

WEST WASHOE VALLEY CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



DRAFT

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board held June 1, 2009 at Bowers Volunteer Fire Department, 3905 Old 395, Washoe Valley, Nevada.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Countryman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Roll call was heard and a quorum of four members was determined.
MEMBERS PRESENT – Jane Countryman (Chairperson), William Elliott, Debbie Sheltra, Rod Smith
MEMBERS ABSENT – Bob Rusk (at-large alternate)
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF JUNE 1, 2009** – Rod Smith moved to approve the June 1, 2009 meeting agenda. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 4, 2009** – The following correction was noted: (a) on page 3, item 11B should reflect that Bob Rusk was the only Board member in favor of combining the East Washoe Valley and West Washoe Valley CABs for monthly meetings while the rest of the Board decided to have separate CAB meetings. Debbie Sheltra moved to approve the May 4, 2009 meeting minutes as amended. Rod Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE** – Chairperson Countryman reported:
 - The South Valleys Area Plan passed, but adjustments may still need to be made because of the Weston Property, which was still awaiting a determination regarding the Truckee Meadows Service Area (TMSA) entering the property. Chairperson Countryman announced this issue would be a standing item on future agendas until the issue has been resolved.
 - On Tuesday, June 23, 2009, Washoe County Commissioners will meet and discussion will include the possible relocation of the Bowers Volunteer Fire Department to Joy Lake Road.
 - Sarah Tone, Community Outreach Coordinator, will no longer be attending CAB meetings. Ms. Tone's contact information was made available.
6. **ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS BY REGIONAL/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS**
 - A. **Washoe County Sheriff's Office Items** – There was no one in attendance to present a report at this time.
 - B. **Fire Safety Issues** – This item was combined with agenda item 10A.
7. **UPDATES AND LIAISON REPORTS**
 - A. **Liaison Report** – Chairperson Countryman reported Ann York, EWVCAB Liaison, was not in attendance because the May EWVCAB meeting had been cancelled.
 - B. **County Commissioner/Community Liaison Updates** – There was no one in attendance to present a report.
 - C. **I-580 Project** – Bob Rusk was not in attendance to present a report.
- 8.* **PUBLIC COMMENT**
 - A. Perry DeLoreto, Franktown resident, explained a private security company made up of retired police officers was hired to provide security in the Damonte Ranch area. He reported they were doing a good job for the area and requested to know if there was an appetite for similar security in the West Washoe Valley area. The following contact information was provided: Perry DeLoreto at 359-3000 ext. 119 or Joe Martin at 336-4440. This item was agendaized for the next meeting.
9. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Update on Use of Carson City Dump** – Rod Smith will provide an update of the Carson City Dump for 89704 residents in Washoe Valley. Discussion will follow. The Board may make recommendations regarding this matter. Board member Smith explained Carson City would welcome Washoe Valley residents in the 89704 zip code to use the Carson City Dump at Carson City prices if a letter was sent by Washoe County Commissioners requesting the use. Debbie Sheltra moved to write a letter to Washoe County Commissioner David Humke about writing a letter to Carson City requesting the use of the Carson City Dump at Carson City prices for Washoe Valley residents in the 89704 zip code area. Rod Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
10. **NEW BUSINESS** – Time for each item's presentation is limited to no more than fifteen minutes to provide sufficient time for questions and comments; an extension may be granted by the Chair.
 - A. **Consultant's Report Regarding Sierra Fire Protection District and Truckee Meadows Fire District** – The WWVCAB will discuss the status of the Consultant's Report regarding the Sierra Fire Protection District and the Truckee Meadows Fire District and how information regarding the report could be obtain and citizen input could be provided, including holding a Community Forum meeting to provide input. Discussion will also include a status report on the EMS Master Plan Project.
Chairperson Lancaster noted discussion of this item would include discussion of the Bowers Volunteer Fire Department, fire protection, and the survey being completed. Chief Mike Greene provided a brief chronology of events regarding Sierra Fire Protection District. He explained consultants were currently working on finding a solution that would provide services to unincorporated areas. He distributed a newsletter and encouraged individuals to complete

the on-line survey listed in the newsletter and to attend the community meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at the Washoe County Commission Chambers to provide input regarding the future of the Sierra Fire Protection District. He noted 76% of calls were going to another jurisdiction and that there were no immediate plans to close the fire station.

Concerns/Comments

- More information was requested regarding the 76% calls for service. Chief Greene reviewed call for service percentages and reported the 76% of calls were coming from the east. Board member Smith noted this station was to cover only the west side of Franktown Road. Chief Greene reviewed the agreement that sends out the closest unit regardless of jurisdiction.
- Perry DeLoreto asked if the majority of the 76% calls for service were for freeway accidents. Chief Greene reported 80% of calls for service were for medical emergencies and included freeway accidents. In response to Mr. DeLoreto's concerns regarding response time, Chief Greene reported the standard response time was less than eight minutes, but the issue was how to homogenize service county-wide at the same tax rate and for the same level of service.
- Larry Greenwood, Franktown Estates resident, asked if a Master Fire Service Delivery Plan was currently being worked on. Chief Greene replied yes. The meeting on June 17, 2009 was to obtain input from residents regarding this issue. Information would then be presented to the Board on June 23, 2009. One issue with the plan was where to position fire stations regardless of jurisdiction lines in order to provide efficient response time. The final report on the plan was scheduled for November 2009. Mr. Greenwood asked if service from Carson City would be included in the plan. Chief Greene reported there was an agreement that Carson City would provide service if REMSA was unable to provide service.
- Teresa Morrows, Franktown resident, asked how long the station has been in existence. It was reported the station has been in place since the 1940s. Ms. Morrows asked about the service provided to the new subdivision at Thunder Canyon. Chief Greene reported the subdivision was in the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, but the agreement currently in place requires service to be provided from the closest units in the area. Current staffing is four people per truck because there needs to be a sufficient number of rescue resources on hand, if needed. The issue that needs to be addressed is where fire stations should be located that would maintain the same level of service and at the same tax rate county-wide.
- Perry DeLoreto commented that the County was in serious discussion about closing the fire station and urged residents to keep a close watch on this issue because response times would increase significantly if the fire station was closed.
- Jack Healey asked if insurance would increase if the fire station closed. Chief Greene reported it would and response times would increase, but the goal was to have resident involvement in creating a long-term solution. Chairperson Countryman stressed the importance of resident involvement right now and noted the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District does not have paramedic service to offer.
- In response to Mr. DeLoreto's question about labor costs, Chief Greene reported the fire station was financially stable because their firefighters and paramedics were paid less than in the region, but there were staffing challenges. Mr. DeLoreto commented that it was the unrecognized costs that were not being met and asked if the next increase programmed in the current contract could be met under the current tax structure without imposing additional taxes. Chief Greene replied yes. The increase was linked to the regional area.
- Board member Elliott commented that, in his opinion, this appears to be the new "fear tactic" to provide assistance to Sierra Fire Protection District. Chief Greene responded by explaining that, if the station had remained under State control, the station would have closed and service levels significantly decreased. Board member Elliott pointed out that the State had forewarned that services could not be provided by the County. Chief Greene explained the Master Plan study would address concerns for a long-term solution.
- Board member Sheltra stated this had been a political issue because the County had wanted to take control from the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) for taxes being collected and that the County had ensured there would always be a station in this area. She read into the record the following excerpt from a letter from the State Forester to the County dated May 1, 2008:
"Fire Suppression and Protection: On the effective date of July 1, 2008, responsibility for Wildland fire suppression services for all non-federal lands within the geographic area described in Attachment 1 will transfer to Washoe County and the new NRS 474 County Fire Protection District. Washoe County acknowledges and agrees that there shall be no decrease in the level of emergency services provided to the residents of the SFFPD as a result of the dissolution of the NRS 473 SFPD and creation of the NRS 474 County Fire Protection District and associated transfer of operations. Based upon facts and circumstances that exist in the future, the District Board of Directors may make decisions regarding the provision of services within the District, provided that such decision complies with this paragraph."
Board member Sheltra stated the County had agreed to these provisions and that it did not include a station for the Arrow Creek area. She explained this may be a legal issue because response time would increase significantly if the station was moved when the provision stated there would not be a decrease in services.

- Board member Smith questioned why this area was being asked to sacrifice services to provide services to the Arrow Creek area. Chief Greene replied that now was the opportunity to provide the same level of service countywide. Board member Smith asked why Chief Greene made the comment to the paper that he would consider moving the station. Chief Greene stated that was in response to the question that had been asked of him regarding what he would do now to address the problem.
- Board member Elliott commented that service for the Arrow Creek area should not be provided at the expense of service for this area when the County had agreed services for this area would not be diminished.
- Board member Sheltra pointed out Chief Greene had requested an increase in the tax rate to \$0.52 a year ago to secure the station and staffing for the area therefore a possible move of the station to provide service to the Arrow Creek area should not be considered because of the agreement agreed upon by the County. Chief Greene reiterated this issue should be addressed by everyone because Truckee Meadows residents were receiving a service that was not paid for and Arrow Creek residents were paying for a service not being received.
- Richard Mason questioned the County's action when the County had agreed to provide long-term service to this area in May 2008, but were now requesting a change. Chief Greene explained now was the opportunity for resident participation to voice opposition and reinforce that agreement. Mr. Mason asked why the east side of Franktown Road was not included in the Sierra Fire Protection District when service was being received from that District. Board member Elliott stated that had been requested before and that his biggest complaint was offering to provide service to another area at the expense of service to this area. Chief Greene stated there was a whole range of options to consider to get this issue resolved and that, in his opinion, having a separate fire district would not make sense. He explained he would like to see a consolidation of services for all areas.
- Chairperson Countryman stated she was disappointed with the survey because it did not address concerns in this area; there was no space to write any additional comments; the survey could not be printed out and questioned the overall validity of the survey. She stated consultants should have met with CABS one-on-one and were doing a poor job of obtaining community input. Discussion followed about the District absorbing the cost to have consultants meet with CABs if there was enough community participation at the meeting and issuing RSVP cards to stress the importance of residents attending the meeting.
- Dorothy Ramsdell suggested the CAB request a more informative survey be issued if community input was lacking and that the CAB construct their own survey that would provide community input. Chairperson Countryman stated that a Community Forum may be held to address this issue and to submit comments and concerns as a group.
- Karen Tencrel volunteered to call residents about the issue or go door-to-door.
- Board member Sheltra expressed concern that there may not be enough time to hold a community forum meeting before information was presented to the County Commission in November. Chief Greene reiterated they were years away from making changes.
- Discussion was heard about creating a special assessment district for the Arrow Creek area to fund and staff their own station and that service could not legally be reduced in this area because of the agreement currently in place.
- Board member Sheltra suggested the survey issue be presented at a County Commission meeting during the public comment portion of the meeting.
- Chief Greene noted four staff members were injured and that stations may be reduced to two-man operations if more staff members were lost.
- Board member Sheltra requested to know the percentage of assistance received from the City of Reno and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the Incline Village area. Chief Greene replied 50% and noted stations were not any closer than in this area.
- John Morrows requested to know if two more firefighters were needed when answering a call for service. Chief Greene stated that was required for a burning building. It was requested that consultants attend the July 6, 2009 WWVCAB meeting.
- Tamara Wilkes, Reno Fire Department, stated she was working with Chief Greene on this issue and that she took offense to some comments made during today's meeting. Ms. Wilkes stated that information needed to be reported so action could be taken.
- Perry DeLoreto stated he had also been told by Reno Fire Department that they would protect structures, but not trees. Chief Greene clarified there were structure trucks that protect structures and brush trucks that fight forest fires.

At this time, agenda item 6A was reopened.

11. ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS BY REGIONAL/COUNTY DEPARTMENTS (Reopened)

C. Washoe County Sheriff's Office Items (Reopened) – Lt. Tim O'Connor commented on the homicide that occurred on Bellevue Road. Chairperson Countryman stated that the reverse 911 call failed during the incident. Discussion followed regarding the blockade in place during the incident. Board member Sheltra noted there were a group of Hispanic males in the area during the incident that may have been linked to the crime, but were not followed-up on. Lt. O'Connor noted crimes in the area may increase. He encouraged residents to lock vehicles and remove valuables from out of sight when inside vehicles. He reported "sexting" was becoming popular with children and regarded texting nude photographs of themselves to friends. He noted this is considered child pornography under current law and was a felony for anyone at any age. He reviewed shooting regulations for congested areas and cautioned individuals about using toy guns.

12. NEW BUSINESS (Continued) – Time for each item's presentation is limited to no more than fifteen minutes to provide sufficient time for questions and comments; an extension may be granted by the Chair.

B.* Washoe County Health District, Vector Borne Disease Prevention Program – Jane Countryman will distribute information on the Washoe County Health District, Vector Borne Disease Prevention Program. Questions from the Board and the audience will be taken and forwarded to Scott Monsen, Washoe County District Health Department, for a response. This item is informational only; no action will be taken.

Chairperson Countryman distributed brochures and handouts regarding West Nile Virus.

13. CHAIRMAN/BOARD MEMBER ITEMS – (This item limited to announcements of topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas.)

Future agenda items: (a) South Valleys Area Plan and TMSA Application for Weston Property (regular item); (b) Private security watch for the West Washoe Valley area; (c) Update on Fire Protection issue (action item)

Chairperson Countryman noted community forum meeting dates would be listed on future agendas when the CAB meetings go to every other month and would be held on the first Monday of the month in-between the CAB meetings.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Rod Smith moved to adjourn the meeting. Debbie Sheltra seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.