

APPROVED

The Board Meeting of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, in-person and virtually, beginning at 1:00 PM.

East Fork Fire Protection District Board Present:

John Bellona, President, District 1
Barbara Griffin, Director, District 2
Bernard Curtis, Director, District 3,
Jacques Etchegoyhen, Director, District 4
Mike Sommers, Secretary, District 5

Staff present:

Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief
Larry Goss, Deputy Chief of/Training and Safety
Scott Gorgon, Deputy Chief/Operations, Attended the meeting virtual
Lisa Owen, Director of Administrative Services
Julie Andress, CFO/Director of Finance
Tom Hein, Executive Program Manager
Mark Forsberg, District Legal Counsel
Holly Megee, Clerk to the Board
Patrick Mooneyhan, Fire Inspector

Additional attendees that addressed the Board:

Aaron Leising, East Fork Fire Captain
Kevin May, President for East Fork Fire Professional Firefighters
Adam Wennhold, East Fork Fire Engineer
Elaine Pace, Volunteer Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

President John Bellona

INITIAL MEETING BUSINESS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Barbara Griffin led the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)

At this time, public comment will be taken on those items that are within the jurisdiction and control of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors or those agenda items where public comment will not be taken as a public hearing is not legally required.

Public Comment may be limited to three minutes per speaker, which will be decided by the Board President or other presiding officer in his/her absence. If you are going to comment on a specific agenda item that the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors will act on, please make your comments when the item is considered and is opened for public comment.

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For members of the public not able to be present when an item on the agenda is heard, Speaker/Comment Cards are available in the Lobby at the entrance to the meeting room. These cards should be completed and given to the District Fire Chief or designee.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

Adam Wennhold, East Fork Fire Engineer thanked administration and the Board for approving the change to 7710 and Ready Rebound, the current Workers' Compensation carrier. He was able to return to work within 5 months after a significant injury and doesn't believe that would have been possible under the previous Workers' Compensation carrier.

There was no further public comment.

Public comment closed.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

The Administrative Calendar handled as follows:

1. The President will read the agenda title into the public record.
2. Staff will introduce the item and provide a report, if any.
3. The applicant, if any, will have an opportunity to address the Board.
4. The Board will then discuss the item. Once the Board has concluded their discussion, public comment will be allowed.
5. Public comment will be allowed and is limited to three minutes per speaker.
6. Once public comment is completed, the Board will then ask any follow-up questions and act.

Agenda items listed as a "presentation" with no action listed, public comment is not legally required, and must be made at the beginning of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. For Possible Action. Approval of proposed agenda. The East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors reserves the right to take items in a different order to accomplish business in the most efficient manner, to combine two or more agenda items for consideration, and to remove items from the agenda or delay discussion relating to items on the agenda. (Jacques Etchegoyhen, President) 5 minutes.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

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Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the meeting agenda for February 20, 2024.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Mike Sommers
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the draft meeting minutes of the January 16, 2024, meeting of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024, Board meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Barbara Griffin
SECOND BY:	Jacques Etchegoyhen
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS & DONATIONS

3. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to accept the donation of \$500 from Richard Starrett, to dedicate the funds to paramedic education costs, and to authorize a letter of appreciation from the Board President. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief) 5 minutes.

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini stated the District received a \$500 donation from Richard Starrett, requesting to apply the funds to paramedic education. He recommended approval.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

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Public comment closed.

MOTION to accept the donation of \$500 from Richard Starrett, to dedicate the funds to paramedic education costs, and to authorize a letter of appreciation from the Board President.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Mike Sommers
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

4. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action regarding Proclamation 2024P-01 recognizing Micah Triplett on his retirement after 11 years of service with the East Fork Fire Protection District. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

Captain Aaron Leising stated Battalion Chief Matt Kruse was unable to attend the meeting so on behalf of B-shift he expressed to Micah that he will be missed. Captain Leising stated on a personal note, he and Micah spent many hours together working on a rescue sharing both amazing and hard times. He thanked Micah for his support, friendship, and being a great partner. He is sad to see him leave but excited for his future.

Engineer Rylan McDougal described Micah as a "one-of-a-kind guy". He has enjoyed the countless hours spent together working on a rescue. He wished him luck and stated he would be missed.

President John Bellona read Proclamation 2024P-01 recognizing Micah Triplett on his retirement after 11 years of service with the East Fork Fire Protection District.

Micah Triplett stated he spoke at the last Board meeting but would like to thank everyone again and expressed his love for the District.

There was no further public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve Proclamation 2024P-01 recognizing Micah Triplett on his retirement after 11 years of service with the East Fork Fire Protection District.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Barbara Griffin
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Items appearing on the Consent Calendar are items that can be adopted with one motion unless an item is pulled by a District Director or a member of the public. Members of the public who wish to have a consent item placed on the Administrative Agenda shall make that request during the public comment section at the beginning of the meeting and specifically state why they are making the request. When items are pulled for discussion, they will automatically be placed at the beginning of the Administrative Agenda or may be continued until another meeting. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

President John Bellona explained these items can be adopted with one motion, unless an item is pulled by a District Director, staff, or a member of the public.

- a. For Possible Action.** Discussion to accept the report on general ledger cash balances as of January 31, 2024. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief)
- b. For Possible Action.** Discussion to approve the receipt and filing of the list of accounts payable checks issued and cash disbursements/automatic withdrawals in January 2024 per NRS 474.210. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief)
- c. For Possible Action.** Discussion to approve payroll expense paid in January 2024 per NRS 474.210. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief)
- d. For Possible Action.** Discussion to approve the Procurement Card Transactions paid in January 2024 per NRS 474.210 (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief)
- e. For Possible Action.** Discussion to approve the East Fork Fire Protection District's ambulance billing bad debt write-offs for the period of December 2023 in the amount of \$83,197.88. (Lisa Owen, Director of Administrative Services)

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- f. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to accept the report on state consolidated taxes collection and distribution as of November 2023. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief)

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve Consent Calendar items 5 a, b, c, d, e & f.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Mike Sommers
SECOND BY:	Jacques Etchegoyhen
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

6. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to authorize the District Fire Chief to accept the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant in the amount of \$36,926.25 with the sole intention of purchasing a rescue UTV. (Aaron Leising, Captain) 15 minutes.

East Fork Fire Protection District Captain Aaron Leising stated he attended the last Board meeting with the exciting news the District received the grant to purchase a rescue UTV. Paperwork for the grant has been received. He stated it has been a longtime vision to purchase a UTV. There has been a lot of damage to the District's equipment when responding to off road incidents. The District responds to many calls in remote off-road areas. Funding for a UTV has been a challenge for the District. He thanked Firehouse Subs and the owner of Firehouse Subs, Dameron. The grant is in the amount of \$36,926.25, which will allow for the purchase of a Polaris Ranger, NorthStar edition. There will be additional costs needed to complete the project (radio installed in UTV, trailer, emergency lighting, etc.). The recommendation is to approve the grant.

Director Bernard Curtis requested a picture of the UTV to be shared with the Board after the purchase is made.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked when the UTV will be delivered.

Captain Leising stated if approved, all paperwork will then be sent to Firehouse Subs and roughly 3 weeks for funds to be deposited in the account to purchase the UTV.

Secretary Sommers asked if the UTV is on hold at the dealership.

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Captain Leising stated no. The dealership receives deliveries every week so as soon as the funds are received, the District can place an order and it should only take a couple of weeks. The hope is to have the UTV operational by summer.

Secretary Sommers asked if the UTV can be used for events and not just off-road use.

Captain Leising stated yes, especially the larger events (Candy Dance, Carson Valley Days, Parade of Lights, etc.). If there is staff coverage, it can be utilized.

Secretary Sommers stated he attended the volunteer meeting and there was discussion that took place regarding assisting with the funding of the additional items needed for the UTV.

Captain Leising stated he reached out to the Volunteer Association, and they generously offered some donations which is greatly appreciated. When the Board approves the grant, he will start working with the Volunteer Association.

Secretary Sommers stated he would like to see something placed on the UTV or trailer thanking the agencies that donated.

Captain Leising stated the District will hold the official press release when Firehouse Subs has their grand opening.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

Volunteer Liaison Elaine Pace stated the VFD Association will be donating \$7,500; Station 2/9 will donate \$1,000; Station 8 will donate \$1,000 and Station 3 will purchase the trailer up to \$5,000. The only request is the UTV be available for Volunteer benefits.

There was no further public comment.

Public comment closed.

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini stated Captain Leising gave a formal presentation a few years ago pursuing the purchase of an UTV. This is the second time the District will receive a Firehouse Subs grant. The first grant was prepared by Battalion Chief Scott Fraser (ret.) for hydraulic extrication equipment. Captain Leising did an amazing job gathering all the information which is a testament to the quality of employees working for the District. The donation offered by the volunteers is an example of the working relationships within the District. One of the pieces that is still in need is the dedicated transport unit that goes along with the UTV, which is important to have for the safety of the patient. He thanked Captain Leising, Firehouse Subs, and the volunteers.

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MOTION to authorize the District Fire Chief to accept the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant in the amount of \$36,926.25 with the sole intention of purchasing a rescue UTV.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Mike Sommers
SECOND BY:	Barbara Griffin
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

7. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to engage the services of Jack Clancy Associates of Sacramento, California, to provide professional services in the recruitment of a Deputy Fire Chief of Operations for the East Fork Fire Protection District at a cost not to exceed \$23,500. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief) 15 minutes.

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini stated the Board made a recommendation at the last meeting to discuss engaging in services for the recruitment of a Deputy Fire Chief of Operations. President John Bellona, Director of Administrative Services Lisa Owen and District Fire Chief Carlini had a meeting discussing this item regarding the recruitment, screening and testing for the Deputy Chief of Operations not to exceed \$23,500. District Fire Chief Carlini and Administrative Services Owen met virtually with Jack Clancy Associates to discuss the level of service they provide. They don't provide the actual recruitment, instead they focus their efforts on the evaluation testing, assessment center, notice management profiling and contacts to inquiry about pushing out the recruitment. They offer a separate headhunter at an additional cost. They do a lot of this work for other agencies and are a reliable company. District Fire Chief Carlini recommended moving forward. This is a time sensitive objective, and the desire is to fill the Deputy Chief of Operations position by June. The District has cycles of testing for various positions, and this agency may be able to assist with the upcoming Captain Testing. The low end of the range was \$17,500 up to \$23,500.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if Jack Clancy Associates would assist with developing the qualifications.

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District Fire Chief Carlini stated they do not. They evaluate the job requirements in the existing application and build a test around those requirements.

Secretary Sommers confirmed they don't get involved in the actual recruitment but have the resources if assistance is needed.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated they offer their network. They don't do formal notifications and mailings.

Secretary Sommers asked if they have any responsibility to find an individual and if that individual is not successful, find another at no charge.

Director of Administrative Services Lisa Owen stated they are not responsible if the chosen candidate is not successful.

Secretary Sommers asked if they are responsible for recruiting, he would like language added to the contract that they are responsible for up to 90 days for free replacement.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated he will have that discussion with them. He believes the District can customize the exam with their assistance, but they would run the process.

Secretary Sommers asked what is included in their agreement.

Director of Administrative Services Owen stated she believes they build the assessment and provide the raters to participate. The first step is to have a meeting to set goals and timelines.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated they have an extensive pool of available raters.

Secretary Sommers asked if this process is something the District can utilize for other recruitments.

Director of Administrative Services Owen stated yes.

President Bellona stated the qualifications need to be a lot stronger than what the Deputy Chief qualifications are now because there is a high probability this Board may choose this Deputy Chief as the next Fire Chief.

Secretary Sommers stated the District is the one setting the qualifications.

President Bellona stated it needs to be kept in mind that while the District is hiring a Deputy Chief, the Deputy Chief may end up becoming the future Fire Chief.

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Secretary Sommers stated that is something the Board needs to follow.

Secretary Sommers confirmed if there is an internal interest that meets the qualifications, they will be able to be included in the assessment.

Director of Administrative Services Owen stated absolutely.

Director Barbara Griffin stated she has concerns about this process. She is fine with using the company but feels the District is putting the wrong advertisement out. If the District advertises for a Deputy Chief and the individual comes on in June and then immediately the District advertises for the District Fire Chief position, she doesn't understand how the District can evaluate a Deputy Chief arriving sometime in June and advertising for the District Fire Chief position during that same time with the thought the new Deputy Chief might be moved up into the Chief position. The Fire Chief will need to evaluate and train a Deputy Chief and then the process of selecting the District Fire Chief will also be taking place. She would like at least 2 months of an overlap with District Fire Chief Carlini and the selected District Fire Chief. The two individuals hired will need to give notice to their previous employers, so there will be two key top positions on probation at the same time. She would like to start with the District Fire Chief position and let the selected Fire Chief be involved in selecting the Deputy Chief. She expressed her concerns regarding the order of who to advertise and hire first.

President Bellona described it as a house of cards. The job description should mirror what the Board is looking for in a Fire Chief. He doesn't disagree with Director Griffin. He hopes a list is created (like a captain, firefighter, etc. list) and knows who the next candidate will be. Go into it looking at it as hiring a Fire Chief for the Deputy Chief position. He asked Director Griffin if that makes sense.

Director Griffin stated it does not make sense. She stated it bothers her even more because she feels the Board is micromanaging. The Board's role is not to hire the Deputy Chiefs. It is the District Fire Chief that hires the Deputy Chiefs. She feels it is camouflaging the Deputy Chief recruitment but really looking for the District Fire Chief. She is concerned about micromanaging. There may be qualified individuals that won't apply because they don't want to go backward in their career, applying for a Deputy Chief position hoping to move into a Fire Chief position. She feels the wrong position is being put forward first.

President Bellona asked District Fire Chief Carlini how long he would like to work with his replacement.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated anywhere from 60-90 days. He stated there will be a financial implication that needs to be kept in mind. The most important position is the Deputy Chief of Operations, not the Fire Chief. He

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thinks Deputy Chief Scott Gorgon would be a good mentor and tutor for this position to work under for a period. He appreciates Director Griffin's concerns. He looks at it as an opportunity to have time to work with the individual. He feels the Operations Division is very important and it's important to not have a lapse of a Deputy Chief of Operations. The District has many good people and needs to keep the organization moving forward. Having someone in the Operations Division is the most important piece.

Director Griffin stated she feels this sends a message to the current staff that the District is not considering them for the position. She feels the District should start with the recruitment of the District Fire Chief. She believes Deputy Chief Gorgon is willing to stay and help with the transition. If the District is looking for a Fire Chief, then they should do that, and if it is for a Deputy Chief then that's what it should be but not the way this is being perceived.

Secretary Sommers stated it depends on how it is advertised. The District may be looking for someone that may potentially be the District Fire Chief but that individual may not apply for this position if he/she thinks applying for the Deputy Chief versus someone who would only apply for the District Fire Chief position. He respects District Fire Chief Carlini for wanting to keep the Operational Division intact. A decision needs to be made but whatever way the Board decides to go, there will be a shortfall.

Director Griffin doesn't feel the Deputy Chief of Operations will be employed long enough to determine whether the Board will want to move that individual into a District Fire Chief position. The District will need to advertise the District Fire Chief position in June or July.

Secretary Sommers stated he would not look at filling the Deputy Chief position as a step to the District Fire Chief. He would look at it as only filling the Deputy Chief position.

Director Griffin stated President Bellona is requesting to work on a recruitment geared to both positions.

President Bellona stated following the fire service pyramids, normally it is a Deputy Chief that moves into a District Fire Chief position. Normally, the Deputy Chief becomes Fire Chief if there is a Deputy Chief qualified to perform that position.

Secretary Sommers clarified what he believes is being said which is, the District looks for a Deputy Chief, but when hiring at that level, is also looking at whether there is potential for that individual to move into the District Fire Chief position.

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Director Griffin stated she agrees, but a Deputy Chief can't be hired in June and then in July determine whether they will be moved to the District Fire Chief position.

President Bellona stated that is not what is being done. They would be hired as a Deputy Chief.

Director Griffin stated but then the District will need to recruit a District Fire Chief.

President Bellona stated yes, and that individual may apply for it.

Secretary Sommers stated the individual should not be disqualified from applying for the District Fire Chief position because they accepted the Deputy Chief position. But that doesn't mean the District is looking for a District Fire Chief in the Deputy Chief position.

Director Griffin asked if the thought is that someone would apply for the Deputy Chief position and then turn around a month later and apply for the District Fire Chief position.

Secretary Sommers stated personally, if he thought he was qualified, he would.

President Bellona stated especially with the rumors out that the District Fire Chief is retiring, people look at it as a safe steppingstone. If the individual fails as District Fire Chief, they can always go backwards.

Director Bernard Curtis stated fire responders are an uncomfortable business. They bring order in a situation and eventually get worked out. The Board will adapt and overcome during the process and there will be similar discussion later.

Director Griffin stated the District Fire Chief hires the Deputy Chief.

Secretary Sommers stated District Fire Chief Carlini has come to the Board with this process of hiring a Deputy Chief.

President Bellona stated the Board would need to go through the same process to hire a District Fire Chief.

Director Jacques Etchegoyhen stated these are two different processes. The first one is the Deputy Chief, which is what this is for.

Secretary Sommers stated the Board needs to get this process done right before moving on to the process for the District Fire Chief.

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President Bellona stated he agrees with Secretary Sommers. He feels this is a test process for the District Fire Chief. The process for both Deputy and District Chief will be taking place before wildland season is over. Fortunately, a lot of the process will be addressed by a company that doesn't worry about fire season. He has been involved one time in using an outside company and it worked well.

Director Griffin asked Director of Administrative Services Lisa Owen if she will be doing the recruitment.

Director of Administrative Services Owen stated she will be doing the recruitment for Deputy Chief.

Director Griffin asked if Director of Administrative Services Owen will put together the qualifications and requirements.

Director of Administrative Services Owen stated the qualifications were already established in the job description which was approved by the Board.

Director Griffin confirmed with District Fire Chief Carlini that the best-case scenario, the position would be filled by June.

District Fire Chief Carini stated that would be the objective.

Secretary Sommers confirmed the Deputy Chief of Operations has a one-year probationary period.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated yes.

Director Curtis stated he feels the Board should move ahead.

Director Griffin asked if the District has in place a policy that if on probation, you can't apply for another position.

Director of Administrative Services Owen stated that does not apply to the District.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve to engage the services of Jack Clancy Associates of Sacramento, California, in assisting the District in establishing an assessment lab for the position of Deputy Fire Chief of Operations.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Mike Sommers
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	Barbara Griffin
ABSENT:	

8. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to apply for Assistance To Firefighter- 2024 Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$700,000 with a required 10% match for the purpose of acquiring a Type II Urban Interface Fire Apparatus, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to sign and execute all necessary application documents. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief) 10 minutes.

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini stated it's that time of the year again for the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) application. The request is to give permission to the District to apply for the AFG. If the District is successful in obtaining the grant, there will be a \$70,000 match, which will be placed in next year's budget. The requested piece of equipment is generated from the recommendation of the Internal Committee that has been reviewing the District apparatus needs. Fire apparatus equipment is one of the more difficult grants to obtain but the District has been successful in the past. In 2016 Deputy Chief Steve Eisele (ret.) was successful in obtaining a Model 34 Type 3 interface engine. This request is similar, and the District is designating it as a Type 2 for various reasons. He thanked Engineer Adam Wennhold and Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Grimm for their hard work and assistance. This grant is typically awarded in the fall. The recommendation is for the Board to approve the District to apply for this grant.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

Engineer Wennhold thanked District Fire Chief Carlini for allowing the Association to use the IFF grant writing office to help work on the narratives for this grant.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if the IFF guarantees a grant.

Engineer Wennhold stated no, but the assistance helps everyone.

Secretary Sommers asked when the application is due.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated it is due March 17, 2024.

MOTION to approve to apply for Assistance To Firefighters 2024 Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$700,000 with a required 10% match for the purpose of

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acquiring a Type II Urban Interface Fire Apparatus, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to sign and execute all necessary application documents.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Jacques Etchegoyhen
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

Following item #8, Holly Megee, Board Clerk asked if agenda item #15 could be heard next.

Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg explained there is someone in the audience who would like to comment on agenda item #15 but needs to leave the meeting before that item is heard. He stated it is the discretion of the Board.

President John Bellona stated agenda item #15 will be moved to be heard next.

Legal Counsel Forsberg requested President Bellona not move agenda item #15, in the case an individual is expecting that item will be heard later in the meeting.

Secretary Mike Sommers suggested opening the item to allow Genoa Town Manager Jody Brunz to speak and then continue the meeting in the already established order.

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated it is at the Board's discretion. He does not encourage the Board to do this on a regular basis, but if the Board wanted to allow someone to speak at this point, then take the item in the normal agenda order it would be acceptable.

President John Bellona asked Genoa Town Manager Jody Brunz if she wanted to comment on item #15 since she was not going to be able to stay to comment when the item is heard.

Genoa Town Manager Jody Brunz stated she is available to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the Town of Genoa Hazardous Tree and Vegetation Management Grant in the amount of \$215,000, as part of a transfer of subgrantee responsibilities and pending approvals from the Town of Genoa and Douglas County. This is a grant the Town of Genoa was awarded by the Nevada Division of Forestry. The Town of Genoa planned on seeking competitive bids when they learned about the Fuels Crew situation. Ms. Brunz and District Fire Chief Tod Carlini spoke about switching the subgrantee award from the Town of Genoa to East Fork Fire Protection District. East Fork Fire would administer the grant and follow the grant as written.

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Secretary Mike Sommers asked why the background information indicates the grant will be managed by Douglas County.

Genoa Town Manager Jody Brunz stated the Town of Genoa falls under Douglas County and they manage all the grants.

Secretary Sommers asked if Douglas County needs to approve this.

Genoa Town Manager Brunz stated after the approval of the East Fork Fire Board, the next step is going before the Internal Review Committee (IRC) and then possibly the Douglas County Board of Commission.

President John Bellona asked if there were any additional questions.

President Bellona asked if the Town of Genoa is happy with this decision.

Genoa Town Manager Brunz stated the Town, and the Town of Genoa Board are very happy. It was approved unanimously at the last Town of Genoa Board meeting to make this change. She stated it is a “win-win” for all involved.

The meeting continued in the posted agenda order.

9. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action regarding the proposed tax rate for the fiscal year 2024-2025. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief) 20 minutes.

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini stated this item requires Board action and a requirement under taxation to establish or declare the tax rate. There are three options per Nevada Statute.

The Board has three (3) options to consider:

- Lower the property tax rate (not recommended)
- Maintain the current property tax rate (the option the Board has gone with over the past eight years)
- Propose an increase in the property tax rate (this requires a process. The Chairman of the County Commission would be required to meet with all effected governing bodies and try to determine a tax rate that can be assessed that would not be more than allowed by law (\$3.66). In other words, one or more of the other governing bodies would have to give up a portion of their tax rate)
- If a unanimous decision can't be reached, the Nevada Tax Commission will determine the individual tax rates for the fiscal year. The Nevada Tax Commission will make the final determination. This is truly a “roll the dice” moment

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District Fire Chief Carlini stated the recommendation is to maintain the current tax rate. The decision regarding the tax rate will need to be sent to the Department of Taxation by tomorrow, Wednesday, February 21, 2024.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

Secretary Mike Sommers stated last year Kathy Lewis presented this to the Board and she provided a schedule that included all the agencies and their tax rates. He believes one of the agencies was the Topaz (Ranch Estates) GID which petitioned the County for the Topaz (Ranch Estates) GID to be dissolved into the County. He asked if the District could go after their tax rate instead of the County assuming their tax rate.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated that is a very good question. He believes if that were to happen, it would allow for some juggling of rates. He is not familiar with how that process takes place when there is a dissolution of a District and what happens with that rate. He explained when the District dissolved the Paramedic District, the rate was absorbed into the Fire District. He believes there would be some absorption of that rate mixed into the general operations for Douglas County to allow the County to maintain what is needed to be maintained. The Topaz (Ranch Estates) GID also runs a utility so the water utility may run into Douglas County utilities. The roads are most challenging in TRE. Not sure if there would be any tax rate available but it is something to be monitored.

Secretary Sommers stated if the District doesn't act on it this year, it would be lost in next year's rates.

Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg stated the District would still have the same opportunity next year to seek an adjustment of the District's part of the tax rate.

Secretary Sommers believes it is easier to find it in the first year than the second year.

Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg stated from his observations, TRE is badly underfunded. If the County decides to take them in, it will be a greater expense for the County.

Secretary Sommers confirmed that TRE has not dissolved as of now.

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated that is correct.

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Secretary Sommers stated the District should wait until next year to see if TRE dissolves.

President Bellona stated he believes eventually, the District needs to go to the County and ask for the tax rate back that was taken from the District years ago. Other districts got their tax rate back, but East Fork Fire Protection District never got their rate back. He believes it to be very unethical and believes it needs to be taken to the tax authority.

Director Bernard Curtis stated on record that the rate is .4874.

MOTION to set the tax rate this year as the same as last year and reinvestigate the ability to raise the tax rate next year.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Mike Sommers
SECOND BY:	Barbara Griffin
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

10. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to award a contract to Siddons Martin of Sparks, Nevada for the purchase of one (1) Pierce Enforcer PUC Type I Fire Apparatus at a total cost not to exceed \$981,320, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute all necessary documents. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief) 15 minutes.

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini stated the requested purchase is the type of unit the District has purchased in the past and has proven to be a good piece of equipment. If approved to move forward, this purchase would result in a total of four Pierce Enforcer PUC Type I Fire Apparatus the District would own. This request is a recommendation from the Internal Committee. The total cost of the apparatus has gone up. The total combined cost for the three previous Pierce Enforcer PUC Type I Fire Apparatus is close to the cost for one in today's market. The estimated timeframe to receive the apparatus is four years. Siddons Martin is selling the apparatus to the District at 2% less. The District will still have an opportunity to purchase something off the line if it is close to what the District is looking to purchase, and Siddons Martin would then purchase the item the District ordered. The demand is outpacing the supply that is one of the reasons it is taking so long to receive this piece of equipment. The recommendation is to award a contract to move ahead with the purchase.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked what the specifications are and if it is a diesel.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated the specifications are as close to the existing units with some modifications being recommended by staff.

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Secretary Sommers asked if this order will be a specific request or a floor model.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated this will be a specific customized request.

Director Bernard Curtis stated the apparatus is expensive.

Director Jacques Etchegoyhen stated with the four-year time frame to receive the apparatus, he feels the District should move ahead with the order. He does not feel the supply chain issues will be over anytime soon and may get worse.

Secretary Sommers asked how much money the District needs to provide as a down payment.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated no down payment is required. There are a couple prepayment options.

Secretary Sommers confirmed the District will not need to use any capital layout. He stated hopefully the cost of the increase in the next four years will be what the amortized value of what the investment will be.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated he did talk to Marty Johnson about the expectation of the bond funds. He explained the expectancy is that the agency will use the funds within 36 months. The District has other items funds will be spent on within the 36 months. He verified the District will not be out of compliance that would impact the issuance of the bond.

Secretary Sommers asked if this requires an open bid process.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated no, under sole source provisions. This apparatus is like an existing piece of apparatus and an emergency piece of equipment.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

Executive Program Manager Tom Hein stated the current Pierce apparatus will be at over 100,000 miles in the next 4 years. 15,000 miles a year are put on those pieces of apparatus.

There was no further public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to award a contract to Siddons Martin of Sparks, Nevada for the purchase of one (1) Pierce Enforcer PUC Type I Fire Apparatus at a total cost not exceeding \$981,320, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute all necessary documents.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Jacques Etchegoyhen
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

11. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to award a contract to Fire Vent LLC of Carson City, Nevada, for the purchase of one (1) Fire Vent Stationary Unit, Standard Model (24ft x 12ft platform) at a total cost not to exceed \$67,770, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute all necessary documents. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief) 15 minutes.

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini stated this item is a necessary feature that will be needed for the training prop. There is an 8–9-month timeframe to receive the item. This item will be covered in next year’s budget. Because of the timeframe to receive the item, it’s important to place an order. This company is the true sole source provider for this device. The District applied for a grant for a mobile unit but was unsuccessful. A stationary unit is less expensive and will work for the training facility. The manufacturer provided a local discount on the unit. The recommendation is to approve the request.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if this unit is permanently attached.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated it is permanently attached to the ground.

Secretary Sommers asked if this was part of the overall budget for the project.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated it was budgeted in phase three of the project.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no further public comment.

Public comment closed.

Secretary Sommers asked if the training prop will be available to the volunteers.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated currently the volunteers are not assisting with structural firefighting.

Secretary Sommers stated he understands the volunteers do not assist with structural firefighting currently, but it could be something they could train on.

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President Bellona stated the training prop will be available for law enforcement to train.

MOTION to award a contract to Fire Vent LLC of Carson City, Nevada, for the purchase of one (1) Fire Vent Stationary Unit, Standard Model (24ft x 12ft platform) at a total cost not to exceed \$67,770, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute all necessary documents.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Jacques Etchegoyhen
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

12. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to award a contract to Hi Tech Fire Equipment of Oakdale, California, for the refurbishing of one (1) 2022 Type 3 M-34 Engine Body onto an existing 2006 International 4x4 heavy truck diesel chassis owned by the District at a total cost not to exceed \$388,500, under the provisions of NRS 332.115, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute all necessary documents. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief) 15 minutes.

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini stated this item is for a second retrofit Model 34 engine to an existing chassis. The District will soon be getting back the first one that was funded in part from ARPA funds. The cost for that one was \$350,000 and with prices rising, the cost now is \$388,500. Hi Tech Fire Equipment did an amazing job. The unit is designated for Station 4. There are about 20,000 miles on the chassis. A new unit would be \$654,000. Hi Tech Fire, is sole source. The recommendation is for approval. The time frame is 9-10 months.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no further public comment.

Public comment closed.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked what types of calls this apparatus will respond to.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated primary for wildland interface.

MOTION to award a contract to Hi Tech Fire Equipment of Oakdale, California, for the refurbishing of one (1) 2022 Type 3 M-34 Engine Body onto an existing 2006 International 4x4 heavy truck diesel chassis owned by the District at a

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total cost not to exceed \$388,500, under the provisions of NRS 332.115, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute all necessary documents.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Barbara Griffin
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

13. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to amend individual employment contracts as to format and content for the Director and Executive Program Manager positions within the East Fork Fire Protection District. (Lisa Owen, Director of Administrative Services) 10 minutes.

President John Bellona asked Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg if the next two items can be discussed and voted on together because they are similar in nature.

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated the items can be discussed together but they need to be voted on separately.

President Bellona read into record agenda item #14.

Director of Administrative Services Lisa Owen stated she will discuss both contracts. All the changes and comments will apply to both contracts being discussed. The contracts were originally approved by the Board in August 2022. With new positions, new employees, and department changes, it was important to review the contracts. A redline of the changes was included as backup.

Director of Administrative Services Owen highlighted the changes to Director, Executive Program Manager and Deputy Fire Chief positions:

- Updated the holidays from 11 to 12, to include the Juneteenth holiday
- Modified to eliminate “without cause dismissals”
- “Without cause” will remain in the contract for probationary period
- Removed the language giving the ability to receive severance pay while on probation

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

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Secretary Mike Sommers asked why violation of District policies and procedures is not included in item F (Termination and Severance).

Director of Administrative Services Owen stated it is included further down in F.

Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg stated it is four lines up from the bottom of the page.

Secretary Sommers confirmed it is necessary to have “willful” included.

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated it wouldn’t allow to terminate someone if they accidentally did something one time that violated the policy.

Secretary Sommers stated the violation is at the discretion of the Chief. He was asking why it had to be “willful and continuous”.

Director of Administrative Services Owen stated she added the ability for the employee to appeal when they believe there is a wrongful termination. If an employee was terminated because they accidentally violated a policy, they could make a request to the Board and explain why they feel they were wrongly terminated.

MOTION to amend individual employment contracts as to format and content for the Director and Executive Program Manager positions within the East Fork Fire Protection District.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Jacques Etchegoyhen
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

14. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to amend individual employment contracts as to format and content for the Deputy Fire Chief position within the East Fork Fire Protection District. (Lisa Owen, Director of Administration) 10 minutes.

MOTION to amend individual employment contracts as to format and content for the Deputy Fire Chief position within the East Fork Fire Protection District.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Barbara Griffin
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

15. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to become the Subgrantee of the Town of Genoa Hazardous Tree and Vegetation Management Grant in the amount of \$215,000 and as part of a transfer of subgrantee responsibilities and pending approvals from the Town of Genoa and Douglas County. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief) 15 minutes.

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini stated Executive Program Manager Tom Hein has been working on this grant so he will be discussing this agenda item.

Executive Program Manager Hein read the following:

The East Fork Fire Protection District administration is recommending the acceptance of Subgrantee designation from the Town of Genoa and Douglas County. The Genoa Town Board has approved the transfer. Douglas County will also need to approve the transfer and they are moving in that direction. The Town of Genoa was awarded a Hazardous Trees and Fuels Management Grant by the Nevada Division of Forestry. The grant will be managed by Douglas County. The project will focus on at least 208 acres in Genoa and the Genoa Recreational path. Defensible space inspections and mitigation prescriptions will be conducted on 200 private lots. The Nevada Division of Forestry will provide the necessary prescription oversight and recommendations. Douglas County, if approved at all levels, will manage the grant. The East Fork Fire Protection District Fire and Fuels crew is well suited to conduct the actual vegetation management, while our volunteer forces are trained and able to conduct the required defensible space inspections.

Executive Program Manager Hein explained this grant came about at the right time for the District. This is a “win-win” for the District and Town of Genoa. The District has been researching work for the fuels crew and the Town of Genoa has the work. Initially, the District would need to go through a bid process if the Town of Genoa/Douglas County managed the grant, but during meetings it was determined the District would act as the subgrantee. The District is currently a subgrantee for the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Sheridan project. It is unknown if Douglas County acts as the middleman or if the District would work directly with NDF. There is enough work to keep the fuels crew busy for three months. The desire is for the Board to approve. This would benefit the District and the Town of Genoa. He stated a key part is the volunteers can perform the defensible space inspections. Twenty volunteers were trained last year to do the Sheridan defensible space inspections.

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President John Bellona opened public comment.

Volunteer Liaison Elaine Pace stated this was discussed at the last Volunteer Association meeting. The volunteers are ready to assist with defensible space inspections. She stated there are roughly 200 inspections that need to be completed. The desire is to hold another defensible space training.

There was no further public comment.

Public comment closed.

Director Jacques Etchegoyhen stated it is excellent for the District to work with the Town of Genoa and Douglas County. This kind of work ahead of time is critical and effective.

Director Bernard Curtis stated he agrees with Director Etchegoyhen. He is in favor of a working relationship with the Town of Genoa.

President Bellona asked how many months this project will take.

Executive Program Manager Hein stated this is a 3-year grant in the amount of \$215,000. After calculating the cost of personnel and use of equipment it was determined the project would last roughly three months. The cost was based on a 6-person crew. The fuels crew has gone down from a 6-person crew to a 4-person crew.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if this project requires a Fire Management Officer (FMO) for sign offs.

Executive Program Manager Hein stated no. He explained this is a Forest Service grant passed through the Nevada Division of Forestry, and East Fork Fire would be the subgrantee.

MOTION to approve to become the Subgrantee of the Town of Genoa Hazardous Tree and Vegetation Management Grant in the amount of \$215,000 and as part of a transfer of subgrantee responsibilities and pending approvals from the Town of Genoa and Douglas County.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Jacques Etchegoyhen
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

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16. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action/direction regarding the disposition of the relationship between NV Energy and the East Fork Fire Protection District. (Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief) 30 minutes.

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini stated he, and Executive Program Manager Tom Hein will be discussing this item.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated included in the packet is detailed information about where the District stands today. The District is at a crossroads with NV Energy. There has been a high level of scrutiny from the Public Utilities Commission over the entire program that the District has been involved in over the past 2 ½ years. The situation today is that there is still a NV Energy desire to enter into a contract with the District. If the District enters into a contract with NV Energy, the District will not have the means to meet the obligations of the contract because without project work, the District is not able to fund the Fuels Crew. There are still things within the contract that do require labor. The District operated under two extensions of the original contract. The last extended contract expired in January. The desire of NV Energy was to develop one standardized contract. Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg reviewed the contract a few times and the result included a standardized contract for all the entities. The Board approved that contract only to encounter additional delays by NV Energy, in terms of entering into a contract, additional changes they wanted to make, and they wanted the District to bid on specific work they gave the District which ended up in a competitive environment for the work. The District had a week to send in estimates for the work and after several delays on NV Energy's part, the District was notified by email the District would not be offered project work or be offered a pilot program. The explanation received from a secondhand person at NV Energy was the District was underbid by private contractors. Some agencies received contracts and others received pilot projects.

There is a Public Utilities Commission meeting taking place in March, where NV Energy is attempting to recover \$25,000,000. The future of the program will be vested if NV Energy can recover some of those costs, which is through a recovery process meaning money is spent first and then collected. There has been concern about the amount funded from the casino industry in Las Vegas. He feels this has been a good program and certainly a need for the program. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated he will turn the discussion over to Executive Program Manager Hein to give additional insight on what projects the District has been bidding on. He thanked the Fuels Crew for all their hard work, involvement in two large wildland fires and their noticeable high transmission line work in the Pinenuts. There have been five individuals who have made or are making their way into the career ranks which was a District goal and objective of the program. One objective in the balance is for the District to have

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a Fire and Fuels Crew that is funded through grants and the Fire District. The District continues to look for work for four dedicated individuals wanting to stay with the District and still see a future at East Fork Fire. There will be costs that will be incurred and the District will try to find money in the budget and Deputy Chief Amy Ray will be applying for a few grants. The recommendation is to dissolve the relationship with NV Energy.

Executive Program Manager Hein stated the first three years of the program were successful. It's hard for him to understand the new contract offer. There are only four fuel crew members still employed by the District. He and District Fire Chief Carlini continue to try to find fuels crew work to keep the four individuals working. He feels the District should not sign the contract. There were certain things the District was willing to compromise on, but he does not see the benefit in the contract.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

Director Jacques Etchegoyhen appreciates the effort of staff and creativity in trying to keep a program that was successful. He hopes there will be more grants. The District can't operate without knowing if there will be work. He stated the District is not in the greatest place but in a better place because of the staff's hard work. The work done before a fire is critical.

Director Bernard Curtis is ashamed of the way the relationship with NV Energy has changed. He feels this is not a personal decision but a business decision. He asked if there has been a thought of contacting other counties to see if they're interested in utilizing the District's Fuels Crew.

Executive Program Manager Hein stated the District has not reached out to other Counties. But most counties have their own Fuels Crew.

Secretary Mike Sommers stated he would like to keep the NV Energy relationship open. Things can change and it's important to keep open communication. He asked District Fire Chief Carlini if NV Energy has come back requesting changes to the contract.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated yes.

Secretary Sommers asked Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg if the District can go back to NV Energy and suggest the District's recommendations and changes, they would like made to the contract. He would like to know if there is a provision in the contract for bidding projects if/when personnel are available, allowing the contract to stay open. If the District doesn't have the personnel,

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then the District does not bid on the job. This would keep the contract and communications with NV Energy open.

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated his understanding of the contract status is, the District sent NV Energy a contract that was signed by the District, but NV Energy did not sign the contract. Therefore, there is not a contract.

Secretary Sommers suggested providing provisions within the contract and resubmitting. NV Energy came back to the District and asked for changes to be made in relationship to rates.

Legal Counsel Forsberg explained the District worked hard to remove things from the contract that were unnecessary and for the most part NV Energy rejected the removal requests. He feels the District has done everything to present NV Energy with a contract. The District can ask for changes, but he doesn't feel it will be acceptable to NV Energy.

Secretary Sommers asked if something could be added stating that the District will accept large projects, if personnel are available.

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated a message can be sent but it would no longer be a contract.

Secretary Sommers stated then maybe at the end of the day, there is not a contract but if the District does want to keep a relationship is this a negotiable item that can be asked for.

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated the District hasn't burnt any bridges. The District can move forward with NV Energy if funding becomes available.

Secretary Sommers stated if work is coming into the District and personnel available then the District can accept the work if NV Energy approaches the District with work. Does the District have standards if subs come into the District's jurisdiction?

President Bellona stated if there is a fire incident, the District needs to bill the responsible party. The bigger concern is the State of Nevada no longer uses inmate crews. Douglas County does not have inmate crew resources available. Eventually the fuels program needs to support itself.

There was further discussion.

President Bellona stated it was NV Energy decision to make the changes and not fund the program.

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Secretary Sommers stated he doesn't feel Kevin Lawson knows how to manage a project and the liability if the subs don't have an FMO. The District is here for NV Energy and here to protect the District.

Executive Program Manager Hein stated Carson City Fire tried to make changes to their contract and NV Energy would not change their contract.

Secretary Sommers stated he believes Carson City is requiring the subs that work in their area to have business licenses, be qualified and if there is an incident they will bill NV Energy.

President Bellona stated the smart way to respond to this is to follow Elko and Carson City.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated he spent hours to come up with the best standardized contract. He does not feel NV Energy is interested in making changes to the contract, other than lower rates.

District Fire Chief Carlini pointed out the added value all the crews provided, including but not limited to; shovel snow, warming centers, PSOMS, supported red flag days, etc. He doubts NV Energy will make any changes to the contract. He believes NV Energy is trying to demonstrate to the Public Utilities Commission they are making all efforts to control costs and manage the program as it should be managed.

Director Curtis stated he believes Storey and Lyon Fire will end up in the position as East Fork Fire.

Executive Program Manager Hein stated they are having issues with losing some of their Fuels Crew members. It's hard to keep crew members. The District let their Fuels Crew drop because of the uncertainty.

Kevin May, East Fork Professional Firefighters President stated one of the reasons the District has retained some of the Fuels Crew members is because they are union members. The issue is the District will soon not have a qualified Engine Boss. The District needs to tread lightly on contracts until someone is in that position. It is a NWCC position. The relationship with NV Energy started out great but ended up being a hassle. He does not believe it is worth it if NV Energy is not willing to bend on the District's contractual needs. He thinks what District Fire Chief Carlini and Executive Program Manager Hein are doing in pursuing grants is the way to go. He feels if the District can cut ties with NV Energy, he would do so immediately.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no further public comment.

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Public comment closed.

President Bellona stated the Board needs to give District Fire Chief Carlini direction. He feels NV Energy will need the District more than the District needs them.

Secretary Sommers asked President Bellona what the District should do about the contract.

President Bellona stated the District should send NV Energy a letter stating the District will not sign the contract and these are the requirements for your crews to operate in the District's jurisdiction. They need to meet NWCG, State of Nevada and any other Federal standards, as well as labor laws.

Director Griffin suggested that information be included in the letter sent to NV Energy. She feels NV Energy will be back. She would like the letter sent to be a positive letter.

President Bellona agrees. He believes there are casino executives in Las Vegas that would be happy to cut some ties with Northern Nevada.

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated the motion needs to include direction.

There was discussion on what to include in the motion.

Director Griffin confirmed there is a contract out there with NV Energy.

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated that is a concern of his because if it's out there, they can sign it.

Secretary Sommers stated he would like to start the letter off with "in response to your request for returning the contract, to amend the contract as previously submitted, would be available to provide that with the understanding and adoption of our amendments requesting"

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated to clarify, the District is willing to provide you with the information you requested as part of a negotiation in terms of agreement.

Secretary Sommers stated, and if not, NV Energy will need to meet the standards as stated.

Director Griffin stated she feels the contract out there needs to be cleaned up.

Secretary Sommers stated it is more than likely NV Energy will say no, which will allow the District to notice the requirements when work is done within the District.

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President Bellona stated NV Energy would need someone to write a script under our requirements.

District Fire Chief Carlini stated he understands the direction is to send a letter that rescinds the original offering with the contract, keep the door open for the future, if interested in renegotiating a contract, and in the meantime if work is performed NV Energy will need to meet the criteria.

MOTION to send NV Energy a letter that rescinds the original offering with the contract, keep the door open for the future, if interested in renegotiating a contract, and in the meantime, if work is performed NV Energy will need to meet the criteria.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Mike Sommers
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini asked Legal Counsel Forsberg if he can send the draft letter, he prepares for NV Energy, to the Board to solicit their input.

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated yes. This would not be to change the terms of what the motion is, but would be to ensure the letter was executed as to what the motion was. The motion was important because the recommendation is to withdraw the contract between East Fork Fire Protection District and NV Energy.

President Bellona stated the agenda shows item #17 for possible action, but it is for presentation only, no motion will be taken.

17. For Presentation Only. Reports/updates from East Fork Professional Firefighters Association concerning the various assignments and committees they may be a member of a liaison to, and meetings/functions they have attended. No action will be taken on these reports/updates. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

Association President Kevin May noted:

- There are a few changes on E Board. Labor management has not met since the changes to the E Board.
- A few new hires recently started
- Academy will soon be starting
- A couple of Fuels Crew members transitioned to the line and will be attending the Academy

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- Noted a few changes/additions to the Fire Academy. The Fire Academy has been extended to 16 weeks.
- Honored to be selected Regional Training Officer (RTO)

18. For Presentation Only. Reports/updates from East Fork Volunteer Firefighters Association concerning the various assignments and committees they may be a member of a liaison to, and meetings/functions they have attended. No action will be taken on these reports/updates. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

Volunteer Liaison Elaine Pace noted:

- 7 volunteers reached their 5-year anniversary
- Election held last Monday. Officers stayed the same
- The Elks donated 35 padded chairs to Station 2
- Invited the Board to the Volunteer annual dinner meeting

19. For Presentation Only. Reports/updates from District Board Members and Administration concerning the various assignments and committees they may be a member of a liaison to, and meetings/functions they have attended. No action will be taken on these reports/updates. (John Bellona, President) 10 minutes.

Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg noted:

- No report

Executive Manager Tom Hein noted:

- Working on Fuels Crew projects
- Roofers will be out to evaluate roof leaks
- Working on vehicle fleet

CFO/Director of Finance Julie Andress noted:

- Thanked the Board for the opportunity
- Will be a fun and exciting challenge

Director of Administrative Services Lisa Owen noted:

- Prepping for the Captain's test taking place in May
- Congratulated Julie Andress
- Participated in the Acting Engineer assessment
- Went over the benefits with the new three laterals and four firefighters

Director Barbara Griffin stated she understands two of the four firefighters came over from the Fuels Crew. She asked if the other two firefighters were hired from the established list.

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Director of Administrative Services Owen stated yes. She will be sending out a biograph on Dylan Van Dyk and Jace Keema. The two Fuels Crew individuals moving to the line are Jesse Fry and Logan Smith.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if all four firefighters will be going through the Academy.

Director of Administrative Services Owen stated yes. The three laterals (Joe Almeida, Paul Tschirhart and Ty Tremaine) all started on February 10th.

Deputy Chief Larry Goss stated Justin Tenney, Cameron Van Ness, Steven Milich and Gerald Campbell all successfully completed their Acting Engineer assessment.

Inspector Patrick Mooneyhan on behalf of Deputy Chief Amy Ray noted:

- The County had their first reading on Title 20. The second reading will take place on March 21st.
- Gave an update on the following projects (UPS warehouse, Valage Senior Living, Carson Valley Medical Center expansion, Vet Hospital, Firehouse Sub Center, and Great Basin Brewery)
- Staying busy with plan reviews

Director Griffin asked how big the center is where Firehouse Subs is going.

Inspector Mooneyhan stated there are three buildings, all less than 5,000 square feet, like a strip mall.

Director Griffin asked if Greg Lynn is still a contractor.

President John Bellona stated he still does small jobs and builds cabinets.

Deputy Chief Larry Goss noted:

- The 3 laterals are on their final week of training
- The 4 new hires started today and will be starting the academy next Monday
- Just finished the Acting Engineer assessment center

Deputy Chief Scott Gorgon noted:

- No report

Secretary Mike Sommers noted:

- No report

Director Bernard Curtis noted:

- He has received many complaints about the location of the sand for sandbags. He refers them to Douglas County

**EAST FORK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

Elaine Pace stated she has recently sent Kara Easton, Douglas County Emergency Manager an email but has not received a reply.

Secretary Sommers suggested placing a sign including the contact information for the individual who can provide information regarding sandbag locations.

Elaine Pace stated she has a LEPC meeting next week and will ask Kara Easton when she sees her.

President John Bellona noted:

- Firefighter Appreciation dinner will take place in April
- Will be having surgery but should be able to attend the next meeting

Director Barbara Griffin noted:

- Congratulated Julie Andress
- There are 3 Board seats opening. Filing period starts March 4, 2024, through March 15, 2024
- Wished President John Bellona a happy birthday
- Invited everyone to stay for cake

Director Griffin asked Board Clerk Holly Megee if new district maps with detailed street names were made.

Board Clerk Megee stated she did have maps made and will send them to each Board member.

Director Jacques Etchegoyhen noted:

- No report

District Fire Chief Tod Carlini noted:

- Congratulated Julie Andress
- Preparing the budget is the focus
- Received the preliminary estimates on revenue from the Department of Taxation. Waiting to get the final revenue
- Proud of Kevin May for all his hard work and selection of RTO at the upcoming Academy
- Training prop is moving along. The company has been an exceptional company to work with
- Thanked Inspector Patrick Mooneyhan for his hard work and stepping up
- Town of Genoa will honor Bill Brooks on March 2, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the Genoa Town Office
- Wished President John Bellona a happy birthday

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)

**EAST FORK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD
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President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no closing public comment.

Public comment closed.

ADJOURNMENT

20. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to adjourn the East Fork Fire Protection District Board Meeting. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

MOTION to adjourn; carried.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Mike Sommers
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Griffin, Curtis, Etchegoyhen, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 4:08 PM the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



John Bellona, President
East Fork Fire Protection District

ATTEST:



Holly Megee, Board Clerk
East Fork Fire Protection District