

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 21, 1999

PRESENT:

Jim Galloway, Chairman,  
Ted Short, Vice Chairman  
Peter Sferrazza, Commissioner  
Jim Shaw, Commissioner  
Joanne Bond, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk  
Mark Gregorson 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 Short, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Galloway ordered that the agenda for December 21, 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 October 19, 1999, meeting be approved.

**99-54F DISCUSSION - STATUS REPORT ON CONSOLIDATION**

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief, gave a brief summary on the status of the consolidation. He stated that they have been meeting with the City of Reno weekly to try and reach an agreement; that they are close to reaching a resolution regarding the contract for service; that they received a draft of the final copy of the fire station location plan and are making suggested recommendations to the draft; and that they will be meeting later today regarding the consolidation with Reno.

Chief Scheuerman advised that there is an issue that has not been resolved, which is the exclusive right to representation by Local 731; that they would like to continue with the volunteer service in the areas that they represent right now; that within the City of Reno they have no volunteers; and that the County wants assurance that the volunteer service will continue. Chairman Galloway stated that he would not like to see the volunteer issue settled by a non-performance in the contract.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated that the volunteers do not have to be made a part of the consolidation and could be separated out from the beginning, and then the County would not have to worry about them. Chief Scheuerman responded the District administers the volunteers would be administered by the City of Reno employees after consolidation; and therefore if the volunteers were kept separate it would be difficult to impose the same rules, regulations and procedures.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated that he is concerned about who would be representing the District in the future; that there would have to be someone representing the District versus the City of Reno; and that he never envisioned that there would be no employees for the Fire Protection District. Chief Scheuerman responded that Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel, and Howard Reynolds, Assistant County Manager, would still continue representing the County, but that there would be no one representing the District specifically as there would be no one left.

Howard Reynolds Assistant County Manager, stated that staff recommended and this Board endorsed a condition precedent to the agreement, requesting in writing from Local 731 the right to utilize volunteers in what is currently the District. He stated that nothing has been received from the City of Reno this far in response.

Commissioner Bond stated that this matter has come before the Board time and time again and there needs to be some resolution to this matter.

Commissioner Short advised that the issue regarding the volunteers should be non-negotiable and there should be a commitment from the City of Reno's union that this will operate. He further stated that he believes the contract with the City of Reno is a step to a Metro Fire District and inquired if there were any triggers in the contract to expand this to a Metro Fire District. Chief Scheuerman responded that there is an article in the contract which states that it should be considered; that it is timed with the next legislative session, as that would require a change in the NRS under the fire protection districts regulations; and that would allow Fire Protection Districts to exist within incorporated areas, as currently state law does not allow that.

Chief Scheuerman requested that the Board and audience observe a minute of silence in honor of the 6<sup>th</sup> Firefighter from Worcester, Massachusetts, whose funeral is being held today.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Frank Partlow, area resident, stated that the County should not enter into a contract if there is no trust between the parties; and that any agreement regarding the volunteer firefighters should be rock-solid before any contract is signed.

Cathy Brandhorst, area resident, expressed her concerns regarding 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