

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 22, 2000

PRESENT:

Ted F. Short, Chairman
Jim Shaw, Vice Chairman
Joanne Bond, Commissioner
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief
Betty Jo Vonderheide, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, 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 Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the agenda for the February 22, 2000, meeting be approved.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of November 16, 1999, and the joint meeting with the Reno City Council meeting of November 23, 1999, be approved.

00-4F STATUS REPORT - DISTRICT BUDGET & FINANCES

Marty Scheuerman, Fire Chief, reported that the \$850,000 operating deficit has been cut to \$380,000 primarily with salary savings in that they have continued to operate short-staffed in anticipation of consolidation; that they have also reduced operating expenditures and restructured some spending patterns, while still providing the service. He stated that they had been anticipating an average of 7 percent increase in assessed valuation; that the District only experienced half of that, losing over \$100-million in assessed valuation due to annexation; and that they have gained back \$50-million. Chief Scheuerman further stated that the \$380,000 operating deficit includes the contract for service with the City of Reno for dispatch; and that if the District does not consolidate with Reno, there are other cost-saving measures being explored, such as further

expenditure cuts, redeploying manpower, buyout of early retirement, etc.

In response to Chairman Short, Mary Walker, Walker & Associates, stated that the District is not in a desperate situation and reviewed other cost-saving measures that have been taken. She further explained that the full impacts of the annexations have not yet been realized and presented different scenarios with and without consolidation. Ms. Walker also said that the dispatch contract does need to be changed as the District is currently being charged about \$320,000 per year and, if you look at the proportionate share of number of calls, the District should only be paying approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000.

Commissioner Galloway pointed out that the District is not in an immediate crisis and staff appears to be working on many contingency plans. He further stated that if worse came to worst and the ad valorem rate did have to be raised, 1-cent would raise approximately \$130,000; and that the worst-case scenario would mean that the ad valorem rate might have to be raised 2- or 3-cents.

Commissioner Shaw asked if Ms. Walker is going to continue providing financial updates to the Board. Ms. Walker stated that she will and that next month they will be providing a 5-year snapshot of the budget. Chief Scheuerman added that they are also working on the 5-year CIP program.

On motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the financial status report be accepted.

00-5F STATUS REPORT – CONSOLIDATION

Chief Scheuerman reported that he talked with Reno Chief Lowden this afternoon and was encouraged that the talks with Local 731 have not fallen off and the union had indicated that they wanted to think about the City's final offer over the weekend. He stated that there appears to be movement in a positive fashion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, a Reno citizen, stated that he greatly appreciates and admires all the firemen and firewomen; that the concept of consolidation is great if you can trust everybody involved; that it now appears that may not be the case and Reno cannot be trusted; and that consolidation should be put into abeyance until it can be worked out so that Washoe County will have some authority or at least be empowered equally with the City of Reno.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Bond noted that the contracts with some of the volunteer firefighter groups will be expiring this summer; that Reno has committed that they will accept any that are extended; and that she would like staff to start working on those. (Commissioner Bond made these comments during the Board of County Commissioner portion of the meeting.)

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

TED F. SHORT, Chairman
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

ATTEST: AMY HARVEY, County Clerk