

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

MINUTES

NORTH LYON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

October 10, 2019

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman McCassie at 1800 hours. Directors present included Director Hon and Director Riesen. Director Hicks and Director Johnson were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pat Hon. 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.)

None.

3. Approval of 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.)

3a. Review & Approval of Board Agenda

3b. Review & Approve Board Minutes

3c. Review & Approve Revenues and/or Expenditures

3d. Review of Summary Reports

Director Riesen made a motion to approve the Board Agenda as presented.

Director seconded the motion.

The motion carried as follows: 3-0-2

McCassie	Aye	Hicks	Absent
Hon	Aye	Johnson	Absent
Riesen	Aye		

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4. Presentation, Discussion and possible action to join the Opioid Lawsuit with other Nevada entities and enter into a contingency fee agreement with the law firm representing Nevada entities*

Robert Eglet of Eglet Adams in Las Vegas introduced himself and Mark Wenzel of Bradley, Drendel & Jeanney in Reno. He said our communities are facing the worst domestic crisis of our generation, caused by the opiate manufacturers and distributors. Mr. Eglet stated the manufacturers and distributors had the motive of exorbitant profits by the means of prescription opiates; the opiate drug epidemic is the largest in US history. He stated the drug manufacturers started convincing doctors that opiates should be prescribed for every day chronic pain because they claimed that less than 1% of patients would become addicted; the addiction would be easy to manage; as long as the patients' pain was real, they would not become addicted. Mr. Eglet said all of that was a lie; drug manufacturers know that doctors rely on the information that the drug companies provide, so the opiate manufacturers developed the most aggressive drug marketing scheme ever seen, to persuade doctors and patients to use opiates for every day chronic pain; the scheme allowed the opiates to be prescribed to a much larger group of patients, exponentially increasing the size of the market. Mr. Eglet said drug companies spent tens of millions of dollars in marketing to provide false information about the benefits of long-term opiate use; overstating information about the benefits of opiates for chronic pain; claiming that opiate dependence and withdrawal are easily managed; downplaying the risk of addiction. He said in the last two decades, the amount of opiates sold in the US has quadrupled; over 300 million prescriptions were written 2016 alone; that is more opiate prescriptions than the total number of adults in our Country; a 450% increase in opiate sales since 1999. He said over 17 million pills were shipped in to Lyon County from 2006 to 2012, and according to the last census in 2010, the population of Lyon County was only 51,980 residents; Nevada has the fourth highest drug overdose mortality rate in the United States; Nevada ranks 2nd highest for Hydrocodone, the 2nd highest for Oxycodone, the 4th highest for Methadone and the 7th highest for Codeine. Mr. Eglet said every city has been affected by the opioid epidemic and no amount of governmental resources will ever be enough to address the havoc wreaked by the opiate crisis; the drug companies knew their marketing and the way opiates were prescribed was contrary to the scientific and medical avenues, and their misrepresentations have been confirmed by the FDA and the CDC. Mr. Eglet said the cities, counties and states have the motive and means to solve the crisis; over 2,000 lawsuits have been filed by various cities, counties, states and tribes around the country; his firm has represented virtually all of the governmental entities in Nevada including State bringing suit against the opiate drug manufacturers; this includes the State, Lyon County and the City of Fernley. He said as North Lyon Fire is a separate entity, it can pursue its own action; in his opinion North Lyon Fire should join the Lyon County lawsuit as a Plaintiff to recoup damages including monies already expended in treating the opiate epidemic, as well as future damages incurred in treating the epidemic. Mr. Eglet said punitive damages are also a possibility, which is at the discretion of the court.

Discussion ensued.

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Director Riesen asked Mr. Eglet if there is an age bracket breakdown.

Mr. Eglet stated there is not currently a breakdown, but the marketing specifically targeted two groups hardest; veterans and seniors.

Director Riesen asked what the time expectancy of the lawsuit is assuming there is an appeal.

Mr. Eglet stated in Nevada the trial case would go right to the Nevada Supreme Court, so even after trial it would be 2-years at most for a decision from the Supreme Court.

Discussion ensued.

Director Riesen made a motion to join the Opioid Lawsuit with other Nevada entities and enter into a contingency fee agreement with the law firm representing Nevada entities.

Director Hon seconded the motion.

The motion carried as follows: 3-0-2

McCassie	Aye	Hicks	Absent
Hon	Aye	Johnson	Absent
Riesen	Aye		

Chairman McCassie recessed at 1837.

Chairman McCassie reopened at 1845.

5. Discussion regarding the Strategic Plan

Chief Nicholl stated all the July and August Timeline Tasks have been accomplished; September task of implementation of the Zoll purchase should happen soon; remaining October tasks to complete are apparatus evaluation, implementation of CS policy and procedure, and evaluation of IT options. Chief Nicholl said in finalizing the MOU with the City of Fernley, he is looking in to partnering with the City to expand Fire Marshal services, fleet management and legal counsel.

6. Reports of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, Local 4547, City of Fernley

Director Riesen reported a 501c3 is not as easy as it sounds; by-laws, meetings and a payment of \$600.00 to the Federal Government will be necessary for authorization. He said we would have to find somebody to put the plan together and find the money to pay for the 501c3.

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Kevin Standlee offered his assistance with the 501c3.

Director Hon reported the Rotary Club Oktoberfest will be at the Fernley Senior Center October 19th to benefit the Food Backpack Program for over 100 local children; the buy-in is \$40.00 which includes either poker or painting, and dinner of German cuisine.

Director McCassie reported attending the District Safety Committee meeting and learned a lot.

Administrative Assistant Stacey Rowling reported sales of burn permits increasing.

Office Manager Kasey Miller reported Wildland funds are coming; 2018 GEMT monies are to be deposited next week; Public Education with station tours and at the Schools are coming up.

Volunteers: None.

Local 4547: None.

City of Fernley: None.

Chief Nicholl reported the Firefighter I Course orientation October 2nd and the first day of class to be Sunday the 13th 26 people attending; two Firefighters have resigned, and the positions have been filled with existing reserves, thus the need to hire more reserve personnel; Firefighter JT McCoy received a Firehouse Subs grant for 9 new sets of turnouts worth approximately \$30,000.00.

7. 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.)

Kevin Standlee said he is glad about the grant from Firehouse Subs; he is appreciative of the progress of the Strategic Plan.

8. Adjournment*

Chairman McCassie adjourned at 1903.

**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 October 10, 2019.**

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Respectfully Submitted by:

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

NOV 14, 2019
 Date

Approval of Minutes

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	
<u>2</u> Approved as Read	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
Approved with Corrections	—	—	—	—
<u>Dan McCassie</u>				
Dan McCassie, Chairman				
North Lyon County Fire Protection District				
			<u>11/14/19</u>	
			Date	