

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

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

AUGUST 15, 2000

PRESENT:

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

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Marty Scheuerman, Reno Fire Department
Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

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 Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the agenda for the August 15, 2000 meeting be approved with the following amendment: Delete: Item 4, Introduction of Sparks Fire Chief Lee Leighton.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Bond abstaining, Chairman Short ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of July 18, 2000 be approved.

00-39F OPERATIONS REPORT – JULY, 2000

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, briefly reviewed the operations report and advised that a more comprehensive monthly report will be forthcoming that will include a comparison of the total number of occupancies to the percentage of inspections. He advised that consolidation is going well and has provided more resources to fight the recent fires; that without the cooperation of the Sierra Forest Fire District, the consolidated Reno Fire Department, City of Sparks and Federal agencies, the fire situation could easily have been much worse; and that they are

committed to maintaining, improving and using the volunteers wherever possible. He further advised that they are spread very thin at this time; that they responded to over 60 fires in the area without loss of life or property or major injuries; and that they have been extremely busy with structural fires which have recently averaged 4 per week.

Commissioner Galloway commented that he would like to see fire inspection data that tracks whether the higher level of fire inspections that were done in past in the unincorporated areas is continuing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sarah Chvilicek, Chair, North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board, expressed her gratitude and commendation to the firefighters for their efforts in fighting the recent fires. She stated that she is concerned about a statement made recently by a volunteer firefighter indicating that they are not allowed to begin suppression efforts until a regional engine is on the scene; and that time is a critical issue in the rural areas and this is very disturbing information.

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, responded that there is no provision, rule, or directive that volunteers do not initiate action until a regional engine is on the scene, noting that this would be completely opposed to anything they do. He commented that one possible explanation for this misunderstanding is that the volunteer fire department in that area is undergoing a rebuilding and there are more EMS volunteers than qualified volunteers; and that a person cannot fight fires unless they are qualified to do so.

Chairman Short suggested that this item be placed on a future agenda for discussion. Commissioner Galloway requested that Chief Lowden clarify the policy of the Reno Fire Department on this matter.

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

TED SHORT, Chairman
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

ATTEST: AMY HARVEY, County Clerk
