
DRAFT

FIRE ALARM OFFICE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 29, 2006

PRESENT:

CHIEF SMITH	CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF CHAPMAN	CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF WASHINGTON	LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE
CHIEF LOU AMELL	LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE
ROY LAWSON	LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE
MAUREEN PEZZULLO	LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE
LINDA MILLER	LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE
CHIEF GILLESPIE	NORTH LAS VEGAS FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF WASHINGTON called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. in the Fire Alarm Office Conference Room of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue.

CHIEF WASHINGTON made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of September 7, 2006, as presented. *The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

CHIEF WASHINGTON announced that Chief Morgan recently retired and that recruitment is underway to fill this deputy chief position. He expects this recruitment to be complete by mid-December 2006.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIRMAN:

A motion was made to nominate Chief Steven Smith as the Chairman of the Fire Alarm Office, Board of Directors, beginning January 1, 2007. *The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.* The BOD chairmanship is rotated on an annual basis.

DISPATCH CENTER STATISTICS

- ◆ Chief Amell distributed dispatch statistics to the board and noted that he is working on obtaining “time stamps” within the Trittech system that will give us a better picture of how much time is spent on each phase of dispatching a call. He further explained that the type of calls (fire vs. medical aid) also impact dispatch time.
- ◆ Chief Amell distributed a chart detailing the categories of calls and what questions need to be asked. He noted that EMS calls take longer because of the Pro Q A. portion of the dispatch. Additionally, verification of location is sometimes unclear. Another challenge to dispatch time occurs when a translator has to be found to translate for a non-English speaking caller.
- ◆ Chief Washington suggested that we put together a public awareness campaign about emergency dispatching, detailing the importance of knowing your location and the relevance of the medical information questions. Chief Amell noted that the typical PSA is too short for the amount of information that we would need to broadcast.
- ◆ Chief Gillespie asked if we can determine the exact time a call is received until the apparatus is “out of the barn.” Chief Amell stated that this cannot be technically tracked at this time.
- ◆ Chief Gillespie stated that we have taken some early steps in identifying the timing of emergency dispatch and that this information will be valuable in shortening dispatch times when possible.
- ◆ Chief Gillespie suggested that it could save an additional 20 seconds if the units were dispatched prior to address verification and that verification could be done on the MCT screen.
- ◆ Chief Washington stated that he would speak with Chief Gammon about address verification. It was noted that the “code” would still needed to be determined before the unit left the station.

- ◆ **Chief Gillespie** suggested that we could give this method of dispatch a 6-month trial.
- ◆ **Chief Smith** noted that this could be discussed at the “5 Bugle Chiefs” meeting on December 7, 2006.
- ◆ **Chief Amell** inquired about the dispatcher’s ability to “upgrade” and “downgrade” calls following a dispatch.
- ◆ **Chief Amell** recommended that this be brought to the Operations Committee at their next meeting.

BUDGET UPDATE

- ◆ **Roy Lawson** presented a *revised* copy of the FY’08 Communications Budget. He noted that this budget is about \$40,000 less because a trainer position was eliminated.
- ◆ **Roy Lawson** noted that the *cost of living* increases accounted for the greatest portion of the budget increase.
- ◆ **Roy Lawson** stated that Finance allowed that 5 previously approved communications specialist positions could be filled in June 2007. This would reduce the amount of new positions requested for the FY’08 budget from 9 to a total of 4 positions. The Board of Directors agreed that this is acceptable as these positions already have approved funding.
- ◆ **Chief Amell** noted that the 4 new positions would then be filled in October of 2007.
- ◆ **Roy Lawson** noted that other increases were reflected in the Roam IT and Tritech (software maintenance) items. Roy will send an updated copy of the budget to Jim Johnson and Kelly Blackmon.
- ◆ **Chief Smith** requested that last year’s facility maintenance costs (electricity charges etc.) also be listed, Roy will put them in.

MERCY AIR

- ◆ **Chief Washington** inquired whether the Mercy Air dispatch proposal has been reviewed by the County and NLV legal departments.
- ◆ **Chief Chapman** met with the County’s attorney and she inquired about the \$3,000 fee. It was noted that this would be a fee for dispatch service (when we contact their flight center.) The call will then appear on their own MCTs and they would follow up from there.
- ◆ **Chief Chapman** inquired whether there would be language in the contract relating to future competing companies. The answer was “yes.”

VALLEY HEALTH NURSING STRIKE

- ◆ **Chief Gillespie** inquired if the crews would receive direction on asking patients to chose hospitals and on increased hospital wait times relating to the proposed nursing strike at Valley and Desert Springs hospitals.
- ◆ The Operations Committee will put something out to the crews on this situation.

NEW ITEMS

- ◆ **Chief Washington** inquired if there has been any news on a specific fire protection facility for the North Las Vegas Airport. He noted that the situation is becoming critical and steps need to be taken to build their own fire station. This will most likely be taken up at the ‘managers’ level.
- ◆ **Chief Gillespie** stated that he would write a letter on this subject and copy the FAA and regional managers.

The next meeting will take place on January 2, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.

/M