

**MINUTES OF 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 Water District  
72401 Hatch Road, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277**

**November 24, 2008**

Call to Order

City Councilmember Steve Spear called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., 72401 Hatch Road, Twentynine Palms, California. Those responding to roll call were Councilmember Steve Spear, Councilmember Jim Harris and District Director Sam Moore. District Director Alan Anthony joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Also present were City Manager Michael Tree, Fire Chief Jim Thompson and District Secretary Paula Rogers.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

1. Presentation and Discussion of Preliminary Report on "City of Twentynine Palms and Twentynine Palms Water District Fire Transfer Assessment" by The Davis Company

Mr. Mike Davis of The Davis Company presented a preliminary report on City of Twentynine Palms and Twentynine Palms Water District Fire Transfer Assessment. Mr. Davis stated the scope of the evaluation focused on governance options, the implications a transfer would have on public safety and the impacts on the fiscal operations and requirements of the City and District. Mr. Davis pointed out that there is nothing inherent that would cause the fire department to be removed from the Water District, rather that there is a natural alignment between cities and fire department services. Mr. Davis stated study efforts were focused on Water District assets and liabilities related to fire protection, full-time and volunteer payroll, tax revenues, future expenditure and revenue changes, State laws connected with a transfer, and positive or negative effects of a transfer on public safety.

Mr. Davis stated there are few barriers regarding a transfer, specifically outlining that there is no debt for the City to inherit, the apparatus is well managed, no pending litigation or open workers' compensation claims. Additionally, Mr. Davis added that the City may have access to sources of revenue that the Water District does not and that the City also has the ability to assess impact fees and enforce codes. Mr. Davis responded to questions from the committee members.

The committee members discussed the pros and cons of Joint Powers Authority and/or a Memorandum of Understanding. The committee members further discussed the issue of obtaining a fire protection cost analysis from San Bernardino County.

2. Approve Minutes of the Special Workshop Meeting held on March 10, 2008  
Councilmember Spear made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by District Director Anthony and unanimously approved.
3. Future Agenda Items and Direction to the Staffs of the Water District and City  
It was the consensus of the committee that both City Staff and the Fire Chief compile a list of what each would potentially like to see occur if the Fire Department were to transfer to the City of Twentynine Palms.
4. Comments from Task Force Members  
All councilmembers addressed concerns regarding Special Tax Revenue and reserve fund balance. Councilmember Spear requested The Davis Company prepare a final report. Mr. Davis stated he could prepare a final report by mid-January or early February. It was the consensus of the committee that the next Task Force Meeting could be held mid-January or early February 2009.
5. Adjournment  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

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Jim Thompson, Fire Chief