

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

TUESDAY

1:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 21, 2003

PRESENT:

David Humke, Chairman
Jim Shaw, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner
Bonnie Weber, Commissioner

Roy Slate, Division Chief
Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Peter Simeoni, Legal Counsel

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 Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that the agenda for the October 21, 2003 meeting be approved.

MINUTES

Commissioner Sferrazza stated he wanted to clarify that his comment set forth under Commissioners' Announcements in the August 19, 2003 minutes was made in response to a statement made under Public Comments that same date by Al Hesson, which comment was not set out in the summary of Mr. Hesson's statements.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that the minutes of the regular meetings of May 19, June 17, July 15, August 19, and September 16, 2003 be approved with the noted clarification to the August 19, 2003 minutes.

03-46F MONTHLY OPERATION REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2003

Roy Slate, Division Chief, noted considerable year-to-date increases in call volume are being seen. They cannot point to any significant trend for this occurrence, and it appears to result from the growth of the community.

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that the operations report for September 2003 be accepted.

03-47F AUXILIARY/VOLUNTEER REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2003

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that the Auxiliary/Volunteer report for September 2003 be accepted.

04-48F DISCUSSION – COLD SPRINGS CAREER STATION

Roy Slate, Division Chief, provided information in response to questions asked by Commissioner Weber. He stated, about the time of consolidation, a station in the West Truckee Meadows was closed and that company was moved to Fire Station No. 1 in downtown Reno until the Cold Springs career station was constructed.

Gary Neilson, Division Chief, City of Reno Fire Department, stated the cost of a fire company is about \$1.4-million. He said that action to move the firefighters to the Reno station was based on County Commission direction after reviewing the most feasible and productive placement for the crew. He noted no raise in taxes would be needed to staff the Cold Springs Station with this company.

Upon inquiry of Commissioner Galloway, Chief Neilson advised the City of Reno has only replaced retired firefighters in the past three years, and the total number of firefighters has not increased. He advised additional firefighters would need to be hired upon completion of Station No. 12 in the South Meadows, which is estimated to occur in the summer of 2005.

**03-49F PUBLIC HEARING – AUTHORIZATION OF ISSUANCE OF
MEDIUM-TERMED OBLIGATIONS – COLD SPRINGS CAREER
FIRE STATION**

1:00 p.m. This was the time set in a Notice of Public Hearing published in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* on October 10, 2003 to act upon a resolution authorizing the issuance of medium-term obligations of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) in the maximum principal amount of \$1,300,000 to enable the Board to pay all or a portion of the cost of acquiring, constructing, and improving facilities and equipment for the District. Proof was made that due and legal notice had been given.

Commissioner Galloway stated he has previously opposed the opening of this station, and it would be inconsistent for him to vote to proceed with the project. He said his and former Commissioner Ted Short's position was the demand for a career fire

station in Cold Springs was ten years away, and it would be better for Reno to absorb the TMFPD firefighters and reduce the tax rate in the District. He noted it has been stated that Reno would eventually need to hire additional firefighters.

Chairman Humke opened the public hearing and called on anyone wishing to speak.

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, said he sat through the meetings where Commissioners Galloway and Short spoke in opposition to this fire station. He stated he admires the firefighters but does not believe a full-time station is needed in Cold Springs at this time.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Humke closed the public hearing. Subsequent to discussion on the following item, Chairman Humke reopened the public hearing, and on motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the public hearing concerning the issuance of medium-termed obligations for financing the construction and design of the Cold Springs Fire Station be continued.

**03-50F RESOLUTION – ISSUANCE OF MEDIUM-TERMED
OBLIGATIONS – CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN OF COLD
SPRINGS CAREER FIRE STATION**

Commissioner Weber stated a good portion of the Cold Springs community is opposed to the career fire station. She said she has been assured the demand for the service would be there by the time the station is constructed, but still questions whether it is appropriate to go forward at this time.

Chairman Humke stated he has been persuaded by Commissioner Galloway's recounting of history on this matter and believes the volunteer firefighters should service that area as long as possible.

Upon inquiry of Commissioner Shaw, Chief Slate advised that Cold Springs Valley has approximately 105 to 120 calls a year that are currently responded to by the Cold Springs volunteers, as well as Station 13 in Stead. He said the Cold Springs volunteers do a good job of responding, and the call volume is comparable to volumes seen at the Washoe Valley career station. Chief Slate stated that Cold Springs is an isolated service area, and the valley is growing in comparison to other areas within the Truckee Meadows. They believe call volume will increase over the next year or two to a level that would demand a career station. Under the current financial conditions, where there is the opportunity and economic climate to construct the station, they believe it is appropriate to move forward.

Chief Neilson stated that more resources are needed in the North Valleys, and 2,000 plus homes are planned over the next few years, which will increase the call volume.

Commissioner Galloway said he is not convinced of the need for the career fire station. He noted, if this item is not approved, the donation of the property for the station from Lifestyle Homes might be lost. However, the County expended possibly \$4-million over the last few years that would not have been spent if negotiations had occurred with Reno to absorb that crew. He said, if this does not go forward, he would request staff be given direction to try again to negotiate that.

Upon inquiry of Commissioner Shaw, Chief Slate advised the project has been in process for about five years, and funds have been expended for design. He stated the Community Development Plan was revised to include the Lifestyle Homes development, and development agreements were made based on the anticipated amount and complexity of call volume in the area.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated his understanding is the Cold Springs station was part of the County's contract with Reno. He believes moving the firefighters elsewhere and having Reno pay for them would require an amendment to the contract, which is now in place for another four years. He stated the citizens of Washoe County are paying for these firefighters and are not enjoying the benefit of their use.

Commissioner Weber requested this item be continued, as she would like to hear again from the citizens in the area.

Commissioner Galloway stated the issue for him is whether this money could be used elsewhere to make lives better and safer, and, if this is turned down, the Board should give direction to see what can be done about those contracts that would translate into savings. He noted most of the call volume is for medical events and fire stations are nearby, REMSA is available, and there is a top-notch volunteer group.

Commissioner Shaw said he would agree to continue this, as it has been a while since the Board has heard from the volunteers, and their position may have changed in light of the development that is occurring in the area. However, if the Fire Department says a career station is needed, it would be hard for him to go against that recommendation.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated he would support the continuance. He said, if there was an alternate station for the crew that Reno would agree to absorb, it might make some sense to do that. He stated he believes staff should ask Reno if they are willing to amend the contract or consider picking up the company before this drastic step is taken.

County Manager Singlaub advised that staff would provide a summary for the Commissioners that were not part of the history of this project. She said the contract specifies the building of this station, but she is not sure an amendment would be needed to vary from that at this time.

Commissioner Galloway noted that October is the month the County is supposed to give Reno notice relative to any concerns about automatically renewing the contract. If this item were continued, he would like management to be authorized to take appropriate action to keep the option open to negotiate these issues with Reno.

County Manager Singlaub advised the contract was renewed based on the study and report back to the Board. She believes it is appropriate to identify any possible amendments and said staff would need approximately 30 to 60 days to look at other options for the fire crew and discuss the issues with the Citizens Advisory Board.

On motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that this item be continued, and staff be authorized to investigate and report to the Board concerning all options relative to the contract with Reno.

03-51F EXPENDITURE - EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION OF FUEL STORAGE/DISPENSING SYSTEM – FIRE STATION 13

Upon recommendation of Roy Slate, Division Chief, Reno Fire Department, on motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the expenditure of TMFPD Capital Funds in the amount of \$26,625 to Petroleum Maintenance, Inc. to provide equipment and installation of a 1250-gallon aboveground fuel tank/dispensing system and the additional amount of \$360 to take advantage of Option No. 1 for a three-inch underground chaseway to the main building for future generator fuel transfer for diesel and gasoline fuels for Fire Station No. 13 on Silver Lake Boulevard in Stead for a total expenditure of \$26,985 be approved.

COMMISSIONERS'/CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Roy Slate, Division Chief, advised that the replacement for Engine 13 would be ready for service in approximately two weeks and will be on display at the Convention Center later this week. He extended an offer to the Commissioners to ride the new engine.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, discussed his opposition to the recent mailing sent out by the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and their solicitation for donations. He then discussed his concerns relative to the Airport Authority.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

DAVID E. HUMKE, 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*