

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

TUESDAY

4:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

PRESENT:

**Jim Galloway, Acting Chairman**  
**David Humke, Commissioner**  
**Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner**

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

ABSENT:

**Jim Shaw, Chairman**  
**Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairman**

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:

**04-58F      AGENDA**

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried with Chairman Shaw and Commissioner Weber absent, Acting Chair Galloway ordered that the agenda for the September 21, 2004 meeting be approved.

**04-59F      MINUTES**

On motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried with Chairman Shaw and Commissioner Weber absent, Acting Chair Galloway ordered that the minutes of the regular meetings of May 11, 17, 18 and June 15 and 22, 2004 be approved.

**04-60F      MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT – AUGUST 2004**

On motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried with Chairman Shaw and Commissioner Weber absent, Acting Chair Galloway ordered that the Operations Report for August 2004 be accepted.

**04-61F            VOLUNTEER/AUXILIARY REPORT – AUGUST 2004**

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Acting Chair Galloway, which motion duly carried with Chairman Shaw and Commissioner Weber absent, it was ordered that the Volunteer/Auxiliary Report for August 2004 be accepted.

**04-62F            REPORT – ANDREW LANE FIRE**

Chief Marty Scheuerman stated a total report on the Andrew Lane fire would be presented at the September 28, 2004 County Commission meeting. Chief Scheuerman described the fire including losses of homes, vehicles, and outbuildings; number of crews and engines working the fire; the type and path of the fire; and the challenges and difficulties faced in fighting the fire.

In response to Acting Chair Galloway, Chief Scheuerman explained that Bailey Canyon is on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, but it could be possible to clear out the excess brush and place fire breaks in the canyon. Chief Scheuerman stated he would endeavor to bring BLM and their representatives to a Truckee Meadows Fire Board meeting and questions could be asked of them about Bailey Canyon.

Commissioner Humke asked when the item concerning fire service and law enforcement, as they impact citizens returning to a fire, would be on an agenda. County Manager Katy Singlaub responded staff would report on the existing policies and practices for the County at the September 28, 2004 meeting.

Commissioner Humke expressed his understanding of the law saying that if a citizen is in their home, law enforcement cannot force them to leave; but once they leave their home, they could be kept from returning if an emergent situation occurs. Assistant Sheriff Jim Lopey concurred. Commissioner Humke reported many citizens in the Andrew Lane vicinity believe the law is not fair; and he asked the Sheriff's Office to consider the provision of an ID card that citizens could show, which would allow them to enter an emergent situation, acknowledging that these citizens would take responsibility for themselves. Assistant Sheriff Lopey said this would be taken into consideration.

Gary Schmidt, Washoe County resident, requested all videos before and after the fire and all audio transmissions beginning with the report of the fire and ending at noon the day following the fire. He presented a map of the area, which was placed on file with the Clerk; and he described what happened to his home on Andrew Lane and his efforts to reach his home.

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, said he did not want to be critical, but he questioned why Mr. Schmidt was not allowed into the area to protect his home.

Cathy Brandhorst, area citizen, voiced her concerns about the response times involved in fighting fires and the water pressure available to put out fires.

Assistant Sheriff Lopey explained that he asked Mr. Schmidt for additional information regarding the alleged incidences. Assistant Sheriff Lopey said he supplied Mr. Schmidt with the County's general orders, applicable Nevada Revised Statutes, and the Nevada Administrative Code that relates to how the Sheriff's Office responds and under whose authority road closures and evacuations are conducted. He commended the brave men and women who were a part of this emergency situation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Al Hesson, area resident, commented on a Sparks City Council meeting where three Council members voted down a resolution in support of naming a school after Donald Klein Jr., a Marine and a citizen of Sparks, who was killed in the war in Iraq. He noted these members disgraced his wife, Tina Klein, by not understanding that it was merely a resolution and not the time or place for the final decision.

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, acknowledged that his comments were meant to help and not to take away from the heroic efforts of the firefighters.

Cathy Brandhorst, area resident, discussed graffiti problems in the County.

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

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**JIM GALLOWAY**, Acting Chair  
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 Rowe, Deputy County Clerk*