

SPANISH SPRINGS CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD



DRAFT: Approval of these draft minutes, or any changes to the draft minutes, will be reflected in writing in the next meeting minutes and/or in the minutes of any future meeting where changes to these minutes are approved by the CAB.

The meeting of the Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board held May 9, 2012 at the Lazy 5 Community Center, 7100 Pyramid Lake Hwy., Spanish Springs, Nevada

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Cyndy Brown, Chair. Ms. Brown led the salute to the flag.
 2. **ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
MEMBERS PRESENT - Cyndy Brown, At-Large, Chair., Joe DuRousseau, At-Large, Lee Leighton, At-Large, Jonathan Reynolds, At-Large, Secretary, Michael Salerno, At-Large and William Steward, CAC representative.
MEMBERS ABSENT - Loretta Nawojski, At-Large, Alternate, excused and Kevin Roukey, At Large has resigned from the CAB.
 - 3.* **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Any person is invited to speak on any item on or off the agenda during this period. Action may not be taken on any matter raised during this public comment period until the matter is specifically listed on a future agenda as an action item. Comment under this item will be limited to three minutes per person.
 - Cyndy Brown asked for public comment and hearing none, closed this agenda item.
 4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 9, 2012 – MOTION:** Joe DuRousseau moved to approve the May 9, 2012 agenda as posted. Lee Leighton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Item 7. A. was heard immediately following item 5.
 5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2012. – MOTION:** Jonathan Reynolds moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2012 regular meeting as submitted. Joe DuRousseau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - 6.* **REPORTS AND UPDATES – The following reports and updates will be limited to five minutes each.** (These items are informational only and no action will be taken by the CAB.)
 - A.* **Updates/Announcements/Correspondence**
 - Cyndy Brown announced that the Great Truckee Meadows community cleanup scheduled on Saturday May 12, 2012 and there will be a Free fishing Day at Pyramid Lake on May 12, 2012. The AT&T mobility project to replace the stadium pole with a wireless pole at the sports stadium at Spanish Springs High School has been approved.
 - B.* **Washoe County Sheriff's Office Items** – A representative of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office was not present to report on public safety issues within the CAB area, including recent calls for service.
 - C.* **Washoe County Update:**
 - Commissioner Robert Larkin was present to provide an update on County issues. Commissioner Larkin addressed the Board of Fire Commissioners taking action to move toward regionalization. The Board of Fire Commissioners had to be proactive to provide protection for citizens. The Board of County Commissioners annual budget will be presented May 21, 2012. There will be a decrease in some services provided by the Sheriff's Department and Commissioner Larkin urged everyone to track the budget and send comments to hi at rlarkin@washoecounty.us. Commissioner Larkin stated that they have been able to keep health care costs to zero growth.
- Comments and Concerns**
- Lee Leighton thanked Commissioner Larkin for attending this meeting and asked for information on the merger of the fire protection services that are mandated to be provided.
 - William Steward thanks for all you do as Commissioner. Mr. Steward asked if there would be a board dedicated to fire protection and public safety,
 - Commissioner Larkin stated that he will be proposing a ballot advisory question pertaining to an elected or appointed fire board.
 - Joe DuRousseau asked if anyone has proposed a franchise fee on REMSA. Commissioner Larkin supported that idea but stated that the agreement is with the State Legislature.
 - Gary Snyder asked how the County is unsustainable with the current assessed values and taxes paid by property owners. Commissioners Larkin stated that he would respond to e-mails.
 - Lee Leighton asked whether the brass that is collected at the Regional Shooting Range is converted to cash and put back into the general fund. Commissioner Larkin stated that the shooting range was funded from the General Fund and any profits would go back into the General Fund.
 - Sarah Tone, County Liaison, is available to answer your questions and concerns. Contact her at stone@washoecounty.us or 775.328.2721. To sign up to receive email updates from the County, visit

www.washoecounty.us/cmail. The written County updates are available online at www.washoecounty.us/cab (follow the link to your CAB).

D.* Action Plan Committee Reports:

- **Search and Rescue** – Joe DuRousseau reported that there has not been any recent search and rescue activity.
- **Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)** – William Steward that the Sparks City Council considered a budget with no reduction in services. The property tax rate will remain unchanged. Information is available on the City Council web-site. Mr. Steward was thanked for serving on the SSCAB.

7. NEW BUSINESS – (The staff contact listed on items for Community Development may not be in attendance but can be contacted with code and policy questions.)

A.* Introduction of the New Fire Chief - Chief Charles A. Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire and Sierra Fire Protection Districts introduced himself and following his introduction, he was available to address questions regarding the status of the deconsolidation of fire services and levels of fire service to the community. (This item was informational only and no action was taken by the CAB.)

Comments and Concerns

- Joe DuRousseau asked for information on staffing and response times and stated that citizens need to be fully and honestly aware of staffing changes and response times to emergency calls for service. Mr. DuRousseau stated that the media is only giving half truths. The Captain should not have to explain why fire fighters are not entering structures to irate citizens. The Board of Fire Commissioners should explain the situation to citizens.
- Chief Moore stated that the preference has been to keep flexible staffing and all fire stations open and responding to calls for service. Chief Moore stated that there are many things that a three person company can do in response to emergency calls for service. Chief Moore added that the budget cuts will not allow for four person crews. If four person stations are required, some fire stations will have to be closed. Three person stations can provide many emergency services including emergency medical treatment.
- Mr. DuRousseau reiterated that leadership needs to advise the community with accurate information.
- Lee Leighton asked that with the changes that will be in place, will the service levels for the Spanish Springs valley be better, equal or less?
- Chief Moore stated that as of July 1, 2012, the stations will be reduced to three person crews. The tax rates will go up although based on property values, the taxpayer will pay less. Chief Moore stated that service levels will remain the same until property values and taxes increase.
- Mr. DuRousseau stated that first response is one issue having to bring in additional resources will take time. A response agreement with the City of Reno still has to be reached.
- In response to questions raised, Chief Moore stated that the concentration of risk will be evaluated and location of paramedic services would be determined. There is much work to be done to resolve issues prior to the July 1, 2012 implementation.
- Mr. Leighton stated concern that residents in Spanish Springs have had certain levels of service that should not be reduced.
- Chief Moore stated that with a seventeen percent reduction in revenues that the department has to balance service capability with the funds available.
- Chief Moore stated that the department needs to balance service levels with funding levels. Chief Moore stated that taxes would have had to be raised in any case.
- Mr. DuRousseau discussed the agreement not to reduce the levels of service and not to brown out any stations that had been made.
- Chief Moore asked that citizens attend the hearing on May 15, 2012 for updated information. They plan to hire sixty firefighters Chief Moore stated that rumors of increases in ISO fees is an attempt to scare people. System wide, insurance rates may increase as a result of recent wildfires but the rates are based on the distance a residence is from a fire station. Chief Moore stated that insurance rates are based on distance from a fire station and water availability.
- William Steward thanked Chief Moore for attending this meeting and taking on the task of unifying the fire district. Mr. Steward disclosed that he is a member of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and EMS (Emergency Medical Service) is part of the equation.
- Chief Moore stated there needs to be a regional fire service delivery in order to provide efficient service. There needs to be agreements on service levels, sustainable funding and one board of directors to eliminate controversy.
- Cyndy Brown stated that she would provide copies of the information that Chief Moore provided during the Chairs meeting to members of the SSCAB.
- Chief Moore stated that it is time to rebuild the volunteer fire fighter program. Chief Moore discussed the plan for covering fire stations when the local station is on a call for service.

- Mr. Leighton stated that there is a lot of fear and citizens need to have updated information presented during CAB meetings.
- Chief Moore stated that they plan to hire qualified fire fighters and other personnel.
- Gary Neilson stated that the funding that was saved with consolidation helped provide training for volunteer fire fighters. Mr. Neilson stated that more time and effort was spent on volunteers between 2000 and 2009. Mr. Neilson stated for the record that Spanish Springs should have fire services including paramedics that local taxes are paying for.
- Gary Snyder stated concern regarding ISO rate increases and whether volunteer fire fighters would be available to respond to an emergency.
- Chief Moore stated that volunteers would respond to calls for service whether they are at work locally or at their residents.
- Tom Dunn, Reno Fire Department Firefighter and local resident provided copies of: FEMA: AFG Success Stories dated 5/9/12; Reno Fire Department Memorandum from Sandy Munns, Division Chief dated 4/16/12 and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Sierra Fire Protection District Staff Report dated 4/17/12 for the record. Mr. Dunn stated that he has concerns that the budget has increased over five million dollars for one year.
- In response to questions raised, Chief Moore stated that he would pursue bringing paramedics to the Spanish Springs Valley.
- Tim Alameda, past City of Reno fire fighter and local resident thanked Chief Moore for taking the job and he stated support for bringing paramedics into the Spanish Springs valley.
- Chief Moore stated that he would like to see additional training coming from REMSA. Chief Moore stated that the budget is combined with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Sierra Fire Protection District. Chief Moore stated that he has only been here six weeks and he has been working on next years' budget.
- Cyndy Brown thanked Chief Moore for attending this meeting.

B.* Washoe County School District Update – Estela Gutierrez, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees introduced Randy Baxley, Washoe County School District who provided a written PowerPoint presentation on the Spanish Springs Area Enrollment Projections and Impact or Growth dated May 9, 2012. Following the presentation, Mr. Baxley and Ms. Gutierrez were available to address questions and concerns. (This item was informational only and no action was taken by the CAB.)

Comments and Concerns

- In response to questions raised, Mr. Baxley stated that funding for capital projects would come from bonds. The school district will be able to ask for another voter approved bond in eight years. Bond funds are used for new structures as well as maintenance on existing schools. Unless there is another revenue stream, they would not be able to fund a new school for eight to ten years.
- Ms. Gutierrez stated that they plan to meet with the SSCAB twice a year to address concerns and possible solutions.
- In response to questions raised, Mr. Baxley commented on bussing of students into and out of the Spanish Springs valley. Hug High School is below capacity and Sparks Middle School is close to capacity. Student enrollment is subject to the 'No Child Left Behind Act'.
- In response to questions raised, Ms. Gutierrez stated that Washoe County is trying to be proactive and think out of the box to address questions that need to be resolved.

8. OLD BUSINESS – There are no Old Business items scheduled for review.

9.* CHAIRMAN/MEMBER COMMENTS (This item limited to announcements of topics/issues posed for future workshops/agendas).

- William Steward thanked everyone for their service on the CAB and stated that he will still be attending future SSCAB meetings.
- Mr. Steward stated that anyone interested in volunteering to help after the Caughlin wildfire can call 851-5185. Mr. Steward encouraged citizens to get involved in the community through the Citizen Advisory Board.
- Cyndy Brown thanked William Steward for his service on the SSCAB.
- The July meeting may be in the Library due to the concert in the park series.
- **Next Agenda Items:** Items for the July meeting need to be submitted by June 26, 2012, Update on Fire Services, Report from the Sheriff's Office and election of officers.

10.*PUBLIC COMMENT

- Cyndy Brown asked for public comment and hearing none, closed this agenda item.

11. ADJOURNMENT – William Steward moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Joe DuRousseau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By: Allayne Donnelly-Everett, Recording Secretary