

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT

TUESDAY

1:00 P.M.

MAY 21, 2002

PRESENT:

Pete Sferrazza, Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
Ted F. Short, Commissioner

Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations
Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Maureen Griswold, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Joanne Bond, Vice Chairman
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 Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the agenda for the May 21, 2002, meeting be approved.

02-24F REVIEW AND ACCEPT REPORT OF OPERATIONS - APRIL, 2002

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the monthly Report of Operations for April, 2002, be accepted.

02-25F REVIEW AND ACCEPT REPORT ON VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY OPERATIONS - APRIL, 2002

Commissioner Short asked about the response to the brochures and if new volunteers were signing up. Division Chief Roy Slate responded he was not able to mail the brochures as planned due to the inability to do bulk-rate mailing. He further advised that brochures have been distributed by the volunteers in some neighborhoods, but the response has been low.

Commissioner Galloway noted the letter received from Cold Springs resident Joan Liscom, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

On motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the monthly Report on Volunteer/Auxiliary Operations for April, 2002, be accepted.

02-26F PURCHASE OF WATER TENDER FOR SILVER LAKE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Operations Chief Marty Scheuerman advised the particular water tender they wanted to purchase is no longer available. A discussion then ensued concerning the proper purchasing procedures and regulations to be followed on such a sole-source purchase.

Commissioner Galloway asked if the water tender would be re-bid. Chief Scheuerman stated it would and reminded the Board that Alturas mitigation funds have been earmarked for this equipment.

02-27F DISCUSSION/DIRECTION - COLD SPRINGS CAREER STATION

Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations, advised that in February the Board approved the career fire station in Cold Springs pending certain conditions, one of which was to bring a proper location back for approval. He stated staff has worked with the Cold Springs 2000 developer and has chosen a two-acre site in an excellent location for a career station. He said they would have to get a special use permit; the two acres would have to be subdivided out of a 19-acre parcel; and the developer would rather have credits toward development mitigation fees instead of the \$20,000.

Richard Boykin, Chief, Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department, stated they still feel this is being "shoved down their throats." He stated the local governments, the school district, etc., are all having money troubles, are raising taxes, and are talking about laying people off; and, at the same time, they are planning to spend \$2.4-million, \$2-million of which would be borrowed, to build a career fire station in an area that does not need a career station. Chief Boykin reviewed his figures concerning construction, interest expense, personnel and operating/maintenance costs resulting in an estimated cost to the taxpayers of over \$15-million for a ten-year period. He said the cost of the volunteer station over a ten-year period would be \$550,000; the volunteers have been responding to less than 200 calls per year; and that number has not been increasing. Chief Boykin stated, as a taxpayer, he believes this is a burden much larger than it needs to be; and that is also what he is hearing from the people.

In response to Chairman Sferrazza, Chief Boykin stated the location of the proposed station is probably all right, although a little farther north might be better; but their real problem is the feasibility and necessity of a career station at this time. It

appears to be a tremendous amount of money being spent to satisfy a situation that is not warranted.

Commissioner Galloway noted that most of the \$15-million is the cost of the crew, and it is his understanding that has to be paid anyway. He asked if there was anyway to get out of that. Katy Singlaub, County Manager, stated this is part of the interlocal agreement, and it is affected by the City's agreement with Local 731. Chief Scheuerman explained that construction of a station in Cold Springs is specifically mentioned in Appendices F and G of the consolidation interlocal agreement.

Chief Scheuerman further explained that actual costs of the station would be \$1.5-million; the station would be the same as the newest station in Sun Valley; and this spending authority is in the budget.

Commissioner Galloway stated his dilemma is that he did not vote for the consolidation contract and he requested a final determination from Howard Reynolds, the Assistant County Manager who negotiated the contract, as to whether or not this extra crew could be used elsewhere.

Chairman Sferrazza noted that the Board had agreed to continue this item if there was any controversy because of two members being absent today.

Commissioner Galloway moved that this item be continued and staff be directed to investigate whether there is another way to utilize this crew which would not be detrimental to the employee labor contracts. Commissioner Short seconded the motion and also requested a full reading and interpretation of the interlocal agreement.

Jon Wagner, President, Reno Firefighters Local 731, stated they support the proposed location of the fire station in Cold Springs; and he thought that was today's agenda item, as the decision to build the station has already been made. He stated the money woes of the other entities have nothing to do with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. Mr. Wagner discussed response times of a station manned with career firefighters being four minutes versus volunteer response times of five minutes and explained the differences one minute can make in a life-or-death situation, a structure fire, etc. He urged the Board to approve the location noting that it will be at least a year after ground breaking before the station will open.

Sam Dehne, a Reno citizen, stated a fire station should not be built where it is not needed just because of the consolidation agreement, and this fire crew could be better utilized elsewhere.

Commissioner Galloway stated it is true the tax rates for the fire district, the school district, etc., are separate, but the fact is there could be a better way to use these firemen and reduce the County's expenses in operating its share of the consolidated fire district; and, if the expenses could be reduced, the tax rate could be reduced.

Chairman Sferrazza called for the vote on the motion to continue this item, and the motion passed unanimously.

**02-28F DISCUSSION/DIRECTION - COLD SPRINGS VOLUNTEER
USAGE WHEN CAREER STATION IS STAFFED**

Chief Scheuerman suggested this item be continued until a decision is made concerning the location of the Cold Springs career station.

Commissioner Galloway stated the Board should find out what will happen to the volunteers if and when the career station is constructed and staffed.

Chief Scheuerman explained staff has reviewed the Volunteer Usage Policy, which applies to all volunteer departments, not just Cold Springs, and has made some clarifications. He read the following into the record as a restatement of the Volunteer Usage Policy and advised these provisions are included in all the volunteer agreements:

1. Volunteers will not be arbitrarily cancelled.
2. Volunteers will be utilized at all scenes possible.
3. Volunteers that arrive at the scene of an emergency prior to the arrival of the career personnel will be integrated into a team of volunteer and career personnel to resolve the emergency.
4. Volunteers that arrive at the scene of an emergency medical prior to the arrival of the career personnel will transition patient care to the higher level of medical authority and will participate in final treatment and stabilization prior to transport if conditions allow and it does not compromise the best level of patient care possible.
5. The first unit arriving on scene will establish command. The next arriving units regardless of type of unit, career or volunteer, will check in with the established incident commander. Volunteers that establish command prior to arrival of a career officer will transition that command face to face with the career officer. The career officer will make the decision to accept command or leave it with the volunteer that has established command.
6. Volunteers will not be cancelled if there are still career units responding.
7. Volunteers will be dispatched to staging areas with career personnel on violent crime calls.

Chief Scheuerman stated the Cold Springs volunteers would not be utilized any differently than they are now. He further stated the career unit located in

Stead now responds to Cold Springs calls, which makes it unavailable in the Stead area at times.

Richard Boykin, Chief, Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department, stated that information is in the contracts and it is a good policy, but their problem is getting the engine companies to comply with the established policy. He stated they have experienced a lot of problems with volunteers being pushed to the side, cancelled, cancelled in route; and that is occurring all over the County, not just in Cold Springs.

Commissioner Galloway asked if this policy is currently in effect for all the volunteer departments. Chief Scheuerman responded it is, but added that he could not say it was working 100 percent of the time in all areas. He stated he does not believe the transgressions are as bad as portrayed, but admitted there are still some problems, which they are dealing with on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Galloway asked if the Board could be provided with a copy of an official letter from someone in authority in Reno acknowledging that this is the volunteer usage policy currently in effect for all departments.

Following further discussion, on motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that this item be continued and staff be directed to bring it back to the Board for approval as the official policy for all volunteers, as well as the acknowledgement from the City of Reno.

02-29F DISCUSSION/UPDATE - EFFECTIVENESS OF CONTRACT FOR SERVICE AND STATUS OF REGIONAL CONSOLIDATION STUDY

Operations Chief Scheuerman advised that the effectiveness study has been completed and will be on a joint meeting agenda for consideration by the bodies. He further stated staff has been meeting with the City of Sparks, NDF, etc., and is participating in the regional consolidation study being done by Steve Watson.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, a Reno resident, discussed enforcement of the seatbelt laws and stated there should be a law concerning loud noises, such as motorcycles, stereos, etc.

Gary Schmidt, Mt. Rose resident, discussed public records and public access to public records.

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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
Sharon Gotchy, Deputy County Clerk*