the status of this, do you need me to come in?’. Also, I make myself available for investigations and as I’ve said too, the State Fire Marshal’s Office are making themselves less and less available in investigations and those kinds of things. And so, it comes down to, I would prefer you guys take a vote tonight instead of holding this over and let’s move on.”

**North Lyon County Fire Protection District**  
**195 East Main Street**  
**Fernley, Nevada 89408**  
**District Office (775) 575-3310    District Fax (775) 575-3314**

Director Hon stated the letter referenced another dollar amount, and asked if the vehicle came close to the \$50,000.00 mark. Chief Huntley said no, the vehicle that was purchased was around \$28,000.00 but not more than \$30,000.00 he thought.

Director Hon stated it would have better gas mileage than the previous command vehicle and Chief Huntley said that was the intent.

Director Watson asked Chief Huntley if he does the oil changes and tire rotation himself. Chief Huntley said he doesn't do the tire rotation, and he hasn't had to change the oil in the new vehicle, but the last vehicle he would say he did 98% of the oil changes himself and that is something a lot of Chiefs don't do.

Director McCassie said the biggest question and most public comments on this is; if he responds from his home in Yerington and the incident has already taken place and there's already someone that has taken control of the scene; what is the advantage of the Chief responding into the City of Fernley, or into the District?

Director Osborn stated he has made that call to him, even when there was a previous Chief and the reason is multiple incidents. He said there are always multiple incidents and he will call the Chief, but he will not bother any staff on their days off.

Chief Huntley said there are also investigations that he is certified to do and if he were a Captain, he would appreciate the assistance of the Chief. He stated that is why he makes himself available, because he cares about this District, and any mutual aid is at least 30-minutes out or greater and he feels he is in that role to help them out.

Director McCassie stated that it gets back to requiring the Chief to live in our District, and he knows it is not in the Chief's contract because the previous Board knew the Chief had a home in Yerington for sale. He said they made an exception to that rule, because he lived in Yerington and he was to sell his home and move here and that was never put in the contract. Chief Huntley said that information is not true and in his interview, he clearly stated his intent was to have Captains in his absence, and he would make himself available. He said he never stated he would move here and he would wager heavily that the previous Board would say they knew that when they voted him in.

Director Osborn stated in the posted job description it stated, "To be discussed".

Director McCassie stated there was just a discussion regarding future funding for additional staffing, and if people can sit back and say, "Apparently the District doesn't need any money because they have a Chief that commutes 110-miles one-way and is in-and-out of the department". He said you are never going to get the taxpayers and with some of the questions on the survey, that is the number one thing that will come up.



**North Lyon County Fire Protection District**  
**195 East Main Street**  
**Fernley, Nevada 89408**  
**District Office (775) 575-3310    District Fax (775) 575-3314**

Director Hon stated the actual dollars of that are so minute in the budget that it doesn't even make sense that that would be an issue.

Director McCassie said it gets back to perspective and what people see. He said it could just cost \$10.00 a week, but they're going to say, "Why is the Chief driving from the City of Fernley, in the District to Yerington in a District vehicle?"

Chief Huntley said the perception could be like last Thursday morning when he responded into Central Lyon due to a multi-vehicle accident, to assist and work in the incident command and afterward drove back into the District. He said the perception could be good that North Lyon is going to assist another District. He said it could also be that people perceive him driving to and from Reno twice this week for training to maintain his Plan Review and Inspector certifications to serve the community.

Director McCassie said as elected officials they can defend that, but what they cannot defend is a District vehicle being used as a commuter to your home. Chief Huntley said it can be defended in the event the Chief gets a call from a Director and he responds back. He stated he wanted this to end now for everybody's health and welfare.

Director Osborn stated he is not happy about it and he wants Chief to live in District, but we don't have that, and we aren't going to get that at this time. He said he does want a Chief that responds in a timely manner to whomever calls. He said he does not want to have discussions about if he's going to do business in Carson City, does he need to drive back to District to get the vehicle and then bring it back to District and so forth. He said he does not like it, but he must live with it.

Director Watson said Fire Chiefs wear many hats, and asked if we want a working Chief or an Administrative Chief working 8:00 to 5:00. He said a working Chief is working 24/7 and another thing to look at is that there are other people that work here, and reside out of Fernley.

Director McCassie stated that in previous discussions regarding County staff residing outside of the District and utilizing a District vehicle, was in direct reference to the Animal Control Officer, whom resides in Stagecoach. He said the District vehicle is justified because the officer leaves dogs at the shelter and lives within 5-miles of the shelter. Director Hon stated her perception is that this is much ado about nothing, as this is not detrimental to the Chiefs job performance.

Director McCassie said this issue causes a lot of scrutiny. Director Hon said it should be noted that Chief Huntley's salary is less than other Chiefs in the surrounding area.

Director Carr stated he has always had a problem with this, and he has made the Chief aware of that. He said he gets the same calls that Director McCassie gets and not only from North Lyon but also from Central Lyon. He said he does not like it, and if the Chief is not to be available for

**TEAMWORK\*\*INTEGRITY\*\*SERVICE**

North Lyon County Fire Protection District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**North Lyon County Fire Protection District**  
**195 East Main Street**  
**Fernley, Nevada 89408**  
**District Office (775) 575-3310    District Fax (775) 575-3314**

calls it is not good. At the same time in four or five months he is returning 4 to 5 times doesn't make sense either. He said he feels the Chief is correct too and in the contract, it is clarified as District Business and the decision needs to be made to avoid the subject coming up again and again. He said perception is reality and when people are looking at this, this is what they see. He said the public elected the Board and the Board answers to them.

Director McCassie made a motion to relieve Chief Huntley on weekends and the District Vehicle stays in District and not to be used for commuting purposes.

Director Carr seconded the motion.

The motion carried as follows: 2-3-0

Carr	Aye	Osborn	Nay
McCassie	Aye	Watson	Nay
		Hon	Nay

**5. Discussion and action of District Fire Chief Employment Contract with NLCFPD\***

Director Carr stated to Chief Huntley that this item needs addressed whether he is Chief or not; it is not personal. He requested deferment of this item to acquire additional information as the verbiage needs clarification. He requested deferment to gather more information.

Director Hon asked if the Board needs Chief Huntley's permission to re-open his contract.

Chief Huntley stated he is willing to meet one-on-one with Director Carr if he would feel comfortable doing so.

Director Carr agreed and reiterated this item is of no reflection on Chief Huntley.

Chief Huntley stated that once it goes to the Board, if there are key points the Board raises, he will contact his attorney. He said that is to protect everybody and he added that he wants to avoid any twisting and turning of the facts. He said the last time his contract was reopened, was when he requested a decrease in his benefits package to save the District money.

Director Osborn tabled the item until the January 11, 2017 Board Meeting.

**6. Discussion and action regarding why the Heiman Skid was ordered before discussion and approval by the District Board\***

Director McCassie stated this is questionable because the item was ordered before being approved by the Board. He said this was a clear violation of policy to purchase or order anything above \$10,000.00 before Board approval. He said this gets back to public perception. He said

Page 7 of 11

**TEAMWORK\*\*INTEGRITY\*\*SERVICE**

North Lyon County Fire Protection District is an Equal Opportunity Employer



**North Lyon County Fire Protection District**  
**195 East Main Street**  
**Fernley, Nevada 89408**  
**District Office (775) 575-3310    District Fax (775) 575-3314**

the order was placed on July 7, the Board meeting was the 21<sup>st</sup>, and the purchase was \$14,760.00, paid for on October 20<sup>th</sup>. He said as elected officials, the Board are constantly getting telephone calls, emails or being stopped in person by people asking how they can allow these things to happen and asking what is going on down at the firehouse.

Chief Huntley said, "I bet those are the people that talk weekly at the pawn shop". Director McCassie added that part of the crowd are attendees of lunch twice weekly and the individual whom wrote the email is someone he honestly does not know. Chief Huntley said everyone is entitled to their opinion.

Director Osborn inquired as to the meeting regarding the ordering of the truck and whether the Board put a budget on it. Chief Huntley affirmed and that it was March or April of 2017. Director McCassie stated it was a letter of intent on the truck. He said then the Board discussed it and approved the budget. He said it was ordered before the Board approved the budget to purchase the skid. He said that is what is at hand, a clear violation of policy.

Chief Huntley stated it was explained that the District would save money by piecing it together versus spending \$160,000.00 fully assembled. He said there was no intent to cause any problems or to purchase anything before the Board approved it. He said it was ordered, otherwise the District would have waited even longer to get it and all of that was said at the last meeting. He said there is evidence in the last year or so that they abide by laws and regulations of the District. He said it is an issue if Director McCassie wants to make it one.

Director McCassie said it is an issue and asked Chief Huntley what would give him the idea to order something like that before it was discussed at a Board meeting. He said there were three bids and by ordering before, washed out the other two bids.

Chief Huntley stated staff made a recommendation and if the Board had not recommended the same it would have been canceled and the Board approved bid would have been ordered. He said a firefighter was asked to order it and made the order. Director McCassie then affirmed that the firefighter ordered the skid under the direction of the Chief. He stated he would like to see a written reprimand put in Chief Huntley's file, and clarify that nothing over \$10,000.00 is to be ordered without Board approval so this does not happen again.

Director Osborn stated that there have been previous incidents that Chief had to spend up to \$26,000.00. Director McCassie asked Director Osborn, "So you by-passed the Board?" and Director Osborn affirmed because, "we couldn't wait".

Director McCassie reiterated the policy and suggested getting an Attorney General's opinion on the matter.



**North Lyon County Fire Protection District**  
**195 East Main Street**  
**Fernley, Nevada 89408**  
**District Office (775) 575-3310    District Fax (775) 575-3314**

Director Carr said he understands Director McCassie position, to follow the policy to the letter. He said the Board can make exceptions when necessary and he feels a written reprimand is not needed.

Director McCassie asked what the Board is going to do different if it happens again. Director Carr said a verbal warning stating that the next time it is to be brought to the Board, and all are on the same page to avoid having this on the Agenda again.

Director McCassie said this is the second time this has happened and suggested the item tabled until he can get an Attorney General's opinion on it and go from there. Director Carr said that might be the wisest thing to do.

Chief Huntley requested the Board consider raising the amount of money the Chief can spend without Board approval.

#### **7. Discussion and action regarding Longevity Pay\***

Director Osborn asked if there is a difference between cost-of-living raises and longevity pay. Director Carr said they are not the same at all.

Director Osborn said he would consider Longevity Pay after the individual topped out but not before, since everyone seems to have steps.

Director Carr said Longevity Pay is separate from cost-of-living. He said step increases are what your position is, and it is set. He said Longevity is set by contract and the Chief does not have Longevity, he has salary. He said the CBA has it, so for Union members it is negotiable, which leaves the office staff to be considered.

Director Osborn tabled the item until the January 2018 meeting.

#### **8. Reports of Director, Staff, Volunteers**

Rehab Member Becki Howlett reported the Halloween Spooktacular was excellent. She said the Stuff the Ambulance Toy Drive is scheduled for November 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She stated CERT needs a new coordinator, and she will be distributing a flyer for the District Christmas Party.

Volunteer Lt. Bill Mulholland said there has been a lot of training with Captain Kuntz which is a good step in keeping the Volunteers with the District.

**North Lyon County Fire Protection District**  
**195 East Main Street**  
**Fernley, Nevada 89408**  
**District Office (775) 575-3310    District Fax (775) 575-3314**

Director Osborn said Volunteer Gomez was at the live-burn training class they had, and he is an exceptional individual.

Mrs. Miller stated Liberty Fitness is getting its own 501-C for the Christmas 4 Kids Toy Drive, but using the American Legion's in the mean-time. She said the Chamber does the Christmas Parade on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Christmas 4 Kids is December 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to noon and by invitation only for those who are signed up and receiving toys. She reported the recent audit meetings having gone well.

Director Hon stated the Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the senior Center from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and all are invited to attend. She said they have all the non-perishable items needed, but do need an additional 6 turkey cookers.

Volunteer Lt. Mulholland added a local veteran lost everything he owned to a fire and an unnamed Volunteer has stepped up and collected items from the Veteran's Coalition and the community, so he is now clothed and has another RV to reside in.

Director Watson stated the Reno Fire Show was great training and Chief and Volunteers were there. He said there were good tips for the District, and it was very good training.

Director Carr stated in June one of our Volunteers was elected to the Board of Directors of the Nevada State Firefighter Association. He said hopefully the individual will be at the January meeting to give the Board an update on what is happening with the NSFA.

Chief Huntley stated Mrs. Miller's office has been remediated and awaiting the repairs to the wall and flooring. He said the roof leak has been rectified as well. He said the training was awesome at the Fire Show and the Volunteers and Director represented well. He said Joe Mendoza represented the NSFA well also. He said there have been many open lateral transfers advertised by other departments and he wanted the Board to be aware of that.

Director Osborn said on December 9<sup>th</sup> there will be Christmas Fireworks at 5:00 p.m.

**9. Public Comment (No action will be taken on any subject during public participation until it has been properly placed on an Agenda for a subsequent meeting. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes.)**

None.



**North Lyon County Fire Protection District**  
**195 East Main Street**  
**Fernley, Nevada 89408**  
**District Office (775) 575-3310    District Fax (775) 575-3314**

**10. Adjournment\***

Director Hon made a motion to adjourn at 1925 hours.  
 Director Watson seconded the motion.  
 The motion carried as follows: 5-0-0

Osborn	Aye
Watson	Aye
Carr	Aye
McCassie	Aye
Hon	Aye

**NOTE(s):    All items indicated by an asterisk (“\*”) were Action Items.**  
**A complete and detailed record of this meeting was recorded on Micro SD Recorder November 9, 2017.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Stacey Rowling  
 Stacey Rowling, Administrative Assistant  
 North Lyon County Fire Protection District

Jan 18, 2018  
 Date

Approval of Minutes

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved as Read	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved with Corrections	—	—	—	—

Jon Osborn  
 Jon Osborn, Chairman  
 North Lyon County Fire Protection District

1/18/18, 2018  
 Date