

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

July 28, 2008

*Regular Meeting*

Those Present:

Bob Cook	Pete Mulvihill, NLTFPD
Frank Forvilly	Tom Dirkes
Steve Seibel	Fred Power
Roy Clason	R.J. Clason
Patrick Atherton	Inspector Leo Horton
Chief LeFever	Engineer Todd Moss
Assistant Chief Rick Nicholson	Engineer Brandon Brady
Assistant Chief Van Ogami	Paramedic Chris Lucas
	Paramedic Brian Zabel

1. *Action Item:*        *Call to order.*

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by Chairman Bob Cook.

2. *Action Item:*        *Pledge of Allegiance.*

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Barbara Riboli.

3. *Action Item:*        *Roll call.*

All trustees were present.

4. *Action Item:*        *Public comment.*

There was none.

Chairman Bob Cook put in record that we received a letter from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency regarding the Beach Club EIS and there will be two meetings. One is on August 13, 2008 with the Advisory Planning Commission and the other is with the Governing Board on August 27, 2008. He wants everyone to be aware of the Beach Club EIS will be public comment. There is a 30 day public comment period.

5. Action Item: Discussion and possible action: Approval of consent calendar:

Items on the consent calendar will be approved without discussion unless an item is specifically “moved forward” for discussion.

Item:

- a. Approval of agenda 7-28-08.
- b. Approval of minutes 6-23-08 & 6-30-08.
- c. Approval of expenditures.
- d. Approval of financial statements of 5-31-08 & 6-30-08

Motion by Trustee Steve Siebel to approve the agenda for 7-28-08, the minutes of 6-23-08 and 6-30-08. There were some typo's. Page 18 6-23-08 appendixes instead of appendages, and on the 6-30-08 minutes, Frank Forvilly was absent and he is recorded as present. 6-23-08 Fred Power is recorded as Fred Bauer. That needs to be corrected. Approval of the expenditures for 6-20-08 through 7-18-08; check numbers 48649 through 48760; payroll June 30, 2008 and July 15, 2008. The financials were not available.

Motion seconded by Trustee Roy Clason.

Trustee Patrick Atherton asked to make a request that even though he may not vote because he was not here, a point of clarification from R.J., in regards to the minutes. “Not being here and reading something I wanted to make sure I did not misinterpret this in regards to the action item that we will be voting on. “R.J., I apologize, I am not sure if it was the minutes from the 23<sup>rd</sup> or the 30<sup>th</sup> so bare with me. “

Trustee Clason said he was not here on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Atherton, “It is a very lengthy paragraph.....”

Trustee Clason “What page?”

Trustee Atherton, “For my fellow trustees, page 16.

Trustee Atherton, “R.J., it begins ”“In having been a Federal Regulator and knowing the detail, just about every safety and health standard issued by OSHA had very far reaching impact. You then go on to say” we had to do a very rigorous risk assessment, cost benefit analysis and we had to look at the probability””. Now I affectionately call that roll bean counters. What I am asking you, again I don't want to interpret something that I should not be doing. Am I to gather from that sentence that you believe the specific sprinkler ordinance that we will be discussing later, should this risk assessment analysis, the philosophy in which that is applied, be applied also to the sprinkler ordinance system?”

R.J. Clason replied, "In short, it does not have to be as detailed, I don't think, as it does for federal rules. These federal rules for health and safety are very far reaching and the scope of OSHA is to protect millions of workers in the country. I think there should be, whether it is local government, state, federal, some mechanism to candidly assess what is the risk, what is the benefit, what is the probability of something happening. It could be a fire sprinkler ordinance it could be an ordinance for an extension ladder which OSHA is infamously known for all the stickers on the side of the extension ladder saying beware of this, this and this. I don't know that it needs to be so formal because in the case of OSHA all of their rules have to withstand a court appeal or court challenge, because virtually every OSHA regulation or many of them are challenged in court. This process can take months if not years at the federal level but I think it is prudent public policy at any level to candidly assess, what is the issue you are trying to fix. How big is the problem, what is the best way to address the problem, how many people will be impacted by a rule and what will the rule cost the public".

Trustee Atherton "O.K. Thank you for the clarification".

Chairman Cook called for a vote for the motion on the floor. Asked if any further discussion and called for a vote.

Motion carried with a vote of 4-0. Trustee Atherton abstained.

*Action Item #6: Discussion and possible action: Consent Items moved forward.*

There were none.

*Action Item #7: Discussion and possible action: Direct the Fire Chief and/or Fire Marshal to work with Douglas County Community Development to revisit the Douglas County, Tahoe Basin Sprinkler Ordinance and work towards the re-establishment of the Sprinkler Ordinance which was in effect in June of 2007.*

Chairman Bob Cook asked if Chief LeFever had any opening comments to make.

Chief LeFever said I have asked Chief Pete Mulvihill, Assistant Fire Marshal from North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District to come and speak and explain what is going on over in North Lake Tahoe and their ordinance. Most everyone in this room and the Douglas County Commissioners are a bit tired of seeing either me or Rick so we will let Pete speak. He thanked Chief Mulvihill for coming today. He added that North Lake Tahoe has a more restrictive sprinkler ordinance than we do.

Chief Pete Mulvihill introduced himself and also a fire protection engineer licensed in Nevada He has had over thirty years in the fire protection field. The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District has an ordinance requiring sprinkler systems in new construction and expansion of existing structures, both commercial and single family dwellings. The threshold that triggers

sprinkler requirements in our district outside of the usual are; any building over 5,000 sq. ft. in size, In addition to an existing building that the total area exceeds 5,000 sq. ft. or is three stories or more. The cost to install the sprinklers in new construction is less than retro fitting existing buildings. We have a number of contractors that are adept at dealing with the residential sprinklers. The cost is driven by the architectural features of the home. The cost is all over the board. The rule of thumb is a medium quality grade of carpeting is about what you pay for sprinklers. In the past 14 months we have had two residential structures saved by sprinklers. Our district is smaller than Tahoe Douglas and we don't have immediate resources such as Carson City or Reno or Sparks do. Structure fires are uncommon in this area due to the lower density of structures. In March 2007 we had a garage fire. One sprinkler head operated. The home had just been purchased for over ten million dollars. The owner was in the process of having it remodeled. The workers had left rags on top of a box of plastic booties worn while working in the house. One sprinkler head operated and put the fire out. It did about \$1,000 worth of damage but saved a very large home with just one sprinkler head. There was no water or smoke damage in the house. A lakefront property had a fire in a closet. In this closet a ceiling had been installed without a building permit under the original ceiling where the sprinkler head was located. The fire eventually burned through that ceiling where the sprinkler head was located. That sprinkler head operated in addition to another sprinkler head in the bedroom area. The fire damage was contained completely within the closet. The accessed value of this structure was \$1.7 million as part of a compound that is being listed at \$47 million right now. These two sprinkler heads did \$10,000 worth of water and fire damage. They do work. There have been extensive studies done particularly by the NFPA research foundation which is a branch of the National Fire Protection Association cost benefit analysis at quite some length. The early research done outside Atlanta Georgia came up with prudent concept and as a result, the first standard for residential sprinklers, NFPA 13D document was written from those actual fire tests.

Chief LeFever asked Pete to brief the board on the difference between a 13R, which is your districts requirements, and a 13D for which we have enacted in Douglas County.

Pete responded that a 13D was intended to protect one to two family homes. The way the systems were designed. The water supplies that they are allowed to be connected to are not the same as a large commercial building. The purpose of that is to contain the cost of installation. There were certain limitations on those designs. Later, another document bridging midway between a 13D system and NFPA 13 for commercial building is known as 13R. 13R allowed for larger volumes, higher ceilings, sloped ceilings. We did allow the 13D standard up until last year in our district. We were finding that the designers were not able to use 13D due to the vaulted ceiling, the high ceilings, beamed ceilings the obstructions, the 13D standard was not able to be used. It made it simpler, basically due to the request of the sprinkler contractors, to get to one standard to use so they don't have to guess what will be applied to any given structure. Therefore we just went to 13R. The difference in actual design and construction is, you calculate four heads to flow in a 13R system and only two in a 13D system. We are talking about 13 gallons per minute in the design of these head, far less than 500 per minute in a firefighters attack to go in and knock down a fire.

Chief LeFever asked for a point of clarification. "When saying 13 gallons per minute, is that per head"?

Pete replied, yes, per head. These 13D systems are also allowed to be supplied by small onsite water sources if you don't have a municipal water system nearby with significant flow and pressures. Because of the low flows they can normally be designed off of fairly low pressure but if you are building something that doesn't have a water source nearby you can put tank in your garage with a couple hundred gallons of air pressure to drive it up or a small electrical pump. The code does not require a backup generator for that electrical pump.

Chairman Bob Cook asked if you can have gravity feed tank in the attic?

Pete said you could but that gets touchy because you still need to have it pressurized with a little bit of air to get enough pressure to force it down and out. If you have a hillside home you might be able to put a tank on the hill if there is enough change in elevation to cover the building. 13D and 13R do not require attic or crawlspace protection in our district because most of the homes are not occupied year round; we require the systems be charged with antifreeze. We don't want the pipes breaking. Since they are being charged with antifreeze the contractors are designing protection for the garages, one up to four heads, depending and the size of the garage. That is not required by the standard. The majority of fires do not happen in the garage but a significant number do. As long as you are installing a system you might as well put a sprinkler head in there.

Trustee Steve Seibel asked "The code for a 13R with a tank does not require a backup generator"?

Pete replied "No, when you get into larger commercial buildings such as a casino where you have a large number of people that is where you get into expensive diesel driven fire pumps, generators such as that".

Trustee Steve Seibel said "So, your pump design would be to run whatever flow was necessary for either two or four heads at a time"?

Pete said, "Correct. It is a limited service pump. It is 120 volt design".

Trustee Roy Clason asked "Is your personal residence sprinklered"?

Pete told him it is not. He purchased an older house in Reno actually south of Reno. I am looking to do a number of things to it. I recently put a driveway in, I'm working on getting the roof replaced but down the road. It is one of the things I want to do. My water company will allow a sprinkler connection without a standby charge.

Trustee Roy Clason said "I take it your answer is no".

Pete replied “currently no, but it is on my list of things to do. It will be very easy to do to my house”.

Trustee Roy Clason stated “Mr. Chairman if I could, we have a number of fire professionals in the room. How many of those have their personal residences sprinklered?”

Chief LeFever pointed out that it is not required.

Trustee Roy Clason said “I know it’s not but you folks are very involved with this and you recognize the value of sprinkling , then I am surprised that only one person out of 10, 12, 15 are sprinklered”.

Chairman Bob Cook asked Roy Clason “How many of these people live in an area that requires sprinklers?”

Trustee Roy Clason said “It’s not a matter of requirements when we are talking about firefighting professionals, you would think it would be a matter of personal choice because obviously your biggest assets are your families. I didn’t recognize that, but I am probably going to sprinkle my garage. I am not going to sprinkle the upstairs because I know with my luck I would come back from a vacation after two weeks and have a gusher of water running down my stairs. So I just think statistically, from our group in this room, only Chief LeFever’s house is sprinklered.

Pete said there have been concerns raised about water damage. Most of the homes have intrusion alarms on them and there is a zone on those systems for a fire monitor, and the sprinklered homes in our district by enlarge have water flow alarms on them. If a pipe should freeze and break it will go off. In the case of a week ago Friday, we had an actual fire. We were notified by the alarm company. We responded and checked out the property. If it is a broken pipe we are able to shut the water off and notify the owner so there will be minimal water damage

Trustee Roy Clason asked, “Do you have a requirement for the homeowners to be connected to the central warning place?”

Pete responded, “We don’t have a requirement but we strongly recommend it. In three years, I have not had anyone **not** take us up on that because they were going to have intrusion monitoring anyway and the alarm people say it does not cost any more. There is also, as far as fire system design, separate from your alarm system you put a 120 volt bell on the outside of your garage and as long as water is flowing through sprinkler line coming in, it will ring and it will either annoy the neighbors so they will call or a deputy will hear it and call it in.

Chairman Bob Cook thanked Pete for his presentation. He continued to say he did not want to get into this back and forth stuff so if you have public comment, everyone will have the opportunity to step up to the podium and speak. He said that R.J. Clason could be next.

R.J. Clason said, "O.K., but I do have questions for the Assistant Chief".

Chairman Bob Cook instructed R.J. Clason "I don't want to open the forum up that way. I want everyone to have the opportunity to speak publicly at the podium one at a time. I don't want to get into the back and forth thing and I apologize that I let Roy speak but what I am trying to do is let everyone speak individually and not get into a big cross section with everybody going back and forth".

R.J. Clason said, "Fine. Thanks for the opportunity. At the last meeting I spent a lot of time focused on what I discovered on the cost issues and in the spirit of full disclosure. After the last meeting I did receive another cost estimate from a very reputable fire extinguishing company called Simplex Grinnell in Reno. They are actually a national firm with a number of offices. Their cost estimate came in at about \$16,000 which was only to handle the interior fire sprinkling work which is about 30% less than the other four contractors that I received estimates from. I did want to disclose that an estimate I did receive was less for the interior work **only**. It does not include the exterior work. Beyond the issue of cost I thought if I could to just take a minute to look at some statistics to try and figure out, with all of the pressing public safety issues in the area, I think first and foremost as I go through your minutes for the last year, the biggest one in this whole fire region seems to be defensible space. And so, if defensible space is **priority number one**, maybe I'm wrong, it is really up to you guys what is number one, I am wondering why there is such an emphasis on fire sprinkling when it has such a low probability of impact and also a questionable probability of success. If you look at our fire district which is unique because of TRPA and many parcels being buildable and other parcels not being buildable we know what the end game looks like in this fire district. So that leaves about 2.52% parcels are yet to be built.

*R.J. Clason directed everyone's attention to the following illustration and went over each item.*

#### Fire Sprinkler Ordinance ... Beyond Costs

TDFPD is 97.4% developed (approx). Only about 2.52% of parcels are buildable.

●4,876 parcels are improved. ●About 126 are still buildable.

2007: Fire district responded to 79 fires. Only 17 were structural (don't have breakdown). In short less than 9/10 of 1% of fire district responses were for structural fires.

And, in Nevada, when a structure is sprinkled, it failed to operate:

According to the State Fire Marshal

45.51% of time as fire was too small

9% of time for other reasons.

So, in that there are 4,876 parcels improved per the Assessor's Office. Again, this is just Tahoe Douglas. Again, about 126 are still buildable. This is looking at the IP scores from TRPA of the number of undeveloped parcels that have an IP score greater than one and conceivable have enough coverage to build something on them larger than a garage, I mean like a two bedroom house or a three bedroom house. So the universe for this fire district is shrinking **even** more. We know that in terms of new construction, again, this is not remodeling but new construction, we are now 97.4% done, finished.

So, in 2007 this fire district responded to 79 fires. Only 17 were structural (I don't have breakdown). Is that structure a hotel room, tool shed, house, duplex, 7-11. I don't know what that means, I don't have the breakdown. In short less than 9/10 of 1% of fire district responses were for structural fires. (repeated) Less than 9/10 of 1%. So in Nevada, statewide, this is according to the State Fire Marshal, when a structure is sprinklered it failed to operate 45.51% of time as the fire was too small and they failed to operate another 9% of the time for other reasons. In sum, with huge costs and extremely low probability of structural fire, there were 79 of which 17 were structural, again I don't have the breakdown, but very little future development to occur, a mixed record of success, and defensible space being an urgent need, how did this issue become the district's pressing priority?"

Chairman Bob Cook replied "I don't know if I have the exact answer but I do know that the Basin Fire Chief's have made it a priority basin wide. And so, we as a fire district are pursuing it based on that. Every fire district is pursuing it in their own direction as a whole. We are all going to come together with a sprinkler ordinance for the entire basin. The reason being, we have a higher fire probability than in the valley. I think the Basin Chiefs are taking a proactive approach in trying to save lives, primarily, and property secondary".

Chairman Cook asked Chief LeFever if he would like to address that.

Chief LeFever said "I will address it very simply. Who made it **THE DISTRICT'S PRESSING PRIORITY?** Who made that decision"?

R.J. Clason responded "Well apparently this body voted to send it to request an ordinance from the County".

Chief LeFever asked "Who has said it is **PRIORITY NUMBER ONE**"?

R.J. Clason responded "If it wasn't a priority would you send it to the County Commissioners to make it an ordinance? Would you draft language for them if it wasn't a priority"?

Chief LeFever replied "It is something along with everything else we do. 80% of our calls are EMS. Why would you say a sprinkler system is a "priority"? We do multiple fire prevention activities in this district including defensible space inspections. We do multiple services, this just being one. It was a very simple approach to the County. It was approved by the County

back in March 2007. It was a done deal until it was brought back with misinformation given to the County Commissioners by members of this public.

R.J. Clason asked "If you can save lives in your district would you put fire sprinkling in the top five"?

Chief LeFever replied "Yes".

R.J. Clason said "You would. And where would you put defensible space?"

Chief LeFever replied "I put everything equal. In this district we 53 employees **plus a twenty person fuel crew**. We are doing it all and we are going to continue to do it all".

R.J. Clason said "If you are in charge of fire safety and you are putting everything equal, you shouldn't be in charge of fire safety".

Chief LeFever replied "Fire prevention is our number one service we provide and it is an umbrella for everything we do".

R.J. Clason asked "Where does defensible space come in and where does fire sprinkling come in? What is more important? What is going to save more lives?"

Chief LeFever replied "They are equally important in my eyes. Seventeen fires are signs of failure in this district. If that were zero I still wouldn't be happy".

R.J. Clason replied "But are those your failures? No I think it is the failure of the homeowner".

Chief LeFever stated "We can go round and round on this.

Chairman Bob Cook addressed R.J. Clason saying "We are talking about fire sprinklers and not defensible space so try to stay on the subject".

R.J. Clason replied "I know but as a public body I think you have a responsibility to prioritize smartly, not stupidly. This has been stupid".

Chairman Bob Cook addressed R.J. Clason by saying "For someone who is supposed to be safety oriented, I am surprised that you are even opposing this sprinkler ordinance".

R.J. Clason replied "I'm not opposing the ordinance, what I am suggesting is you guys haven't done your homework and you have relied on the Fire Marshal and the Fire Chief at face value. You haven't done your homework and you have embarrassed this fire district, and the County Commissioners are laughing at this place because of it".

Chairman Bob Cook "Thank you. Do you have any more public comment"?

R.J. Clason stated "That's it".

Chairman Bob Cook thanked R.J. Clason. Chairman Cook asked if there any further public comment. Chairman Cook recognized Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Rick Nicholson.

Chief Nicholson began "To answer some of the questions that Mr. Clason brought up (for the record that is R.J. not Roy as not to be confused). When he speaks of priorities and how we set them. It is hard to differentiate priorities in fire safety. We look at it from both angles, life safety and property, with life safety being number one. Records show throughout the years, it has been proven over the years that more people die yearly in residential fires than all natural disasters put together in the United States and that is including wild land fires. There were no lives lost in the Angora Fire thankfully. There were buildings lost and we all know that. Some had sprinklers in them but the fire came from the outside of the building, not the inside out. We look at it all as life safety and fire prevention as number one priority. We look at exterior and interior. Interior we look at human lives. Twenty-six hundred to three thousand people die every year in residential fires. A very small, small number die in wild land fires. We just lost two firefighters that were killed in wild land fires that burned over thousands of acres within the last month. Each year over a hundred firefighters die in interior structure fires putting out those fires. So where and when do we put a price on human life? Inside the buildings, outside the buildings and also homeowners that die in these fires. That is what we look at when we look at prioritization. We look at the outside, we have our fuels management program working and we also look at inside. So to sit and say we need to put a higher priority on one more than the other, it is very difficult to do, almost impossible from a fire chief or a fire marshal's perspective, and for the protection of the people here in the audience, not only the taxpayers but the firefighters that are assigned to protect them. So that is why it makes it difficult to put a priority number on it. What is number one? We look at it all the same. We can't differentiate. We are looking at raising our taxes to help the people that caused the 17 fires because they need protection. If people were taking care of the exterior of their homes we probably would not have raise taxes to help do this. People are not taking it upon themselves; you can blame firefighters for not protecting their homes as they should with sprinkler systems. We are all in the same boat; we are all part of the example of what we should do to protect ourselves from each other. So, that is where the priorities lie. We look at exterior and interior. When we talk about sprinklers we cannot mix the two, a wild land situation with the interior. These are two different things as we cannot talk about sprinkler systems when we talk about defensible space. They are two different issues. When you were talking about pressure tanks and Pete answered you could possibly raise your tank above or have a booster for the tank for your water tanks. This was talking about water flow through the sprinkler heads but, to activate that, to get the part of the sprinkler to activate and get water pushed out you need seven pounds of pressure on each head. If it is less it may not activate. We had problems with a company years ago that manufactured these.

Nowadays you have bulk heads that have liquids in them that are very skinny and that means they will activate sooner than the larger heads. Some heads are designed to go off at 135

degrees and that is what causes the plastic to melt. Those are not normally found in homes. 165 degree heads are what's normally found in residences. The tanks for a residential home, depending on if it is a two head calculation or a four head calculation. Say it is a two head calculation; you take 2 heads 26 gallons times 10 minutes so your tank would have to be a minimum of 260 gallons. That would be the requirement. That is the number one thing I wanted to get across. We from the fire prevention standpoint cannot differentiate what is a priority. They are all priorities. We have to look at them all the same. When you talk about defensible space we can't intermix it into the interior part of the building.

#### *Example*

**Sprinklers:** Inside your home protecting you and your furnishings from the destruction of fire and also preventing the fire from getting out preventing other homes and the forest from catching on fire. That is what we are talking about when talking about sprinklers. A very high priority.

**Defensible Space:** Making sure the approaching wild land fire does not have enough fuel to get into your house to burn down your home. Again, another high priority. We need to look at them as different and both very high priority.

But again, more people throughout the year die of residential fires than all other natural disasters put together in the United States. That is a fact that OSHA puts out, you can research that".

Chairman Cook thanked Chief Nicholson and asked if there was any further comment.

Tom Dirkes took the podium and introduced himself. "Just a couple of quick comments, because I don't want to get into any arguments. Everyone pretty much knows where I stand on things. One of the things mentioned was, there were a few fires that sprinkler systems did put out. I am installing a system in my house right now, it is pre-wired and the house isn't finished so it isn't in place. It is a \$2,500 system, an early warning device that picks up on smoke or infra red heat and alerts the fire department through ADT way before the fire starts. I don't want to go against the firemen here but very seldom does a fire go, just like that, unless you have a gas explosion or something like that, and sprinkler systems don't work in those cases because the whole house in on fire. Especially in my case, I was lucky because I got exempted from it. I gave Guy LeFever an estimate of how much it would cost to install a sprinkler system in my house which was \$83,000. You look at these early warning devices for \$2,500 or less compared to the \$83,000, people will go along with these types of things. If you tell people they are going to have an additional \$2,500 bill along with their remodeling costs they will be ok with that, but when you hit them with an \$83,000 bill that is a little different story. I think the main goal for the fire department and everybody's goal is to be safe. We had a lot of deaths last year because of fires in residential structures. On the flip side of the coin, 60% of all homes in the United Stated don't have working smoke detectors. Where are we putting our priorities here? Smoke detectors should be the early warning devices. You get into the ADT systems which are your advance early warning systems. These are the things we should focus on if we are

interested in saving lives. If we are concerned about saving lives let's put a little money into doing this, not shock people with these expensive systems. For example, the fire that started with the oily rags that started the garage fire; that fire had probably sat and smoldered for hours. It would have been detected by an early warning system and the fire department would have gotten out there before the sprinkler system ever went off. The same with lives. You can save a lot more lives with an audible system and even if someone forgot to put their hearing in that night, and couldn't hear the system, an alarm gets called in to the fire department and they get out there before a fire ever starts. I heard a lot mentioned about these pumps systems and small 120 volt, I got and estimate for that also. It wasn't very much; it was \$4,800 for pump and tank. It was either that or tear out my entire driveway and put in a 2" water line because I don't have the water pressure to accommodate these systems. This is another problem we are going to have putting these systems in around this area. We do not have the basics to make these systems work properly without doing some major retrofitting. Finding places to put a storage tank is one of the questions I ran past the TRPA when I started this project over a year ago. There is no room in the house so I had to go outside. I would like the trustees to sit down and look at this. Where are we going with this? What are we trying to accomplish? Do we want to save lives? Why aren't we focusing more on smoke detectors, defensible spaces? I know exactly what R.J. is saying. That \$83,000 I am going to spend very wisely on this house. I am getting insulation that is completely fire proof. It is foam insulation, it does not burn. Not only do I have an extra hour envelope from the extra sheet rock I am putting in this house, it can't burn through the insulation either. You are confining any fire that could possible start to that area. There are a lot of roofs on houses up here that are very bad. Cedar shakes and such, focus on getting rid of those. There are so many different directions that we can take. Look at those. North Shore has 5,000 ft. is the cutoff point".

Pete said, and three stories, either/or.

Tom Dirkes continued, "Is there a way we can look at giving people credit for making their homes safer? R.J. is trying to build a home at 4,800. He is over the 3,600 and yet he is going to put in an early warning system, make sure the siding on his home is fireproof and a few other basic expenditures that aren't that much to make his home safer. Why can't he go up to 4,800? Why can't we do personal exemptions or evaluate a person's ability to build a safer structure. I am putting in the highest technology new furnaces, stove, microwaves; everything has a special breaker that if anything gets out of line with the electricity that trips them. All these things are making homes safer. Forcing people to put in \$100,000 sprinkler systems doesn't make sense".

Chief Nicholson asked for rebuttal for a clear understanding. "What Mr. Dirkes has talked about in the alarm systems I would like to explain why alarm systems and sprinkler systems should work hand in hand and not be pitted against one another. Fire alarm system, smoke detectors, heat detectors, early warning devices have been out for years. There was a big push in the early 1960's and 1970's. President Nixon was looking at the fire problems we had in the country back then, when we were losing so many people. Over the ten year span of the Viet Nam War, we lost twice as many people in the country due to fires as we did soldiers; not taking away soldier that died in that conflict. What continues to happen day in and day out, the

fire problem in the United States is costing over seven billion dollars a year from structural fires. It is a great thing that Mr. Dirkes is putting in non-flammable insulation. Normally it is not your insulation that burns in the home. It is your furnishings, clothing, and all the other combustibles you bring in. As I mentioned last month, unless he is wrapping everything in that insulation, that stuff is going to burn. It is flammable. So until you start pointing yourself to non-flammable solutions, you still have a problem in your home. That's the truth. When you bring wood into your house for the fireplace you have combustibles. Time temperature, flash over, we could go on for days with this. You can look up in OSHA, you can look up in FEMA, you can look up in Homeland Security, and you can look up in NFPA. You can't get around this. There is a flashover point where things burn, and then you start looking at response times, dispatch times, us getting there, 24-7, winter, summer, chains on, chains off, up a hill, down a hill. How long is it going to take us to get there? How many people are there initially when we do respond 80% of our calls with an ambulance? Two to four people could be gone on a call to the hospital for an hour. We are now almost 50% of our personnel. We get an early warning device going off, small amount of smoke. That warning device notifies dispatch, 50-60 seconds notification. The fire is not waiting or slowing down, it is growing. Dispatch notifies us at one minute. We try to be anywhere in our district within 5-6 minutes. That is under perfect conditions with everyone in the station, perfect conditions, no traffic. That is within a 3 1/2 mile radius. Flashover occurs within the 6-7 minutes of the initial smoke. Those conditions that I just talked about could take us 8-9 minutes to get to depending on all the conditions. Realistically fire is not waiting for the perfect conditions. Your early warning system worked great but it didn't get water on the fire before flashover occurred. If that happens your house is gone and anyone inside the house is dead. That is why we strive to put sprinkler systems in buildings. We know we are reaching a small fraction but we have to start somewhere. 5,000 sq. ft. was a very small amount. 3,600 sq. ft. adds a little bit to that. We understand that, we are not going to get 100% compliance within the next five years. It may not even be within our lifetime. Mr. Dirkes brought up roofs. We have had a roofing ordinance in our district since 2005 to start removing shake shingle roofs. The board voted on this. We went to the County. They voted on it. The hassles I got from that ordinance were the same as I am getting here. The people are being forced to replace their roofs because of the insurance companies, defensible space, etc. In our fire district we do not allow wood roofs, treated or non-treated.

I talked about 2,600 to 3,000 people dying in a residential fires in a year. People who have early warning devices (smoke detectors) which have been in place for years, out of those, 67% were still dying. We are getting almost 100% with both in place, early warning systems and sprinkler systems. So if you just have smoke detectors you are just prolonging the fire from getting to you. A sprinkler system is the only thing that will stop the fire from getting to you.

Mr. Clason's request for information on what types of structure fires we had, I don't sit at my desk all day and wait for emails to come in, I do get very busy, so when you ask for information it may take a day or two to get back to you. When you say you don't have the information, I would hope you would say "I requested the information and hoping to get it soon". I did get it for you but you never got back to me to see if I did have it.

R.J. Clason said “I will be the first to admit I asked for it late in the day and I appreciate that”.

Chief Nicholson ended by saying “I would ask you all go online and search this information out. I’m not inflating it; I’m not making it up. This is what is there”.

R.J. Clason “I don’t dispute any of the facts or stats that Rick has shared. I think 2,600 to 3,000 home fires per year is probably accurate, obviously that is 3,000 too many but, if you look at a country with a population of over three hundred million and compare it to other statistics it is relatively small. If you look at the number of people that die in automobile accidents each year you would probably think twice about driving your car. As an example, 2,600 to 3,000 killed in single family fires, over 100,000 are killed because of medical mistakes at the local hospital. Yet, we still go to the hospital and we still have surgery and our wives still have babies. The number is large and it is a huge human loss but proportionately the number is relatively small. Also, I don’t dispute the response time but the bigger question is, if you are only making this trip 17 times a year, in 365 days a year, they are making that trip 17 times on a 24-7 schedule that is not a lot of fires, thankfully. And, on the fatalities, statistics, knock on wood, we haven’t had any home fire fatalities whether it be family members or fire department safety personnel in a very, very long time. In fact the statistics, Nevada statewide, there were no fatalities in 2007 of firefighters. Sadly there were 22 civilians killed in Nevada in fires in ‘07”.

Chairman Cook asked for any further public comment.

Brandon Brady, Tahoe Douglas Fire Engineer and paramedic “I hope I’m not stepping too out of line but would like to give a viewpoint as a line firefighter and not a chief that has to understand budget and public spending. As a line person that is not my focus. When we start talking statistically I can tell you that 85% of our calls are on EMS. We just spent over \$100,000 on 12-lead cardiac monitors. Last year we had seven cases that could have resulted in **saving a life**. That low statistic level did not stop us from making that purchase (through a grant) or stop us from taking the classes or stop us from creating a whole entire new protocol. When taking care of a patient with an issue such as a heart attack, I think of it as what if this was my grandmother or if this were my family what would I be doing. Would I not be doing it because it costs too much money? Statistically it is such a low level that we are not going to be saving their life anyway so why are we doing this? I relate the residential fire sprinkler system to that. Yes it is a low frequency problem but it is also a high risk problem. In the fire service it is the low frequency, high risk call that injures the firefighters the most statistically. It is the one we have the most loss of life. It is not the type of call we run every day. Of those 3,000 people that died there are an average of 120 firefighters that die every year so I have to think of this ordinance, working in this county, as a protection of my life. Is that residential sprinkler going to prevent me from going into a burning home where I think there may be an unconscious person and be unable to get out and take that risk with detrimental consequences? I have been involved in a structure fire where there has been a death and believe me you do kick it up two or three notches. Where is your risk versus benefit? My risk is I could die as a firefighter but the benefit is I could save a life. There is no question. When you have fire sprinklers in residences that are there to protect not only the residents but also the firefighters I think we

can do our job much better. I saw a statistic that smoke detectors alone only give you a 45% greater chance but with sprinklers it gives you an 82% chance of survival. I will leave with one note. As rookie firefighters we all take what is known as building construction class and I had to write an essay on what I learned the history of building construction in America in relation to the fire. What I learned was fire prevention in the fire service was an under funded, under staffed and under appreciated branch of the service and it all relates to money and what it costs people to retrofit things. Every change in fire prevention has been a result of major loss of life or damage to property. This residential sprinkler ordinance is something that is coming in America. I am proud to be a part of a district that was proactive enough to start before it is mandated nationwide. We protect our children in schools. That came from a fire that killed 43 children. When you come out of a casino you have exits that are lit and proper egress and sprinkler systems. That came out of the 1980 MGM Grand fire in Las Vegas. To give a standpoint I would hope money is not a major issue when it comes to protecting life and hopefully not statistics. We know as firefighters it is the low frequency high risk that causes loss of life. Thank you”.

Chairman Cook thanked Brandon Brady.

Fred Power one comment “I am all for fire prevention, fire sprinklers. I think this whole thing started with the 3,600 sq. ft. code that every body was supposed to be discussing and I haven’t heard anything on that subject. The 5,000 is what we started with and the only comment I have is I am not any where close to the 5,000. I think everyone should have fire sprinklers but I don’t think you should take somebody that is remodeling and make it 3,600. It should be 5,000. What we started with was we did not know what all the hoopla about remodeling and then we got to 3,600 ft. and we were discussing it and I thought that is what we were going to be discussing here the last time when it got tabled. Everyone that is sitting here is remodeling. We all understand that. I would like to know why am I at 3,600 sq. ft. I am backing everything the Chiefs have said. Thank you”.

Chairman Cook called for any further comment.

Chief LeFever said “If there is no further public comment I want you to know where I stand in my recommendation. For the record I want to provide you with some further information. The Chief passed the information out. That is a fire that happened in this district in November of 2007. It was a four-plex, a two plus million dollar building that burnt to the ground. Obviously it is a non-sprinklered building. Also, I would like to provide you with a situation that happened this past weekend, In the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District and the results of a sprinklered building”.

Fred Power asked if these were condos and if they are owned by four individuals, how are you going to ordinance that type of thing?

Assistant Chief Rick Nicholson “The ordinance reads, single and two family dwelling. It is a four-plex so it is a four family dwelling. Each would be individually sprinklered or they could jointly have a system”.

Pete added “Sir, it is usually a common area, multi-family buildings that are mandated under state law for new construction now. That is not something that we can decide on locally.

Chairman Bob Cook asked Pete if this property doesn’t have three houses on it. Pete responded it has two houses, a caretaker cottage, a guest house and a pier.

Chairman Bob Cook, which one caught on fire?

Pete stated it was the main house.

Chairman Bob Cook the one down on the water. So it is farther away from the rest. So if it burned down it could have caught the other houses on fire?

Pete said it would have done what Chief Nicholson referred to spreading from the house to the wild land to the next structure. It was originally sprinklered because of the difficult access. In addition to our square footage and number of stories, if you don’t have the adequate fire flow or access the code allows you to accept that if the property is sprinklered.

Chairman Bob Cook stated if there is no further public comment, we have a recommendation from the Chief. Any comments from the board.

Roy “I am the one that caused this issue to be brought up last time and I think I have to digress as to why that happened. It happened because a family member, R. J., was building or remodeling a house which is really new construction. There is no sheetrock or anything in there. We talked about the sprinkling thing and I was favorably opposed to it because I thought it was good value for the money and I voted for it when it came up last year. What I told him was it would cost him about two fifty (because that is what I was told) a square foot. So his 4,500 square foot home should be about twelve thousand bucks. Then he talked to Chief Nicholson and Chief LeFever and Chief LeFever said yeah maybe around fourteen thousand. When he went for bids, put out for five bids with plans so everything will be apples. No apples and oranges, they are all going to sprinkle for his property. What he got back was three bids within a few hundred dollars of each other of twenty four thousand and on top of that they all had disclaimers that said we only do the sprinkling, the pipe. In addition if you are going to require soffets that is on your own. In addition to that if you do not have sufficient water flow you are going to either have to put in tanks or go to a larger main. So in his case we are looking at maybe thirty six hundred bucks. Since our last meeting he has gotten the fourth bid for fifteen thousand which both mitigates the numbers we have been told, the two fifty to three fifty, which is good, what is bad is that there is obviously so much disparity between the guy up here and two in Reno that you have to be very suspicious that there is not a collusion. I’m not accusing them of that but by God according to our resident duck expert, if it looks like and talks

like and walks like a duck there is probably some bad stuff going on. The low bidder who went out and looked at the property was Simplex Grinnell. So if you are ever talking to some people who want to sprinkle, go to Simplex Grinnell. My big concern so far is not in the expense but in the political reality. Unlike some of you in the room I think defensible space is of the utmost importance and what we are doing here is we are pushing a regulation up the backsides of our constituents in the same year that we are asking for a tax override. We are not the flavor of the month with the County Commissioners and they are bad mouthing us. They want to know what we are smoking up here. It is easier to walk away from the sprinkler issue than it is to walk away from the tax override. I have a feeling that if we are going to mandate upon our constituents yet another regulation on top of the TRPA stuff and the rest of it, that the backlash is going to be a failure of both. Because, I think in the end the County is going to rescind the Sprinkler Ordinance as it is written. I am suggesting we go back to the pre '07, ask the County to do that, and take the monkey off the back of the tax initiative. That is my concern.

Trustee Atherton asked Roy for a point of clarification since he was not at the last two meetings "If I am hearing you correctly, your concern, because we have a very vital tax initiative on the ballot this November, that is of vital interest to the tax payers of this district i.e. defensible space, your concern is that if this board does not back away from the Sprinkler Ordinance...

Trustee Roy Clason "One or the other".

Trustee Atherton "your concern is that tax override will be caught in the crossfire, emotional upheaval, however you want to put it, and then go down in defeat. Is that a fair statement"?

Trustee Roy Clason "That is a good assessment. The people that have approached me, my constituents, our constituents; have said we are not very happy about yet another regulatory agency giving us regulations to protect us from ourselves, which is really what it amounts to. And, as another point of clarification, when I voted for this the last time I thought the NFPA was some super organization that had powers to regulate. They are not. They are an association, they produce menus for local communities to pick and choose what they want and they do good work. They don't push any regulations upon any municipality. The State of Nevada says "single family homes are within the purview of the local community. So, I think we should back away.

Trustee Atherton replied "I fully recognize there has been talk going back and forth on the economics of this initiative. This board from my perspective is here to safeguard the interests of the public with regard to public safety and property. In that endeavor the board mandates and dictates to the management team of this department to be proactive in that endeavor. There are numerous projects, concerns that face this district when it comes to fire danger, the least of which not being defensible space. Tom brings up a good point. We have a long way to go to get people to understand take your shake roofs off and put fire resistant. It is an educational process. Now are we making progress? Yes we are but we had to start some place. When we started years ago pushing with the fire safe chapters we have made good progress. Are we done yet? Not by a long shot. We have a long way to go. In response to this, it is not a

matter of pressing priorities to me it is a matter of juggling all the priorities. It is not one through five or one through ten, to me as a Trustee all of them are pressing. Is it just a small piece of the pie? You bet ya. Are we going to have to continue to educate the tax payers of this district? Absolutely. And is that our job? Absolutely. But to me you have to start some place. Is this sprinkler ordinance the end all to bet all? Not by a long shot but it is a starting point. You have to start some place to look at all the ramifications and what good can come out of it. I agree if I were to take a political shot on the ordinance remaining in it's current language via the Douglas County Commissioners, no, but that is our political system. You have to start someplace. There is so much confusion, there is so much information that it is hard to digest but for me, when I voted so long ago on this subject, and it came back before this board because there was concern with the Douglas County Commission, I made it quite clear at the February meeting. I operate under the philosophy of non-economics. This is not an economic issue for me. Do I know and understand that it will present economic hardship on the members of our community who wish to remodel whatever? Absolutely. But, this is the value of a human life but for me on a personal level I am not going to assign a risk management number to that. That is my personal philosophy and that is what I am going to stick to. So out of respect to everybody I appreciate the input, I understand where everybody is coming from and I can see both sides of the issue. When it comes to an actual vote from me, this sprinkler ordinance is another starting point. Sitting on our hands and doing nothing is irresponsible when it comes to this fire board. Thank you for your time”.

Trustee Clason asked to make another comment.

Chairman Bob Cook asked Roy to make it brief, please.

Trustee Clason “A hundred percent of the Trustees have not sprinkled when it comes to their own money. 89% of the professional firefighters in this room have not sprinkled when it comes to their own money. 75% of the Chief Officers in this room have not sprinkled when it comes to their own money, but we are asking our constituents to put up the money if they want to remodel. I think that is a travesty”.

Chairman Cook said “I think probably 100% of the people in this room, well 95% are not remodeling. I have a shake roof on my house and I had to put a shake roof on my house. It was mandatory when I built it. I am stuck with a shake roof because now we have a new ordinance and when I replace it, it will be a non-combustible roof. I understand and when I can afford it I will. Does that make me a bad guy because I have a shake roof and my house is not sprinklered? I am not remodeling my house. I am not under the new ordinance to do it but there are people that are.

Trustee Roy Clason “It is two faced to say that if you remodel you are stuck with the tab but if you don't remodel it's not really important. That is what we are saying”.

Chairman Bob Cook “We can argue this all day or someone can make a motion and we can get on with our business”.

Trustee Steve Siebel wanted to comment “Firstly I think that I learned a whole bunch within the last two months. I appreciate everyone that has come and spoken and said what they have to say. Since the last meeting I have done a whole bunch of homework and I have been torn with this issue. I have never been on the regulatory side; I have always been regulated in business. It has been a little difficult for me to get my arms around this thing but through all the research that I have done I am beginning to. R.J., there can be ten fires in a week so I can appreciate what you say but I could go home right now and find my house on fire. I don’t have a sprinkler system. If I fit inside this ordinance. if I remodel my house to a certain point I am going to put a sprinkler system in. I don’t see that my house not having a sprinkler system is really an issue with someone else remodeling and putting a system in. It is that persons decision to remodel and do what they are doing. Also, you talked about the County Commission thinking we are a bunch of idiots, there was a committee formed and a consensus process done from zero when we first went down there, and it was approved, it was zero square footage to get to 3,600 and 3,600 for remodel. My impression is the committee was made up from professionals, contractors, builders, whatever, I don’t know who made up the committee. Then the County approved it. They approved it. There is an appeals process Fred that should work either way, whether you have to put it in or not put it in. It should work either way. That is the process that starts with the fire department, goes to the building department and last step goes to the County Commissioners. We are not laying everything back on the County Commissioners. The other part of it is, I talked with the Chief and Rick about the fire supply and working with GID’s as much as I possibly can with Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District to come up with some way of dealing with some of those issues. The other thing I found during internet research. An outreach program was part of every system that a regulation was made for. It is important to educate the contractors, the architects so the guy that is going to make a decision to get plans and do a remodel knows up front if he goes over 3,600 he will be required to put a sprinkler system in. I don’t want that person to get down the road and find out too late they have to put a sprinkler system in. I feel the same as Pat on this issue”.

Trustee Frank Forvilly “I talked to the Chief about this. It seems that in our lives now, you pass a law and then you have a right to appeal. If you appeal maybe you can get it and then maybe you can’t. That is what is bothering me the most about this. To be straight up front, I have a house that is 3,400 ft. that I am trying to sell and I can build underneath it and putting in a new sprinkler system and water system will be upwards of \$50,000, so whoever buys my house I am going to have to tell them upfront that they are not going to be able to expand without putting in a sprinkler system. The thing that is bothering me is the appeals situation. We helped generate rules, regulations and a laws with the Commissioners and now, we have these people walking through and getting an appeal and it is just like our whole lives if you pass a law by God we are going to go back and get a variance. With Steve and his statement that if people know up front that will happen. We can’t work on the little bitty things. We have to pick away at some of these things and make a move now. I am thinking of building down in the valley but now I am thinking twice about sprinkling it. In my area I am not required to do it. It is the value of your home. I had two houses with shake roofs that I replaced. I did defensible space at my own home. We are trying to set an example but I don’t think we need to jump in and sprinkle

our houses because we are on the fire board. We took a big step here; we stuck our neck out with the defensible space in the area. We need to be proactive”.

Chairman Bob Cook stated “I do want to build over my garage and when I do I will have to sprinkle my house and that will not deter me from doing what is right. I personally feel if it is good enough to save one life it’s good enough. It has apparently done that. I appreciate everyone’s comments. I feel like everybody else. I can see both sides of the argument. At the same time the fire department has to move forward and we have pages of issues that we are addressing one by one. That is where we are at. This one is on the table right now.

Trustee Steve Seibel “Some of the ordinances that I am aware of at the Lake and certainly Lake Valley, their ordinance is almost identical to ours. It is 3,600 remodel and or 50%. Meeks Bay is 3,000 sq. ft. so it is not like we are cutting edge here”.

Chairman Bob Cook “It is the Basin Chiefs. That is where they have decided to go”.

Trustee Steve Seibel “We are not the only ones”.

Motion by Trustee Roy Clason moved to adopt the language as spelled out on action item number seven.

Chairman Bob Cook asked Roy to read it.

Trustee Clason “Direct the Fire Chief and/or the Fire Marshal to work with Douglas County Community Development to revisit the Douglas County Tahoe Basin Sprinkler Ordinance and work towards the establishment of the Sprinkler Ordinance which was in effect in June 2007”.

I believe that was the 5,000 sq. ft. and I make the motion.

Motion seconded by Trustee Steve Seibel.

Trustee Roy Clason stated “I would recuse myself from the vote, except R.J. has since gotten a waiver and therefore I will vote.

Trustee Patrick Atherton “I think you should”.

Trustee Roy Clason “Well I would recuse myself if he were still pending”.

Trustee Steve Seibel said “So I’m clear, what this motion is that we would go back to the 5,000?”

Trustee Clason “That is correct”.

Vote was called for. Trustee Clason voted for it. The remaining members voted nay. The motion was defeated by a vote of 4 to 1.

*Action Item #8: Discussion and possible action: Appoint a Board Member to compile the Fire Chief's performance appraisal.*

Chairman Bob Cook asked Steve if he did that last year with Roy. He then asked for volunteers for the committee this year. Steve Siebel said he would be happy to do it and Roy also volunteered. The committee will be Steve Siebel and Roy Clason.

*Item #9: Presentation: Fire Chief's report of previous month's activities.*

Chief LeFever began by recognizing Captain Hughes, he is not here. He is on a strike team again, for his 33 years of service. Engineer Sanders, for his 32 years of service, Engineer Jones for his 9 years of service who is also on a strike team, Engineer Romanowitz for his 9 years of service and Firefighter/Paramedic Kelly Pettit for her 9 years of service.

I did offer you accommodations for our engine companies who have been performing in California the past six weeks. These came through via email over the weekend. We have a very good reputation, the Tahoe Basin Strike Teams. They actually try to hold on to us because the guys do such a good job on the strike teams. They are not afraid to work. As a reminder we had one of our engines gone for almost a month. We rotated our personnel three different times. OES reimburses us as far as cash flow goes on these strike teams. It is not about the money but about the training these guys get. There is no better experience hearing what they get to do on these fires. When they get the opportunity to do some of the actions that they do when they come back they perform in our district much better. That is one of the biggest reasons we do what we do. It is roughly about \$4,000 a day to send the engine. Recovery is only about \$5,000. There is not a lot of return on that.

Last payroll was about \$150,000 in overtime and this payroll will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$130,000 in overtime. Our budget is only \$600,000 in overtime. We are barely a month into fire season and it takes about six to nine months to get the money back. We will get it back and also gain experience.

Over the weekend, I got an email from Chief Sharit. I need help with this one. We got kudos' from the State EMS Office about protocols. Chief LeFever requested Brandon Brady to explain.

Brandon Brady explained that basically they decided to revamp our protocols as an EMS agency inside the fire district to be as proactive as we could and state of the art as we could be. We have a great medical director who was on board with this. He basically said if you can prove it works, I'll let you do it. We now have one of the most proactive protocols. Protocols for us are basically what a doctor, under his license, will allow us to do in the field. It includes what I talked about earlier, the 12-lead technology. We have gotten hit on a couple of fronts from different hospitals as to where we take patients based on this new technology. We have taken the stance that we will do what is best for the patient regardless. They will go to the appropriate facility and so we have taken some hits for that. When we do the protocol changes

it gets approved by the medical director which it was early on and then we have extensive training. Then it goes to the state for final approval. This is the first time ever the state has approved the first draft without sending it back for changes and they are going to be using them as a model for future protocol.

Trustee Roy Clason asked what was the protocol before?

Brandon Brady answered that before we had three lead monitors that would take very basic pictures of the heart. With the new technology, it is the same thing that ER doctors use; we can see subtle changes in the heart. One of the statistics are that if you get to a cardiac catheter lab and get stints placed you have a much better chance of survival. Barton does not have a catheter lab. Carson Tahoe does. We will travel a further distance but it will save the patient as far as the time to receive a catheter.

Trustee Roy Clason stated good, he has always been concerned that he would have a heart attack and have to go to Barton.

R.J. Clason replied I'm on the board at Barton. I will take that back to Barton.

Chief LeFever pointed out that Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Lucas was instrumental in writing the grant for which we received the \$97,000 from Harrah's.

I do have some sad news to report. Within the last 24 hours we lost another firefighter in the California siege. He was overrun by the flames due to wind change. That was the third firefighter that was lost.

Alarms for June 2008 - we had a structure fire across the street \$370,000 in loss and the building was not sprinklered. We had a report from Chief Ogami and the investigation is still pending.

Trustee Clason asked if they red tagged the other units in that building. There were four others.

Chief Ogami stated no. The investigation is continuing, there were some illegal renovations done over the years.

Chief LeFever - Ambulance account our collection rate is creeping up ever so slowly. We are trying to get to the 60% mark. If we hit that mark I think that will be golden. He thinks the days of 68-70% are over. We billed out over one million dollars and received about \$605,000 for the last fiscal year. That's about \$100,000 over budget. Again, give kudos' to Chief Sharit for his work on the account and the switch over to Denver. That was a good decision.

Trustee Atherton said he could personally attest to the fact that they are far more tenacious.

Chief LeFever said moving into the investment account you will notice from last month to this month we spent \$600,000 in the money market account. Notice that last August from July through August we spent about \$400,000 and that is in relation to the strike team coverage and costs. Next month you will see that drop again. You will see some OES money coming in slowly.

Opening of the Lake, Frank Forvilly mentioned last board meeting he would like us to be involved in and we are. LTVA and the fire district will be participating in planning for next year. We will definitely express the opinions of yourself and others that have spoken to me in the community about the lack of traffic plan.

Trustee Patrick Atherton said the LTVA reported to the chamber at the last meeting that while the opening of the lake will continue, the emphasis will be on spreading events out through the entire town as opposed to confining it to a specific area. Under no circumstances will Highway 50 close down.

Chief LeFever said there are two other comments. He had the opportunity to have a meeting with Chief Novak, Inspector Horton and East Fork Fire and Commissioner McDermid. She is actively pursuing an ordinance that would require us to move into the WUI Standards which is building construction standards. It is my opinion that if we move into this area and try to get people to retrofit, talk about getting people up in arms...so we are going to move through that direction tactfully with all due care given the experience of the sprinkler ordinance. Chief LeFever also had the opportunity today to go up in a NDF aircraft along with Chief Brown from North Lake Tahoe Fire. They have sought us out after the Blue Ribbon Report came out. CDF has moved into the basin and has put two engines on the California side so Nevada is going to match that with a helicopter. We can't put a price tag on that. That is a phenomenal resource for us. We spent a couple of hours talking about utilizing our hand crews being picked up and transported via the helicopter. We talked about staging the helicopter in our district. We flew looking for potential landing zone sights, one of them being up on Logging Road. They will be here on Saturday to train with our guys. They can transport up to eight personnel to a fire. This is a resource that you cannot put a dollar amount on and we need to utilize this opportunity and do everything we can to maintain this for the future. This is not a national resource this will stay in the county. I am very excited about this opportunity.

Trustee Frank Forvilly asked if they will have a bucket.

The Chief said they would. Our opportunity to access them, where we have in the past used Black Hawks and Care Flight, they want to be the player involved in that operation. They are about twelve minute's response time from the valley. This would allow our hand crew access to the back country that would otherwise take them hours to walk into.

Trustee Steve Seibel asked if we are at full strength on the hand crew.

The Chief replied we are back up full strength. They are doing a terrific job. We walked with Mike Donahoe through the project in Lake Village. He had a few questions about the project and we satisfied his questions. We met some very supportive individuals on the walk that are happy with what we are doing. It looks like a park. It is a dramatic difference. We are making headway but we need to continue on. That is where the tax initiative is going to play a big part.

Mike Donahoe has a plan to get together with Lake Village homeowners and us, and then also meet with their group here at the fire station.

Trustee Frank Forvilly asked if the Forest Service doing anything towards fuel reductions.

Chief LeFever said this is the first time I have had an opportunity to sit down with the Forest Service and have them explain what their projects are so we can dovetail our projects into theirs. We are working directly with them; we sat down with Dave Marlowe and prioritized where we think the work should be done. We are trying to accomplish these areas around the communities first. When that is done then they can move out into the forest. We need to retain the maintenance responsibility throughout the community. It is the first time in his career that they pulled out the map and showed us what they are doing and adjusted what they are doing based on what we are doing. He is very supportive of where we are going with the Forest Service than ever before. They have more money than they have people to do the work. That is why I want to be able to work with them and be able to obtain some of that money to keep our people on through the winter to do their burning. The burn on Kingsbury the Chief was less than happy with. We need to do a better job. Other than that, any questions.

Chairman Bob Cook said there is correspondence that we received. There is a report from Chief Ogami and also a report from Chief Nicholson and Chief Novak.

Trustee Roy Clason said he had a question for Chief Nicholson. He asked, you say Douglas County, are they giving a standby water fee in their water companies.

Chief LeFever said it is \$30.00 per month.

Chairman Bob Cook said the water companies are beginning to address this issue to help that situation out.

Chief Nicholson added, we have eleven different water districts. He talked to Cam at length and will be getting together with all the water districts to go over the standby fee charge. One thing to note is that we had one water district come to us and want to write a letter of support for a standby fee for systems so they can generate interest.

Chief LeFever said there will be no letter of support.

Chief Nicholson said we don't charge people to have a hydrant next to their home on standby for a fire so why should we charge them for a sprinkler system in their house.

Trustee Steve Siebel asked Chief Nicholson "It is not the hook up fee you are disputing is it"?

Chief Nicholson said no, it's not the hook up fee; it is the monthly stand by fee.

Chairman Bob Cook added, "The hypothetical scenario would be, I myself only have a ¾" line say I need a 2" line then there would be a one time fee to put that 2" line but I would only be charged if it was used on my meter. We are in the process of putting the meters in for the whole district. There are about 3,000 meters and the State holds it over your head, they give you the money but they say you have to put in the meters. They are giving big money so it is stupid not to take the money and put in the meters".

Chief LeFever said he wants to take the opportunity August 9<sup>th</sup>, Mark Novak has decided to have scheduled tours of the project behind the sewer plant by Lake Village. There will be more information coming but tentatively between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm. We will have a barbeque for people to see what we are doing. We want to get a good turnout there so they can see what we are doing.

*Action Item #10: Discussion and possible action: Set date for next meeting and possible agenda items.*

The next meeting will be August 25, 2008.

Trustee Roy Clason moved to have the next scheduled meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Seconded by Trustee Steve Seibel.

Motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Trustee Patrick Atherton would like to recommend for the agenda especially for August, September and October, it is especially critical to get updates and a plan of action with regard to the tax override incentive. It is going to be an uphill battle. We knew that from the beginning. This is an economic year from a political point of view. I agree with Roy on that. I don't care how you do the verbiage as long as you give the board the latitude so if we have to take proactive measure we can do so.

R.J. Clason said he would like to personally thank Leo Horton for doing his defensible space inspection on his home this morning along with all the others he is doing.

Chairman Bob Cook informed the board he would be absent from August 1<sup>st</sup> until the 24<sup>th</sup> so Steve Siebel will be Chairman in his absence.

Action Item #13: Adjourn:

Motion by Trustee Patrick Atherton to adjourn.

Seconded by Trustee Steve Seibel.

Motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on audio tape.