

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

TUESDAY

1:30 P.M.

MARCH 21, 2000

PRESENT:

Ted F. Short, Chairman

Jim Shaw, Vice Chairman

Joanne Bond, Commissioner

Jim Galloway, Commissioner

Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk

Katy Singlaub, County Manager

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief

Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel

The Board met in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 E. 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 Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the agenda for the March 21, 2000 meeting be approved.

**00-9F MINUTES**

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the minutes of the special meeting of January 11, 2000 and the joint meeting with the City of Reno on January 18, 2000 be approved.

Following Item No. 00-10F Commissioner Sferrazza stated that he believes the motion set forth on Item 5 of the joint meeting minutes of January 18, 2000 concerning the Interlocal Agreement for fire service and consolidation is incorrect, as his understanding was the motion required that the bargaining units approve the status of the volunteers. Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, advised that County staff transcribed the tape of that meeting and Commissioner Sferrazza is correct in his assertion. Commissioner Galloway commented that his understanding of the motion was that no personnel would be transferred until assurances with regard to the volunteers were received.

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that approval of the minutes of the joint meeting of January 18, 2000 be reopened for reconsideration. Commissioner Sferrazza stated that the motion should be amended to reflect that before any transfer of personnel would occur, the County would have language approving the continued status of the volunteers as they are today in the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel, advised that the Clerk would need to verify the language in order to amend the minutes to be consistent with what was actually said. Chief Scheuerman advised that the City of Reno Clerk's Office composed the minutes of that meeting. Ms. Shipman commented that the Board could request that Chief Scheuerman verify the proposed amended language with the transcription of the tape. Chief Scheuerman advised that he could bring that information back to the Board at the next meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the minutes of the joint meeting of January 18, 2000 be approved, subject to the condition that actual language be set forth in the motion on Agenda Item No. 5 concerning approval of the Interlocal Agreement for fire service and consolidation of the Reno Fire Department and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

**00-10F ACCEPTANCE OF DEFIBRILLATORS - REMSA - WADSWORTH AND RED ROCK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, reviewed background information and invited the representative from REMSA to join him at the podium. He showed an example of the donated defibrillators and stated that this is an extremely worthwhile endeavor by REMSA to assist the District.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the donation from REMSA of two fully automatic defibrillators to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for use at Wadsworth and Red Rock Volunteer Fire Departments, be accepted with gratitude.

Chairman Short thanked REMSA for their donation commenting that the defibrillators will save people's lives; and that REMSA does an outstanding job for the community.

**00-11F ENGAGEMENT LETTER - AUDITING SERVICES FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2000 - KAFOURY, ARMSTRONG & CO.**

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, responded to questions of Commissioner Sferrazza concerning the solicitation process for auditing services for the District. Katy Singlaub, County Manager, advised that Kafoury, Armstrong has been conducting auditing services for the District for several years; and that staff sent out a Request for Proposal at the request of the Board, and Kafoury, Armstrong was the only firm that responded. Commissioner Sferrazza stated that he is concerned that the same auditor is providing the service every year.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Fire Chief be directed to execute an engagement letter between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Kafoury, Armstrong & Co., concerning the provision of auditing services for the District for the year ending June 30, 2000.

## **00-12F UPDATE - DISTRICT FINANCES**

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, advised that a full tentative budget with the options requested by Commissioner Sferrazza should be available by the next meeting.

## **00-13F UPDATE - CONSOLIDATION**

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, stated that as of noon today, no agreement has been reached with Local 731, but nothing has been turned down at this point.

Chairman Short stated that he believes the County should proceed in every direction possible to protect the Fire District whether through some joint movement with another fire district, or to stand alone; that he thinks the County has to look at all options to keep the District viable; that this is the 7<sup>th</sup> week since an agreement was supposedly reached and apparently there is a problem somewhere with negotiations; and that the District is caught in the middle and is hostage to those negotiations. He advised that he asked Mayor Griffin today for a complete accounting of money and the status of negotiations, as they will affect the District and the taxpayers. Commissioner Shaw suggested that another letter be sent to Reno outlining the Board's continued concerns. Commissioner Galloway stated that he agrees staff should be looking at other options, noting that some preliminary discussions have already occurred because of an interest expressed by the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF).

Chief Scheuerman stated that he welcomes discussion with other agencies, and in developing their budget, contingency plans have been made in case the City of Reno merger falls through; and that at some point he will need to start rehiring some staff that was lost through attrition. Commissioner Bond noted that in her conversations with members of the City Council, they are not any happier about this situation than the County is and are making every effort to bring this to some kind of resolution; but that she shares everyone's concern and feels the District needs to investigate other options. Howard Reynolds, Assistant County Manager, suggested that, if the Board decides to forward a letter to the City of Reno, consideration be given to setting a deadline for their response so that, hopefully, this matter does not drag on any further.

Following further discussion, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that staff be directed to draft a letter to the City of Reno to be signed by the Commissioners expressing the Board's concerns and containing a request that the City respond by April 2, 2000; and that staff move forward to investigate other options.

Chairman Short asked if it would be possible to also request information concerning all financial commitments that have been agreed to by Reno that could affect the District. Legal Counsel Shipman advised that as long as negotiations are in process, anything being discussed could not be shared until it is ready for submittal as part of an open agenda item.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Frank Partlow, area resident, stated that Nevada is poorly served by the provisions of NRS 288, which does not allow the public to know anything about negotiations such as those occurring between Reno and Local 731 concerning the consolidation effort that have tied up the community now for two to three months; that the Board's Legal Counsel indicated that the important questions cannot be asked because it is against the law, and in his opinion the law needs to be changed; and that he hopes at the next Legislative session Washoe County and other

governmental entities will pursue the refinement of NRS 288 to address this issue. Commissioner Galloway stated that he thought the Board supported this concept in the last Legislative session, but more emphasis may need to be placed on that matter during the next session.

Legal Counsel Shipman noted that she did not state that it is against the law to obtain information relative to negotiations, as the law itself does not prohibit such; that her understanding is that the information cannot be received because of the Rules of Engagement entered into at the beginning of the collective bargaining process; and that it is standard practice for parties to agree to maintain the confidentiality of their negotiations until such time as they are prepared for that information to come forward.

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