

The attached document was submitted to the  
**Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District** during  
the meeting held on December 15, 2015.  
by Commissioner Herman  
for Agenda Item No. 6  
and included here pursuant to NRS 241.020(7) as  
amended by AB65 of the 2013 Legislative Session.

December 11, 2015

John Slaughter  
County Manager  
P.O. Box 11130  
Reno, Nv. 89520

Dear John:

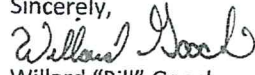
Please be advised that effective December 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., I will be submitting my resignation as Chief of the Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department, an action that I have discussed with my volunteers for close to a year.

Concurrent with my upcoming resignation, the other members of the Department also have indicated that they would resign from their volunteer positions. This action, therefore, will render the Department non-existent. As I am the listed individual contact on the Department licenses and permits, I have already notified the State of Nevada Emergency Health Department to make them aware of my departure. This was to ensure that any pending emergency situation in Northern Washoe County (including Long Valley/Vya) and portions of Pershing and Humboldt County would be left uncovered for fire and medical services following my resignation. I also notified them that the other Department volunteers were planning on resigning as well. However, the other Department volunteers must make their actions to resign independently from mine and I provide this information to you solely as a courtesy.

The Department and its volunteers have worked extremely hard with long hours, many after normal working hours, to make this the best Department in Northern Washoe County. We have enjoyed helping the populace of the areas for which we are responsible. This is so that they may have a better day after our response. The Department has not asked for much except the proper support, training and recognition of our efforts in responding and supporting these communities. A "Thank You" would, in most cases, have been enough from the County. Our Department office walls are adorned with the "good deeds" we have accomplished and motivate us to carry on each time we walk into the Department's station. This, however, has become "not enough" to sustain us any longer. We have, on several occasions, responded to calls for the families of our own volunteers. This volunteer Department leans on each volunteer and their respective families when a call's outcome didn't go the way we would have liked. We are truly a close-knit group and that is why I expect that all are planning this departure as a unit.

In the past few months, there have been several phone calls and face-to-face meetings between myself and the Department's volunteers over my large decision to resign. At this point, there are many reasons for my decision, of which I do not wish to elaborate on here. Many of these reasons are a source of frustration to us all, including how the volunteers are viewed in the emergency responder world here in the County.

Frustrated and disappointed, I tender my resignation. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
  
Willard "Bill" Gooch

Copy to:

Commissioner Jeanne Herman  
Chief Moore

BOFC 12-15-15 #5  
Commissioner Herman

12/13/2015

Washoe County Manager's Office  
1001 E. Ninth Street  
Reno, NV 89512

Truckee Meadows Fire Commissioners

To Whom It may Concern:

We, Peter Coates & Renae Sweet-Coates, here by tender our resignations from Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department, effective December 31, 2015, alongside Chief Willard Good and Assistant Chief Jon Farnsworth.

We have been involved with Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department since 2008. We have been blessed to serve with Chief Gooch and the Community of Gerlach and parts of Northern Washoe County. It saddened and disappoints us that this resignation has to take place.

A few concerns of mine (Renae), have just recently taken place. I have my California and Nevada paramedic license. I recently attended the NLTFPD Paramedic Refresher to help with my recertification. I was told by Bill Winchester that my skills would have to be done with one of TM training Captains. I was asked to stay over from the refresher an extra couple of days to have my skills done. I was unable to do that do to a 3 hour drive back to my home and my work schedule. The other skills days also conflicted with my work schedule. I was then told that TM would not support me as paramedic at Gerlach, because Gerlach is only an ILS service. My question is what do you do with your paramedics that run on the engines in Reno? Do you tell them you will not support them because you are a non-transporting service? I was then told to have my current employer which is an ALS Service to sign off my skills in which I have done. I would really like to keep my Nevada certification. We live 10 miles from the Washoe County border and at times response into Washoe County with Cedarville Volunteer Fire Department. I even asked what would it take to allow me to become a certified instructor with Washoe County, so that I can sign off the skills of the volunteers at Gerlach and possible help with trainings? I got no response. I have my state instructor certification with the State Fire Marshal's office of California and teach regularly. A lot of the trainings that we as volunteers wither you're an advance EMT or a paramedic is all done on our own time and cost. Having to take time off of work to complete skills, trainings, etc, is difficult to do. We do appreciate the Target Safety solutions. That is helpful, but we would like to do some hands on skills. Your paid departments get hands on trainings, so how about the volunteers?

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We are more than willing to do what it takes to keep our certification current and we are more than willing to do the trainings and we have done what has been asked of us by TM, only to have no support from TM. Please keep in mind we are just volunteers who enjoy taking care of our own communities, which have family who reside in these communities as well. It is going to be an extreme hardship on the Gerlach and very northern part of Washoe County when the closest engine is 2 hours or more away.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Peter Coates, Captain Fire Fighter

Rena Sweet- Coates, Paramedic/FF

**Gooch, Bill**

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**From:** Ralph Minnitte <ralph@gbis.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 11, 2015 6:16 AM  
**To:** Gooch, Bill  
**Subject:** Fire Department

December 11, 2015

To whom it may concern,

I Ralph Minnitte am writing this to let you know that I am resigning from the Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department. December 31<sup>st</sup> I will no longer be on the department.

Ralph Minnitte

December 11, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

Please consider this letter our resignation from the Gerlach VFD. We were happy to be part of this amazing team as support staff for large events, extended calls and when we were needed. With the resignation of Chief Gooch and Assistant Chief Farnsworth, there is no longer staff to support. Due to this, we tender our resignation also effective December 31, 2015 at 10am.

We hope to eventually continue our careers with a local department as the changes with TM in the area take place, but that is a conversation for later.

Sincerely

Pete Wobbe  
Lea Wobbe  
Dennis Wobbe

## Gooch, Bill

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**From:** chuckarchaser <chuckarchaser@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 13, 2015 8:19 AM  
**To:** Gooch, Bill  
**Subject:** Resignation

John Sweet  
Gerlach Vol. Fire Dept

As of December 31, 2015 at 10:00 am I John Sweet will terminate my volunteer fire fighter status with G.V.F.D.

I would like to say it's been an honor serving northern washoe co and chief Gooch. My years with the department has taught me many great lessons. However, the strain of keeping my volunteer status with TM has become a strain and costly to me.

I hope future planning helps to ease some of these frustrations for volunteers around washoe co.

Thankyou and Good luck in the future!

JOHN SWEET

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

December 11, 2015

To whom it may concern,

I Jonathan Farnsworth am writing this to let you know that I am resigning from the Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department. December 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am I will no longer be on the department, and the pager and radio that have been assigned to me will be on the desk in the fire department.

My time on the department has taught me many things about myself and the people that I responded with.

Jonathan Farnsworth