

**A Special Workshop Meeting of the Joint Committee of the  
Twentynine Palms Water District and City of Twentynine Palms  
to Review Matters Related to the Potential Transfer of the  
Twentynine Palms Fire Department to the City**

**Twentynine Palms City Hall  
6136 Adobe Rd, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277**

**January 28, 2008 / 6:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Spear called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those responding to roll call were Mayor Pro Tem Steve Spear and Councilmember Jim Harris and Water District Directors Alan Anthony and Sam Moore. Also in attendance were City Manager Michael Tree, Fire Chief Jim Thompson, General Manager Mike Wright and City Clerk Char Sherwood.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

1. Presentation by San Bernardino County Local Area Formation Commission

Kathleen McDonald, Executive Officer for LAFCO (Local Area Formation Commission) explained to everyone what LAFCO was saying it was an agency created by the state legislature which is responsible for working with the citizens, county, city, special districts on a variety of issues involving sphere of influence.

Ms. McDonald said the City of Twentynine Palms sphere of influence was last determined in 1999. She said the only way to change the boundaries of any of the entities is through the annexation process. She said there was a question regarding the transfer of authority and an increase in taxes if the City were to take over the Fire Department. And she said that there could be no change in taxes unless there is a vote of the people.

Ms. McDonald said there are several ways the Water District can get additional revenues including community facility districts or Mello Roose districts that can be formed for specific areas in the district or the district as a whole. Ms. McDonald said the municipal service reviews for the community were coming up in April.

Ms. McDonald said the responsibility of fire protection in the unincorporated area would remain with the Water District.

2. Discuss Presentation and Task Force Members Questions Related to Potential Transfer of the Twentynine Palms Fire Department to the City

The Task Force Members discussed questions related to potential transfer of the Twentynine Palms Fire Department to the City.

Councilmember Harris said that an agreement should specify that the service must remain the same if it transfers.

Mayor Pro Tem Spears discussed the possible use of public funds with the task force members and staff. He recommended a few options such as exploring formation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), transfer to county fire, the possible relinquishing of fire authority to the City with the contingent on carrying out the contractual agreement that fire services that are provided today will remain at the present cost for the out laying area.

3. Approve Minutes of the Special Workshop Meeting held on December 10, 2007

On a motion made by District Director Anthony, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Spear and carried with a 4-0 voice vote the minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Future Agenda Items and Direction to the Staffs of the Water District and City

Councilmember Spear requested the four options be brought back for future discussion regarding the potential transfer of the Twentynine Palms Fire Department to the City:

1. Stay the same.
2. Formation of a JPA.
3. Transfer to county fire.
4. Explore relinquishing of Fire Department to City with the caveat that it stay the same.

5. Comments from Task Force Members

The consensus of the Task Force was to meet again on March 10, 2008 at the Lear Avenue Fire Station.

Mayor Pro Tem Spear adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Palmer, Deputy City Clerk