

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

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 19, 2002

PRESENT:

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

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

ABSENT:

Jim Shaw, Commissioner

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 Sferrazza ordered that the agenda for the February 19, 2002, meeting be approved.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 15, 2002, be approved.

02-07F MONTHLY REPORT OF OPERATIONS – JANUARY, 2002

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the Operations Report for January, 2002, be accepted.

02-08F REPORT ON VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY OPERATIONS

Commissioner Short asked if the volunteer brochures have been mailed. Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised that Chief Slate

was not present today and he did know the status of that project. Chairman Sferrazza requested that the monthly Auxiliary/Volunteer Report provide data relative to dispatching issues. Chief Scheuerman responded to questions of the Board and advised the problems with radio equipment have been resolved; and that most of the dispatching issues are process and Tiburon System issues and have been handled on a case-by-case basis.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the Auxiliary/Volunteer Report for January, 2002, be accepted.

VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

Chief Terry Donohue, Brown/Huffaker Auxiliary, advised that the volunteers are currently addressing the brochures, which should be ready for mailing by the end of the month. He then referred to the protocol matter mentioned by Commissioner Galloway last week concerning establishing when the volunteers would be cancelled when responding to a fire. He said he would not like to see too much protocol put in writing relative to the volunteers. He stated that, if the emergency team is allowed to dictate that particular issue and some confidence is placed in the Battalion and Division Chiefs to run the operation, he believes they should be provided the opportunity to take care of the issue until the Board receives complaints. Commissioner Galloway thanked Chief Donohue for his comments and advised he received a slightly different message from Chief Boykin. He said he is willing to see if there is some middle ground, but would like to make sure he hears from everyone before considering whether a particular protocol is okay or not. He commented that a fair rotation policy might be acceptable and Chief Donohue said that might be a good solution. Chief Donohue then noted that the brush fire season is rapidly approaching and said they still need some new equipment, which requests will be included in their budget.

DISCUSSION – STATUS OF REGIONAL FIRE SERVICE

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised no additional meetings have been held and they are still in the process of gathering information for the committee. Staff has been working toward obtaining budget numbers and other criteria from the City of Reno for Consultant Mary Walker, and a meeting should be forthcoming in the near future.

Howard Reynolds, Assistant County Manager, advised that the Reno City Council voted 4-3 today to not participate in the parallel track study of the Regional Fire Agency, but did direct staff to provide any necessary information to him and Mary Walker.

02-09F **REVISED ABATEMENT PROCESS – RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND WASHOE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 60**

Captain Presley, Reno Fire Department, provided information regarding this item. She advised that, historically, the TMFPD followed NRS for nuisance abatement and the procedure was cumbersome. They propose to adopt the procedure the City of Reno Fire Department has been following for a number of years, which would shorten the period of time for abatement. Captain Presley then responded to questions of the Board.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that a recommendation be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners to amend Chapter 60 of the Washoe County Code by the adoption of the revised abatement process and to introduce and conduct a first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 60 by further defining the abatement process.

02-10F **APPOINTMENT – HOWARD REYNOLDS, ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER TO JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE FOR WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**

Upon recommendation of Tom Gadd, Director, General Services Department, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that Howard Reynolds, Assistant County Manager, be appointed to the Joint Operating Committee for the Washoe County Regional Communications System (800 MHz) representing the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

02-11F **EMERGENCY SERVICE CONTRACT – NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – RENO-SPARKS REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM**

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, reviewed background information regarding this item. He advised the agreement would provide the ability for the Hazardous Materials Response Team to obtain a State Super Fund funded response vehicle to replace antiquated equipment, and they would provide response to the Truckee River corridor through the I-80 canyon. Chief Scheuerman responded to questions of the Board.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Emergency Service Contract between the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the Reno-Sparks Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team concerning hazardous materials apparatus and responses in the Truckee River corridor be approved and Chairman Sferrazza be authorized to execute.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, discussed matters of concern regarding the Reno City Council and the Reno Gazette-Journal.

COMMISSONERS'/STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Short requested an item be placed on the agenda concerning the evaluation of the contract for fire protective services. He said some of the things to review would include a comparison of response times and the number and value of structures lost and damaged before and after consolidation, a report on the use of volunteers before and after consolidation, resources dispatched on fire and protocols involved, volunteer training completed, report on discussions that occurred between Reno and Sparks regarding contracting for fire service including dates and an explanation as to why the TMFPD was not involved, responses by Reno staff to the Board of Fire Commissioners, etc. He advised he requested this item be placed on the Fire Service Committee agenda, and would like to schedule a workshop on this issue as soon as possible. Commissioner Short said he would also like to have a discussion regarding the possibility of bringing in an outside resource to assist in the evaluation, as well as a discussion regarding the recent letter sent to the Board. He said, perhaps, Chief Scheuerman could answer the letter in writing and provide a copy to the Fire Commissioners. Chief Scheuerman advised he would do that and, if prior discussion needs to be held, the Joint Fire Advisory Board would be a good venue.

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

PETER J. SFERRAZZA, 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*