

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

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 16, 2001

PRESENT:

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

**Amy Harvey, County Clerk**  
**Katy Singlaub, County Manager**  
**Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel**  
**Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations**

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 October 16, 2001, meeting be approved with the following amendment: Delete Item No. 6, discussion regarding payments to the City of Reno for dispatching services for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2001/2002.

**MINUTES**

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 25, 2001, be approved.

**01-50F      MONTHLY REPORT OF OPERATIONS**

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, noted that, as part of their main operations, they have recently been assisting with the suspicious packages and letters that are being reported.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the Monthly Fire Department report for September, 2001, be accepted.

**01-51F            REPORT ON VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY OPERATIONS**

On motion Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the Volunteer/Auxiliary Report of Operations for October, 2001, be accepted.

**01-52F            PRESENTATION – NEW FIRE STATION IN COLD SPRINGS**

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised that the new career fire station in Colds Springs has been in the planning for the last three years. He conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the results of the study requested by the Board of Fire Commissioners to determine the best location for the next Truckee Meadows career fire station. He advised the two areas identified as potential locations for the next career station are Cold Springs and the I-80/Wadsworth Corridor; and that the conclusion of the study is that Cold Springs is the best location.

Chief Scheuerman noted that the Cold Springs career station was mandated by the Board of Fire Commissioners prior to consolidation and is built into the interlocal agreement with the Reno Fire Department. He said the engine company already exists and the manpower is on board, and the residents are already paying a portion of the career engine company in their ad valorem taxes. He stated that career and volunteer personnel will compliment each other and provide a depth of resource in that area, resulting in a higher level of service for the North Valleys without any additional cost. Chief Scheuerman advised that the Wadsworth/I-80 corridor is provided coverage by the Wadsworth VFD and several other volunteer organizations in that area; that 80% of the inhabited area in Wadsworth is outside the Fire District and within the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation; that growth opportunities are limited by topography, water and buildable land in the I-80 Corridor; and that the majority of calls in the I-80/Wadsworth Corridor are transient vehicle accidents or brush fires, which also fall within the BLM jurisdiction. He stated that the Cold Springs Volunteer Station would remain at its present location; and that the volunteers would continue to exist as they are today and respond to all calls in Cold Springs along with the career station.

Commissioner Galloway said he would like to see a breakdown of medical calls versus other calls. He noted that, if there are a lot of medical calls rather than fire, an expensive fire station for apparatus, etc. may not be necessary. Chief Scheuerman commented that a career engine company can fight fires and provide a higher level of EMS service and would provide enhanced fire protection in the North Valleys. Chairman Shaw commented that he believes a career station will be needed in Cold Springs in the future, but questions whether it is necessary to have one at this point in time as the volunteers are doing a very adequate job.

Chairman Shaw called on anyone wishing to speak on this item.

Chief Richard Boykin, said he has a different outlook on this matter than Chief Scheuerman and presented his arguments as to why a career station is not needed at

this time in Cold Springs. He questioned the number of call volumes presented in the study and advised that call volumes of the career engine company are by policy, noting that 90% of the time an engine is not needed. Most calls are for medical emergencies, which their medically trained personnel are able to deal with. He noted their personnel are not trained to as high a level as those on the career engine but that level of technician is rarely needed. He advised that many times they have mitigated the situation before the career engine or the ambulance arrives. Chief Boykin said good planning is based on flexibility, and there was no way to project the changes that have occurred over the last 18 months. He advised their premise is that, with the size and effectiveness of the Cold Springs Volunteer Department, a paid station is not needed at this time. He noted that there are three career stations staffing the North Valleys that respond to Cold Springs if they are needed.

Joan Liscom, Cold Springs VFD member and certified EMS instructor, advised they are defibrillator trained, which provides a high save rate on a patient. She read a letter from Ray Liscom, Assistant Chief of the Cold Springs VFD, stating that water is a big issue in the Cold Springs area, and it may be time to place the money for the career station in an interest-bearing account for future use, as the cost is too great a burden for Cold Springs and the County at this time; and that the volunteers would be the first to ask for a paid station if calls increase to an unreasonable rate in the future.

Kelley Probasco, Cold Springs Citizen Advisory Board, provided a memorandum dated October 16, 2001, where this issue was addressed at the CAB. He said that approximately 42 people were in attendance and he did not hear anyone say they want a paid station. He noted that Lifestyle Homes has allowed the tentative map for the planned industrial development on Whites Lake Parkway to expire, and it is questionable whether that will ever happen. He stated that he believes the recommendation of the Fire Department is development driven; that in time Cold Springs will need a manned fire station but right now the VFD is taking care of the community in a very professional way; and that Wadsworth has a bigger need for the manned station.

Commissioner Bond said that mixed messages are being presented about call volumes and she would like that issue looked at in more detail; that she does not believe anyone wants to pay for a new fire station in Cold Springs if it is not warranted; and that, because of the change in the economy, it may be premature to move forward with a paid station in that area, especially if a slow down in growth is occurring.

Nan Nesbitt, Cold Springs resident, said she has seen great dedication on the part of the Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department; and that she has spent time in Wadsworth and knows they need help.

Chief Scheuerman commented that he does not think anybody has ever questioned the dedication or professionalism of the Cold Springs volunteers, and this is not a volunteer versus career issue. He said the bottom line is the most effective use of public funds and the highest level of service that can possibly be given to the residents. He noted there is no guarantee that an ambulance company is going to be in a reasonable

position to respond or that an engine company is going to be in a station when a call comes in from Cold Springs. The Cold Springs volunteers provide a good service for their basic level and perform basic EMT extremely well; but a manned station would provide personnel 24 hours a day with a higher level of EMT capability.

Commissioner Short stated there are some uncertainties now, such as the Verdi annexation issue, and he would like to get a breakdown of types of call volumes in Cold Springs.

Commissioner Galloway said no one has disputed that the VFD is very effective. He stated that he believes there has to be a way to save or put the \$1.2-million to better use and would ask that County staff work with the Reno Fire Department to see if there is a way to do this under the contract. He noted the only suggested alternative was Wadsworth and there may be other alternatives.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated that no one from Cold Springs spoke in favor of the career station and he does not want to dictate to the residents that they have to have a paid station if they do not want it. At the same time, he does not want to lose an engine company that is being paid for and there may be areas in Reno, such as Double Diamond, that need a station, which could be credited to the contract. He said that, unless staff comes back with some support from the community, he would have a problem supporting the station. Commissioner Sferrazza noted that he supported the station previously but not with the understanding there was opposition from the CAB and the people who live in Cold Springs.

Chief Scheuerman said his purpose for receiving Board direction was so the matter could be taken to the CABs. He stated that he does not know if the CAB voted on this matter or if the views presented are individual; and that he plans to take the issue to the CABs and the homeowner's associations and explain the issues in detail.

#### **VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS**

There was no one wishing to speak on this item.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, discussed issues concerning the Airport Authority and the courts complex that Reno and Washoe County are trying to accomplish. He said the citizens voted down the concept of a courts scheme and there are many other things in the community where that money could be better used.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Sferrazza stated that he thinks the non-emergency number concerning the anthrax suspicious mail handling needs to be publicized. Chief Scheuerman advised that the Washoe County Health Department has taken over the

responsibilities for prescreening those types of incidents; that currently the screening number is 328-2438, which is a recorded message that gives basic guidelines for evaluating a package or letter. He explained the process that takes place after the initial call is made.

Commissioner Sferrazza responded to Mr. Dehne's comments concerning the courts complex. He noted that he did not support the bond issue for the courts, but explained that the bond issue dealt with District Courts, and what is being discussed now is office space for the District Attorney and the Reno Municipal Court, both of which have different funding sources.

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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  
Barbara Trow, Deputy County Clerk*