

**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 BOARD ROOM
72401 HATCH ROAD, TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277**

DECEMBER 10, 2007

Call to Order

City Councilmember Steve Spear called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m., 72401 Hatch Road, Twentynine Palms, California. Those responding to roll call were City Councilmembers Steve Spear and Jim Harris and District Directors Alan Anthony and Sam Moore. Also present were City Manager Michael Tree, Fire Chief Jim Thompson, District General Manager Mike Wright and District Secretary Annie Alexander.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

Mr. G. Mark addressed the committee regarding his concerns related to the potential transfer.

1. Discussion of Activities to Date

City Manager Tree provided an overview of the committee's activities to date. Mr. Tree explained that prior to this meeting, the City Council had approached the Water District proposing to form a joint committee to review matters related to the potential transfer of the Fire Department to the City. With both agencies in agreement, a committee was formed. This is the first meeting in which the committee has planned to explore ideas, ask questions and further direct staff.

Mr. Tree also explained that on September 12th, he and Fire Chief Thompson met with Kathy Rollings-McDonald, Executive Director of the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), to discuss options available to both agencies to facilitate such a transfer. Ms. Rollings has offered to attend future committee meetings to further assist the task force as they proceed.

2. Discussion and Receipt of Information Regarding the Potential Transfer of the Twentynine Palms Fire Department to the City

A. Boundaries and Spheres of Influence of the Water District and City Before and After Any Potential Transfer

Mr. Wright displayed two LAFCO maps indicating each agency's boundary and sphere of influence and highlighted the differences between them. Mr. Wright also provided the committee with a memo indicating the number of parcels, associated acreage and fire tax assessment amounts

in and out of City limits. Staff then responded to questions from the Committee regarding each agency's sphere of influence.

Ms. Iva Feldman then addressed the committee regarding her concerns related to the potential transfer. Councilmember Spear responded to further questions from Ms. Feldman and explained that the purpose of the committee was to gather facts and explore the possible advantages and disadvantages of a potential transfer of the Fire Department to the City.

Chief Thompson then provided an overview of the Fire Department's history, current operations and related funding issues. Chief Thompson, Councilmember Spear and Director Anthony responded to additional questions from Ms. Feldman.

Chief Thompson then responded to questions from the committee and the public regarding fire tax assessments, current operations and operating costs.

B. Issues Regarding the Potential Transfer of Assets, Personnel and Tax Revenue

There was no discussion of this agenda item.

3. Discussion of Potential Future Activities/Meetings and Direction to the Staffs of the Water District and City

Councilmember Spear asked that members of the task force submit their questions to Mr. Tree and Chief Thompson for further research and discussion at the next meeting. Councilmember Spear also suggested that the meetings be scheduled in the evening so that individuals working during the day might be able to attend.

Following discussion, the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 28th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Future meetings will be held in the evening and will rotate between the Water District, City Hall and the Lear Fire Station to better facilitate public attendance. Staff reports will also be made available for public review before each meeting.

4. Comments from Task Force Members

Councilmember Spear thanked those members of the public in attendance at the meeting and reiterated the purpose of the committee.

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Jim Thompson, Fire Chief