

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

TUESDAY

1:00 P.M.

MARCH 19, 2002

PRESENT:

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

Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy 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:

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 March 19, 2002, meeting be approved.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the minutes of the February 12, 2002, special meeting and the minutes of the February 19, 2002 regular meeting, be approved.

02-12F REPORT OF OPERATIONS

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

02-13F REPORT ON VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY OPERATIONS

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

VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

Terry Donahue, Chief, Huffaker/Brown Volunteers, advised that the volunteer brochures are in the mail. He said the brochure lets the general public know the volunteers are out there and that they need more volunteers. He commented that he is down to seven members at his station. Commissioner Shaw requested a copy of the brochure be provided to the Board.

Commissioner Short asked if volunteers from some of the other stations were helping cover the Wadsworth Station. Mr. Donahue said yes they are on the weekends, and because they respond to a scene along with REMSA it helps the EMT's keep their skills up.

STATUS OF REGIONAL FIRE SERVICE

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, said the regional fire service consolidation group has not had an official meeting yet. They are still waiting for all of the information to be compiled, and staff continues to supply requested information to all parties.

Commissioner Short asked if it was official that the City of Sparks will not contract their Fire Department. Chief Scheuerman said the City of Sparks asked for a proposal and they were provided with a basic framework for discussion. Sparks was advised that if any serious discussions were to take place it would have to involve TMFPD and the City of Reno as it would affect both agencies. He believes a workshop was held at the City of Sparks several weeks ago, and from what he understands, Sparks felt they were better off not contracting for fire service.

02-14F BUDGETED CAPITAL FUNDS – COMMAND VEHICLE

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised that this particular vehicle will replace the current 1992 Suburban command vehicle. He said the estimated cost is approximately \$25,000 from the State contract, plus whatever it will cost to outfit the vehicle with lights, sirens and radios. The reason for the replacement is that the current vehicle is surpassing 100,000 miles and is getting very worn. The vehicle will be passed down as a support vehicle to one of the stations and a 1978 two-wheel drive pick-up with a camper shell that they have been utilizing will be retired. The 1978 vehicle would be auctioned through the County auction. Upon inquiry, he said the new vehicle would be utilized as a command staff vehicle at the Command Station.

Commissioner Shaw asked if any other makes and models were considered. Chief Scheuerman said the State bid was the best price they could find for that particular sport utility vehicle, which was the only vehicle bid on in that category in the State bid. He advised that the command vehicle would cost approximately \$4- to \$5,000 to equip.

On motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the purchase of one GMC, Yukon, as an upgrade to the fleet in an estimated amount of \$25,923.22 be authorized.

02-15F TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FY 01-02
BUDGET AUGMENTATION

Mary Walker, Walker & Associates, Consultant, stated that the total amount of the budget augmentation is \$564,860, which will affect the General Fund by \$207,000 due to worker's compensation costs. EICON, the current worker's compensation insurance provider, has increased costs, in part, due to recent heart and lung cases as well as changes in the legislation. EICON will not be providing insurance to TMFPD as of July 1, 2002. TMFPD is looking at alternatives, primarily pooling with the City of Reno and getting insurance through them. She explained the Actuarial Studies that were done for the retiree medical group and workmen's compensation costs. The 800 MHz contract with Washoe County had an increase of \$7,000 as it was not originally budgeted. She noted that the total augmentation in the Capital Projects Fund is \$357,860, and is solely due to carryover of last year's capital projects that were not completed as of June 30, 2001.

Commissioner Galloway said the withdrawal of EICON references changes in legislation, and asked if it had anything to do with the changes that apply to mining claims for lungs. Ms. Walker stated that it was the Nevada State Legislative changes regarding hepatitis. She said it has gotten to the point where worker's compensation insurance for Fire Departments and Sheriff Departments are so costly that there are insurance companies who are not willing to insure those departments anymore. Commissioner Galloway said he thought the State of Nevada having to step in and be in the shoes of the insurance company would be a positive step. He said maybe a slight reasonable modification of law would be appropriate. Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel, said there were only two people who signed up to oppose the bill, Mary Walker on behalf of her three counties, and Washoe County.

Chairman Sferrazza asked if TMFPD could contract with Washoe County instead of the City of Reno concerning worker's compensation insurance. He said the heart and lung claims already made would be covered by EICON regardless, so the risk to the County is somewhat down. Ms. Walker said part of the difficulty on the heart and lung claim is, if a person has 5-years worth of service and they come and work for Washoe County for 1 day and get a heart and lung claim, the County is liable for the rest of that person's life including their retirement. She said what happened during the last legislative session regarding the presumption of eligibility is that it is not only for heart and lung cases, but also relates to hepatitis. Ms. Walker said the County probably would not want the liability, but at Chairman Sferrazza's request she will look into that. She said the City of Reno carries workmen's compensation for their firefighters.

Chairman Sferrazza asked if TMFPD experienced a decrease in projected revenues as a result of September 11th. Ms. Walker said the revenues for the current year

are coming in extremely close to what they projected. She said expenditures should be a little less than 3 percent, and they will be able to balance the budget without increasing taxes.

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

**TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION TO AUGMENT AND AMEND THE FY 2001-2002 BUDGET**

RESOLUTION NO. 02-15F

WHEREAS, the revenues and other resources of the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund were budgeted to be \$16,092,613 and \$3,323,179, respectively, on July 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS, additional resources are available to these funds in which appropriations are required to be augmented as follows:

1)	General Fund:	
	a) Refunds and Reimbursements	\$12,500
	b) Beginning Fund Balance	<u>\$194,500</u>
	Total General Fund	\$207,000
2)	Capital Projects Fund:	
	a) Beginning Fund Balance	<u>\$357,860</u>
	Total Capital Projects Fund	\$357,860
	Total Augmentation and Amendment	<u>\$564,860</u>

WHEREAS, there is a need to apply these excess proceeds in the previously mentioned funds. Now, therefore, it is hereby RESOLVED, that the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District shall augment and amend its FY 2001-2002 budget by appropriating \$564,860 for use in the above-mentioned funds, thereby increasing its appropriations. A detailed schedule was placed on file with the Clerk, and by reference is made a part thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District shall forward the necessary documents to the Department of Taxation, State of Nevada.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, area resident, expressed his concern about the City of Reno using taxpayer money for RETRAC propaganda. He complimented the Board on their attentiveness.

COMMISSIONERS’/STAFF’S COMMENTS

Commissioner Galloway requested a workshop or an agenda item be scheduled regarding legislation concerning workmen’s compensation insurance. He said maybe there could be some suggested changes to the legislation that would make it reasonable enough to get insurance again.

Commissioner Short requested an update on the collection of funds for wildland fires.

Katy Singlaub, County Manager, advised they did retain a consultant to assist with the fire contract evaluation and it is ongoing. She said they may need to extend the deadline from March 28, 2002 to a date in May 2002, in order to do a satisfactory job.

EMERGENCY ITEMS

There was no emergency items.

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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:
Jeraldine Magee, Deputy County Clerk