

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

TUESDAY

1:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 17, 2004

PRESENT:

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

**Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations**  
**Amy Harvey, County Clerk**  
**Katy Singlaub, County Manager**  
**Melanie Foster, 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:

**04-06F      AGENDA**

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the agenda for the February 17, 2004 meeting be approved.

**04-07F      MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT – JANUARY 2004**

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the Operations Report for January 2004 be accepted.

**04-08F      AUXILLARY/VOLUNTEER REPORT – JANUARY 2004**

Commissioner Weber said a meeting was held with the Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department at the Dispatch Center concerning the radio transmissions, and she deferred to Commissioner Galloway for clarification on the comments at the meeting.

Commissioner Galloway explained that comments were made about the complexity involved in the actual dispatching of calls to the volunteers. He stated the difficulties were use of older equipment that was transferred from the previous Dispatch, and each call involved many steps and if one step was forgotten, the call would not be

made. He said he inquired of Chief Richard Boykin how many of the problems could be avoided by upgrading the equipment, and he was told one-half of the problems.

County Manager Katy Singlaub requested that staff of Telecommunications also look into the situation regarding the interface with the 800-MHz system.

Marty Scheuerman, Chief of Operations, commented that being in an interim situation in terms of moving the equipment and switching over to the new system has caused problems. He said a new system is being examined with the volunteers that completely removes the human element. He explained the old and new systems are not compatible and that is causing problems.

Commissioner Galloway requested a presentation to the Board from an expert on the communication systems, and Chief Scheuerman said that would be on the next agenda.

In response to Commissioner Weber, Chief Scheuerman acknowledged that human element is partially the problem, and they are working to decrease the problem by having all employees follow the exact same procedures and that has helped to cut down on the errors.

Commissioner Galloway inquired of the timetable for the change-over to be complete, and Chief Scheuerman said in June or July 2004.

Following discussion, on motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Chairman Shaw, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Auxiliary/Volunteer Report for January 2004 be accepted.

**04-09F      DONATION - SURPLUS SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS - NEVADA STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

Chief Scheuerman reviewed the agenda memorandum dated January 26, 2004, giving background on the request to donate surplus self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) to the Nevada Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Commissioner Sferrazza inquired why it would not be offered to Washoe County volunteers first, and Chief Scheuerman explained the volunteers have new equipment that would not be compatible.

Upon recommendation of Roy Slate, Division Chief, on motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the donation of surplus SCBA to the Nevada Office of the State Fire Marshal be approved.

It was noted that the donation would include approximately 90 SCBA harness/regulators/face piece units and 140 SCBA bottles, one test bench and a variety of spare repair parts.

**04-10F      ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF FIRE ACT GRANT**

Chief Scheuerman explained this grant arrived in February 2004, and it would allow for the replacement of a Lemmon Valley brush truck with a new model 14 for their volunteer fire department.

Upon recommendation of Roy Slate, Division Chief, on motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the following actions be taken:

1. A grant for \$206,100 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's FY 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program be accepted; and
2. The Comptroller be directed to increase the appropriate accounts of the District capital budget by \$206,100; and
3. The expenditure of the grant funds, in combination with \$22,900 matching funds, for a total anticipated expenditure of \$229,000 from the District Capital Funds, to purchase a new brush truck, be approved.

**04-11F      ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT - DIVISION OF FORESTRY - VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Chief Scheuerman explained the grant, in combination with matching funds from the District Capital Funds, would provide for the purchase of a new utility body and slip-in pump/tank package.

Upon recommendation of Roy Slate, Division Chief, on motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the following actions be taken:

1. A grant for \$10,000 from the Nevada Division of Forestry's FY 2003 Volunteer Fire Assistance Program be accepted; and
2. The Comptroller be directed to increase the appropriate accounts of the District Capital Budget by \$10,000; and
3. The expenditure of the grant funds, in combination with \$5,822 matching funds, for a total anticipated expenditure of \$15,822 from the

District Capital Funds, to purchase a new utility body and slip-in pump/tank package, be approved.

**04-12F      DISCUSSION AND REPORT – COLD SPRINGS CAREER STATION**

Chief Scheuerman reviewed the information packet, dated February 1, 2004. He said construction of the Cold Springs Career Station would enhance the overall fire, emergency and medical services in the area by providing a full time four-man career crew trained at the Emergency Medical Technician intermediate level. He concluded his presentation stating a Cold Springs Career Station is needed at this time.

Brent Leines, Cold Springs resident, spoke in support of the Cold Springs Career Station and said the station would improve public safety. He stated it was the right thing to do, and he asked the Board to be champions for public safety by approving the construction. He acknowledged his neighbors were in support of a career station in Cold Springs.

Paul Herman, Cold Springs Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) member, stated the majority of residents want the station. He said population is increasing, funding is being made available and the station should be constructed.

Juneil Mathis, local citizen, voiced her support for the station. She said the Cold Springs CAB met to hear about the station and everyone was for it and there was no opposition.

Jeannie Fow, local resident, spoke in support of the station and said when fires start there are never enough engines to fight the fires. She stated a station would benefit everyone, including Cold Springs, the North Valleys and as well as the rest of Reno.

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, said the residents are in support of the station, and he noted Chief Scheuerman pointed out that home insurance is less for homeowners when a career fire station is located nearby, which would be a great benefit. He requested the Board honor the volunteer firefighters for their loyalty.

Commissioner Galloway inquired what percentage of the calls referred to in the report were medical, and Chief Scheuerman said approximately 70-80 percent. Commissioner Galloway noted the insurance rates quoted in the report and said they appeared to be very high.

Commissioner Humke stated the insurance rates quoted appeared high to him also, and he said he would prefer to see figures from the Office of the Nevada Insurance Commissioner. Chief Scheuerman confirmed he received his information from the corporate offices and insurance agents. Commissioner Humke encouraged citizens to

not hang their hats on the insurance rates, and he clarified his vote was not based on that portion of the report.

Chief Scheuerman noted petitions both for and against were circulated in the community throughout the decision-making process regarding the construction the career station.

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Chairman Shaw, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the report on the Cold Springs Career Station be accepted.

**04-13F            DISCUSSION OF FINANCING OPTIONS – COLD SPRINGS  
CAREER STATION**

Chief Scheuerman reviewed the agenda memorandum dated February 9, 2004, giving background information on the funding options for the Cold Springs Career Station.

Mary Walker, Auditor, explained the funding options, specifically the pay-as-you-go option, and the benefits. She reviewed Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 as options, outlined in the agenda memorandum dated February 9, 2004. She thanked Commissioners Galloway and Weber for their work on the Alternatives. Ms. Walker said the Board needed to decide when they would desire to see the station open, and that is more of a public safety decision than a financing decision. She said all three options would work for whatever time frame the Board establishes.

Chairman Shaw inquired if the response from Cold Springs residents would be to build the station as soon as possible, and Ms. Walker confirmed that to be true.

Commissioner Galloway disclosed he had met with Commissioner Weber, Ms. Walker, members of the Fire Fighters Union, Robert Lissner, and Chief Boykin. He said he and Commissioner Weber made an effort to discuss the different finance options with people on all sides of the issue.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated when this issue came up before, there was misrepresentation that taxes would go up to pay for the construction of the station. He said, with the alternatives presented today, there would be an option that taxes would go down, so that would defeat some of the previous opposition.

Chief Scheuerman said currently Cold Springs valley pays \$519,468 in taxes toward the Fire District. He stated the preferred option by the staff of the fire department is Alternative 1, and this would be his vote also.

Chairman Shaw read citizen Sam Dehne's comments into the record.

Jeannie Fow, North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) member, said in the past there was opposition to the construction of the station due to taxes and a fear that the volunteers would be lost and forgotten. She stated there have been assurances that the volunteers would still be responding and still be supported through the community. She voiced her support for station construction to happen as soon as possible and commented the citizens from the North Valleys and Cold Springs CAB's desired the same.

Commissioner Sferrazza inquired if the station was delayed, would the contribution still be there from Mr. Lissner, and would the City of Reno be willing to renegotiate the contract to allow for savings through attrition. Chief Scheuerman said Mr. Lissner is committed to the project, but it is only his word that binds him to that. He replied there is no guarantee the City of Reno would renegotiate for the savings because there is no benefit for them to do so.

Mr. Lissner, Lifestyle Homes, said it is almost always the company's position to support what the community wants, and if the community wants the fire station and the company is still standing, it would support the station at anytime. He added the population in Cold Springs would grow to 10,000 residents within four years, and that is a lot of people to have in an area without a fire station.

Commissioner Galloway said some of the original reasoning for Alternatives 2 and 3 was that if most of the calls were medical, a full station would not be necessary at this time. If the station is necessary now, he believes it is right to not approve debt financing for the station because that would save the ratepayers money in this district. He discussed the insurance rates and he calculated there would be a savings in insurance rates for the population of approximately \$500,000 a year. He would support Alternative 1 based on the information he has received.

Chairman Shaw stated he agreed with the comments made by Commissioner Galloway in this regard, and he added this is what the people want and the Board needs to adhere to that very carefully.

Commissioner Weber disclosed she had met with Commissioner Galloway, Mr. Lissner, union officials and Chief Boykin. She stated Alternatives 2 and 3 would be a wise decision looking at taxpayers' dollars, the revenue savings, the great volunteer fire department in Cold Springs, the Emergency Medical Service and REMSA services that could be provided for a reduced price. She said she did not know if she could fully support Alternative 1 without asking the City of Reno to consider renegotiating and without looking at Alternative 2. She acknowledged she would like to hold out for Alternative 3, however five years may be too long.

Commissioner Sferrazza noted the Board did debate this issue two years ago, and he said he supported Alternative 1 and moving forward as soon as possible.

Commissioner Humke disclosed he had met with Chief Scheuerman, Ms. Walker, and union leadership. He inquired if the State Demographer was contacted regarding the population, and Chief Scheuerman replied current census information was used.

Commissioners Galloway and Weber voiced their desire to wait to construct the fire station and follow Alternative 2, stating the benefits of building a financial reserve and for the City of Reno, in that they would have their fire crew for a longer amount of time. The Commissioners did concede they would support Alternative 1 and constructing of the fire station now. Commissioners Galloway and Weber noted they supported pay-as-you-go.

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the proposed financing Alternate Number 1 be approved to construct the Cold Springs Career Fire Station.

**04-14F            RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES – PAYMENT OF CLAIM -  
COLD SPRINGS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Scheuerman reviewed the agenda memorandum dated February 6, 2004, giving background on the payment of an insurance claim and recommendations from staff.

Commissioner Weber requested that Commissioners be informed when incidents happen in their district.

Commissioner Sferrazza inquired how this would affect the volunteers and he requested the Board pay the deductible instead of the volunteers. Chief Scheuerman noted the payment would come out of the volunteer funds, and Commissioner Sferrazza commented it would reduce funds that could be used for other purposes.

Arleen Henton, Senior Risk Management Analyst, explained it was more cost effective for Risk Management to obtain the insurance for the volunteer units and Truckee Meadows career units under the same insurance policy, but in order to do this each volunteer unit would pay their share of the premium beginning in 2004. She said the understanding would be if there was a claim and it exceeded the insurance deductible, the volunteer unit would be responsible for paying that deductible.

Mr. Robert Lissner offered to pay one half of the deductible if the District would pay the other half.

Upon recommendation of Ms. Henton, on motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the District would pay \$1,250 of the deductible of \$2,500 from the

liability account in the Fire District Budget, and Mr. Lissner would pay \$1,250 of the deductible of \$2,500.

The Board thanked Mr. Lissner for his contribution, and Commissioner Weber acknowledged the hard work of the volunteer fire fighters.

**04-15F            BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT - TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP – SILVER LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION**

Upon recommendation of Roy Slate, Division Chief, on motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that a boundary line adjustment application for transfer of ownership of property from Lifestyle Homes (Hamilton Properties, Inc.) to the District, relative to the Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Station be approved.

**04-16F            REPORT OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS – MAJOR LESSONS FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNA FIRE STORMS OF 2003**

On motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the following recommended actions be taken:

1. Support implementation of a statewide mutual aid plan administered and funded by a State Agency;
2. Development of an interstate and/or regional master mutual aid system similar to California's;
3. Develop an open space policy that includes a funded fuel management and enforcement component;
4. Reinforce the Fire Department's response capability by maintaining funding, staffing levels and proper equipment;
5. Support the establishment of availability of State and federal assets during high fire danger periods (red flag and high wind event conditions); reducing and eliminating jurisdictional and operational barriers that prevent the expeditious response of military resources necessary to combat wild fires; readiness training of personnel and military equipment approved for use within the Nevada incident command system, which could consist of stand-by staffing of National Guard aircraft;



6. Updating local building and planning regulations to include more stringent construction standards for high fire threat zones, requirements for brush clearance and fuel modification, and land use planning techniques that protect property; establish strict clearance, construction materials and zoning requirements in wildland areas;
7. Support Unified Command Training between Fire, Law Enforcement, and Public Works;
8. Develop a Joint Information Center concept for broad scale emergencies that transcend jurisdictional boundaries;
9. Support establishment of Fire Safe Council Chapters associated with Citizen Advisory Boards and Neighborhood Advisory Boards;
10. Support changes in the National Fire Plan regarding resource responsibility for structure protection during fires in the Wildland Urban Interface.

**COMMISSIONERS'/CHIEF'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Galloway requested an agenda item to present all possible options to cover the \$10,000 needed to meet the landscaping requirements for the Silver Knolls Fire Station. He noted the road impact fee would not be waived.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no response to the call for public comments.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

---

**JAMES M. SHAW**, Chairman  
Truckee Meadows Fire  
Protection District

**ATTEST:**

---

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

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