

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

TUESDAY 9:30 A.M. OCTOBER 19, 1999

PRESENT:

- Jim Galloway, Chairman,
- Ted Short, Vice Chairman
- Peter Sferrazza, Commissioner
- Jim Shaw, Commissioner
- Joanne Bond, Commissioner
- Amy Harvey, County Clerk
- Katy Singlaub, County Manager
- Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel
- Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief

9:30 a.m. The Board met in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 E. Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Galloway ordered that the agenda for October 19, 1999 meeting be approved.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Galloway ordered that the minutes of August 10, 1999 special meeting and August 17, 1999, regular meeting, be approved.

99-45F PRESENTATION - DISCUSSION - TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BUDGET

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief, provided the Board with background information regarding the financial update and stated that he has hired Mary Walker of Walker and Associates as a consultant to help him with the budget.

Chief Scheuerman stated that this was the worst fire season in terms of total number of responses and number of acres burned; that they have expended a lot of funds, some of which are reimbursable and some are not; and that they reviewed their budget to get an idea of where they stand right now. He further stated that they wanted all the parties going into consolidation to know up front where they stand; that they initially budgeted an operating deficit of \$750,000; that since then they have lowered that amount significantly but they still have an operating deficit; that they have not had an operating deficit in the last 3 or 4 budgets; that they took a very large hit through the wholesale annexation when the City sped up their 5-year annexation plans; and that, when they lost island 18 and others, they lost over \$100 million in assessed value to annexation, which translates roughly between \$500,000 and \$700,000 in ad valorem tax losses. He further advised that Ms. Walker has reviewed the budget and subsequently reallocated some funds and reflected where they are currently; and that they are in the process of compiling a 3- and 5-year projection for both consolidated and nonconsolidated situations.

Commissioner Short inquired about the 1999-2000 estimate of \$222,000 for contingency. Mary Walker responded that the Fire Protection District has had a contingency in the past, but when it comes out to actuals it is not shown as used, because may have been appropriated into other line items.

Ms. Walker stated that they are before the Board to give the current status in the financing of the Fire District; that she will complete 2 separate 5-year projections that will come before the Board the first meeting in November; that one projection will be based on the assumption they remain as a District; and that the second projection will be if they consolidate.

Chairman Galloway inquired about the capital outlay. Ms. Walker responded that this is just the general fund and the capital fund is separate and was not presented to the Board today; that there is a separate fund, where they have all their major purchases like the fire engines; and that is also where the bond money for the fire station will be placed.

Commissioner Sferrazza inquired about service and supplies and why it went up almost one million dollars. Ms. Walker responded that one of the things they did in this estimate when they saw they had an operating deficit was to review each line item with the Chief and management staff and reallocated those line items; that they have not paid the Reno dispatch contract for the last 2 years as there is still ongoing discussion on how much money should be paid; and that they carried forward the money from the dispatch contract under services and supplies for the prior years that have not been paid, which needs to be rectified and determined whether the Fire District is still liable to pay that amount or not.

Chief Scheuerman stated that all of the budget information will be given to the Board prior to November 9, 1999, which is the date he requests that a special meeting be held.

Frank Partlow, 15 Scattergun, stated that he has been following the issue of consolidation; that the annexation was done entirely in accordance with state law; that the concern of some of the Commissioners was that the Fire Protection District would somehow subsidize Reno's general fund; and that any further delay in consolidation through contract does not make any sense to him as a taxpayer.

99-46F DISCUSSION - CONSOLIDATION STATUS - FUTURE MEETING DATES

Chief Scheuerman stated that he requests that there be a special meeting held on November 9, 1999, at which he will bring forward a Fire Station Location Master Plan; that he would like to have a Joint Commission and City Council Meeting on November 23, 1999; and that he requests direction from the Board if those are acceptable timeframes.

Chairman Galloway stated that if they were not having contract talks, right now would they be considering closing a station or two. Mr. Scheuerman responded that he believes even if they were not looking at annexation right now, any talk about station closures at this time would be premature; that their operational budget has been in very good shape over the past years; that there is room to trim and cut without reducing any levels of service; and that the budget does need to be looked at extremely carefully over the next 3 to 5 years and closure decisions made, if necessary.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, expressed his concern about Reno City Council having their hands on citizen taxes.

Kathy Brandhurst, area resident, expressed her concerns regarding the fire consolidation.

* * * * *

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