

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

TUESDAY

4:15 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

PRESENT:

Bob Larkin, Chairman
Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
David Humke, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel
Marty Scheuerman, 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:

07-46F AGENDA ITEM 2

Agenda Subject: "Approval of the agenda for the Board of Fire Commissioners' special meeting of September 25, 2007 including consideration of taking items out of sequence, deleting items and adding items which require action upon a finding that an emergency exists."

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, Chairman Larkin ordered that the agenda for the September 25, 2007 special meeting be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Agenda Subject: "Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to two minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The District will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to two minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the District as a whole."

There was no response to the call for public comment.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: "Commissioners'/Manager's Announcements, Requests for Information, Topics for Future Agendas and Statements Relating to Items Not on the Agenda. (No discussion among Commissioners will take place on this item.)"

Commissioner Galloway stated some citizen concern had been expressed about equipment purchased by or donated to volunteer stations that might have been moved to other locations. Division Chief Marty Scheuerman declared any such allegations to be false.

Commissioner Weber asked about the progress of the Lemmon Valley Volunteer Station. Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator for Washoe County, reported there had been delays because the proposed building for the Volunteer Station was metal, which required several meetings to discuss development requirements. He stated that the permits were now ready to go and work could begin after the Washoe County Planning Commission approved the plans.

07-47F AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: "Receive an update and offer direction, and/or adopt a cost recovery policy for human caused fires within the unincorporated areas of the County protected by the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District."

Division Chief Marty Scheuerman referred to the proposed policy contained in the staff report. He outlined the statutory difference between fire districts, stating that Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) was under NRS 474 and, as such, could only pursue cost recovery for negligent or willful acts. In response to Commissioner Humke's question, Chief Scheuerman explained that the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), under NRS 473, could pursue cost recovery for any act that caused a fire.

Chairman Larkin asked about the language in section I.B. of the Cost Recovery Policy, which stated: "it was the intent of the Fire District to pursue collection of costs expended by the Fire District in excess of normal and customary operating costs for suppression and follow up activities..." Chief Scheuerman indicated taxpayers paid a certain amount of money to have a fire department available on a 24/7 basis, which should include fires that could be controlled with available resources. Extraordinary costs for overtime, the use of mutual aid or the use of aircraft justified the pursuit of cost recovery when statutory and other criteria were met as well. Chairman Larkin asked if the protection of structures versus fighting wildland fires was factored into the decision process. Chief Scheuerman stated that was not the case, it was more a question of the level of resources committed to fighting a fire.

Commissioner Galloway expressed support for the policy and said he was okay with the differences between the TMFPD and the SFPD, as long as both Districts used a "baseline of service" in their decision criteria.

Chief Scheuerman compared the Policy to a living document that could be changed as best practices dictated.

Chairman Larkin requested that Chief Scheuerman collaborate with SFPD Fire Chief Michael Greene regarding the statutory differences between NRS 473 and 474, to recommend any legislative changes that might be appropriate. He thought there might be some perception on the part of the public that cost recovery policies were inconsistent between the two agencies. Chief Scheuerman stated that collaboration was already underway.

On motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Cost Recovery Policy attached to the staff report for Agenda Item 5 be adopted.

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5:17 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

ROBERT M. LARKIN, Chairman
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared By
Lisa McNeill
Deputy County Clerk*