

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

SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

JUNE 11, 2002

PRESENT:

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

Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel
Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations

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:

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 June 11, 2002, special meeting be approved.

**02-30F DISCUSSION – TENTATIVE LOCATION OF APPROVED
CAREER STATION – COLD SPRINGS**

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, discussed the location of the Cold Springs career station. The proposed location is on Village Parkway, which would provide access South to White Lake Parkway and would allow response to the major access arterials without impacting existing residents. He stated that the developer paid \$20,000 for the property and has agreed to sell it to the County for this amount. It may be paid in cash or credit given to the developer toward development mitigation fees, and either option falls within the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Boykin, Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department, submitted a letter to the Board, which was placed on file with the Clerk, stating facts and reasons why the career station should be tabled at this time. He stated that the area of Cold Springs is

and has been served very well by the existing volunteer fire department and is backed up by the automatic response of Engine 13 from the Stead Golf Course. He feels the tentative station should be delayed for five years.

Jennifer Ludwig-Ostrom, Cold Springs resident, advised that a group of Cold Springs residents collected approximately 300 signatures on a petition, which was placed on file with the Clerk, indicating that the people do not feel they need a career fire department in Cold Springs at this time.

Joan Liscom, member of the Cold Springs Citizen Advisory Board, spoke in opposition to the need for a paid fire station in Cold Springs at this time, and stated there is a need to consider the inability of the Cold Springs residents to pay increased taxes.

Jon Wagner, President, Reno Fire Fighters Association, spoke in favor of the proposed location and extended the Association's gratitude to the developer, Mr. Lissner, for his generous offer concerning the cost of the property. Mr. Wagner stated if the project is put off, the developer may find another use for the property and it may then cost more to purchase property elsewhere. Also, property may not be available in the desired area.

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, gave his definition of "career" fire station.

COMMISSIONERS'/STAFF COMMENTS

In response to Commissioner Galloway, Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised if a station was built near Arrowcreek Parkway, it would be staffed by the crew at the South Meadows Station and the South Meadows Station would be sold. If a station is built North of Arrowcreek, the City of Reno would be in control of staffing the station, and if the crew from Engine 18 was moved to staff the potential Station 12, the County would lose the ability to have a 100 percent paid Truckee Meadows station that covers strictly the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

Commissioner Bond expressed concern about the viability of changing the location of a station without revisiting the contract. Chief Scheuerman advised that the Board could vote to put a station anywhere they want to. The consultant that was hired to determine the next location of a new station recommends Cold Springs, and the City of Reno Fire Department also supports that recommendation. Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel, advised that, although the contract may be amended, only with the Cold Springs station would the full savings benefits that have been contemplated under the original contract be realized. Howard Reynolds, Assistant County Manager, advised there is specific language in the Agreement, section 3.2, wherein to change the location would require a "written mutual agreement" between the Board and the City.

Commissioner Bond inquired if there is enough money in the budget to acquire property now, with the idea that it is at least one year away from beginning construction of a station. Chief Scheuerman advised there is money in the budget for preliminary items and actual construction would require a short-term bond and the bond payment has been programmed into the budget.

Chief Scheuerman confirmed that the Volunteer Usage Policy in the Truckee Meadows Jurisdiction, dated 06/01/02, is being adhered to and any challenges are being worked on.

Richard Boykin, Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department, stated he feels the Volunteer Usage Policy is acceptable as it is currently written.

Joan Liscom, member of the Cold Springs Citizen Advisory Board, said she feels volunteer EMT's will receive little to no "practice" because when a career engine arrives at the scene of an emergency, and it has an EMT "I" on it, the EMT "I" from the career engine is expected to take over from the volunteer EMT. Jon Wagner, President, Reno Fire Fighters Association, explained that as an EMT, he cannot be turned around by another EMT, whether professional or volunteer, with a lesser medical certification. This is the reason volunteers generally do not cancel a career engine that is responding to a call. Mr. Wagner expressed his support that a career station be built in Cold Springs.

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, suggested that the County purchase the land now and turn it into a park if a career station is not going to be built immediately. He feels a career station would create redundancy and does not think there would ever be a shortage of volunteer firefighters.

Chief Scheuerman explained that the volunteer contract states that career firefighters have a higher level of training as part of their job. There will never be a case where volunteers have a higher level of medical training than a career station, but they may be equal in terms of designation. He further stated that REMSA does not post an ambulance in Stead all the time, and sometimes there is an ambulance available in Golden Valley, but only when REMSA has enough ambulances to do this. Volunteer and career firefighters are relied on to render aid in medical emergencies prior to the arrival of paramedics and transport.

Chief Scheuerman advised that the wording of the Volunteer Usage Policy in the Truckee Meadows Jurisdiction complies with NRS 450. This statute specifically does not authorize volunteers that may be professional nurses or paramedics to use their professional skills as part of their volunteer service. Each career vehicle is licensed as an EMT basic or an EMT "I", and only skills authorized by a license may be used. He further indicated that REMSA is a private company that does not work for the Fire District. The Fire District is in charge of the scene management, and the patient would be transitioned to REMSA upon their arrival, but command of the scene is not transitioned.

Commissioner Bond advised that the people are already paying for an additional fire fighting unit in Washoe County, and this is not a new expense. There would be no additional tax burden to build a career station or operate it. She feels the land should be purchased now. Chairman Sferrazza expressed his concern that the petition circulated was misleading and the people of the Cold Springs community should be aware there will be a career station built somewhere in Washoe County; if not in Cold Springs, then somewhere else.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, it was ordered the location of the tentative Cold Springs career fire station be approved, and that there be no conditions requiring the building of the station within a certain period of time.

Commissioner Galloway requested that reconsideration of building the new fire station in Cold Springs be put on the next agenda, even if it requires a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Boykin confirmed Chief Scheuerman's explanation of State Law as it relates to dealing with medical emergencies. He explained that paramedic skills may not be used above the level of the unit they are working with at the time of response, whether professional or volunteer. He agrees with implementing the Volunteer Usage Policy as it is currently written.

Ms. Shipman advised that the volunteers work entirely within the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's supervisory control. The volunteers operate with the Reno Fire Department under contract between Washoe County and the City of Reno. She stated it is the Fire Chief's responsibility to see that the Policy is carried out, and it is not the Reno City Council's obligation to enforce it on the operational side. She suggested that the Board request accountability from the field. She further advised that the Interlocal Agreement could be amended to include the Policy.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Volunteer Usage Policy, as it relates to all Truckee Meadows Fire operations as currently written, be accepted regardless of construction of any project, and subject to approval by the Reno City Council of the same Policy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, spoke in support of consolidating animal control services. He criticized the Reno/Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority and sang the "Train Trench" song.

COMMISSIONERS'/STAFF COMMENTS

Marty Scheuerman, Operations Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised that the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District is trying to uphold the contract by building the Cold Springs station and staffing it within the third year of the contract. He said the delay is not with the City of Reno or the staff of the Fire Department.

EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were 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:
Melissa M. Ayrault, Deputy County Clerk*