

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

SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY

2:15 P.M.

JULY 9, 2002

PRESENT:

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

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Michelle Poché, Assistant 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 Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the agenda for the July 9, 2002, special meeting be approved.

**02-42F REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF REGIONAL FIRE
CONSOLIDATION FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, explained that a study was conducted which took the five fire districts/departments located in the valley and put them together conceptually in a regional consolidation to look at the financial impacts. The five departments were Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), Reno Fire Department, Sparks Fire Department, Reno-Tahoe International Airport Fire Department, and Sierra Forest Fire Protection District (SFFPD). She stated that three different governing models, the contract model, joint powers agreement, and a total district model were also examined; and the 2002/2003 budgets were used as the basis for all calculations.

Ms. Walker acknowledged the assistance and hard work of the fiscal staffs of all the departments, stating they started with some agreed upon assumptions as the

basis for the entire report, such as determining which stations should be consolidated, types of service levels, problems and solutions in order to have a model on which everyone could agree. She also reported that capital expenditures and dispatch were not included at this time; and they concentrated on operating costs, salaries, service levels, and station savings.

Ms. Walker then discussed the results and their impacts on the entities. She stated, using the Reno/TMFPD salary and benefits costs, half of the personnel in the City of Sparks would receive 12 to 13 percent increases and 31 percent would receive a 9 percent raise; and, when you add in the additional cost of going to four-man engine companies, the increase to the City of Sparks would be \$404,000. For the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District, the average salary increase would be 41 percent; and for the Airport Authority, the retirement benefits would be a huge fiscal impact.

Ms. Walker stated station consolidation savings would occur over time. She further explained it is their conclusion that total consolidation is not fiscally feasible until stations can be consolidated at the same time. Commissioner Galloway asked why the station consolidation was being considered as a "phase-in." The response was that the locations of many of the current stations is not ideal for consolidating, which would not result in desired savings; and it would be better to wait until new stations are constructed.

Ms. Walker then discussed the differences between the three types of governing models that were examined and stated the biggest problem under the total district model was that SFFPD could not provide wildland fire protection and would be eliminated. The entities would then have to negotiate with the federal government for wildland fire services, including air support and prison crews. Ms. Walker stated she has not been able to obtain information on what those costs might be.

Ms. Walker concluded stating that Sparks, SFFPD and the Airport Authority would lose money in a consolidation because their employee salary and benefits are considerably lower than Reno and TMFPD. As to revenue, Ms. Walker provided information concerning equalizing the ad valorem tax rates under the various governance models; and reported that, under the district model, both Reno and TMFPD would lose revenue.

On motion by Commissioner Short, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the Washoe County Regional Fire Consolidation Financial Analysis be accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no response to the call for public comments.

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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*