

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

***SPECIAL MEETING***

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 12, 2002

PRESENT:

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

**Amy Harvey, County Clerk**  
**Katy Singlaub, County Manager**  
**Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel**

The Board met in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

**02-06F      DIRECTION TO STAFF – ALTERNATIVES – CONSTRUCTION  
OF A CAREER FIRE STATION IN COLD SPRINGS**

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, reviewed calls for service for the different districts. He broke down the calls for District 13, which is located near the Sierra Sage Golf Course in Stead.

Commissioner Bond asked how many Citizen Advisory Boards (CAB) have had a presentation made to them concerning a career station in Cold Springs. Chief Scheuerman stated he does not know how many. He explained that all CAB meetings are attended by a Division Chief, and he attended a CAB meeting last night in the North Valleys, because the Division Chief who regularly attends was on vacation. He said he answered questions concerning the Cold Springs career station as it was on the agenda.

Chairman Sferrazza asked if the monies paid to Reno per the interlocal contract would be increased if a career station was built in Cold Springs. Mary Walker, Financial Consultant, explained the administrative salary savings due to the interlocal contract for consolidation. She said Reno has paid their share of the assessed value tax, and consolidating the fire departments eliminated TMFPD's operational deficit, otherwise they would have had to raise taxes. She explained the free staffing of a 12-man crew, per the interlocal contract, that will need to be used by TMFPD beginning July 2002.

Commissioner Galloway asked if an arrangement could be made to negotiate the services of the 12-man crew to another entity until they are needed in the Cold Springs area. Ms. Walker stated that as of July 2002, TMFPD is supposed to take charge of that crew, which has a price tag of \$1.4 million that the City of Reno will continue to pay. The benefit of having the 12-man crew would best be used by moving them to a career station within the unincorporated area.

Commissioner Bond stated that the Fire Advisory Board did look around for a place to put this fire crew but there were no takers. She said the 12-man crew is supposed to be used by TMFPD, per the interlocal contract, and if the crew is committed to work elsewhere there is no benefit to TMFPD.

Commissioner Short asked if the City of Reno had a fire crew in limbo as well. Ms. Walker stated that Reno used the crew for the first 2 years to help reduce overtime, etc., at one of their stations. There was only a 20 percent charge to TMFPD for this crew. Chief Scheuerman said there are problems with trying to lease out the crew because labor unions would definitely have a problem with that.

Commissioner Galloway expressed his concern about TMFPD's under utilization of this 12-man crew. Chief Scheuerman said they have to look at potential growth in the County and consider where they would be best utilized.

Commissioner Bond said she has tried to get the City of Sparks involved in fire consolidation but they have not been receptive. She said it would be very remiss on the part of TMFPD to let this crew go somewhere else, even on a temporary basis. She said she cannot see any way around using the 12-man crew in the Cold Springs area, contractually or otherwise.

Brent Leines, Cold Springs resident, stated that supports a career station for the area. He said it is logical and prudent to build a career station in Cold Springs. He requested the Board review the petition submitted in support of building a career station in the Cold Springs area.

Fred England, Cold Springs resident, said he is the Treasurer for the Woodland Village Homeowners Association. He stated they add approximately 20 new homeowners a month and are close to 400 at this time. Mr. England said the volunteer firefighters are great and he has the utmost respect for them.

Jon Wagner, Reno Firefighters Association, said they support the career station in Cold Springs and need to get the project started right away in order to utilize the 12-man crew. They do not always agree with the Reno Fire Department but support the project alongside them today. The career station in Cold Springs was added to the contract when Reno and TMFPD consolidated and they need to take advantage of that now. He said it is in the appendices of the interlocal agreement that a career fire station be built in the Cold Springs area. He said they already have the personnel, the developer

of Lifestyle Homes is donating the land, and the only cost the County would occur is the construction of the fire station.

Commissioner Galloway asked if the organization objected to the volunteers, and whether a protocol could be established that volunteers be cancelled last when responding to a fire. Mr. Wagoner stated there is no protocol now that says the volunteers be cancelled first, and it is totally up to the incident commander on scene whether crews need to be cancelled.

Richard Boykin, Chief, Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department, said there is an issue of cost for the career station and crew for Cold Springs. He reviewed the log of calls for the past year for the Cold Springs Volunteer Station, which differed from Chief Scheuerman's numbers. He said he and another Chief worked for a number of years with Robert Lissner, Lifestyle Homes, in which he donated a piece of land to the TMFPD with the intent that it be used for future expansion of the Cold Springs Fire Department.

Commissioner Short asked how many volunteers are trained for medical emergencies. Mr. Boykin stated approximately 65 percent are medically trained. He noted there are no EMTI's in the volunteer ranks.

Commissioner Galloway asked if there was a satisfactory protocol in place with the Reno Fire Department that would ensure the volunteer station has sufficient activity in back-up and firefighting operations to keep the volunteers active and involved. He asked whether the volunteers have been assured they will not give away the .76 acres. Chief Boykin stated they have said from the get go that this is a political decision and not one that is made with common sense, and if they have to accept the career station he believes the protocol is the very least the Board could request. He said the lot on Sandpiper is critical to anything the TMFPD does to increase the volunteer department, and if that is taken away from them, they will definitely feel the Board does not care about them.

Commissioner Shaw asked if there was anything Chief Boykin and Jon Wagner agreed on. Chief Boykin said they need a policy that guarantees the volunteers will not be pushed to the side, and it would need to be very specific.

Debra Leathers, Cold Springs resident, said she opposes the career station at this time, because the number of calls and homes do not warrant the cost and the probable increase in taxes to build and man the station.

Randy Robison, North Valleys CAB, said he is in support of the career station being built in Cold Springs. He said he agrees that the volunteers need to be utilized in the area as well.

Claudia Van LydeGraf, Cold Springs resident, read a letter into the record, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She expressed her concerns about Chief Scheuerman's presentation at the North Valleys CAB meeting last night.

Chief Scheuerman submitted a document that addressed the current response protocol for the volunteers. He said since the consolidation there has been a mechanism in place regarding inappropriate treatment of the volunteers, and Roy Slate is their liaison. He said the protocol needs to address all volunteers, not just the Cold Springs volunteers. Chief Scheuerman advised there is already a remedy in place within the contract for the volunteers and adding the suggested protocol would just be redundant.

Commissioner Galloway said volunteers should not be cancelled in their home district, and requested that Chief Scheuerman and Chief Lowden review the protocol with all of the volunteer firefighters. He would also like to see any volunteer protocol included in the contract.

Roy Slate, Division Chief, stated the calls for service will increase in Cold Springs. He said they need to continue working with the volunteers to maintain morale, as there are issues weekly with the volunteers as well as career personnel. Chief Slate said he is committed to working with the volunteers, and there will always be a reason to keep the Cold Springs volunteers. He said he believes there will be difficulties with the volunteers but they can be overcome by continuing to work with them.

Chairman Sferrazza asked where the career station would be located versus the volunteer station. He said it is ridiculous to have them within a block of each other. Chief Scheuerman stated that the 2-acre parcel in the industrial park is the most appropriate place for the station and if they could combine the two stations that would be even better. He noted the current site of the volunteer station has very little expansion room.

Commissioner Galloway said that Howard Reynolds, Assistant County Manager, could work with Reno regarding the sites offered in Cold Springs from Lifestyle Homes, and that these things need to be worked out ahead of time not afterwards.

Commissioner Short said he is not ready to vote on this issue today and is not agreeable to destroying the volunteers in Cold Springs.

Commissioner Bond made a motion to approve the location of the professional fire station in Cold Springs as agreed to in the contract; that staff be directed to work actively and positively on some protocol language or to strengthen current contracts with all of the volunteers; and that the property originally dedicated on Sandpiper for potential expansion of the Cold Springs Volunteer Station remain under the control of the volunteer firefighters until another site can be dedicated. Chairman Sferrazza seconded the motion with the understanding that these concerns be resolved prior to the career station being built.

On call for the question the motion duly carried with Commissioner Short abstaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sam Dehne, area resident, expressed his concern about a new decorum law that the City of Reno is trying to pass and further expansion of a cargo ramp at the airport.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioner comments.

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

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**PETER J. SFERRAZZA**, 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*