

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

MAY 16, 2000

PRESENT:

Ted F. Short, Chairman

Jim Shaw, Vice Chairman

Joanne Bond, Commissioner (arr. at 10:10 a.m.)

Jim Galloway, Commissioner (arr. at 9:55 a.m.)

Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

Betty Jo Vonderheide, Chief Deputy 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 Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the agenda for the May 16, 2000 meeting be approved.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the minutes of the special meetings of March 14 and 28 and the regular meeting of March 21, 2000 be approved.

00-25F AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION BID – BID NO. 2241-2000 – NEW ADDITION TO FIRE STATION NO. 29.

This was the time to consider award of construction bid, Notice to Contractors for receipt of sealed proposals having been published in the Reno Gazette-Journal on April 19, 2000 for construction of the new addition of Fire Station No. 29. Proof was made that due and legal Notice had been given.

The following bids were received:

| <u>Bidder</u> | <u>Bid Amount</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ferrel Construction | \$ 97,432.00 |
| Christman Construction, Inc. | \$111,907.00 |

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| K-W Western, Inc. | \$ 96,289.00 |
| K-7 Construction, Inc. | \$119,222.00 |
| Advanced Installations, Inc. | \$122,848.00 |
| Frank Lepori Construction | \$ 91,813.00 |
| Robinson Construction | \$ 79,500.00 |

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, provided background information concerning this item and responded to questions of the Board.

Upon recommendation of Chief Scheuerman, on motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that Bid No. 2241-2000 for construction of the new addition to Fire Station No. 29 be awarded to the low bidder, Robinson Construction, in the amount of \$79,500 without alternates. It was further ordered that the Purchasing and Contracts Administrator be authorized to execute an agreement with Robinson Construction to perform the work.

00-26F UPDATE ON POSSIBLE CONSOLIDATION OPTIONS

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, advised that, pursuant to Board direction, he met with Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, and the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Sierra Forest Fire Protection District to see if a proposal could be developed relative to the consolidation of NDF and TMFPD; that they have determined that to consolidate the two departments would require some infrastructure changes that would include building a new station between the two existing districts in Washoe Valley, which would take approximately 18 months to 2 years to complete at a cost of about \$2-million; that after the station is constructed consolidation would save approximately \$380,464 annually and would also fund an increase in the staffing levels of the remaining two NDF stations to four-man companies. He further stated that another option after building the new station would be to raise the Sierra Forest Fire Protection tax by 3.75 cents per hundred in assessed valuation to pay for the additional staffing, which would generate about \$580,000 per year in future savings; and that neither option funds Cold Springs but one possibility to address that issue would be to reallocate the manpower from TMFPD Station 2 provided adequate coverage could be obtained from the City of Reno.

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Commissioner Galloway arrived at the meeting.

Mary Walker discussed the financial analysis and options to increase savings, including funding alternatives for construction of a new fire station, increasing the tax rate, and legislation for funding to facilitate consolidation, noting that the State is interested in consolidating State services with local government. Upon inquiry of Commissioner Sferrazza, she advised that if TMFPD’s salaries were to increase through arbitration over what is budgeted, the savings would decline; that the financial analysis is very limited in scope and basically looked at NDF coming up to Truckee Meadows salaries; and that the figures represent the assumption that the TMFPD will accept the 3% that is on the table and not go to arbitration.

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Commissioner Bond arrived at the meeting.

Rich Harvey, Fire Chief, NDF, responded to questions of the Board concerning NDF stations, equipment, potential operational efficiencies, the new Boomtown station, possible options for Cold Springs, etc., and advised that preliminary discussions looked at salaries and station combinations. Upon inquiry of Commissioner Bond, Chief

Harvey advised that his salary is paid by the State but all other fire personnel are paid for by the County; that the State provides some seasonal firefighters and he would anticipate that they would continue to do that plus continuing the aviation and conservation crew programs. Upon inquiry of Commissioner Sferrazza, Chief Harvey stated that they would be willing to follow whatever direction the County Commissioners give, whether that would be to consolidate with TMFPD, Sparks, or enter into a contract with Reno, etc., and are not opposed to any option that would come from the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Galloway commended Ms. Walker, Chief Scheuerman, and NDF for pulling this together and stated that he feels this consolidation alternative would be viable.

Steve Watson, Labor Relations Manager, responded to questions concerning current negotiations with 2487 advising that the offer on the table is 3%; that they are asking for the Reno wage level effective 7/1/99 which would cost approximately 6.9% just in wages; and that the increase Reno is adding as of July 1, 2000, would cost another 4.2% for a total of approximately 11.1% over where the employees currently stand. He confirmed Commissioner Sferrazza's comment that under this scenario there is a cost saving, but arbitration would have the potential of wiping out part of that cost saving, and possibly any savings with the contract with NDF.

Ms. Walker then stated that much more work needs to be done if the Board wants to proceed with analyzing the NDF alternative. Chief Scheuerman noted that the current analysis of consolidation with NDF does not address the issue of annexation by the City of Reno.

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, stated that consolidation is a good idea, but when Reno City Hall has control of the operation, there will be problems; and that he does not consider what is being done with Reno as a consolidation, but rather as a takeover by Reno City Hall. He further stated that the idea being discussed today sounds great and suggested that the process with Reno be postponed and the County see how consolidation with NDF would work. Commissioner Sferrazza commented that, although the consolidation contract is with the City of Reno, the Reno Fire Department runs its own operation; that he does think there is evil in Reno that has to be dealt with; and that he still thinks consolidation with Reno is a good deal.

Following further discussion, on motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that, in the event the contract between TMFPD and the City of Reno does not go forward, staff be directed to further research the merger between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Nevada Division of Forestry Sierra Fire Protection District as an alternative; and that information be obtained concerning any potential savings if NDF were to join in a three-party contract with the City of Reno and TMFPD.

FY 2000/2001 DISTRICT BUDGET

Marty Scheuerman, Acting Fire Chief, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, advised that the budget was adopted at the hearing scheduled yesterday for that purpose; and that this item was placed on the agenda in the event the issue was continued from that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, discussed his concerns relative to RSCVA's intention to use the Stanharrah property on the corner of Peckham and Kietzke Lane for use as a parking lot, and the methods by which they plan to obtain that property. Commissioner Sferrazza stated that he would like to correct some of the statements made by Mr. Dehne concerning the Stanharrah property, but because the Commissioners do not respond to statements made under public comments, he would respond during Board comments on the Board of County Commissioners agenda.

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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