

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

TUESDAY

1:00 P.M.

JANUARY 20, 2004

PRESENT:

**Jim Shaw, Chairman**  
**Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairman**  
**Jim Galloway, Commissioner**  
**David Humke, Commissioner**

**Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations**  
**Amy Harvey, County Clerk**  
**Katy Singlaub, County Manager**  
**Blaine Cartlidge, Legal Counsel**

ABSENT:

**Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner**

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:

**04-01F      AGENDA**

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza absent, Chairman Shaw ordered that the agenda for the January 20, 2004 meeting be approved.

**04-02F      MINUTES**

On motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza absent, Chairman Shaw ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of December 16, 2003 be approved.

**04-03F      MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT - DECEMBER 2003**

On motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza absent, Chairman Shaw ordered that the Operations Report for December 2003 be accepted.

Commissioner Humke moved to accept the report, Commissioner Galloway seconded the motion, and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Weber noted there was no mention of the radio communications and dispatching problems in the Auxiliary/Volunteer report, and she inquired if the problems were moving to resolution, especially for the volunteers in Cold Springs. She explained that the Chief and volunteers in Cold Springs were upset because they were not receiving the calls; or, in some cases, they were receiving the pages up to ten minutes after the fire department received the calls. She understands the problem to be coming from dispatch and she asked what was happening to solve the problems. She said it was okay to accept the report, as long as it was clear that there was an issue that needed to be resolved.

Chief Marty Scheuerman stated that he was working to identify if the problem was with the equipment or with the process. He said it was a matter of getting all the parties together, including dispatch, Richard Boykin, Chief of the Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department, this Board, and himself to discuss and solve the issues. He clarified that part of the problem was due to the move to the new facility and using the new system. He explained that most delays were within the 30- to 45-second allowable time frame, but even that time frame was unacceptable. He confirmed that he was committed to working to resolve the issue, and his efforts to communicate with the Chief and dispatch were intended to inform them that the problem was affecting many people and to relay the urgency to solve the problem.

Commissioner Weber inquired if the problem was with the new pagers that were mentioned, and Chief Scheuerman said it was not the pagers. He explained that the problem was the interface with the radios and the old paging system. He stated that the tones were heard when a page was dispatched, but not the voice to go along with the page. He said dispatch believed they were transmitting because there was nothing to indicate that their voices were not coming through the system.

Commissioner Galloway said he did receive three emails from Chief Boykin regarding the notification issue, and the Chief had the perception it was a human-driven situation and that possibly once again the volunteers had been given second priority. Chief Scheuerman clarified that was not the case. Commissioner Galloway asked that any possibility of volunteers getting less priority of notice than the regular fire stations, whether due to human preference or action, be totally eliminated.

Commissioner Humke said he would withdraw his motion and change it to a refusal to accept the report because this was not the first time the issue had been heard about a volunteer agency not receiving calls. He referred to an email, which was placed on file with the Clerk, that he had received from a citizen in Cold Springs that reported it took 13 minutes for the Reno Fire Department to respond to a call and the volunteer unit

arrived three minutes later. He said it was totally unacceptable for volunteers not to receive dispatch calls and the problem has to stop.

Commissioner Galloway said the problem with the report was that it did not address the issue, and he suggested the report be amended to include the objections and concerns about the notification problems.

Commissioner Humke withdrew the motion not to accept the report.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza absent, Chairman Shaw ordered that the Auxiliary/Volunteer Report for December 2003 be amended to include the concerns and objections about the notification problems, and after amended, the report be accepted.

It was further ordered that the report be amended to include the direction that every effort be made to expedite the construction of the two-bay addition to the rear of the existing fire station for the Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department.

**04-05F      ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF FIRE ACT GRANT**

Commissioner Galloway clarified that the grant money combined with the local match would allow the additional purchase of a new brush truck.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza absent, Chairman Shaw ordered that the Fire Act Grant for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD)/Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department, in the amount of \$114,300, be acknowledged and accepted.

It was further ordered that the Comptroller be directed to increase the TMFPD capital budget in the amount of \$114,300, and the expenditure of the grant funds be authorized, in combination with \$12,700 in matching funds, for a total anticipated expenditure of \$127,000 from TMFPD Capital Funds, to purchase a new brush truck.

**COMMISSIONERS'/CHIEFS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Galloway stated he would be seeking meetings with the Fire Department leadership and citizens who have been concerned about the Cold Springs Fire Station to talk over a compromise regarding the construction of the station.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sam Dehne, local citizen, stated that Mayor Cashell approved the funding needed to build the downtown kayak course, yet he wants to cut the funding for televising the Reno City Council meetings, and he is not in agreement with this.

Gary Schmidt, Washoe County citizen, said that due to fire safety, air quality and traffic, a AAA ballpark located in Sparks should be rejected. He stated that studies have shown the ballpark would be more successful in downtown Reno.

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

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**JIM SHAW**, Chairman  
Truckee Meadows Fire  
Protection District

**ATTEST:**

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**AMY HARVEY**, Washoe County Clerk  
and Ex Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows  
Fire Protection District

*Minutes Prepared by  
Lori A. Rowe  
Deputy County Clerk*