

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

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

APRIL 17, 2001

PRESENT:

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

Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel

The Board met in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East 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 Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the agenda for the April 17, 2001, meeting be approved.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the minutes of the February 20 and March 20, 2001, regular meetings, and the minutes of the March 13, 2001, special meeting be approved.

01-20F REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF OPERATIONS REPORT

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the Report of Operations for the Months of January, February and March, 2001 be accepted.

**01-21F REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY
OPERATIONS REPORT**

Commissioner Short stated there was a problem in the Pleasant Valley area concerning 911 calls. Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations, Reno Fire Department, stated he did not review those 911 tapes, but was informed by the dispatch supervi-

sor that there could have been at least a 2 to 4 minute time period that those lines might have been completely jammed.

Commissioner Short said he was informed the Peavine repeater is unable to notify volunteers in Pleasant Valley. Chief Scheuerman said the Peavine repeater system mainly works off of Peavine, Virginia Peak and Slide Mountain for the valley areas; and they tone out the Pleasant Valley volunteers on Slide Mountain. He advised there is no way of knowing for sure whether or not the page for the volunteers was toned out on Peavine, but they suspect it was as some volunteers did not get the call. Chief Scheuerman said the volunteers were toned out again from Slide Mountain, and they are exploring whether the alpha pager will work in the Pleasant Valley area.

Chief Scheuerman responded to several questions from Commissioner Short concerning the fire in the Pleasant Valley area, and explained the hook and ladder vehicle is generally sent to structural fires. Chief Scheuerman advised that this fire was very hot, and two firefighters received minor burns right through their turnouts due to the heat.

Commissioner Sferrazza said he experienced an incident with 911 dispatch where he was put on hold when he called. He said it was a fire where someone actually died, although he does not know if his call would have helped. He inquired if there was a system for emergency calls versus non-emergency calls. Chief Scheuerman advised there are many phone lines, but when you have 30 to 40 people calling in and only 8 to 9 dispatchers answering the phones, the lines start to roll over to the City of Sparks. He advised that Sparks only has 3 or 4 - 911 call pagers and when they are occupied, everything gets put on hold.

Commissioner Bond said when she toured the 911-dispatch center she found that part of the problem is they are having inappropriate 911 calls and hang-ups. The general public needs to understand that 911 is for emergencies only, and when a line is being tied up with inappropriate calls, the true emergencies cannot get through. She inquired about the continued building improvements at various facilities. Roy Slate, Division Chief, said at Pleasant Valley they have two stations; they are attempting to obtain a modular trailer to use as a ready room for the one in Washoe Valley, as well as awaiting information from several departments concerning the site for the trailer. Also, they are in the negotiation process concerning the donated land from St. James Village for the Pagni Lane station.

In response to Chairman Shaw's inquiry, Chief Slate said they are still working on the language for the brochure for volunteer recruitment. Chief Slate answered questions concerning the Cold Springs station.

Following further discussion, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the report concerning the Volunteer/Auxiliary Operations be accepted.

01-22F

**REVIEW TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT'S TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2001/2002**

Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations, Reno Fire Department, said the final budget will come before the Board on May 21, 2001. He reviewed the preliminary budget with the Board and stated the ending fund balance is estimated to be approximately \$2 million through 2005. Chief Scheuerman advised of the proposed bill in the legislature concerning the Motor Vehicle Tax and what that will mean to Washoe County.

Commissioner Short inquired about the fire reimbursement money. Chief Scheuerman said they hope to receive their money soon but that reimbursements are behind due to the last two fire seasons.

In response to Commissioner Sferrazza's inquiry, Ray Sibley, Risk Management Division, advised that the contract is not clear on the assets point and they are meeting on Friday to discuss responsibility with the City of Reno. Mary Walker, Walker & Associates, answered questions about the potential deficit, and discussed debt service payments, transfers to the Health Benefits Fund and the Construction Fund, as well as the Vacation, Sick Leave and Contingency Account. Ms. Walker advised in the current contract they have with the City of Reno, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District receives one group of staffing for the Cold Springs Fire Station, without any cost to the TMFPD.

01-23F

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE – VOLUNTEER LIABILITY
INSURANCE**

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the purchase of Volunteer Liability Insurance for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District by the Washoe County Risk Manager be approved.

VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

There were no volunteers present wishing to make comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one wishing to make public comment.

EMERGENCY ITEMS

Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations, Reno Fire Department, advised that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would like to construct a station in Palomino Valley specifically for their wild land firefighters. He said currently, TMFPD shares the Palomino Valley Volunteer Station with BLM, and they also seasonally house

several of the BLM's trucks. The Palomino Valley Fire Station is on a 2-acre parcel and BLM has requested to construct their station on the second acre and lease the property from TMFPD. Chief Scheuerman said it makes sense to collocate these two divisions in one area.

Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, advised that this is really not an emergency item under the open meeting law. An emergency item is only available to disaster issues and matters of grave public health, safety and welfare. He recommended that a special meeting be held for TMFPD to entertain this issue.

Commissioner Bond said she would like more information concerning BLM's request. She said there are water and septic issues, as well as whether TMFPD's facility could accommodate this proposed project.

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

JAMES M. SHAW, Chairman
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows
Fire Protection District

*Minutes Prepared By:
Jeraldine Magee
Deputy County Clerk*