

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

MARCH 28, 2000

PRESENT:

Ted F. Short, Chairman,

Jim Shaw, Vice Chairman

Peter Sferrazza, Commissioner

Jim Galloway, Commissioner

Joanne Bond, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk

Katy Singlaub, County Manager

Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief

The Board met in special 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 Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the agenda for the Special Meeting of March 28, 2000, be approved with the following change: Delete Item 4, G.I.S. Analyst Classification.

00-14F DISCUSSION AND UPDATE - FY 2000/2001 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief, reviewed budget proposals for FY 2000/2001 using a power point presentation. He emphasized the following scenarios:

- * History of the ad valorem tax rate
- * Steps to eliminate the operational deficit in FY 2000/2001
- * Other cost saving strategies still being developed
- * Recommended actions

Chief Scheuerman stated that one scenario is they would request a taxrate increase of 3.4 cents per hundred of assessed valuation, which would translate to an additional \$11.90 per year for an owner of a \$100,000 house; and that another step to eliminate the deficit is to consolidate with the City of Reno, and should that happen, there would be no request for a tax increase. He further stated that they are looking into moving Station 2 to Cold Springs within the next 5 to 10 years and converting the old Station 2 to a warehouse. He noted that TMFPD owns the building and leases the land for less than \$10,000 a year, and this needs consideration whether or not consolidation occurs.

Commissioner Galloway stated that the Board has made a commitment to not lay off personnel if there is no consolidation with Reno; that the deficit is not the fault of TMFPD but is due to annexation by Reno; and that if there is no contract with the City of Reno he would have to support the tax increase.

Commissioner Bond inquired concerning procedure in moving Station 2 to Cold Springs. Chief Scheuerman responded that they would have to obtain an agreement with the City of Reno to provide first-in-coverage from one of their stations; and that they would still have second-in-coverage either from the South Station in District 4 or from Sun Valley.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated that he had requested Chief Scheuerman to prepare an alternate budget, which would avoid a tax increase, but at the same time would not result in an operating deficit without layoffs. Chief Scheuerman responded that they prepared what they could, with the limited information they had, as they just received the numbers on Friday; that they prepared one budget with the first round of cuts; and that they could prepare another budget by the next meeting on April 11th.

Mary Walker, Walker & Associates, stated that the deficit grew from about \$800,000 a year to \$1,100,000, because of the additional short falls in revenues, which they will see next year with the assessed value as well as the second year impact from the annexation. After further discussion, Ms. Walker stated that she did not believe the submission of another tentative budget would answer all of the Commissioner's questions and concerns by April 11th; and that a tentative budget could be filed with the state and then they could bring back to the Board a draft of a worse-case and best-case scenario toward the end of April. She added that the final budget has to be submitted to the State by June 1, 2000.

Commissioner Shaw stated that after listening to everything being said today, it appears that if there is no consolidation the 3 steps that Chief Scheuerman outlined in his March 24, 2000 memo, including a tax increase would have to be followed.

In response to Chairman Short's inquiry about money collected for wildland fires, Chief Scheuerman responded that they have filed 3 FEMA declarations and qualified for 3 of the large fires last year; that there is a \$250,000 deductible; and that they are looking at collecting around \$500,000, which they have been informed could take up to three years to collect.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short directed that staff come back with the tentative budget on April 11, 2000.

00-15F DISCUSSION - STATUS AND UPDATE ON CONSOLIDATION

Chuc Lowden, City of Reno Fire Chief, stated that Reno City Council asked him to inform the Board that the Council is still very dedicated to

consolidation and are working very hard to move forward with this project; and that the Council today in closed session reviewed the various proposals by the negotiating team and has agreed to an offer to make to the firefighters. He further stated that the firefighters negotiating team has indicated that the offer will be acceptable to them; that there is an agreement that will be discussed by Local 731 at their general membership meeting Tuesday, April 4th; and that if the recommendation of the negotiating committee is followed, a ratification vote can take place with regard to the offered contract. He advised that the ratification vote process has a time frame and takes approximately 2 weeks under their bylaws to accomplish; that approximately 2 weeks after April 4th, they will schedule a ratification vote for all three shifts of the Reno Fire Department. He further advised that he advised them that once they make the proposed contract available to their membership, it loses the confidentiality; and that they have also been informed that Reno City Council would make that contract offer available to TMFPD for their review. He proposed that they meet with TMFPD staff next week to cost out the proposal in order to present exact costs for the Board's consideration; that one of the positive aspects of the proposal as currently drafted, is that the contract is in effect four years past the current contract, which expires June 30, 2001; and that would provide this Board the ability to know exactly what their costs are going to be for that duration. Chief Lowden informed the Board that if the agreement is ratified by Local 2487, Truckee Meadows Firefighters, and Local 731, Reno Firefighters, it will then go back to the Council for ratification and then to this Board for ratification; and that none of the provisions of the contract would go into effect unless the interlocal agreement for contract fire protection services was signed by the TMFPD and the City of Reno.

Chairman Short expressed his concern regarding the potential cost to the taxpayers in the Truckee Meadows Fire District. He stressed the importance of every CAB in his district being provided with potential costs for four or five years.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated that he needs to be certain that language in the contract satisfies the concerns that were addressed in those specific side bar agreements, in particular, the volunteer protection, the water tenders, and the minimum staffing levels.

Chief Lowden responded that the issues the Board raised in earlier meetings will be addressed as part of this package.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated that he would like to direct staff to continue negotiating; that staff draft a cost assessment based upon the agreement as soon as possible; and that by April 18th the Board should know what the contract provides and could vote to accept or reject it.

Commissioner Galloway commented that nobody has raised the issue about management; that past events have raised in his mind, additional concerns regarding management; and that they are handing the Truckee Meadows employees over to another entity and he is concerned about that issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present wishing to make public comment.

* * * * *

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