

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

MONDAY

10:30 A.M.

MAY 16, 2005

PRESENT:

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

Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel
Roy Slate, Division Chief

The Board met in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

05-32F PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2005/06
TENTATIVE AND FINAL BUDGET

10:30 a.m. This was the time set in a Notice of Public Hearing, published in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* on May 6, 2005, to consider the tentative budget for fiscal year 2005/06 as well as possible adoption of the final budget.

Chairman Weber opened the public hearing.

Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, reviewed the proposed budget for the District, noting the tax rate will remain at \$.4713, which includes the one-cent reduction the Board instituted last year. She said revenues are projected to increase four percent, and that is based on the Legislative Counsel Bureau's projections on the impacts of AB489, the property tax cap bill. Ms. Walker discussed expenditure projections and said due to the health of the District funds, the District will be able to fully fund the retiree group medical benefits, the liability for workers' compensation this year and some items for the volunteer departments. Ms. Walker then responded to questions from Commissioner Galloway concerning revenue lost due to annexations and the corresponding savings by no longer serving those areas.

Susan Schlerf, Assistant City Manager, City of Reno, presented a request from the City that the District commit \$600,000 to the South Meadows fire station. Commissioner Galloway stated that was already addressed in the contract with Reno. Ms. Schlerf said if there is already an agreement, Council just wanted to reconfirm the County's commitment to the \$600,000. Commissioner Galloway emphatically expressed

that the County did not commit to \$600,000, and that the County only said they would consider the request. He further stated it was clear in the contract that the County expected to retain the proceeds because other considerations were given concerning the Cold Springs station. He further stated if the additional funds are needed in order to add a community room to the facility, he believed that residential construction tax funds should be used for that. He asked how much residential construction tax the City has collected for Damonte Ranch. Commissioner Sferrazza said he thought there was something more than the community room and requested more information on what the exact plans are to be presented to the Joint Fire Advisory Board meeting. Ms. Walker explained they are considering a larger station, which would include a community room; and additional resources are needed for the community room. She referenced the contract and other discussions, stating it was clear that the City was to take care of the construction costs of the South Meadows station and the County would take care of the construction costs of the Cold Springs station. Chairman Weber agreed that much more discussion is needed on this matter.

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, spoke in support of the District's proposed budget.

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried, Chairman Weber ordered that the fiscal year 2005/06 tentative and final budgets for the District be adopted. It was further ordered that the request by the City of Reno concerning the South Meadows station be brought back to the Board in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Schmidt, area resident, stated it has been nine months since the Andrew Lane fire in which he lost his home; and there have been many complaints from the citizens about the illegal tactics used by law enforcement to deny residents access to their property during the fire. He said there were many promises by the Board that hearings and a review would be conducted. Mr. Schmidt said this was beginning to look like a cover-up. He said laws have been broken, citizen's rights have been violated, and nothing has been done for nine months.

Sam Dehne, area resident, discussed the massive industrial development occurring in the East Truckee Canyon and suggested those companies should have to build their own airport and not be allowed to use the Reno airport.

In response to Chairman Weber, Katy Singlaub, County Manager, stated there have been community meetings held in the area affected by the Andrew Lane fire; and Washoe County Risk Management has retained an independent investigator, as Mr. Schmidt is aware, who is interviewing area residents.

Chairman Weber commented she thought the meeting should have been a town hall type meeting with the Board members involved. Ms. Singlaub stated once the

investigator makes his findings, there could be more meetings in the format desired by the Board.

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

BONNIE WEBER, Chairman
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by
Sharon Gotchy,
Deputy County Clerk*