



Fire Station Citizens Advisory Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Twin Falls Council Overflow Room @ 4:00 P.M.

203 Main Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho

Citizens Advisory Committee Members Present: Debbie Dane, Tami Gooding, Jim Olson, Nikki Boyd, Dwayne Tucker, Dave Moore

Citizens Advisory Committee Members Absent: Jan Rogers, Lee DeVore

Fire Station Programming Committee Present: Josh Kliegl, Joe Miller, Jesse Bowman

Fire Station Programming Committee Absent: N/A

Facilitators: Fire Chief Les Kenworthy, City Manager Travis Rothweiler, City Attorney Shayne Nope

Staff: Fire Administrative Assistant Danielle Kolb-Slagel

1) Confirmation of Quorum/Call Meeting to Order

Fire Chief Les Kenworthy called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2) Items for discussion

1) Introductions of everyone in meeting.

- Les Kenworthy – Fire Chief, Twin Falls Fire Department
- Dave Moore – Resident of City of Twin Falls, Firefighter Background, Retired
- Tami Gooding – Resident of Twin Falls, Realtor
- Jim Olson – Twin Falls Rural Fire Protection District
- Nikki Boyd – Twin Falls City Council
- Debbie Dane – Retired
- Joe Miller – Twin Falls Fire Department
- Josh Kliegl – Twin Falls Fire Department, and Local 1556 President
- Jesse Bowman – Twin Falls Fire Department
- Danielle Kolb-Slagel – Administrative Assistant, Twin Falls Fire Department
- Dwayne Tucker – Resident of Twin Falls, Retired from Twin Falls Fire Department in 2003 after 25 year.
- Shayne Nope – City Attorney, City of Twin Falls
- Travis Rothweiler – City Manager, City of Twin Falls

Fire Chief Les Kenworthy -

This is our second time around with fire station citizen's advisory committee. We lost our first bond by just a few points. Some members decided to take a break from the committee and the others decided to remain on committee. I want to thank Debbie Dane, Jim Olson, and Tami Gooding for your participation the second time around. LeRoy Harcourt was on the committee and last minute today decided he has too much going on to remain.

Goal with this group, is to hopefully first of all educate yourselves on the needs of the fire stations here that we have in the City of Twin Falls. We are going to help you with that. The other thing is to participate in meetings and strategy sessions. Last time we met typically every two weeks. Hope to do that this time as well.

We hope that you will participate as often and as much as you possibly can, if you cannot please communicate those things to Danielle, either by email or by calling her directly. But, please make that commitment to be here and help us out. Going through our goals-ultimately to develop another recommendation that we move forward with to the council and give that recommendation to the council.

Need to come forward with some recommendations for fire stations needs here in the city, and a chairperson for bringing those to the city council. Debbie did this for the last committee. So, we will be looking for that again. Assistance with this group in educating the public. Training initiative strategy needs to be talked about, so it is not conflicting information.

We are still in need of fire stations, still have the same need. Probably has increased since then. As the community increases, buildings continue to deteriorate, and as we continue to move forward without an ability to increase our staffing level and apparatus in our fire stations, it has not gone away. It is a need; it is a real need. We need to figure out somehow that we move this forward, whatever way the public will support it is definitely a need.

Three plus years the city started exploring how to basically replace our aging fire stations. Two groups formed. Programming committee, steering committee, and a citizens committee. Came forward with the packet that has been provided to you today. Which was replacing all three fire stations and then came forward and ask the citizens for the bond that failed last May.

Some lessons learned after bond -

- Message was not heard by all our citizens.
- Did not have the right message – or did not focus on the right message.
- Little too conservative on education vs. voting piece.
- Did not do enough signage.
- Did not have enough funding.
- Lack personnel/people to get message out there.

2) City Manager and City Council Overview – Travis Rothweiler and Nikki Boyd

Travis Rothweiler - We need to follow all Idaho Open Meeting Laws, Rules, and Requirements. The other benefit is it allows the citizens, and committees members to be able to access the meeting. Want to take you back a little bit further before May, 2019 or before investing in fire stations – we as an organization always focus on the practicality of our investments, and maybe we as an organization didn't make all the investments at the appropriate time as in which we should have. We were very concerned of the costs, we were very cost conscious, which is a good thing, but sometimes you can be cost conscious to the point that of having your infrastructure fall down around your ankles and we've seen that in the past with roadways, we saw that in the past with facilities, and buildings, and we decided in 2011 that we were going to be operating and doing some things different. This building is a testament of doing this different, the police building is a testament of doing things different, and the hope of passing fire stations in May 2019 was part of the effort as well.

We were 37 less votes for the bond to pass. As the Chief stated all were good guesses on why the bond did not pass. But this group needs to figure that out. The \$36 million figure was from a team of professionals. We cannot determine the cost of those facilities. Do we think we can get another \$36 million bond to pass? Do we build one station, do we build two stations, there are a bunch of different puzzle pieces in this process. We really want to get this next one right.

Property tax will increase an additional 12 – 15 % per supply and demand.

We also need to look at other alternative options other than bond. We need to construct 3 fire stations and a \$2 million dollar in staffing for station #5.

A bond is the best approach for us, flexible approach, we need to be flexible in the approach and realistic.

Your role as a committee is first be engaged and ask a tremendous amount of questions so you become an expert at fire stations, second challenge the experts and staff in the room to make sure you are able to stand before the city council with absolute conviction that your recommendation is spot on and the best for the community, and the third is don't feel that you have to agree with the group because that is the direction that the group is going. Please actively engage, so your participation, your attendance is important, you need to be questioning us, and you need to stand with your convictions on what you believe is important. The council uses citizens advisory committees to help them make tough decisions. This is probably one of the most important decisions facing our community. The positioning of fire stations will be the single largest prohibitor of economic growth and prosperity inside the City of Twin Falls. If we do not build them, we will not be able to expand our geographic boundaries, our levels of service or entertain existing business outside the current sphere and scopes that we have currently been looking.

Nikki Boyd - Believe that all the council members are very supportive of all our firefighters and what they need, and why they need it, and am excited to get to be on the citizens advisory committee this time and learn even more, you want to go before council with your best game, but know you're talking to nice people that we very interested in what you have to say.

3) Roles and Legal Requirements – Shayne Nope, City Attorney

Idaho Open Meeting Law Manual – (Online) You can look up all the rules.

Idaho Open Meeting Laws apply to this group – that is powerful, this should speak volumes in terms of your responsibility to this committee.

(Action Items) Select and take an action – put on the agenda for your next meeting.

Open Meeting (side discussions) emails/etc. make sure all discussion stays in room.

When emailing Do not Do Reply all.

Conflict of Interest – Email Shayne and ask him if you think it might be a conflict (this will cover you if he advises you.)

Title 18 – Bribery (Benefit to get Benefit) this is a crime.

All meetings must be noticed – have an agenda/notes taken.

Designed to keep you safe, not complicate your life. – Travis Rothweiler

Public Record Law - All information can be disclosed with a public records request – email thread/etc., meeting minutes. (Keep that in mind)

If you think you have any issues - Can send Shayne an email asking questions on any of these items? – snope@tfid.org

Question - Nikki Boyd – Citizen Committee Member & City Council Member – asked about being able to vote or just being a liaison for the bond – (Shayne will need to research this) You can share and convey the council's thoughts and knowledge to the group.

We cannot promote an initiative on public property. Only educational piece.

4) Fire Station Overview

- Postpone until next meeting.

Fire 101 – What we do in the Fire Department. Going to postpone since we have some individuals gone from today's meeting. Start here next time, then do Fire 101.

5) Round Table

- **Dave Moore** – Glad to see that there is interest and hopes that the community becomes excited for the needs of the firefighters.

- **Tami Gooding** – Her take is she does not think we had enough time to get the education out to everyone. Daughter found out about it, and drug everyone to meetings, etc. Told her no one knew about it. Does not think we had enough time to get it done.
- **Jim Olson** – Agree with Tami with not having enough time, also did not have enough visual signs out there. Average person did not know what was going on. We need to consider what the county will be doing with the jail situation. Hate to see us go to bond at the same time at the jail bond.
- **Debbie Dane** – Most important thing is we need is understand the why, then develop a strategy to move forward. That is going to take everybody being here and in this 100%. If it had not of been for the firefighters and their friends going door to door, we would not have had the turnout.
- **Joe Miller** – Thank you for being interested and being here and helping us out.
- **Josh Kliegl** – Local 1556 Union President – Thanked everyone. Thinks we are a little bit more educated this time around.
- **Jesse Bowman** – Thanked everyone and looks forward to working with everyone.
- **Dwayne Tucker** – Longtime resident of Twin Falls and a retired firefighter. When fire station bond went out, he got a lot of questions from people who knew he was a longtime firefighter. The city got a lot of good out of what we have. It is not much different from 1977. Life safety, new schools on the out skirts of town. It is important for fire/police/ems services. Relationship of fire and city services is an incredible point. It is deeper than fire department showing up when there is a fire or someone's bleeding. Community has been extremely frugal. Community at the last vote supported the fire service. With some education, and this community loving the fire department, they just did not get there for you. Lack of signs, etc. Need to review a few things and studies show that not everyone will need the fire department. But they have always appreciated and supported us. Fire Department has been extremely good to him and his family.
- **Chief Kenworthy** – Changes in fire service, we are expected to handle anything that comes at us. The laws, training to respond to incidents. That we get called upon for numerous different calls.

6) Housekeeping (Meeting Scheduling and Communications)

- Tami Gooding – Not available (Thursdays)
- Jim Olson – Not available (Wednesdays)
- Debbie Dane – Not available (Mornings and Wednesdays)
- Nikki Boyd – Not available (Mondays and Tuesdays at Lunch)
- Dwayne Tucker – Available - Anytime

* Plan on having future meetings on Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m.

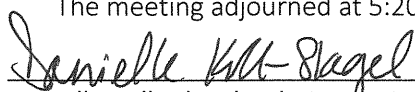
* Danielle to send email out to all with Shayne/Travis email address and link to the Idaho Open Meeting Manual and the link to the city website to find the public meeting video in case you were or unable to make a meeting.

a) Upcoming Meeting(s)

- a.) Canceled-Friday, March 20, 2020 @ 2:30 p.m. at City Council Overflow Room – Fire 101 Presentation & Fire Station 1, 2, 3 Tours to Follow.

b) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.


Danielle Kolb-Slagel, Administrative Assistant