SPECIAL MALABAR TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MAY 10, 2005 7:30 PM

This meeting of the Malabar Town Council was held at Town Hall at 2725 Malabar Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Vice Chair, Mayor Eschenberg. The prayer and pledge were led by Mayor Eschenberg.

ROLL CALL: MAYOR/VICE-CHAIR: TOM ESCHENBERG

CHAIR: BOBBI MOCCIA (excused)
COUNCIL MEMBERS: FRANK HICKSON (excused)

BRIAN VAIL STEVE RIVET PAT DEZMAN

ADMINISTRATOR: ED BOOTH

ATTORNEY: KARL BOHNE (excused)

RECORDING SECRETARY: CINDI KELLEY

DISCUSSION OF THE MALABAR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Eschenberg opened the meeting for discussion. Personnel from the Fire Department were present to answer questions presented by Council.

Eschenberg-I would like to make a comment before we get started. I kind of thought of what the Council ought to accomplish tonight and based on the study that was done on the Fire Department and their recommendation, which was to disband the Fire Department and sub-contract the services, which is one extreme. The other extreme would be to continue on the way we are and do nothing, which doesn't seem like either course is the right way. What I would hope is that the Council could come up with tonight at the workshop is some sort of action item to put on the next agenda to take a vote on as to exactly what the Council wants to do about the Fire Department. I don't know, you could pick an extreme and put it on the agenda, vote to disband the Fire Department or vote that we have investigated and we are finished or maybe something else like since the organization that did the study has agreed to continue to do that for free, maybe you might want to consider something like monitoring the Fire Department by a six month study, a year or year and a half, whatever you come up with. I would expect also, since I see a lot of the Fire Department are here, that at anytime, Council could address any questions to any members of the Fire Department. Unlike most workshops, it's strictly held up here, but this is a special because the Fire Department is all here. I leave it all up to you. Booth-one thing that we didn't discuss was money and the fact is, if we contract out, it's going to cost in the neighborhood of \$400,000 a year. Right now are Ad Valorem taxes bring in right at \$280,000 and we have a 1.7 mil levy. If we contracted out, that would drive up our mil levy up to about 4.5, which is a pretty hefty increase. Eschenberg-which, technically, we can't do. Legally we can't do this. Booth-in reality, the problem I have with the Fire Department, if you contracted out, is I use this Fire Department in lieu of a Police Department in times of emergency. I use them for traffic control, to go through and evacuate, I use them for control over our sites that we give away food/water because there isn't a group of people, other then these volunteers, that I can go to for handling those minute by

minute emergencies. If you contract it out, the County is only going to give you what you pay for. You are not going to get anything else. We don't have a Police Department and we won't have the ability to put one in. I personally think what we need to do is take a look at the Fire Department that we have now and look at some of the investment we can make to increase to keep records, maintenance on the vehicles and those kind of things within our tax break. Our taxes are going up and we are going to get more money every year. We can invest into the Fire Department with that increase.

<u>Vail-I</u> think, with the present staff the Fire Department has, in light of the review that they received, some of the stuff in the review is valid, some of it' they don't feel is valid, but it did bring to light a lot of issues with inventory problems, so on and so forth. Also, the department is going through a lot of change right now with the chief. Then the storm and the activity or lack of ability to spend time at the station and the lack of not having a station all had affects on it. But, in my opinion, it's coming full circle. The group is coming together, it's a strong group. There are a lot of people willing to help organize, bring it back up to spec, the station is coming around. It should be up in a very short period of time. I think this group is willing, able and ready to do whatever is necessary to take care of this Town.

<u>Rivet-I</u> think, specifically, let's address the major options. Clearly, we can't afford to subcontract out fire protection services. We've got a group of dedicated people that want to be our Volunteer Fire Department. As the study pointed out, we do have some issues, mostly management control issues. I think those issues need to be addressed, but I think we can do it within the framework of the existing fire department. I think one of the first things we have to resolve is the appointment of the Fire Chief. There needs to be the point person that represents the Fire Department to Council and vice versa.

Booth-I guess, to go in between, maybe a recommendation to, to put it on the agenda, have an independent group look at the Fire Department in one year to see where they are at; to look at the last study with the recommendations of some of the short comings.

<u>Vail</u>-one of the problems I have with the study is the cost and I don't know how many man hours were expended on the report. In interviewing Fire Department staff, there really wasn't a whole lot of time spent with the crew or the Chief by the group that was reviewing them. Personally, if this is going to, I don't know how we could put a group together to review the department, but the same group to review it in a year's time I don't know if that would be...

Booth-that's why I said an independent group.

Vail-an independent group at a much lesser cost.

<u>Dezman</u>-I missed something here. Tell me how this study came about.

Booth-Mr. Rossman requested the study.

Dezman-why?

<u>Booth</u>-I think it started out with the sexual harassment. There was a short study done by this group. It was very inexpensive and we needed it done. Mr. Rossman

made a motion that he wanted a management study done. Council voted for it and we went forward.

<u>Dezman</u>-how was the group chosen who did this study? I mean how did we come up with them?

Booth-they made a proposal that was a lot less than a regular consultant.

Consultants come in at \$100,000 or so, they are very expensive.

Dezman-I understand

Rivet-we paid around \$20,000?

Booth-we paid \$10,500.

Dezman-Mr. Rossman funded the study with his money?

Booth-no, what he did was fund the first study out of his discretionary funds of \$1,500 that is given to each Council member at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Then, we went with the second study at Council's request.

Rivet-I don't remember how we budgeted the money.

<u>Booth</u>-you didn't budget the funds; we found the funds and made it happen at Council's request.

Dezman-help me again. We had two studies, now I'm hearing?

Booth-we had two studies.

Rivet-the initial one was pretty brief and focused on the specific complaints.

<u>Dezman</u>-and the second one was, at large, for what they saw as wrong?

Rivet-they did a management study.

<u>Vail</u>-it was a ninety page, that's the book we received. In my opinion, it was all leaning towards the County. That was the jest of the report at the end. Their suggestion was to turn it over to the County, if I'm not mistaken.

Booth-it is and just some background information for you. We talked to some and they're leaning, one of the people who worked on the study is a retired Palm Bay Fire Chief and the other was from the County. They really didn't have a lot of experience with a volunteer fire department. Therefore, they were looking at it, and I also think that they had some pre-conceived notions that because they did live in Town and they thought that the fire department should be...

Dezman-they lived in our Town?

<u>Booth</u>-yes, they live in our Town, at least Mr. Green did. I'm not sure about Mr. Knecht. They were looking at a fully manned paid for fire department. That's good, but from their view, funding was not an issue.

<u>Dezman</u>-Mr. Mayor, in your opinion, did you think the study was biased? <u>Eschenberg</u>-probably somewhat biased, as far as their recommendation. I thought their recommendation might have been a little biased.

Dezman-Mr. Rivet, do you have the same opinion?

<u>Rivet</u>-anytime anybody does an evaluation of a complex system, there is no way to completely eliminate your biases. In order to be able to do a reasonably affective study, you have to have some experience in the field. If you have some experiences in the field, you've got biases. I kind of ignored the recommendation part of it and looked at the issues that they thought were problems and in that respect, I don't think it was terribly biased.

<u>Eschenberg</u>-the study was certainly not without value. The study pointed out problems that definitely need to be addressed.

<u>Vail</u>-the management that is willing to take over this, as they showed at the presentation, is well prepared to address any problems and correct any problems and the Chief issue will be settled at the next meeting. As far as the evaluation, the

evaluation came from two people that were employed and had careers in paid departments. Now, as far as the volunteer departments and knowing, I would assume that they had some knowledge of the volunteers, but they didn't have any on-hand knowledge of the volunteer departments. It was all paid departments that they were basing their evaluation on. So I don't if it 100% applied to our department. Rivet-I think that the criticism made or the issues that were raised are valid. I think, also, that some are unavoidable with a volunteer fire department. Again, I try to look at the report in the context that we are dealing with. They kind of addressed the issues, if you address all of these, you will have a perfect fire department. Well, we're not going to have a perfect fire department or council.

Dezman-we're not going to have a perfect anything.

<u>Rivet-I</u> think it was a very valuable report. Obviously, the firefighters didn't agree with all the points. There are going to be difference of opinions. I think we can work through those areas of difference of opinions. I think I saw a willingness to do this. Vail-it really was an eye-opener for the department.

Booth-I was a little disappointed. I was really looking for some recommendations specifically, like with the paperwork. We're going to do the paperwork and we're going to do it the way they wanted it. Then I needed to know what kind of man hours we were talking about, give me an idea if I needed to hire a part-time individual to go in and do that. I really didn't get that out of the study. I will have to get that out of the new Fire Chief and sit him down and say these are your requirements and tell me what we need to do to get to it. Now, supply accountability we can do in-house and we are starting to do that. We're getting rid of all the old stuff that's been hanging around, we're counting what we have in the inventory. We're using some grants and some insurance money and we're buying the amount of protective equipment that's required. We're looking closely at the vehicles and determining what we need to do to make sure that they are reliable.

Rivet-you'll be doing regular physical inventories?

Booth-yes, these inventories will be taking place. It's very difficult now; we went through one area and counted all the junk. It will be brought to Council to get rid of it

Vail-in a good way.

Booth-as we get the downstairs done and we clean out the semi-trailer, we will do the same thing. We will put stuff aside and say this is not usable, we'll drop this and this is usable. I will be there as it comes out. Each individual will sign for his gear and be responsible for it. If they lose it, they pay for it.

<u>Vail</u>-even without a chief, these guys are ready and they have plans to keep track of all that stuff. Bob Rowan has the NFPA software and it has all the basic setups. He's familiar with all of that. How long were you up north?

Rowan-I've been here since last November and was in New York from 1990. Vail-and you were doing pretty much the same thing there? Mr. Rowan is very well versed in paperwork and managing it. He has the time to do it and he's ready, willing and able.

<u>Booth</u>-and recently, they've gotten a lot of new volunteers in. I think they stripped one of the other departments.

<u>Vail</u>-how many new members have we taken in within the last two to three months? <u>Rowan</u>-we've taken in close to 15 people and only one came from a different department.

Bob Rowan-2565 Corey Road-spoke as a resident of Malabar. I read the report as both a resident and a firefighter. Biased, I don't see it as a bias report. There was information, as you said; there were disagreements with the report. I think the disagreement was mainly because of the non-facts that were in there; they threw things in there that were just not true. They looked at response times, we looked at response times. The data just didn't match. I don't want to go over the whole presentation, but the train plan, the accidents, all the stuff that said we were lacking, we came back and proved that it wasn't true. Over the train plan, the only department that had that was Titusville. So, biased, I don't think so. They did have some good things in there. As I said in my final slide, we are going to take action. The administration stuff should not be a problem. I will almost guarantee that every chief that has applied here will use me in some way, shape or form to get the administrative stuff taken care of. The disagreements were mainly because of the quantitative and qualitative data. It just wasn't supportive of their conclusions. Not their final conclusions, but the individual conclusions.

Eschenberg-does anyone else in he audience have anything to say?

Marshall Gerhke, Deputy Chief-one of the things that surprised me, too, with the TD Group is the fact that this study happened back in September. We haven't had a station since September. So I think that the group of people you see out here have done a good job with no quarters. You say we have a trailer out back but that holds a computer in it. We haven't had a training facility. Every time it rains, it rains inside the building. I understand our hands have been tied in that respect, but considering what we've gone through since September, we're running seven months and our call times are actually better than before the hurricanes. We owe a lot of that to the group that is sitting out in the audience tonight. I think that we're doing the job we're supposed to do.

<u>Vail</u>-a lot of the audience that would have been here tonight is in training, correct? Gerhke-that is correct.

Dezman-this study was pre-hurricane.

Booth-no most of the study was done right after the hurricane hit.

Rivet-it was done at the worst possible time.

Vail-post hurricane.

Gerhke-no, we had our meeting pre-hurricane and the first meeting was to decide whether to annex Valkaria for \$4,500.00 and the second study was \$16,500.00, which was to decide, so that first study kind of bled into this and we don't think that the department is sufficient to handle Valkaria. Now we'll go ahead and explain to you why we think we can do Valkaria and Malabar.

Booth-a lot of their work was done after the hurricane.

Vail-did we loose the roof on the first hurricane?

Booth & Dezman-on the second hurricane.

<u>Booth</u>-we did get some money for the first, but it didn't come through; it's administrative.

<u>Rivet</u>-Mr. Chairman, I have a suggestion. I would really like to hear from the candidates for Fire Chief. Just a short statement as to why they are seeking the position and a brief overview of their qualifications. We have the packet on Mr. Gianantonio, who is not here tonight...

Booth-who is not here tonight.

<u>Rivet</u>-but we have received his packet with his qualifications. I would like to hear from Brian and anyone else that is actively pursuing the job.

Eschenberg-it falls within the discussion of the fire department.

<u>Rivet</u>-why you would like to be Fire Chief and just give us a brief overview of what you think needs to be done with the department.

Eriksen-I feel that I would be a good chief for the department, he has been with the department for 14 years, been Captain for ten, has been a paid firefighter, with a State certified compliance, for 16 years, and has been an EMT for 14 years with the State. With reading the study from the TD Group, I saw a lot of biased and unbiased things that we need to improve on. I have a lot of things that I would like to see done; like incentive programs and maintenance programs. I have talked to a lot of people, with the department and outside of the department, that are willing to come in to help us get more grant money without costing the Town money. I've talked to some people about assisting with different committees so that we can get back in shape; EMS committees, maintenance committees, and the new equipment committees. Our trucks are getting old and will need to be replaced within the next five years. We are trying to do it without a lot of money with the Town.

Rivet-you said you've between with the Malabar Fire Department 14 years?

<u>Eriksen</u>-yes I have. The only bad thing is that I don't live in the town, I live in Palm Bay.

<u>Rivet</u>-you mentioned some of the issues with the TD Group study. What, specifically, are the parts that you disagreed with?

Eriksen-I disagree with the response times. Granted, being a volunteer fire department, they are going to be lacking. What they did was go by NFPA 1710, which is the standard for paid professional firefighters, if you go to NFPA 1720, which is the standard for volunteers, the average response time is ten minutes from the time of page. One thing that they didn't tell you in the study is if the County took over; there would not be a designated fire station or fire engine in the Town. For instance, if Valkaria, Mico or Grant had a structure fire, there going to pull that truck to go down there, leaving the Town unprotected until they get more equipment in. I disagree about the railroad policy. We don't have one for a sinking ship in the river, we don't have one for tornados to tell us what we're going to do, we have the hurricane one but, as Bob said, there's only one department in the area that has one for derailment and that's Titusville.

Eschenberg-I wasn't up to date on this. How many candidates do we have? Booth-we only have two. We had four, and Ashlee was my first choice but she's only 18 years old. She's one of the qualified, but we only have two.

<u>Eschenberg-I'm</u> trying to remember the process. Somewhere in the back of my mind I thought, and I could be wrong, the Fire Department elected the chief subject to the approval of Council. Is that the way it works?

Booth-the Fire Department has made a recommendation, which you have. But the Council makes the appointment. Therefore, we have allowed anyone who feels qualified to come and make a presentation to Council.

Eschenberg-but the Fire Department will recommend one?

Booth-you have that package. They have made their recommendation. It is similar with what you did in seating your last Council person.

Eschenberg-does anyone else in the audience have anything they care to say? Could the Council possibly come up with something that could be an action item, maybe for the next meeting, that they could vote up or down on to specifically what action to take?

<u>Vail</u>-maybe to decide to keep fire protection in house or retain the responsibility of fire protection within our Town?

<u>Rivet-I</u> think that makes sense. I thought I heard consensus that we wanted to do that. Obviously we have a few people missing here tonight.

<u>Eschenberg</u>-are you going to add some follow-up on that in some point in time, maybe possibly an in-person report from the Fire Department on the progress of the items that were mentioned in the study or any number of things.

<u>Vail</u>-I would say that as far, Ed, define independent. Would that be someone outside the fire department within the city or what type of...

<u>Booth</u>-I could make it real general. It could even be myself and someone else that is independent of the fire department go in and take a look and give a report. This is what happened and this is where we are at now.

<u>Rivet-I</u> think we need to address the issues one by one from the TD Group. I think there's a lot of good information there. If there are things in there that we don't think are valid, we can strike them off the list. The other things have to become our skeleton of the continuous improvements.

<u>Vail</u>-we need to read the report from end to the other to get a brief oversight of the troubled areas and then, for future reference, yearly reviews. At least a year from whatever we decide to do on the 16th of May, or even less time then that. We need the points to hit on. In you mentioning points, how many actual points do you see? We have inventory...

<u>Rivet</u>-in my view, there are two basic categories. They are performance issues, which deal with response times; and administrative issues. Obviously, the performance issues are the most important but we cannot ignore the administrative issues. So again, I would like to see a plan to address the issues. First, I think we need to get Council and the Fire Department to agree to which of the issues rally are the things that need worked out.

<u>Dezman</u>-what I would like to see is to take what is in that report, all of the issues, whether we agree with them or not, and bullet them and categorize them. Then, take those and place them into the performance/administrative categories. A year from now, I would think a performance review for the Fire Department would be, this is what we asked you to work against; this is what you accomplished. If one of those issues, by our agreement, is a non-issue then...

Rivet-strike it from the list.

Dezman-strike it out. But we use that report as a place to start. To me then there is a trail and a reason why we spent that money.

<u>Vail</u>-and the Fire Department would have their response to that. As a sort of checks and balance, we could get a less expensive independent review.

Booth-I would go for someone who would volunteer to look at it.

Dezman-didn't I understand that they would continue free of charge?

Vail-I don't know that the department would welcome them.

Eschenberg-I did hear them say that.

Dezman-I did too.

<u>Vail</u>-the animosity would make it not really productive. I think the way this department has read the report and reviewed it and the current changes with the...

<u>Eriksen</u>-the gentleman that was here from Satellite Beach for a day has offered his assistance.

<u>Vail</u>-as far as the TD Group, would you guys welcome their input. Would you want them to come in and assist?

Firefighters-no

<u>Dezman</u>-if you were given criteria, from Council, that said a year from now this is what you're being judged against, would you be okay with TD doing that with direction from us?

Firefighters-no

Vail-do you mean TD doing the report?

Rivet-yes if we define the criteria.

<u>Dezman</u>-if we define the criteria, can they do the evaluation. Are you okay with that? Eriksen-no, they had the criteria and you see the report that you got.

<u>Gerhke</u>-we actually addressed all the criteria in the report and answered the questions in that report

<u>Dezman</u>-in the presentation? Please understand why I'm asking the questions because I wasn't here last September.

<u>McClelland</u>-I spent a lot of money on these copies with regards to the TD Group report. I will give you a copy to read. A copy of this memo is hereby made a part of these minutes.

<u>Vail</u>-once again, you have to remember that this report was done by a paid department review company. I think what Pat is going for here, do you think that you guys are going to be good enough in a year's time to impress the TD Group if they were to come in and re-review you?

Dezman-I think that you will be. That's my own personal opinion based on the presentation that I saw. Based on the professionalism that I've seen from you guys just in the presentation and answering that report. Rather than getting rid of that and saying we didn't like that. Let's pull out from what's in that report and answer it. Pull out what we're asking you, as a group, this is what we want you to go against.

Vail-I would agree with you. She's saying within a year's time.

<u>Dezman</u>-without hurricanes and all that stuff. Do you understand where I'm coming from? Then I think that there is some continuity and consistency, there's a basis from which we started and there's a paper trail on it. It wasn't done, we didn't like for whatever reason, and yes they answered it. I just think there needs to be more of a follow through.

Booth-I look at it like an Inspector General's report. No one likes it when they come in. It's probably the greatest lies; we're here to help you and we're glad to have you. But the truth is there's always that rub that they are going to find stuff and you disagree but you accept it. In six months you do a follow up and these are how we improved in taking care of the things.

<u>Dezman</u>-I don't like what I'm hearing in terms of part of it was done before the hurricanes, part of it was done after the hurricanes. Guy, I don't know that anybody, I don't care who they are...

Vail-whose lives were normal then.

Dezman-nothing was normal for them or the TD Group.

<u>Vail-I</u> would be in favor of that if it was just a short review of the bullet items that we say; and that we aren't going to pay many thousand dollars paying these guys. If we could, in lieu of their willingness to help on the report, in lieu of that in a set amount of time, please come and review the highlights that we have pulled from your report.

Booth-I'm not sure that they would be willing to do that. Let me give you some facts that you may not have had. When they were getting ready to present their report, I think that they really thought that they were going to make a presentation to Council and have a decision made. I wasn't going to let that happen. I met with the Fire Department and told them to get their acts together and you better make a presentation to the Council and you better come in here prepared because the TD Group is going to ask that you be done away with. I told them that I was not sure that I agreed with what the TD Group would be asking for. I think they made a great presentation to Council. The TD Group wasn't happy and they called the next morning. I told them that I wasn't going to let them bowl over Council without hearing from the Fire Department. Another thing was that they didn't take cost into consideration one bit, that's my function. We can't afford to do what you're asking. I don't have the authority to ask the Council to increase taxes like that. The State has made sure that we don't.

McClelland-I thing everyone is reluctant with the TD Group again because prior to the hurricanes, they only met with us twice to get inputs on what they were doing. I would have thought they would have met with us multiple times to write this report and get a better understanding. Half of this report is talking about financials. They didn't go into the Clerk's office and find out if what they have is in existence with the Clerk. They met with us twice, prior to the hurricanes, and never after the hurricanes. There was total lack of input from meeting with us and finding out how we worked. They wrote this on their own. They didn't get input from us. <u>Dezman</u>-there's also a time span of six months. They're meeting with them, the hurricanes and the disaster. There's too much of a break in that, overcome by events. There's a validity factor here in my opinion that we need to address. McClelland-a bulletized list of what the goals are, and I'm sure the Fire Department is willing to work with you on this and being graded on it. I don't see any problem. That would be a great way, and have someone that will talk to us, do the review. David Exberger 1020 Hollow Brook Lane-I read the report several time. Up until last week, we didn't even have anything but a draft. In fact, I've not even seen the final report. But in reading the report, we have three things that we need to worry about. This is addressing response time issues, paperwork-what we need to do. We can't meet everything that they said, but there is something reasonable that we can do, that's better than what we were doing, but it still needs improvement. We need to find that middle ground that makes sense for everybody. There is also property accountability. We also need to have future plans, three and five years, just a rough thumb type plan out there. One of the things that was addressed by Chuck, the fact with "us", he said "us" several times. "Us" is a half hour with Chuck and a half hour with Bryan. There are, probably, 40 plus people on the roster at the Fire Department, all the way from entry level probationary firefighters (which you may not want to interview), firefighters, senior firefighters, lieutenants, captains, and chiefs. Only two, maybe three, individuals were interviewed. I don't know the name of the third person, if they were interviewed. That doesn't seem fair, so that's why there is, at least my reluctance, to say that I would welcome the TD Group to come in and do other critique. The other thing is I keep hearing that they are willing to do stuff for free. That report cost \$12,000 plus \$4,500 for the first report, \$16,500.00. That is the most amateurish report I've ever seen. Mr. Exberger made several comments as to the final report's look and construction of the report. What's more important than

the way the report was put together is, I am from Harris and Bob comes from the same type of background at Grumman, when someone says facts, I'm looking for the footnote or the bibliography so that I can go and research and see what they are saying, see if I can add to it or take from it. We went and looked for it and none of it was in the report. That's where I'm saying the report is amateurishly done. So, to think that you're going to get something for free, in my opinion, you haven't gotten your monies worth yet. Both of these individuals had great careers, both retired, they have some really good insight and a lot of good experience. I expected a lot more out that report. That's, at least, my personal hesitation with working with them in the future. I was unimpressed and, basically, I thought the report was very unprofessional. If they had constructive criticism I would welcome them back.

Bob Rowan-I had the exact same four things written down as Dave Exberger. Response time, although we could argue that because if you look at their data, it was on the order of ten minutes. I think the data I showed had better response times. I just did last month's, it was 6.45. Again the County and the manned station is averaging 5.05. We have already brainstormed. Our response time is pretty good, we have brainstormed to make this better. The paperwork, inventory and capital plan were all issues. I think that the resistance you got when asked about the TD Group was that if we take their bullets, their bullets are like we don't want to use them. I am sure that we could come up with a combined plan. If you want to set 10, 15 or 20 goals, we would work with you to set them. We know what the problems are and how to fix some of them. It's going to take a little bit of time and some funds here and there. I think it's done. You may want to consider throwing on the agenda monthly or bi-monthly fire reports. We hope to have a new boss within the next week or so. Once we get some of these things resolved, we will be able to get them taken care of. We don't want to have all the goals based purely on the TD Group. Vail-I think a once a month report would be a very good idea. Rivet-I think so as well.

<u>Eschenberg</u>-is there anything else from the Council? It seems like we have a few things that could be put on the agenda for next month that the Council would take a vote on.

<u>Kelley-Mr. Mayor, are you asking for next month as in June or the next meeting?</u> I need to make this clear for the additions to whatever agenda you want.

Eschenberg-at the next meeting. I would think an up or down vote, just to put it in the record, to keep the volunteer fire department, if that's what you want to do; some kind of decision of how often you want a regular progress report from the new Fire Chief; and some kind of decision on how far into the future and by who the evaluation gets done. Loose, just say independent, that's good enough. So those three things; is there anything else you want to add?

Rivet-I think we need to have the Fire Chief appointed.

Eschenberg-that's already going to happen.

Vail-it's on the agenda for the 16th.

Eschenberg-we are talking about this list. Who's going to do it?

Dezman-I would be happy to do this.

<u>Eschenberg-I</u> would think one person from the government side and one person from the Fire Department side work together on it.

<u>Vail-who's putting up there hand?</u> There are about four fingers all pointing at Bob.

Dezman-you're all pointing at someone.

At this time, the Fire Department volunteered Bob Rowan for this task.

<u>Vail</u>-just to clarify, the independent review time would be when?

<u>Eschenberg</u>-this would be decided at the meeting. Actually decide who and making a motion on it.

<u>Dezman</u>-there has got to be some time between my making a list and the Fire Department making a list. My next question is can we get a soft copy of the report from the TD Group? I don't want to retype what has already been done.

Booth-yes. I have it on my desk.

Dezman-please have it as soon as possible.

Eschenberg-do you think you would have that list worked out by, not the next

Council meeting, but the June Council meeting?

Kelley-I believe that would be the June 2nd Council meeting.

<u>Dezman</u>-that should be fine as long as I get a soft copy.

Kelley-that would be June 6th meeting.

Gerhke-there is a copy of the report on the file cabinet behind where Cindi is sitting.

<u>Dezman</u>-I want a soft copy from the computer.

Booth-we don't have that.

Dezman-then we make a call and get it. Cindi can you do that?

Kelley-I'm making notes, as I will be out of the office tomorrow for a meeting.

<u>Booth</u>-now, on the positive side, the roof is being fixed as we speak. The inside, two weeks out. It's a joke but it really is two weeks.

Eschenberg-does anyone have anything else?

<u>Dezman</u>-one thing. Bob, you understand that I'm going through that and pulling out everything; good, bad or indifferent. Then we go from there and say Council doesn't want to address this, this is not valid based on...I want every single one of those things answered.

Rowan-I'll be out for a week on vacation. I'll be back next Wednesday. We can get together next week. I will make a list and then we can compare notes.

<u>Vail</u>-in agreement with Pat on this. We need to take the report and use it follow on with it and then answer it. That would be, I agree. We need to let it run it's course. That way we've addressed, if anybody says that we've had this report and didn't address any of the issues, it would complete the trail.

<u>ADJOURN</u>

MOTION; Eschenberg/Rivet to adjourn meeting at 8:20 p.m.

BY:

Vice-Chair Mayor Tom Eschemberg

ATTEST

Cindi Kelley, Recording Secretary

DATE: <u>つ/10/05</u>