

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

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

AUGUST 21, 2001

PRESENT:

Jim Shaw, Chairman
Pete Sferrazza, Vice Chairman
Joanne Bond, Commissioner
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
Ted 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. Commissioner Galloway was present by audio conference telephone until he arrived at the meeting as noted below.

AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the agenda for the August 21, 2001, meeting be approved.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of July 24, 2001, be approved.

01-42F REPORT OF OPERATIONS

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

01-43F REPORT ON VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY OPERATIONS

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, reviewed two dispatch issues that occurred since the Volunteer/Auxiliary Operations report was written and advised that they have been resolved. He then responded to questions of the Board.

Commissioner Bond advised that the Palomino Valley Chief has indicated that their volunteers feel underused. Chief Scheuerman stated the matter would be reviewed and discussed with the volunteers. He advised they are on the same run cards as in the past, but Palomino Valley has had very few calls this year compared to previous summers.

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

01-44F APPEAL - NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
(NFPA) STANDARDS 1710 AND 1720

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, reviewed staff's recommendation to oppose National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards 1710 and 1720, which were accepted at the NFPA meeting in May, 2001. He advised that many city, county and Fire Chief's organizations were opposed to the standard; and that they were appealed to the Standards Council on July 11, 2001 and are currently under appeal to the NFPA Board of Directors. Chief Scheuerman stated the impacts to the Fire District relate to response time and staffing criteria, and the standards would not allow local areas to do their own master plans.

Commissioner Galloway moved, seconded by Commissioner Short, to support the appeal of standards 1710 and 1720 and staff's recommendation to oppose the standards at every opportunity, to not reference or adopt the standards, and, as an alternative approach, to make them targets or best practices instead of standards. Commissioner Sferrazza said he could not support staff's recommendation because it does not specify which standards are being opposed. Chief Scheuerman advised that the entire report relates to NFPA standards 1710 and 1720.

Commissioner Galloway amended his motion and moved that the Board of Trustees support the appeal and oppose the standards as written. Commissioner Short seconded the amended motion.

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3:30 p.m. Commissioner Galloway arrived at the meeting.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated he had a problem with the appeal as written. He noted that a communication in the agenda material contains a statement expressing disbelief that no effort was made by NFPA to invite any national organizations representing local elected officials to participate on the committees that developed these standards. He said the communication placed specific emphasis on the fact that the National League of Cities and the U. S. Conference of Mayors were not invited to participate, but he believes the National Association of Counties (NACO) and

other groups should also be included. He stated that, if the County joins this appeal, it should be made clear that NACO needs to be included in the process. Chief Scheuerman commented that he understands there were multiple appeals, and NACO may have submitted their own appeal. Commissioner Sferrazza said he would not want to support the specific appeal and would think the Trustees would cite their own reasons for opposing the standards. Chief Scheuerman commented that a letter could be written to the NFPA Board of Directors on behalf of the Trustees expressing their concerns about the standards. Commissioner Galloway stated that staff could be directed to prepare a letter outlining the Board's position for approval by the Chairman. Commissioner Sferrazza said he would like to see the letter before it goes out.

On call for the motion to support the appeal and oppose the standards as written, Commissioner Sferrazza voted "no," and the motion passed 4 –1. Commissioner Sferrazza said he voted "no," because he does not support the appeal as written.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that staff be directed to draft a letter setting forth the Board's specific opposition to the standards, as written, and the Board's concerns about parties that should have been consulted, to be presented to the Board for approval at the earliest opportunity.

Commissioner Galloway said he is concerned that the letter from the Board will get to NFPA too late and requested that staff forward an immediate communication advising them that the previous motion was passed and more details will follow.

VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

Willie Teepe, Hidden Valley Auxiliary Station Manager and Training Manager for the Truckee Meadows Auxiliary at-large firefighters, advised that they would like to continue the same services they provided before consolidation. He said they previously ran a rescue truck and an air truck and, since consolidation, those services have been taken away from them; and they now have very limited equipment to assist the outlying areas of the County. Mr. Teepe responded to questions of the Board.

Mr. Teepe requested that Board members attend a Volunteer Chief's meeting held the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Bond noted that the Board of County Commissioners is convened in a regularly scheduled meeting at that time. Further discussion was held, and it was determined that a joint meeting could be scheduled during a regular County Commission meeting.

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised that the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District was short staffed during the year prior to consolidation, and the volunteers and auxiliary members were called upon more frequently for assistance; that, during that time, the auxiliary was authorized to use the rescue truck and the air truck but the equipment was never directly assigned to them and

was never intended to be available for their long term use; and that part of the consolidation contract with Local 731 is that their mechanics would respond the air truck to all emergencies. He noted that the areas of responsibility and operation for the auxiliary have not changed, and said he would have Chief Slate prepare a staff report regarding this issue.

Chairman Shaw said it appears there may be some miscommunication and, hopefully, everyone can cooperate and work together for the common good.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, responded to questions of Commissioner Short concerning automatic response time and implementation of the wildland interface code. Commissioner Short then suggested that the new Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Fire Chief visit with the Board at a future meeting.

Upon inquiry of Commissioner Sferrazza, Chief Scheuerman advised that the City of Reno has tried to master plan for a four-minute response time, but their current criteria is a five-minute response time. Commissioner Sferrazza said he believes the response time in the past was four minutes in the City of Reno and requested that staff conduct some research to determine when the five-minute response time was established.

Commissioner Galloway requested that a joint meeting be scheduled with the Volunteer Chiefs at a time the Board of County Commissioners is in regular session.

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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
Barbara Trow, Deputy County Clerk*