

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT

TUESDAY

2:15 P.M.

JUNE 25, 2002

PRESENT:

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

Amy Harvey, County 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, with Vice Chairman Bond presiding until Chairman Sferrazza arrived, and conducted the following business:

AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried with Chairman Sferrazza and Commissioner Shaw absent, Vice Chairman Bond ordered that the agenda for the June 25, 2002, meeting be approved.

**02-38F REPORT - EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION OF CONTRACT
FOR PROVISION OF FIRE SERVICE**

Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations, stated an effectiveness evaluation was required by the consolidation contract between the District and the City of Reno, and he presented a comprehensive report to the Board on what has been accomplished and what they learned by doing the evaluation.

*** 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Shaw arrived.**

Chief Scheuerman explained that, to do this evaluation, a team comprised of a cross section of the Department and outside consultants looked at levels of service, run statistics, training, volunteer support, community risk reduction, budgets, and outstanding achievements. He stated the evaluation provided a good introspective look at the Fire Department operations, and they learned a lot during the process. Chief Scheuerman highlighted the significant accomplishments, such as much improved

response times on an ever-increasing number of incidents and improved operational efficiencies in Dispatch. He stated the greatest benefit appears in the budget because prior to consolidation, the District was looking at either raising taxes or reducing levels of service because of a budget shortfall. With the contract for service, the District was able to maintain, and even improve, the level of service without an increase to the taxpayers, eliminate the shortfall, and return \$97,000 in excess savings back to the District from the combined budget. Chief Scheuerman stated it appears that future budgets will only have small increases, and they have actually been surprised by the amount of money that has been saved. He concluded by stating that the contract for service is obtaining the desired goals.

*** 3:45 p.m. Chairman Sferrazza arrived at the meeting and assumed the gavel.**

Jim McMullen, The McMullen Company, Inc., stated he conducted an analysis of this study, and he concurs with the results.

Commissioner Galloway noted there has been average growth rate for the Truckee Meadows of approximately three percent and asked if the calls for service correspond to that rate. Mr. McMullen advised fire departments are seeing increases all around the country because of requests for services other than structure fires. He then responded to questions from Board members.

In response to Commissioner Shaw's questions concerning including the City of Sparks, Mr. McMullen explained that, from an operational standpoint, a regional approach to fire protection is usually an improvement; and when a local entity chooses not to participate, there will be holes in the system. He suggested starting out with partial consolidation of certain items, such as administrative functions, training, and fire prevention activities; and stated any sharing should result in cost savings.

Commissioner Galloway asked if the impact of the wage increases and re-opening of the contract was taken into account in these figures. Mary Walker, Walker & Associates, stated that was included.

On motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the report concerning the effectiveness evaluation of the contract for the provisions of fire service between the City of Reno and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District be accepted.

Commissioner Galloway expressed his support for the motion, but indicated that does not mean he agrees that the volunteers are being used exactly as they were before. He stated the contract is one form of consolidation and he does not believe this arrangement performed better than it would have if the entities had followed a Joint Powers Authority structure. He further stated he does not dispute that money has been saved and there have been some improvements, but there are areas he is still concerned about and will continue to work on.

02-39F **REPORT - REGIONAL FIRE CONSOLIDATION FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

Katy Singlaub, County Manager, explained that a parallel analysis concerning consolidating all of the remaining fire operations in the region into one fire district was conducted along with the analysis of the effectiveness evaluation.

Mary Walker, Walker & Associates, was present and responded to questions from Commissioner Short. Commissioner Short wanted to discuss the report in detail and asked if it could be continued because he had to leave the meeting soon.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that discussion and consideration of the Washoe County Regional Fire Consolidation Financial Analysis be continued to the next meeting.

02-40F **SALE OF MODULAR HOME TO WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Upon recommendation of Roy Slate, Division Chief, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the sale of a manufactured home owned by the District (a 1999 Karsten U.B.C. Manufactured Home, Model KS48OU1F, Serial Number K90514) to Washoe County for \$61,000 minus the costs of all expenses incurred for the removal of an existing mobile home and foundation as well as the necessary site work to set up the new home in Gerlach be approved. (See County Commission minutes of June 25, 2002, Item No. 02-700.)

02-41F **TERMINATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT - FORMER STATION 18 - 100 WOODLAND AVENUE**

Upon recommendation of Roy Slate, Division Chief, and Wendy Pitts, Washoe County General Services Department, on motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Agreement to Terminate Lease between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Reno West Business Park, a California Limited Partnership (dba Jackson Properties), concerning provision of notice of intent to vacate and terminate the lease of property located at 100 Woodland, Reno, Nevada, further identified as APN 39-147-01, be approved and Chairman Sferrazza be authorized to execute same.

It was noted the property owner has agreed to an early termination of the lease and will release the District from any further rent or penalty associated with this lease upon vacating and turning over possession, including the modular building; and the effective date will be July 15, 2002.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, discussed the City of Reno's annexation plan.

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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*