

# Lake Arrowhead Volunteer Fire Department

## Board of Directors Meeting

October 11, 2010

### Meeting called to order 1903

Present – Stu Loos (Chairman), Christine Saggese (Vice-Chairman), Julius Romeo (CFO), Robin Roberts (Member at large), Don Woodward (Secretary), Larry Gruszecki (Chief)

Minutes accepted for the September 2010 BOD meeting

LAPOA BOD present (invited)

Introductions made

Chief's Presentation - (see attached)

Frank Saggese made the LAVFD presentation on the "2008 LAPOA Letter" – (see attached)

### Treasurers Report:

See attached

Accepted – Stu/Christine 2nd

### Chief's Report:

8 calls since last meeting (5 EMS, 2 Structure Fire (Fairway Oaks, Narrows), 1 smoke investigation on Little Refuge)

Preston finishing his Paramedic – requested \$100 to pay for his written test – Board granted as scholarship

### Old Business:

None

### New Business:

Frank did LAVFD 2009 taxes

Frank requested LAVFD link & events on LA Calendar

**Next Meeting November 8, 2010**

**Meeting adjourned 2014**

**LAVFD**

2008 LAPOA Letter

# LAVFD

- **At the request of concerned residents, I was asked to explore the impact of an official letter sent by the 2008 LAPOA Board of Directors regarding the LAVFD and community safety.**

# LAVFD

- **The most recent publicly written officially endorsed position of LAPOA toward the LAVFD was clearly explained in a letter sent to the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners and Lake Arrowhead management team by the LAPOA President.**

# LAVFD

- ***“The Lake Arrowhead Property Owners Association Board of Directors ... supports Mr. Elsberry’s position and opposes the LAVFD position... The present agreement is significantly different than the one agreed upon by myself and several of my board members a few months ago.”***
  - (From Official LAPOA letter to Cherokee County BOC's and LA Management)

# LAVFD

- **The official LAPOA letter advocated a position that would "effectively shut down" LAVFD and impair public safety in the Lake Arrowhead community.**
  - Cherokee County Board Of Commissioners stated, *"If LAVFD is shut down for lack of a base from which to operate, there will be no replacement for those public safety resources"*.

# LAVFD

- **The official LAPOA letter advocated a position that would ban LAVFD from utilizing the new facility.**
  - The agreement LAPOA supported said
    - *"Following construction of the Facility, the County shall staff the Facility with full-time, professional fire-fighters...and not volunteer fire-fighter personnel....."*
    - *"In no event shall the county allow equipment owned by a volunteer fire department to be stored in the facility".*
    - *"To the extent volunteer fire-fighter personnel are located or meet at any other location (not the Facility) within the Lake Arrowhead development, ...."*

# LAVFD

- **The official LAPOA letter promoted a negative impact on public safety.**
  - Cherokee County BOC stated, "It would be extremely disruptive to the LAVFD and public safety in the community if they (LAVFD) are forced out of the current station before the new one is ready".

# LAVFD

- **The official LAPOA letter effectively solidified the faction of LA management and LAPOA in opposition toward the LAVFD.**
  - Cherokee county BOC replies to LAPOA member, *"You may disagree, but it's my understanding that you and most members of the LAPOA Board are part of the developer-aligned faction."*
  - Cherokee County BOC replies to LAPOA member, *"I express my disappointment that this animosity continues, and that it's affecting public safety in the community."*

# LAVFD

- **The official LAPOA letter caused a substantial negative impact on relations within the Lake Arrowhead community.**
  - Cherokee county BOC states, *"As for the relationship between LAPOA and LAVFD, I'm not entirely certain why there is animosity but I agree it must end to avoid impacting the level of service provided to the community."*

# LAVFD

- **The official LAPOA letter confirmed the opposition and animosity toward the LAVFD from LAPOA.**
  - Cherokee BOC states the opposition is *"fully dug in on their position that volunteers organized as LAVFD will not be permitted to use the proposed replacement station for trainings and meetings."*

# LAVFD

- **The official LAPOA letter encouraged the loss of hundreds of thousand of dollars in resident donations and equipment. Furthermore response time would increase significantly as would homeowner's insurance premiums.**
  - One previous LAPOA member wrote, *"the residents are really losing on this one"*
  - Same member stated, without adequate coverage, *"where does that leave us? A great big "0" for responders. Do we really want to take that chance?"*

# LAVFD

- **The official LAPOA letter continues to have a negative impact on the relationship between LAPOA and LAVFD.**

# LAVFD

- **The controversy became so heated that the Cherokee Tribune and the Cherokee Ledger ran articles describing the great divide and the potential negative impact to public safety within Lake Arrowhead.**

# LAVFD

- **Residents made phone calls and sent e-mails to LAPOA members voicing their support for LAVFD and concern for safety.**

# LAVFD

- **To date, LAPOA has never recanted the official stated opposition toward the LAVFD, therefore, it is accepted and understood that the current LAPOA maintains the same.**

# LAVFD

- **Despite these impediments, the LAVFD is determined and committed to continue to provide the best in public service and safety to the Lake Arrowhead community and surrounding areas.**

# LAVFD

- **I trust this information is helpful and that we can put another plug in the dam.**
- *Frank Saggese – Committee Chairman*

# LAVFD

**From:** Larry Paz [mailto:[paz\\_ga@msn.com](mailto:paz_ga@msn.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 11:40 AM

**To:** James Hatcher; Venette Williams; Summitt Boone; Jim Barnes; Dale Sommer; Bob Chambers; Butch Engle

**Cc:** Tommy Elsberry; Harry Johnston; Jerry Cooper

**Subject:** Board Resolution/Firestation

“At the Board's request I explored the impact that a 2008 LAPOA Board Resolution had on the Cherokee County's willingness to construct a new fire station within Lake Arrowhead. I've been able to confirm that it has had no negative impact on the County's decision.”

The End

# LAVFD

- **Brimmer Letter:**

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners  
Good evening,

I have held many executive management positions during my 28 year career with IBM. In addition, I was elected school board president on four occasions and coordinated a major fund raising campaign for Dunwoody Baptist Church. My management style has been, and remains to be, hire the best people to do the job while remaining on the sideline and inspecting their performance. Interceding in attempting to do their job is unacceptable. If their performance proves to be unsatisfactory in spite of counseling, you must terminate and start over. Apparently this style is not one the Board of Commissioners is comfortable with. It appears to me that the LAVFD debate has primarily been conducted between Harry Johnston, LAVFD and Tommy Elsberry with very little involvement of Mr. Cooper and Chief Gunnin, who you've hired to do their jobs. The Lake Arrowhead Property Owners Association Board of Directors, elected by approximately 350 votes supports Mr. Elsberry's position and opposes the LAVFD position, elected by approximately 50 votes. The present agreement, as I understand it, is significantly different than the one agreed upon by Mr. Cooper, myself and several of my board members a few months ago. What has resulted is a lose/lose conclusion. It saddens me greatly.

Sincerely,

R. Ward Brimmer  
President, LAPOA