

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

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2000

PRESENT:

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

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
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 Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the agenda for the special meeting of September 19, 2000, be approved.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the minutes of the June 6 & July 25, 2000, special meetings and June 20 & August 15, 2000, regular meetings be approved.

00-40F REPORT OF OPERATIONS

Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations, Reno Fire Department, reviewed the August report with the Board and discussed the number of fire calls in August and September. He advised that the number of incidents are higher this year; that medical emergencies are about 5% higher through the same period last year; and that they will provide a new fire code to the Board within the next month or so, which regulates inspections and necessitates a new inspection program (update to the 1997 Uniform Fire Code). He stated that the volunteers have been used significantly and were paramount to handling some of the major fires this year; that their fill-in commitment has been less as

they now have more resources and the need for fill-in is less; and that they continue to be used on emergencies as they always have. He further stated that the official position from the Reno Fire Department is that they will rely on the volunteers as they always have and maintain the District's use in accordance with the volunteers' contracts. He addressed the issue that arose in the August 15th minutes, concerning a volunteer who arrived by himself and was precluded from taking action on a brush fire and stated that the only reason that would happen is if they were waiting for another volunteer to arrive, because a single person can not safely attack a brush fire by himself. He further advised that the person who brought the issue up to the CAB chairman is not a TMFPD volunteer nor an NDF volunteer and Chief Scheuerman has been unable to locate the individual to ask where he received this information.

Commissioner Galloway asked if a volunteer unit arrived as a functional unit could they start fighting a fire, under Reno policy. Chief Scheuerman responded that they absolutely could.

In response to Commissioner Galloway's inquiry, Chief Scheuerman stated that the ArrowCreek fire was a NDF fire and they had the majority of the volunteer units working those fires; that the only volunteers Reno did not have fighting fire were the units they were utilizing in other areas; and that volunteers were being utilized, if not directly on the fire, as backup and depth of resource for the rest of the area.

Commissioner Galloway stated that he received a complaint of a significant amount of brush, flammable materials and trash on a County easement off of Sun Valley Boulevard and inquired if Chief Scheuerman's department handled those types of complaints. Chief Scheuerman stated that their office is still the main contact for any complaints pertaining to operation, personnel and prevention.

Commissioner Shaw stated that in reference to use and participation of volunteers, he would like a page included in the monthly report, concerning the use of volunteers as it relates to fighting fires as well as other things they have done. Chief Scheuerman stated that he would inform Chief Roy Slate, as he is the volunteer coordinator.

Chairman Short inquired about the fire engine that had caught on fire and whether they had found out if it had the correct wiring. Chief Scheuerman stated that at the time the engine was specified it was with the absolute finest, top-of-the line material available and advised that wiring is being reworked on engines, nationwide, ensuring that they are not exposed to the heat.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, expressed his concern about local government.

Commissioner Galloway requested that Board Member Comments be added to the TMFPD agenda following Public Comments; that he had previously requested an item be agendaized for discussion concerning volunteers; and that notices be sent to all volunteers that this will be on the agenda so they have an opportunity to comment on how they feel about operations.

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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
