

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

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

MARCH 16, 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
David Watts-Vial, 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:

04-17F AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the agenda for the March 16, 2004 meeting be approved.

04-18F MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2004

On motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Chairman Shaw, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Operations Report for February 2004 be accepted.

04-19F AUXILLARY/VOLUNTEER REPORT – FEBRUARY 2004

Commissioner Weber asked for an update regarding the radio communications and dispatching situation in Cold Springs.

Chief Scheuerman remarked the situation had greatly improved. He said he had been working with Dispatch to re-examine protocols to anticipate any errors that could happen. He described the pages on the dispatch screen that the dispatchers have to go through to select the proper repeaters; and he explained when the wrong repeater is selected, this impacts the volunteer groups in Cold Springs and Sun Valley. He further explained the screens are in the process of being redesigned to eliminate dispatch errors. He gave details of a situation that happened two weeks ago and how it was resolved. He

noted that any complaints from the volunteers were coming directly to himself or Chief Slate.

Commissioner Weber explained she attended the North Valley Citizen Advisory Board meeting where people from Dispatch were in attendance. She said they described the process they use and commented that the problems in Cold Springs had nothing to do with their error and that it was the responsibility of the volunteers to call back into dispatch once a call was heard.

Chief Scheuerman clarified that protocols require that when a call goes out, if volunteers hear it on the radio, but it does not come across the pager, they are to call directly in on the radio and ask for the call to be retuned immediately. If no calls come in from the volunteers, Dispatch retunes the call; and the next step is to contact the Volunteer Chief if they have not heard from the volunteers. He said what is happening is the mixing of the old with the new and trying to make it work together until the new system is put into place.

Commissioner Humke stated the volunteers are frustrated and Chief Scheuerman confirmed they are working hard to fix the problems. Commissioner Weber requested this topic be brought forward for discussion at the Joint Fire Advisory Board meeting in the near future.

Commissioner Galloway noted the status in the report of the Cold Springs and Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Departments' facilities. He requested acceptance of the report and direction be given to staff to return to the Board with an option to make up any budget shortfalls from the general funds of the District. He said he did not anticipate the amount would be excessive.

Chief Scheuerman said full funding for the Cold Springs Volunteer Fire station would be proposed in the upcoming budget for the next fiscal year, and the Silver Lake Volunteer Fire station is being funded by the Alturas mitigation funds.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Shaw ordered that the Auxiliary/Volunteer Report for February 2004 be accepted. Regarding the Cold Springs and Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Departments' facilities, it was further ordered if budget shortfalls occur, staff would return to the Board with an option to make up the shortfall from the general funds of the District.

It was also ordered that the radio communications and dispatching situation in Cold Springs be a discussion item for the Joint Fire Advisory Board meeting in the near future.

COMMISSIONERS'/CHIEF'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Scheuerman apologized that the Joint Fire Advisory Board meeting did not take place. He said the meeting would be rescheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, noted that all public and elected officials should wear nametags with their salary listed below their name. He mentioned an article in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* a couple of weeks ago that reported the new leader of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was upset with Washoe County because the County does not have proper proportionate number of Hispanic workers and they relied on the 2000 census to formulate their data. He clarified that the census is not a census of American citizens, but it is a census of bodies in the house, so it is incorrect to throw out census figures.

Gary Schmidt, Washoe County resident, recommended the Board have nameplates that could be changed to indicate which Board was being heard. He noted this would be helpful for people watching the televised proceedings, especially when the Board changes from the Board of County Commissioners to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and back again.

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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 Rowe, Deputy County Clerk*