

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

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

JUNE 19, 2001

PRESENT:

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

Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations
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 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the agenda for the June 19, 2001, meeting be approved with the following amendment: **delete** Item No. 6, consideration of mutual aid agreement and annual operating agreement with Sierra Forest Fire Protection District.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the minutes of the special meeting of April 24, 2001 and the regular meeting of May 15, 2001, be approved. On motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Bond abstaining due to absence, Chairman Shaw ordered that the minutes of the special meeting of May 21, 2001 be approved.

01-31F REPORT OF OPERATIONS

Chief Scheuerman briefed the Board concerning the status of the Martis wildfire and displayed a map on the overhead depicting the exact location and total area of the fire. He discussed the difficulties in fighting this fire, especially because part of the area is designated wilderness and there are suppression constraints regarding using certain motorized equipment in a designated wilderness. The Chief stated the watershed

is a major concern and there is a real effort being put forth to keep the fire out of the headwaters of the creeks that supply water to the South Truckee Meadows; and Bronco and Gray Creeks that feed into the Truckee River have been totally denuded, which could cause water quality problems when it rains and snows. He discussed the contingency plans and evacuation plans should the fire come over the ridge and down into the foothills (Galena, ArrowCreek, etc.) and stated that, unlike the ArrowCreek fire last year, there has been time for everyone to prepare and make plans. The Chief then responded to Board members' questions.

Commissioner Galloway asked whether the fire might get into the Tahoe Basin. Chief Scheuerman stated that it could with the right wind conditions and contingency plans are also in place for that possibility. Commissioner Galloway asked about the C-130 military planes and whether the Board could do something to get more of that kind of assistance to fight these wildland fires. Chief Scheuerman explained that, because of federal regulations, all of the private assets have to be used first before any government assets are used.

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, stated it is classic bureaucracy to say there is nothing that can be done because of federal regulations, and two or three C-130 fire-fighting planes should be stationed at the Air Guard with crews on alert so that air attacks on wildfires can begin immediately. He said this is an emergency situation with four more months to go in the fire season, and the Board should get together with Reno, Sparks and the State and do something about this.

In response to Commissioner Sferrazza, Chief Scheuerman stated there are air tankers stationed at Stead and at Minden which are dispatched immediately, but he would always welcome more air tankers. The Chief stated the federal constraints were put into place to protect private industry and so the government could not compete with private individuals. Commissioner Sferrazza asked that the matter be agendaized as Mr. Dehne requested.

Commissioner Galloway stated the rules about not using mechanical equipment in a designated wilderness area during a fire do not make sense to him and asked that the agenda item include all federal policies that place restrictions and constraints on fighting wild fires. He stated the Board will probably need to get the congressional delegation involved. Commissioner Sferrazza suggested letters be sent to Senators Reid and Ensign and Congressman Gibbons to get them informed and involved at the beginning.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that receipt of the Report of Operations be acknowledged.

01-32F REPORT ON VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY OPERATIONS

Roy Slate, Division Chief, presented the report on volunteer operations and responded to questions from the Board. Commissioner Galloway expressed a concern about the volunteers being used to backfill stations rather than actually fighting fires, especially if the Martis fire comes over the hill. Chief Slate explained that in the event of an emergency such as the ArrowCreek fire, the labor contract constraints do not apply, and volunteers were fighting the fire within the City limits at that time.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that receipt of the Report on Volunteer/Auxiliary Operations be acknowledged.

01-33F COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT – 2001 ANNUAL OPERATING AGREEMENT – U.S. FOREST SERVICE, HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST

Upon recommendation of Chief Scheuerman, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement and the 2001 Annual Operating Agreement between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the U.S. Forest Service, Humboldt/Toiyabe National Forest, concerning mutual aid be approved and Chairman Shaw be authorized to execute.

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10:17 a.m. – Commissioner Galloway temporarily left the meeting.
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01-34F INCREASE REPORTING THRESHOLD ON CAPITAL ASSETS

Upon recommendation of Mary Walker, Walker & Associates, and Kathy Garcia, Washoe County Comptroller, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Galloway temporarily absent, Chairman Shaw ordered that the reporting threshold of capital assets be increased from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District’s assets for financial reporting purposes only, retroactive to July 1, 2000. It was noted that this change will have no impact on recording assets for inventory and insurance purposes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, suggested the agenda item for changing the federal rules should be time specific and the Board should invite the Governor to that meeting.

Gary Schmidt, Mt. Rose resident, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the fire personnel, volunteers and career, who are out on the line.

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10:25 a.m. – Commissioner Galloway returned to the meeting.
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COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Short asked about the progress of the Fire Inspection Program. Chief Scheuerman stated a workshop is scheduled for July.

EMERGENCY ITEMS

Chief Scheuerman advised that John B. Irwin, the original Fire Chief for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District passed away recently. Commissioner Sferazza suggested a Resolution honoring Chief Irwin be prepared for adoption at a future meeting.

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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
Sharon Gotchy, Deputy County Clerk*

