

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

TUESDAY 9:00 A.M. FEBRUARY 16, 1999

PRESENT:

- Jim Galloway, Chairman
- Ted Short, Vice Chairman
- Joanne Bond, Commissioner
- Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner
- Jim Shaw, Commissioner
- Roy Slate, Acting Fire Chief
- Amy Harvey, County Clerk
- Katy Simon, County Manager
- Maureen Griswold, Legal Counsel

The Board met in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

**AGENDA**

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Galloway ordered that the agenda for the February 16, 1999, meeting be approved.

**MINUTES**

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Galloway ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of December 15, 1998, be approved with Commissioner Sferrazza abstaining.

**99-4F RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION - BATTALION CHIEF JOHN RAY WINKLER**

On motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, the following resolution was adopted after being read by Chairman Galloway and a plaque was presented to Battalion Chief Winkler:

**RESOLUTION**

COMMENDING JOHN RAY WINKLER, BATTALION CHIEF FOR 33 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

- WHEREAS, John Ray Winkler, has faithfully served the citizens of Washoe County since 1965; and
- WHEREAS, he has served as Assistant Fire Chief for 10 years with the Lemmon Valley Volunteer Fire Department; and
- WHEREAS, he has served as Battalion Chief during his 23 years of service for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District; and
- WHEREAS, he is now serving as an Auxiliary Firefighter with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District; and
- WHEREAS, he has contributed greatly to the protection of life and property within Washoe County; and
- WHEREAS, Battalion Chief Winkler has retired effective Monday, January 4, 1999.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Fire Commissioners commend Battalion Chief Winkler for true and faithful services and do direct that he be presented with this resolution commemorating his service to the citizens of Washoe County.

Acting Chief Slate thanked Battalion Chief Winkler for his many years of dedicated service. Chief Winkler stated that his has been a very rewarding career and that he will be around to support wherever he can.

#### **99-5F OPERATIONS REPORT**

Following discussion and questions by the Board, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Galloway ordered that receipt of the Report of Fire District Operations for the month of January, 1999, be accepted.

Captain Steve Graham introduced Shawna Estep, the 4-year old who was burned in a travel trailer fire in January. Captain Graham stated that when the Engine company arrived on scene, he thought she was dead, but thanks to the EMTI program she was able to get oxygen and medical attention and she is now completely recovered.

#### **99-6F EXPANSION OF THE EMT INTERMEDIATE PROGRAM**

Upon recommendation of Acting Fire Chief Roy Slate, on motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Galloway ordered that the Fire Chief be authorized to expand the Intermediate Medical Technician program to include the Old Virginia Station TM, Station #4.

#### **99-7F CONSOLIDATION OF FIRE SERVICES - CITY OF RENO**

Acting Chief Slate updated the Board regarding discussions with the City of Reno concerning consolidation of Reno and County fire services via either a Joint Powers Authority interlocal agreement or a Contract for Services agreement and provided copies of proposed agreements.

In response to Commissioner Bond, Chief Slate stated that he thinks the labor and union problems can be worked out; that the issue of the volunteers is still outstanding, but they have included language in the proposed agreements to clarify the issue; and that a Joint Powers Authority, as proposed, would replace the Board of Fire Commissioners, except that the Fire District would still be in place for taxation and budget purposes.

Ken Carpenter, Fire Chief of Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department and Vice President of the Washoe County Association, stated that the Association has deemed that the agreement should be a JPA whereby the citizens are represented.

Mike Gardner, Secretary for Volunteer Fireman's Association and Chief of Lemmon Valley Volunteer Fire Department, stated that the general consensus of the Washoe County Fireman's Association and the Lemmon Valley community at large is that the people would be more comfortable with a JPA where they would still be represented by the County Commission.

A discussion ensued regarding the makeup and composition of a joint powers board.

Commissioner Short asked if there was any indication that all the different labor groups would come over to a joint powers board as their employer. Chief Slate stated that he could not speak on behalf of the bargaining units and, depending on what route is taken, that would be another step in the process that will have to be done.

Chairman Galloway stated that, if this goes under a contract for services, some definite, positive action by the Reno Firefighters' union is necessary to clear up the "exclusive-right-to-serve" issue so that the volunteer firefighters won't be affected; and that under a JPA, both unions would have to negotiate with the new board.

Chairman Galloway also discussed the clause concerning how the City and the County will share in the savings and cost avoidance, stating that he would rather see that based on what each entity puts in.

Frank Partlow, a resident of the unincorporated area of the County, stated that he does not believe the citizens of the region will be served by another layer of government; that another layer of bureaucracy is the wrong way to go; that he does not believe any citizens are losing their representation because anyone can complain to this Board or the Reno City Council; and that he disagrees with the point that any citizen is going to gain or lose some control over the negotiation of contracts under NRS 288.

John Judge, President of Truckee Meadows Firefighters, stated that he wanted to express the support that the Truckee Meadows Firefighters have for consolidation.

Reno Fire Chief Chuc Lowden stated that he did receive this agenda package from Chief Slate late last week, but that he did not put it on the Council's agenda because it was too late. He further stated that the joint powers authority envisions a dissolution of both existing fire departments and the creation of a new one and that negotiating a whole new package with both labor unions is not going to be a simple task.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated that if an agreement can not be reached between the City and the County, he would suggest that a modified contract be considered whereby Station 2 and Station 11 would be consolidated; that he understood under the City's plan that would save 12 additional firefighters; and that it might be better to start with a limited, modified consolidation.

Commissioner Shaw stated that the Board needs to meet in open forum with the Reno City Council. Chairman Galloway agreed, but stated that the Board needs to go to the City with various proposals and find out what the Council will agree to.

Commissioner Short stated that consolidating two urban fire departments would probably work fairly well, but he does not see how consolidating an urban department with a rural department that covers hundreds of square miles is going to work. He also stressed how important it is to retain the volunteers as they are not only a vital resource for the County, but they are also a great tradition.

Battalion Chief Mitch Glazner, Vice President of the Reno Fire Department's Administrator's Association, stated that his group represents the battalion chiefs and the fire marshall; that, while he can not speak for Local 731, they have both just negotiated long-term contracts; and that they do not feel compelled at this time to renegotiate new contracts.

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Galloway ordered that the Joint Powers Agreement be supported as recommended by staff with the addition that in the event the Agreement is unworkable, the Board would be willing to consider a modified limited contract for consolidation in areas where it would be beneficial to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the City of Reno with the funding ratio to be based on relative contribution; and that staff be directed to set up a joint meeting with the City of Reno as soon as possible for the purpose of communicating discussion held today.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no response to the call for public comments.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

JIM GALLOWAY, Chairman  
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

ATTEST: AMY HARVEY, County Clerk