

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

TUESDAY

1:00 P.M.

JUNE 18, 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
Roy Slate, Division Chief

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 Bond advised that, Jennifer Donohue, daughter of Chief Terry Donohue, Brown/Huffaker Auxiliary, was in a serious motorcycle accident last weekend. On behalf of the Board, she extended prayers to the Donohue family for her rapid recovery.

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 18, 2002, meeting be approved. Roy Slate, Division Chief, noted Addendum Item No. 12 concerning the construction of a permanent fire station at Cold Springs.

MINUTES

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of April 16, 2002 and the special meeting of May 14, 2002 be approved.

02-32F MONTHLY REPORT OF OPERATIONS

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

02-33F REPORT - VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY OPERATIONS

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

02-34F ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Upon recommendation of Roy Slate, Division Chief, Reno Fire Department, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the following Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants (50% matching grants) be accepted with gratitude. It was further ordered that the following grant amounts shown against each department from a Federal Program for training materials and equipment for Volunteer Fire Departments and allocated through the Nevada Division of Forestry be accepted. It was noted that an equal amount of funding will be expended from the Reno Fire District (RFD) and the Washoe County Fire Suppression Budget as noted.

FIRE DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	MATCHING FUND ACCOUNT
Red Rock Volunteer Fire Department	\$2,750.00	County Suppression Fund
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District	\$5,000.00	Dispersed by RFD
Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,750.00	County Suppression Fund
Wadsworth Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,750.00	Dispersed by RFD
Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,750.00	Dispersed by RFD
Sutcliffe Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,750.00	County Suppression Fund
Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,750.00	Dispersed by RFD
Lemmon Valley Volunteer Fire Dept.	\$1,750.00	Dispersed by RFD

02-35F AMENDMENT – INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (800 MHZ)

Upon recommendation of Tom Gadd, Director, General Services Department, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Amendment to the Washoe County Regional 800 MHz Communication System October 1999 Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, Washoe County School District, State of Nevada Department of Transportation and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District concerning enabling regulated private entities and critical public suppliers to participate in the System be approved and Chairman Sferrazza be authorized to execute same on behalf of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

02-36F

**COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION EFFORTS –
NORTHERN WASHOE COUNTY AREA - RENO FIRE
DEPARTMENT - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Captain Joan Presley, Reno Fire Department, advised that the Reno Fire Department, in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, has had the opportunity to work with interns from the Student Conservation Association. The students will work in several urban wildland areas in Washoe County, conduct home safety surveys, and provide fire prevention information to residents of Warm Springs, Rancho Haven, and Antelope Valley.

Russell Rivera, Student Conservation Association, advised their program is dedicated to community service and public awareness of community events. Their goal this summer is to promote public awareness and public education on wildland fires. They want the program to be as successful as possible and can only attain that with the help of the Board of County Commissioners and the community.

02-37F

**RECONSIDERATION OF PRIOR APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT
PERMANENT FIRE STATION AT COLD SPRINGS**

Commissioner Galloway said his request is that the Board reconsider their decision to move forward with construction and staffing of the Cold Springs Fire Station at this time. He stated he is not referring to the eventual construction and staffing of the station, but is concerned with the timing of the project.

Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel, advised that the Board does not have any rules on how to make a motion for reconsideration. Chairman Sferrazza stated that, absent any rules, he would rule it is in order for a motion for reconsideration to be made.

Commissioner Galloway moved that the Board's action of February 12, 2002 to approve the location of the fire station in Cold Springs and directing staff to work on protocol language or strengthen current contacts with the volunteers be reconsidered. Commissioner Shaw stated he would second the motion for the purpose of discussion only.

Commissioner Galloway said his request for reconsideration does not have anything to do with the acquisition of the site for the Cold Springs Fire Station. His concern is that, absent any particular timeframe in the February motion, the Fire Department and other parties have construed they were to move forward.

Chairman Sferrazza stated he believes the Board has already spent considerable time hearing the pros and cons of whether a station should be built in Cold Springs. He said he believes the consolidation effort has been extremely successful and would not support changing the prior motion.

Commissioner Short said he does not recall authorizing the immediate construction of the station. He said everyone agrees it will be built someday but he does not believe it is a current priority. He requested a copy of the February 12, 2002 minutes, which was provided to all Board members.

Commissioner Bond said her understanding was the Board did not establish a timeline for building the Cold Springs station; and the only timeline she is aware of is staff's indication that completion of the station would take at least 18 to 24 months.

On call for the question, the motion for reconsideration to allow Commissioner Galloway to state his arguments concerning the Board's February action passed unanimously.

Commissioner Galloway said he voted erroneously on the February motion because he failed to consider the inferences drawn that staff was to move forward with the construction process; and that certain other options were foreclosed for the fire crew that would be going to the Cold Springs station. He stated that Chief Boykin, Brown/Huffaker Auxiliary, the Citizens Advisory Board in the area and others have convinced him that the added benefits of having the station in the near future are minimal. He said he believes it would be beneficial for Reno and Washoe County to more fully utilize the extra crew until the population in Cold Springs sufficiently increases to warrant having the station. He stated he believes the City of Reno will very likely open stations in the Double Diamond and Somersett areas and, instead of hiring additional firefighters to staff new stations, the fire crew scheduled to staff the Cold Springs station could be used. He foresees a budget crunch coming and believes the extra crew should be fully utilized so future budget problems would not endanger the job security of existing firefighters.

Commissioner Galloway said he thinks the Board's action should be modified to make it clear that the Cold Springs Fire Station would not be constructed in the immediate future; and to hold open the commitment of the Cold Springs fire crew until negotiations could be conducted with the City of Reno to determine if the agreement could be revised, subject to the satisfaction of the labor union, whereby Reno and Truckee Meadows Fire would save money by more fully utilizing the extra fire crew at this time. He said he did not sufficiently consider these things when he voted on this item and did not have an understanding that the process would commence immediately.

Commissioner Galloway moved to amend the Board's February 12, 2002 action to state there is no time frame involved in the Cold Springs station decision; the actual building and staffing of the Cold Springs Fire Station is in the indefinite future; and directing staff to negotiate with the City of Reno to see if the contract could be amended to allow another use of the extra fire crew that would result in cost savings for the City of Reno and Washoe County. Commissioner Short seconded the motion.

Chairman Sferrazza called on those wishing to speak.

Richard Boykin, Fire Chief, Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department, stated they believe the facts they presented to the Board over the past several months support a delay of several years for building a paid station in Cold Springs. He said he supports Commissioner Galloway's motion.

Jon Wagner, President, Reno Firefighters Association, advised that run times have improved and the depth of resources have increased with consolidation. He stated the Reno Fire Department tries for a response time of four minutes, which is very important to save lives and confine a fire to the room of origin. He said they succeed 90 percent of the time because fire stations and personnel are located in the right spots to do the job. Mr. Wagner stated that the Cold Springs Fire Station is needed to keep the average run times down. He urged that the Board stay on course with the contract agreement and continue with building the Cold Springs Fire Station, which is needed to give good service to the public.

Bob Lissner, Lifestyle Homes, advised their understanding was that a fire station would be built on the parcel in Cold Springs that was chosen by the City of Reno. He said they could not hold the parcel for a future fire station as they could lose the land for a future use. He advised this particular site is the only possible location for a middle school on their property, but they would also like to have a fire station. His concern is that they would not get a fire station or a middle school unless there is a definite commitment that the fire station would be built. Mr. Lissner responded to questions concerning the current site location.

Commissioner Short said he abstained on the vote in February because he was not ready to approve immediate construction of a fire station. Upon inquiry of Commissioner Shaw, Mr. Lissner advised that his understanding was it could take two years to complete the fire station, not two years to start the process.

Jon Eric Johnson, Firefighters Local 731, supported Mr. Wagner's statements and stated he opposed Commissioner Galloway's motion. He said the land has been donated, the crew and apparatus are already paid for, and it is best served to build the station when all that is missing is the building. He stated it would be unconscionable to deprive the residents of Cold Springs of the higher level of protection and safety the station would provide.

Commissioner Bond said, if the project is delayed for two to three years, the need may become eminent before the station could be built. She stated major growth is occurring in the area, and it would not be prudent to wait until there is a failure of the system to provide safety, health and welfare to the Cold Springs residents. She said the volunteers are doing an outstanding job and she believes the Board has made every effort to ensure they will continue to be a viable part of the firefighting function. She stated she believes the County needs to move forward as planned.

Upon inquiry of Commissioner Galloway, Chuc Lowden, Fire Chief, City of Reno, advised he is currently interviewing for 12 firefighters to fill existing vacancies. He stated that, if a station were to be located at Somerset, construction would not start for at least three years, and they are looking at constructing a fire station in the Double Diamond area. Chief Lowden commented that part of the discomfort in negotiating the agreement is they have been trying to address the County's concerns and follow the direction of the Board regarding the Cold Springs station; and he does not understand at what point in time they have a full Board commitment to move forward. He said, as they are planning their operations in the future, having Board action to modify, change or reconsider actions causes concern.

Upon inquiry of Commissioner Short, Chief Lowden advised his understanding of the intent of the Board was that the Cold Springs station would be operational within the first period of the contract, three years from the time it was signed. He said he does not think that can be met now. He stated the extra fire crew provides a depth of resources and fills in on a response pattern primarily for the City of Reno at this time and is used for backfilling for training purposes in all District stations.

Commissioner Shaw stated he believes there is agreement that a station will be needed in Cold Springs, but the question is when. His main concern is the role of the volunteers, and he is satisfied they can co-exist amicably.

Commissioner Galloway said it appears his motion will not prevail. He stated he does not believe the extra crew would be adequately utilized in Cold Springs, but he is on record as to why he would not vote in favor of funding and other matters forthcoming concerning the Cold Springs Fire Station. He said it is a shame that Reno is hiring firefighters and the extra crew cannot be used for the next two years to reduce expenses.

On call for the question on Commissioner Galloway's motion to amend the Board's February 12, 2002 action concerning the Cold Springs Fire Station, Commissioners Sferrazza, Shaw, and Bond voted "no," Commissioner Short "abstained," and the motion failed. Commissioner Short said he abstained because he does not support building a station in Cold Springs right now.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present wishing to speak.

COMMISSIONERS'/STAFF COMMENTS

Roy Slate, Division Chief, Reno Fire Department, advised that Jennifer Donohue, who was in a recent motorcycle accident, is an Inspector/Investigator for the City of Reno Fire Department. He expressed appreciation for the Board's thoughts and prayers and noted she is doing very well considering the circumstances.

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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*