

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

TUESDAY

1:15 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2001

PRESENT:

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

**Amy Harvey, County Clerk**  
**Howard Reynolds, Assistant 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 Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the agenda for the September 25, 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 August 21, 2001, regular meeting be approved.

**01-45F      REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF OPERATIONS REPORT**

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the Report of Operations for the Month of August, 2001 be accepted.

**01-46F      REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY  
OPERATIONS REPORT**

Commissioner Bond said the Board has been trying to improve the building for the Lemmon Valley Volunteer Firefighters for some time now. She requested that staff obtain an engineer's estimate for expansion of the existing building, just to get

things started. At least they will have an idea of what needs to be done and how much it will cost. Budget issues would be addressed during the next budget cycle, for starting and completing any recommended improvements.

Commissioner Short said he would like to be able to help the Red Rock Volunteer Firefighters with the purchase of their truck. Roy Slate, Division Chief, stated that is something the Volunteers are working on presently, by reviewing their ending fund balance and Washoe County Fire Suppression budget. He is working with Lisa Gianoli, Budget Manager, trying to get some firm numbers to bring back to the Board, along with other information regarding this issue.

Commissioner Bond said she would like an item included on a future agenda concerning the possibility of a career station in Cold Springs versus some other location. Chief Slate said he has been advised that the presentation made to the Joint Fire Advisory Board will be made to the TMFPD Board next month.

Commissioner Short said there seems to be some discrepancy about the assignment of the brush truck and gas truck in Hidden Valley and when they were removed. He asked how Dispatch Services and the Tiburon Program were working together. Chief Scheuerman said things are going a little better than they have in the past. There have been conflicting issues when Tiburon does not make a specific recommendation, such as the dispatcher toning late. He stated the City of Reno is going ahead with the purchase of a second data terminal specific to the database in Tiburon; this will allow 2 people working, basically, 24 hours a day to get things caught up. He said he hopes to be able to inform the Board by the end of the year that those issues have been eliminated. Chief Scheuerman said he is still looking into the viability of working towards an alpha page system for the volunteers, which will dispatch them at the same time as the career employees.

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

**01-47F      ADOPTION OF THE 1997 UNIFORM FIRE CODE**

Commissioner Galloway stated he will support this item as he believes there is adequate provisions in this adoption to deal with special circumstances that may arise.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the 1997 Uniform Fire Code, with amendments be adopted. It was further ordered that the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board recommend to the Washoe County Board of Commissioners to amend Washoe County Code Chapter 60 by adopting the 1997 Uniform Fire Code with amendments.

**01-48F            PROCLAMATION – OCTOBER – FIRE PREVENTION MONTH**

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the following Proclamation be adopted and Chairman Shaw be authorized to execute:

**WHEREAS**, there are over 2 million fires reported every year, and

**WHEREAS**, Fire is the third leading cause of death in the home, and

**WHEREAS**, Over 30% of the fires that kill children are started by children, and

**WHEREAS**, The Reno Fire Department, Community Risk Reduction Division, actively and aggressively involves the community in fire prevention by inspection, education and awareness, and

**WHEREAS**, The Reno Fire Department, Community Risk Reduction Division, is involved in the code writing and enforcement process, striving for a safer lifestyle for the residents of Reno and the Truckee Meadows and a safer environment for firefighters engaged in firefighting, rescue and medical emergencies, and

**WHEREAS**, The Reno Fire Department, Community Risk Reduction Division, in the tradition of the fire service as a whole, is a progressive, innovative and powerful force in making the Reno and Truckee Meadows area safer for all inhabitants

**I**, the Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners, for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, declare the month of October to be Fire Prevention Month in the City of Reno and Washoe County.

**UPDATE – REGIONAL FIRE SERVICE**

Commissioner Galloway said there is about 60,000 plus residents in the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District that pay taxes for fire services, and they get service by contract through the City of Reno. They do not get to elect a representative on the body that ultimately runs the Fire Department. Commissioner Short said the representation issue could be resolved by having a regional fire service, which he would like to see happen.

Chairman Shaw said he believes this issue is on a joint meeting agenda with the City of Reno and the City of Sparks for discussion. Marty Scheurman, Chief of Operations, Reno Fire Department, said he believes the working group is slated for another meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Short said it is in everyone's best interest to have a regional fire service. He commented they will never be effective or achieve complete economies in fire protection until there is uniform fire service in the Truckee Meadows. He would

like to see all of the entities work on this issue, and give the taxpayers a break on fire service.

Frank Partlow, area resident, said he supports a regional fire service, and since there is a joint meeting scheduled with the Cities of Reno and Sparks, they really should take the time to discuss and pursue this issue. The Regional Fire Service working group has made considerable progress, and they did recommend a Blue Ribbon Commission, similar to the Law Enforcement Task Force that operated in 1995-96. Firefighters, Law Enforcement, Soldiers, etc. are very treasured assets, and they need to be managed, recruited, trained and led in the most efficient and effective way possible. Mr. Partlow offered to serve in any capacity that would help the County and Cities work through this process.

Commissioner Galloway stated that it would be a great benefit to both the taxpayers and the firefighters by proceeding with regionalization and an independent funding source dedicated to achieving that.

**01-49F            VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

Richard Boykin, Chief, Cold Springs Volunteers, read a letter from Assistant Chief, Ray Liscom, Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department, placed on file with the Clerk. He said the call level and the tax base in Cold Springs do not justify a paid station. The Volunteer Department is handling all of the calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If a paid station is placed in Cold Springs at the tax level they are at right now, three-quarters of the cost would be borne by other taxpayers outside of Cold Springs.

Terry Donahue, Chief, Brown-Huffaker Volunteers, thanked the Board for their support on station improvements throughout the County. He advised that down at the south transportation center, the bus barn, they are considering removal of the carport building, which is not being used anymore. It is proposed to be removed by the end of the year. He said maybe TMFPD could look into this, as it could be useful for fire station expansions.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sam Dehne, area resident, complimented firefighters for doing a wonderful job this summer. He expressed appreciation to Federal Judge Hagen for the decision in his case, concerning a fine imposed on him by the Ethics Commission. Mr. Dehne said it is an insult to even consider approval for Oil-Dri's proposed kitty litter project.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Short thanked staff for getting the fire inspection program rolling.

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

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JAMES M. SHAW, Chairman  
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared By:  
Jeraldine Magee  
Deputy County Clerk*