

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

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 21, 2000

PRESENT:

**Ted 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, Reno Fire Department**  
**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 Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the agenda for the November 21, 2000 meeting be approved.

**MINUTES**

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 26 and October 17, 2000 be approved.

**00-44F      OPERATIONS REPORT - OCTOBER, 2000**

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, reviewed the operations report and advised that the inspection schedule of all occupancies within the TMFPD is now current. He said three people have been promoted to Battalion Chiefs, which will provide the needed manpower in administration. Chief Scheuerman responded to questions of the Board concerning staffing issues and advised the department is short by approximately 30 people. Hiring will be done every 6 months until they are at full strength.

**REPORT – VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY OPERATIONS**

Roy Slate, Division Chief, responded to questions of the Board. Discussion was held concerning the training program for volunteers, and Commissioner Galloway requested that the Board members receive a copy of the training schedule. Commissioner Shaw stated he was pleased to see that it is felt communications between the Fire Department and the volunteers has greatly improved. He said the volunteers should not be excluded from any part of fire protection service, and staff is doing a good job to assure this. Katy Singlaub, County Manager, advised that NACO and the BLM would be providing a full-time staff member from the State office to provide training support for auxiliary fire personnel. Upon inquiry, Mr. Slate advised that the multi-band radios are currently being installed. He noted there is a long list of wants, needs, and desires for the volunteers. Commissioner Bond requested a list of the needs and priorities of each volunteer fire group to see how meeting those needs can be accelerated.

A discussion commenced concerning dispatch issues relative to dual operation and radio frequencies and assuring that calls are picked up by volunteers.

Chief Richard Boykin, President, Volunteer Firemen's Association, commended Chief Slate for successfully mediating between the volunteers and career groups. He said hopefully the dispatch situation has been corrected, and changes being made will solve most of the problems. He commented that so far consolidation has worked better than they anticipated. Chief Boykin advised there is still a problem with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) not always being notified. He then noted that the heavy training schedule has been a burden to the volunteers, and an attempt is being made to slim down the number of training hours. He said they had to spend \$6,000 of their own money for the breathing apparatus qualification.

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Galloway temporarily left the meeting.

Upon inquiry of Commissioner Sferrazza, Mr. Boykin discussed issues concerning volunteers paying for training. He said they would be happy if NDF and/or TMFPD could pay for training. Chief Scheuerman advised that this issue is being addressed.

**REPORT – VOLUNTEER DISPATCH ISSUES**

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised that significant changes have been made, and the situation is improving at the Reno Dispatch Center. He said Jim Johns is the new Deputy Chief in charge of the dispatch center, and he is working with the volunteers to assure the system succeeds. He commented that the best service to the community would be for all dispatch to be located in one center and for everyone to be on the same dispatch frequency. He then advised he was not aware that NDF was not regularly receiving calls and will look into the situation.

Chief Scheuerman then reported on the structure fire incident September 17, 2000 in Pleasant Valley. He advised that the reporting party's description of the location led to a dispatch to 395 North when the address was actually in Pleasant Valley on South Virginia, and the response delay was caused by the address being entered in wrong at dispatch and had nothing to do with consolidation issues.

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Commissioner Galloway returned to the meeting.

Further discussion was held and Chief Scheuerman responded to questions of the Board. He advised that the net response delay time to the fire was 3 minutes, 57 seconds.

**00-47F      REVIEW – OCTOBER 19, 2000 JOINT FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Bond expressed appreciation for having the opportunity to review the Joint Fire Advisory Board minutes. Chief Scheuerman commented that this information is an important aspect of consolidation.

**COMMENTS - VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP**

Chief Ken Carpenter, Panther Valley Volunteer Fire Department, thanked Chief Slate for the job he is doing for the volunteers. He said many of the dispatch problems have been ironed out, generally things are better, and he has no complaints at this time.

Chief Terry Donohue, Brown/Huffaker Auxiliary, thanked Chief Slate and Chief Scheuerman for their efforts, noting the Volunteer Firefighter's Association has also gone out of their way to make it work. He said they would like a little more money to fix things.

Bill Gooch, Gerlach Volunteer Fire Chief, advised they still need to get their building up. Katy Singlaub, County Manager, advised that Public Works has been working with the volunteers to get that project going.

**REPORT – DEPUTY CHIEF JIM JOHN, RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief John was not present. Chief Scheuerman advised that Mr. John is working to build a good cooperative base between everyone and is preparing a full report.

**00-48F            AGREEMENT – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – WALKER AND ASSOCIATES**

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised that, pursuant to discussion at yesterday's caucus meeting, the agreement includes a not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000. He said anything outside that realm would have to come to the Board for approval.

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Professional Services Agreement between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Walker & Associates concerning the provision of financial services be approved, and Chairman Short be authorized to execute.

**00-49F            FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000 AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT – KAFOURY, ARMSTRONG & CO.**

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised that a good financial report was received. He said the deficit was reduced from \$800,000 to approximately \$250,000 following a course of normal operations and belt tightening. Chairman Short noted the report shows the TMFPD has no financial weaknesses.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Financial Report of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. be accepted.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chief Boykin suggested that the NDF might be able to help with getting the volunteer building up in Gerlach.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Bond thanked Chief Slate for a good report concerning volunteer operations. Commissioner Galloway commented that he looks forward to receiving a report from Deputy Chief Johns. Chairman Short noted he received a request from a member of the City Council to agendize the dispatch issue, but does not believe that will be necessary as Chief Johns has been instructed to fix the situation and he believes that will be done. Commissioner Shaw thanked the volunteers that addressed the Board this morning, advising their input is very helpful.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no response to the call for public comments.

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

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TED SHORT, Chairman  
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

ATTEST: AMY HARVEY, County Clerk

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