

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

TUESDAY

1:00 P.M.

APRIL 16, 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
Maureen Griswold, Deputy District Attorney
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:

* * * * *

Commissioner Galloway temporarily left the meeting.

AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Galloway temporarily absent, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the agenda for the April 16, 2002, regular meeting be approved.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Galloway temporarily absent, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 19, 2002, be approved.

02-16F MONTHLY REPORT OF OPERATIONS

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, with Commissioner Galloway temporarily absent, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the Operations Report for March, 2002, be accepted.

02-17F REPORT ON VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY OPERATIONS

Roy Slate, Division Chief, Reno Fire Department, provided information concerning the expansion of the Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Station. He said the project design is coming along well and costs are currently close to budget.

Commissioner Shaw complimented the volunteers on the recruitment brochure recently sent out.

* * * * * * * * *

Commissioner Galloway returned to the meeting.

VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP COMMENTS

No comments were provided.

02-18F APPOINTMENT – USERS COMMITTEE FOR WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Upon recommendation of Howard Reynolds, Assistant County Manager, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that Division Chief Marty Scheuerman be appointed as the District's representative on the Users Committee for the Washoe County Regional Communications System; and Rik Kajans be appointed as an alternate to this committee.

02-19F REPORT - TENTATIVE BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2002/2003

Mary Walker, Consultant, reviewed the FY 2002/03 budget and responded to questions of the Board. She advised that the budget does not contain a proposed tax increase or operational deficits, and total Fire District revenues are projected to increase by 3.2% while expenditures are expected to increase by 2.6%. Ms. Walker stated that EICON has declined to continue that TMFPD worker's compensation insurance beginning July 1, 2002; five insurance carriers contacted by Risk Management refused to provide a bid for workman's compensation insurance; the Washoe County self-funded program was not able to provide workman's compensation insurance because they are not an employer; and the carrier of last resort would result in a huge cost increase.

* * * * * * * * *

Madelyn Shipman, Assistant District Attorney, arrived at the meeting and Maureen Griswold, Deputy District Attorney left the meeting.

Ms. Walker reviewed cost information and advised that staff's recommendation is to use the City of Reno's self-funded worker's compensation program to administer and insure TMFPD former employees for FY 02-03; and the rate the City of

Reno will charge is close to what EICON is charging this year. Upon inquiry of Chairman Sferrazza, Ms. Walker advised that the workmen's compensation insurance increase is due to additional legislation that increased the liability to local governments for presumptive eligibility on hepatitis and because two people retired on heart and lung conditions. She explained that legislative changes a few years ago extended the heart and lung coverage to anyone with five years worth of fire service for their entire lives, which is a huge future liability that is not quantifiable at this point.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the report concerning the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2002/03 be accepted.

02-20F HEART/LUNG AND HEPATITIS LEGISLATION

Commissioner Galloway discussed issues relating to introducing legislation to address the heart/lung and hepatitis coverage that is not affordable or workable to the governmental entities. Mary Walker, Consultant, said legislation can always be introduced, but it would be difficult because it goes against the fire unions. She advised that Wayne Carlson, Wayne Carlson's Public Employers' Pool, insurance provider for auxiliary and volunteer personnel, has done a great job trying to educate the Legislators. She suggested that staff work with the firefighters and educate them about the insurance coverage problem that results in huge costs.

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, said the legislation applies to law enforcement and other agencies on the Nevada Public Safety Heart and Lung Act, and will have a large impact on their budgets.

Jon Wagner, President, Reno Firefighters Local 731, stated that they get concerned when they see workmen's compensation coverage linked with changes and reforms from local governments because it usually means there is an attempt to cut their benefits. He endorsed the suggestion that staff talk to the firefighters about working together at the Legislature. They would like to work with the City of Reno and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to determine whether the situation needs to be fixed. He urged that the Board not take any overt action to change or recommend reforms until they have had the opportunity to find out what staff is recommending. Mr. Wagner then discussed issues relating to the environmental toxins and stresses encountered by firefighters and why the Legislature passed the stronger language relative to heart and lung and hepatitis coverage.

Commissioner Galloway said he is pleased the firefighters union is willing to talk with staff to determine if there is some common ground regarding the insurance situation. He suggested the talks might include the possibility of the State picking up some of the costs.

Following further discussion, on motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that Howard Reynolds, Assistant County Manager, Mary Walker, Consultant, and Wayne Carlson, insurance provider, meet with the firefighters to discuss possible solutions to the workmen's compensation insurance coverage problem.

**UPDATE – REIMBURSEMENT FOR LARGE WILDLAND FIRES
– SUMMER OF 1999**

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, reviewed issues concerning the reimbursement for the large wildland fires in the summer of 1999, which included the Lemmon Valley and Mira Loma Fires. He advised that both fires were Sierra Pacific Power Company (SPPCO) equipment related incidents, and staff has worked with the District Attorney's and State Attorney General's Office regarding the possibility of collecting some reimbursement from SPPCO.

**UPDATE – JOINT FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING OF
MARCH 28, 2002**

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised that discussion was held at the March 28, 2002 joint meeting about the study regarding the effectiveness of consolidation. He said the predraft is going to the consultant this afternoon and should be ready for distribution to the governing bodies by the end of this month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, advised of a new watchdog television program coming on line in about three weeks. He said Washoe County should be doing something about the Harley Davidson Motorcycles that break the law every time they drive around the community. He commented about Reno City Mayor Griffin's announcement that he is not running for office again and sang a song regarding that matter.

COMMISSONERS'/STAFF'S COMMENTS

Roy Slate, Division Chief, Reno Fire Department, discussed the status of grant applications through the Fire Act.

Commissioner Short said he believes a joint powers regionalization of fire service should be explored. Commissioner Galloway agreed and suggested that staff recommend to the Board if there are any options to include joint powers with Sparks.

* * * * *

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*