

**ALPINE SPRINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES  
WORKSHOP**

Pursuant to notice given, the Fire and Emergency Services Workshop of the Board of Directors, Alpine Springs County Water District, was held Friday, January 13, 2005, at 2:00 p.m., District Board Room, 270 Alpine Meadows Road.

1     **1.     INTRODUCTION AND OPENING STATEMENTS**

2     President Danz called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Participants included  
3     President Danz; Directors Grant, Northrop, Quinan, and Stefani; Manager Shaw;  
4     Mark Hadley (AMFD/NTFPD volunteer); Todd Conradson, Battalion Chief  
5     (NTFPD); Al Pride (AMEA) and Lee Massick (JMA).  
6     Manager Shaw briefly described the history of the Alpine Meadows Fire  
7     Department and the current status of fire and emergency services in the Valley.  
8     Since its inception, the AM Fire Department has been a volunteer fire  
9     department. The District has contracted with North Tahoe Fire Protection District  
10    since March 1996 to provide fire and emergency protection services to AM. Over  
11    the years, the roster of AMFD volunteers has been high as the mid-20s, but now  
12    it is down to three, all of whom work for NTFFPD as volunteers. The arrangement  
13    with NTFFPD for fire and emergency services seems to be working well.  
14    In the last few of years, the Board of Directors, via its Fire Committee, has  
15    discussed annexing District fire services to NTFFPD to provide a higher level of  
16    service to the Valley. However, the closer the issue comes to a decision point,  
17    the more questions arise. The purpose of the workshop is to generate a protocol  
18    for the decision-making process. The hopeful outcome is a plan that will include  
19    goals for fire protection services in the Valley, alternatives, and a methodology  
20    for ranking alternatives. The plan will provide a map for how to proceed in  
21    accomplishing the agreed-upon goals.  
22    Today's workshop is intended to be an informal meeting, with an open format to  
23    promote brainstorming. Manager Shaw encouraged participation by all  
24    attendees.

25    **2.     DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE AND OPERATIONAL**  
26    **FORMAT OF THE ALPINE MEADOWS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

27    NTFFPD is responsible for providing all fire and emergency protection services to  
28    the District. Anyone who calls 911 will get a response from NTFFPD and possibly,  
29    but not necessarily, from the three NTFFPD volunteers who are Valley residents.  
30    But there is no obligation for NTFFPD to staff the Alpine Meadows fire station. It is  
31    too expensive and not part of the current agreement between the District and  
32    NTFFPD. The level of service has been the primary concern and focus of the  
33    District Fire Committee when discussing the future of fire services in the valley.

34    **3.     COMMUNITY GOALS REGARDING LEVEL OF SERVICE**

35    The Fire Committee has established its main goal as increasing the level of  
36    service in the Valley. The response time, depending on location in Valley, is  
37    currently 10-15 minutes. Current response time is below the industry's standard,  
38    which is 8 minutes 90% of the time. Todd Conradson encouraged the Board to  
39    use its judgment in coming up with a standard for response time, instead of using  
40    the Placer County proposed standard for medical service response time.  
41    Workshop participants identified the following components of level of service  
42    improvements for consideration (priorities were deliberately not addressed when  
43    generating this list):

- 44    •   **Medical Service**
  - 45      ○   **Basic response** (basic EMT first aid)
  - 46      ○   **Advanced response** (defibrillator capability)
- 47    •   **Fire Service**
  - 48      ○   **Response time**

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- 1                   ▪ **Detection** (alarm systems provide a good head start in this category)
- 2                   ▪ **Notification** (dispatch – Placer County Sheriff Station in Tahoe City)
- 3                   ▪ **Travel Time**
- 4                   ○ **Equipment**
- 5                   ○ **Fire Flow** (water pressure available for fire prevention services – it varies
- 6                   from location to location within the valley)
- 7                   ○ **Structure Fire vs. Wildland Fire**
- 8                   • **Peak vs. Off-peak Season Considerations** (minimum/maximum equipment
- 9                   and staffing)
- 10                  • **Guaranteed services** to the community in perpetuity or at least for a given
- 11                  length of time
- 12                  • **Different levels of service** for different areas in the Valley (e.g., residential,
- 13                  commercial, ski area, visitors)
- 14                  • **Financial participation by commercial participants**, including different
- 15                  billing schemes for different entities (e.g., single family, commercial,
- 16                  industrial, ski resort)
- 17                  **4. TRANSLATE GOALS INTO WORKING DEPARTMENTAL MODEL**
- 18                  **a. Identification of alternatives to achieving goals:**
- 19                  Director Stefani discussed alternatives identified by the Fire Committee.
- 20                  The workshop participants started with the Fire Committee alternatives
- 21                  and added others to arrive at the following list:
- 22                  i. **Hire personnel to staff station:**
- 23                      1. Create and operate the District's own fire department
- 24                      2. Create and operate the District's own volunteer program
- 25                      3. Consider responsibilities of local fire department (e.g.,
- 26                      implementation of alarm system network, public education
- 27                      regarding prevention)
- 28                  ii. **Merge services with another provider:**
- 29                      1. **North Tahoe Fire Protection District**
- 30                      2. **Squaw Valley Fire Department**
- 31                      3. **Others (e.g., private, Truckee)**
- 32                  iii. **Contract services to another provider:**
- 33                      1. **North Tahoe Fire Protection District**
- 34                      2. **Squaw Valley Fire Department**
- 35                      3. **Others (e.g., private, Truckee)**
- 36                  iv. **"As Is":** Keep current arrangement with NTFPD. Do nothing about
- 37                  changing the current level of service.
- 38                  v. **Combination of alternatives**
- 39                  vi. **Fee for Service**
- 40                  **b. Evaluation of alternatives:**
- 41                      • Manager Shaw asked how the workshop participants would like to
- 42                      move forward with the decision-making process: participate
- 43                      themselves or allow the "professionals" (i.e., Fire Committee members
- 44                      or Board) to evaluate the alternatives. President Danz expressed
- 45                      discomfort at the effectiveness of workshop participants being able to
- 46                      make decisions without knowing numbers and values associated with
- 47                      items on the lists. She felt that the Board's role was to assign
- 48                      priorities to the list of goals and that the Fire Committee would

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- 1                               probably be the best qualified entity to supply numbers associated  
2                               with goals (e.g., recommended response times).
- 3                               • Manager Shaw suggested that the best way to proceed might be for  
4                               the Board, at its next meeting, to assign the Fire Committee the task  
5                               of coming up with a decision matrix, derived from the goals and  
6                               alternatives identified at this workshop. Development of the decision  
7                               matrix might be a two-pass process: first the Committee would bring  
8                               to the Board for approval a refined goal list that would detail the  
9                               desired level of service. Once that is approved, the Committee would  
10                              go back and fill in values and rationales for each of the alternatives,  
11                              and come up with a recommended alternative for Board approval.
  - 12                             • President Danz suggested that the Fire Committee might need to  
13                             meet twice a month to get the work done in a timely fashion.
  - 14                             • Director Stefani asked if there would be more workshops, since there  
15                             was not much public participation at this one. President Danz  
16                             suggested that the best time to have the next workshop would be  
17                             when the Board has approved a tentative alternative.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Jancis Martin  
Recording Secretary