

# MINUTES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Garden Valley Fire Protection District Regular Meeting

Location: 4860 Marshall Road – Garden Valley, CA 95633 – Training Room

Directors, Frank Clark, Dave Souza, Karen Smith and Rick Nelson are present. Chairman Richard Smith is absent and so is the Board Clerk, Ms. Jo Cleaver. Also present are Chief Dekker, and District Accountant Christina Havens. Director Rick Nelson sat as Vice Chair, for Richard Smith and Director Souza acted as Secretary for the meeting in the absence of Board Clerk Ms. Jo Cleaver. Judy Ryland is in the audience along with several staff members.

A quorum is noted and the meeting starts at 9:36AM

...indicates pauses or interruptions

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

**1.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Accountant Christina Havens asks that Agenda Item #3.4 be tabled until the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Director Karen Smith makes the motion to revise and adopt the now changed agenda and Director Frank Clark seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

**2.0 INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Judy Ryland introduces herself as a committee member from the County's Redistricting Committee as well as representing the Garden Valley Community Association. She "plans to attend the Divide Chamber of Commerce meeting that will be represented at the Georgetown Fire Department this evening." The Chairman thanks her for coming and asks her to keep this group apprised of the upcoming information.

### 3.0 OLD BUSINESS:

**3.1 - Statement of Facts:** Chief Dekker acknowledges that the Statement of Facts has been filed by John Kennedy's office.

**3.2 - Letter to Be Written:** The letter that was to be drafted by Chairman Richard Smith to the county regarding the Garden Valley Fire Departments issues with the County Auditor's Office be tabled until June 14 meeting.

**3.3 - Annexation:** Chief Dekker informs the board that all property owners have signed a letter giving Jennifer Boyd authorization to proceed with the annexation process. The Chief says he will put together that meeting today with LAFCO representatives and Ms. Boyd, with the Board's approval. Director Karen Smith so moves and Director Clark agrees with her motion. Chairman Nelson calls for a vote and the motion passes unanimously. The Chief reconfirms that Director Souza will be involved with this process and attend the meeting also, with all those represented.

**3.4 - Support Group:** has been tabled until the Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**3.5 - Sale of Surplus Equipment:** Chief Dekker gives an overview of the methods for putting the Surplus Equipment in order for sale. He's looking for a bid of \$3500.00. Right now the engine is sitting in front of the building. The board agrees to open bids at the next meeting.

**3.6 - Parity on Consolidation Committee:** Chief says he has nothing to do with this; it would be a part of the negotiating committee for which he is not privileged. "This would be Dave Souza and Richard Smith." Chief realizes this is not the agenda item he thought it was...Chairman Nelson, I thought Wes coming to the last Consolidation meeting resolved this...Chief...yes, yes, that's true, this is resolved.

**4.0 – NEW BUSINESS:**

**4.1 – Minutes:** Director Karen Smith so moves to approve the minutes, Director Clark seconds the motion. Passes unanimously.

**4.2 - Financials: Havens:** No excitement this month. As she is explaining a reimbursement from the JPA, Director Clark asks to read an excerpt from a 2007 Gazette Article, regarding Claudette Diagle. Chairman Nelson asks what this article has to do with the current discussion on the table regarding financials. Clark: June is the end of our fiscal year, right? Havens: Yes that's right. Clark: Well, if we have to take anything out of our budget, this maybe the one where it can come out of. That's what I'm concerned about. Havens: That would have to be a board's decision. Nelson: Are you asking to take her stipend out of the budget every year? Chief: That would have to come up during budget hearings. Nelson: So the amount is \$3000.00... that's not going to help us. And Frank we have discussed this over, and over numerous times in the last two years. Director Clark: \$3,000 is nothing? Nelson: In the proposal of a 1.2 million budget...it's been addressed in the past and I don't think we need to be bringing it up. Clark: I don't think I've brought this up before. Nelson: Yes, you have, repeatedly. And you've brought it up whenever the budget is starting to be addressed. When we start ripping people's retirements that has been approved by a board's decision, our desperation is showing to the public. Clark: I'm part of that. Nelson: Part of what? Clark: I was on that board. Nelson: Yes and those four other people approved the decision even though you did not. Clark: But those other four were appointed to their office, I was elected. Nelson: It doesn't matter. Karen Smith: It doesn't matter. Director Souza: It doesn't matter. Clark insists on reading the article, but not before Director Souza says..."this is four years old?" Yes, says Clark. He reads the article. Director Karen Smith: What does this have to do with our budget at this time? We owe this, there is nothing we can do about this agreement, even if we wanted to. It doesn't matter what the contract says at this point. Nelson: What do you hope to gain from bringing this up again? Clark: I promised I would read this out loud again, with people I knew, 'their not here right now', but that's what I told them I would do. I have the contract somewhere in a corner, and I know there is... a... right in there that says if the fire department can't pay her this anymore, we can send a letter 30 days in advance and that payment would stop. Chief: We can discuss this again, in the budget hearings. Nelson: My feeling on this is, if the person serves 19 years in this department, the department owes her something. Director Karen Smith makes a motion to accept the financials as presented and Director Clark seconds the motion. Passes unanimously.

**4.3 – LAFCO Elections Paperwork:** Chief suggests the board pick a representative and get this paperwork back to the County. The board rates the candidates independently, and the ballots are handed off to Christina Havens to forward. See paperwork attached to these minutes.

**4.4 – Same as 3.2 Tabled until June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**5.0 – Chief's Report:**

**5.1 - Narrow band radios.** They county successfully transferred over to narrow band. We received 3 DPH radios, from a 2008 grant. We will be receiving 10 DPH radios in July. There were issues with the EPH radios that were resolved and they are functioning in narrowband capacity. We purchased 8 Relm BK radio pagers that were issued to the paid staff and placed on engines. I received a \$1500 donation from Divide Health Care which is going towards the purchase of the 8 Relm BK radios. And I'm going to approach the Support Group for \$2500 to cover the purchase of those 8 radios, also. This was a safety issue that needed to be dealt with immediately. Just a couple of days later there was a wildland fire at the Mormon Church which I was the IC on and eventually handed off to CALFire due to major radio snafus. I couldn't talk with my people. Our crew was great, only two members showed up from Georgetown in a "town" fire, and eight members of the Garden Valley Fire Department showed up. Kudos to Garden Valley. I appreciate Mr. and Mrs. Smith able to attend the academy graduation. Director K Smith: I was impressed with how the ceremony goes. It gives the new recruits a real feeling of accomplishment. The ringing of the bell is...gets to me. We can be very proud of these men. Chief continues: I attended the BOS meeting last month; Marty Hackett, Brian Veercamp, and myself...\$98,000 is being demanded from the JPA by the Department of

Health to cover their administrative cost for ambulance service. In the past that fee awarded has been \$5000.00. Our attack was to find out what they do for us. They couldn't answer. The BOS turned it down for now until they (Health Department) could tell them specifically what they would use the money for. Our OSHA rep was here for a work-site inspection. The consultant was very cool. She reviewed all our safety policies and came up with only one thing...the lack of an aerosol transmission disease policy. Because it is a medical issue and new to this department, I asked the JPA (in writing) to tackle this with all El Dorado County fire departments. Our Workman Comp representative will be here May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10AM any board member is invited to be here, also. At the request of Director Clark I attended Sons in Retirement group yesterday. 66 people were there at the Grange Hall. Austin Palmiere and Billy Duarte have returned to the USFS for work this summer. Cal Fire has reduced their staffing to 25% percent for fire coverage throughout California. It will impact us that's for sure. I'm going to start working on the preliminary budget. I need input from the negotiation committee and all of these efforts will need be completed by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are hosting the Fire Chief's Dinner in the Garden Valley Park Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6PM. Director Souza will have his draft horse wagon available for rides. The Georgetown Fire Department will host a beer and wine bar. I've talked with a blue grass band. I hope you all can be in attendance.

## **6.0 – IN PROCESSING:**

### **6.1 – Consolidation:**

Rick Nelson gave an overview of the last meeting. Reviewed budget discussion with Sherrie Holstrom and Christina Havens. Tomorrow we have a meeting with the CAO to discuss and explain the consolidation efforts between the two departments. I came back with a really good feeling about the outcome. Director K. Smith asks the Chief to invite the OSHA rep to the Chief's dinner. He replied he would. The Chief goes onto say he has done some research on 'conflict of interest'. "I found information on line and contacted the source about employees sitting on boards." Nelson: Communication with the CAO was also a very important step. Speaking with Sherrie and Christina was extremely important as well. We're moving...not fast, but moving forward, still with a positive attitude. Director Karen Smith: Except me. Nelson: Then you better get (your concerns) them up on the table so we can talk about them. K. Smith: Richard knows. I don't want us to get lost in the shuffle. This department (GVFPD) is a great department. I don't want GV losing its identity.

K. Smith: I always say no and cut off my nose...Nelson: No, we need to discuss these types of perceptions. Chief: The driving force for this consolidation is financial. Nelson: The status quo is going to go down in both districts in the next five years. K. Smith: But it is going to happen. Nelson: The level of service is greater at Garden Valley, I see that. We are in a pickle and we need to get married. Judy Ryland: Before marriage we need counseling. How do we benefit? Nelson: AB8 is the assembly bill established in 1987 which aligned the amount of money that came out of the General Fund for every tax dollar spent or brought in a certain augmentation amount that was put in for fire service. Various fire departments were asked back then 'what percentage do you need to operate' and certain people were not in a position to answer that correctly in different districts and we got stuck at 9%. The county said you need a minimum of 13% to operate correctly. So that is how the augmentation funds came into affect raising our 9% to 13%. Georgetown was at 11% and needed a 2% jump. That's why they were getting \$36,000 a year augmentation funding. They were wiser in 1987 then we were in Garden Valley. They only way this pie can be reapportioned is through a disablement of a district. And the only way to do this is through consolidation. K. Smith: How will the boards interact? Nelson: It will be one board made up of representation from each district. Each District will send three voting members and one member elected at large. K Smith: We're going to turn into LAFCO. I just see us working harder for less. And the others are not going to come up to our standards. Frost: We will be able to offer them training, etc to bring them up to our standards. They can offer us free training for our medics. It's a great trade off. We can stable out. Both departments will benefit. Nelson: It will always be a work in progress. Nelson: In five years people will be asking why we didn't do this earlier. Chief: We are locked into Social Security and the only way to get out of this payment is to consolidate.

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6.2 – Nelson asks for an approval from the board for him and Dave Souza to attend a very important meeting in Sacramento. \$199.00 p/p Minimum training. K. Smith: so moved. Director Clark: Second. Passes unanimously. A roll call vote is asked for. K. Smith, yes. R Nelson, yes D Souza, yes F Clark, yes.

**IN PROCESSING: Continued**

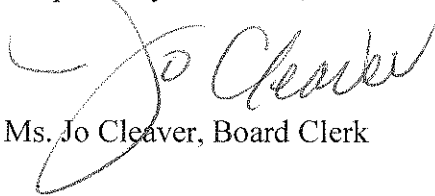
6.3 - **Water Tender** – Chief: The performance bond is cleared. We won't get the truck until September or October. That's just the way it's going to be.

**7.0 – BOARD OF MEMBER OPEN FORUM:**

Director Clark requests that Accountant Christina Havens be brought to the board table in the future. Chairman Nelson asks the Chief about the progress of the Policy Manual that was initiated in June of 2010. I would like to see this updated as soon as possible. Chief: Then I'm going to need help with this. Nelson: Where is the electronic copy?

8.0 – **ADJOURNMENT of MEETING:** Chairman Nelson moves to adjourn the meeting, Second by Director Karen Smith. Meeting concludes at 1055AM

Respectfully submitted,



Ms. Jo Cleaver, Board Clerk

Date: June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011