

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

APRIL 13, 2010

PRESENT:

David Humke, Chairman
Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson
Bob Larkin, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner
John Breternitz, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Simon, County Manager
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel
Tim Alameda, Division Chief

The Board convened at 2:01 p.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

10-24F AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Verbal report from Fire Chief Michael Hernandez on department operations.”

Michael Hernandez, Reno Fire Chief, stated during a special City Council meeting on April 8, 2010, the Reno City Council directed Donna Dreska, Interim City Manager, to take all measures to balance the 2009/10 budget and to take appropriate measures for the 2010/11 budget. He said the Reno Fire Department’s 2008/09 adopted budget was \$55.8 million and the 2009/10 adopted budget was \$49.9 million. He said the Reno Fire Department was asked to reduce its budget by \$4.5 million. He advised some assumptions were made in developing a response to that budget request, such as all vacant positions would remain unfilled including retirements through the end of June and prior early separation positions. He advised the services and supplies budget, which was part of operations, was reduced by \$.5 million and would be reduced by the same amount for the 2010/11 budget. He said the reductions in the capital outlay would remain and staffing would be reduced by nine positions.

Chief Hernandez explained that meant the Fire Department’s day-to-day operations would have 85 full-time equivalents (FTE’s) per shift. He stated 84 FTE’s were needed to maintain the current level of staffing, which left a cushion of one individual. He said scheduled sick, military, maternity, and on-duty injury leaves significantly impacted the ability to staff the fire stations. He advised certain criteria, such as maintaining the highest possible service delivery to the community, were important when developing the plan for determining which fire stations would be

browned out (temporary closures). He explained that determination took into account how often the stations were being tasked, how often the stations received emergency calls for service, firefighter safety, maintaining the integrity of the Interlocal Agreement with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), and response times. He said response times were a critical component in the matrix used to come up with the recommendation regarding which stations to brownout. He noted the Reno Fire Department responded to an emergency call for service every 14 minutes and the station average was 3,000 to 4,200 calls a year.

Chief Hernandez said the actual browning out of particular stations would be left up to Division Chiefs Joe DuRousseau and Tim Alameda. He advised Station 19 in Somerset would maintain a two person rescue staffing crew. He said Station 7 on Skyline was currently browned out, which might continue depending on the season and the call volumes in specific parts of the community. He stated time trials were conducted in the Stead area, which found if Station 9 were browned out, Station 13 would continue to service that area with an increase in response times of two to four minutes. He noted that increase could go as high as six minutes depending on the time of day and other factors. He said Station 21, which was adjacent to the Grand Sierra, would be one of the last stations that would be considered for browning out.

Chief Hernandez stated the decision to brownout a station was not taken lightly. He said the browning out of stations were not absolutes, and the program would be very fluid with no one station being continuously browned out. He said on a day-to-day basis, the Division Chiefs would look at what would best meet the service demands anticipated for that day as well as what assets were available.

Commissioner Weber stated she was concerned about browning out Station 9 because it covered the back of Lemmon Valley. She said individuals who had a mobile home fire indicated Station 9 responded and saved it from completely burning. She felt using the volunteer stations more would help alleviate the situation of browning out stations, especially in the Lemmon Valley area. She said there was a volunteer fire station at the back of Lemmon Valley, but they could not always be depended on being at the station because they had jobs. She suggested alerting the volunteers in the area when a brownout would occur, so the volunteer stations could be available to cover the browned out station's area if at all possible. She felt that would be a good way to serve the community. Chief Hernandez reiterated the decision to brownout a station was difficult. He said he would have Commissioner Weber's request looked at and would report back on the volunteer issue at the next meeting.

Commissioner Jung asked what browning out meant. Chief Hernandez replied a browned out station was equipped and ready to go, but it had no firefighters present. Commissioner Jung said her working definition of a brownout was a station would have a two person crew, which meant only certain vehicles could be used. Chief Hernandez clarified the definition of a brownout was time a station would be temporarily closed for a certain period of time, which could be any period up to 24-hours. He said the station would reopen if there were enough individuals to staff it during the next shift

rotation. Commissioner Jung asked who would be informed about the brownouts. Chief Hernandez replied Kurt Latipow, Washoe County Fire Service Coordinator, and Katy Simon, County Manager, would be notified. Commissioner Jung asked if there were plans to notify the public. Chief Hernandez said putting out a public advisory would depend on an evaluation of how quickly the message could be forwarded to the public, the brownout's duration, and the value of putting out an advisory.

Commissioner Jung said in addition to looking at the ability contractually to notify the volunteer stations about any brownouts, she requested Chief Hernandez also look at what the contract said about dispatching the volunteers because there were dispatch issues. Chief Hernandez replied that was correct. He stated he would look at the Interlocal Agreement and the labor contracts to see that everything was in place, but he surmised it could be as simple as a phone call from the dispatch center to the volunteers putting them on notice a station was being browned out.

Commissioner Larkin noted the 2010/11 budget reduction was \$4.5 million, and he asked how much of that would be in the form of a rebate to the TMFPD. Chief Hernandez said he would have to let the financial staff answer that question because the matrix used to determine any refunds was complex. Commissioner Larkin asked Chief Hernandez to look into it, but he believed 20 percent of the \$4.5 million was being used.

Commissioner Larkin asked when Station 9 was browned out, would the change in the level of service for Station 13 be safe. Chief Hernandez replied in a perfect world, firefighters wanted to be on the scene within three to six minutes. He advised the response time had to be balanced with the risk, and he believed it was marginally safe. He stated it would certainly be unsafe and would be a significant safety issue if there was an extended response period, a high hazard area, a high population density, or a high volume of calls for service. He said the risk factors were reduced to an acceptable level when those factors were looked at for the area.

Chairman Humke asked for clarification regarding the rebate. Mr. Latipow said the 2010/11 consolidated budget was still being developed, but it would use the reduced figures. He stated if there was any savings during the course of the year, the rebate would be based on who paid. For example, he explained if the City of Reno paid 100 percent of the costs of Somerset Station 19 and they received budget reductions or savings as a result of the station's staff being reduced, then 100 percent of those savings would be credited to the City. However, if the City experienced a reduction in an area that was jointly funded by the TMFPD and the City, then the TMFPD would receive a proportionate reduction based on a formula. He advised staff would be able to report soon on what reductions the TMFPD might receive.

Commissioner Breternitz advised the concern he had was the potential of one or two stations being permanently browned out because there did not seem to be any limitations on the brownouts. He believed shutting down a couple of the stations might be easier rather than shutting down stations and then bringing them back up. He assumed

Chief Hernandez could not provide any assurances as to the extent of a brownout because it involved personnel, but what should someone expect when they drove by some of the stations, such as the Skyline station. Chief Hernandez replied it would be difficult to quantify the amount of time a particular station would be browned out. He said as Chief, it was in his and the community's best interests to maintain the stations in a ready-to-go condition. He stated assets might be relocated depending on events, but he did not want to shutter any of the stations. Instead he wanted to keep as many options as possible available to handle emergency situations that would warrant staffing a particular station. He said he was not prepared to provide a firm staffing number now. He stated it could be projected as to how many stations would be browned out on a typical day based on leave usage and reduction in force. He advised he could provide that information to the Board at next month's meeting.

Commissioner Breternitz suggested having a monthly report regarding what stations had been closed and when. Chief Hernandez replied he would include that in his next report, which would be reformatted to contain based more data.

Commissioner Weber reiterated her request to consider the use of volunteers to help cope with the brownouts. She stated the City of Reno and the County understood that public safety needed to remain a top priority even with the current budget crisis. She said the people in the unincorporated Lemmon Valley area had no one but her to fight for them. She stated there were lots of mobile homes and fuel there. She indicated adding four to five minutes to the response times were a lot of minutes. Chief Hernandez stated he was aware of how quickly mobile homes burned, and he agreed time was of the essence. He did not believe the times had reached 10 to 11 minutes for some of the Lemmon Valley areas. He said a lot of staff time and research was put into the decision regarding browning out the stations.

Commissioner Weber stated she was aware the brownouts would not last forever, but now was an opportunity to utilize the volunteers. Commissioner Jung stated she would take the volunteer issue back to the JFAB meeting. She said the JFAB was looking at equity and fairness for all citizens.

Commissioner Jung asked when the reduction in force would occur. Chief Hernandez replied the notices were going out Friday, April 16, 2010 and reductions would take place immediately.

10-25F AGENDA ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

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 Board of Fire Commissioners as a whole.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA – AGENDA ITEMS 3A AND 3B

10-26F AGENDA ITEM 3a

Agenda Subject: “Acceptance of volunteer/auxiliary report for February 2010 (Including monthly operations report of Volunteer Fire Departments indicating response data, training activities/apparatus updates, administrative, radio communication and dispatch issues.)”

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 3a be accepted.

10-27F AGENDA ITEM 3b

Agenda Subject: “Direction to staff to post the Fire Based Emergency Medical Services Master Plan related to draft action plan at www.washoecounty.us/mgrsoff/fireplan.html on the Washoe County web site, make copies of the draft action plan available to interested parties, receive public comment and return to the Board/s’ no later than June 22, 2010 with a presentation of the Draft Action plan inclusive of staff recommendations.”

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 3b be directed.

10-28F AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible action concerning representation of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District in City of Reno staff meetings and bargaining sessions concerning Reno Fire labor organizations.”

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, said the Joint Fire Advisory Board (JFAB) had a recommendation regarding the Board of Fire Commissioners’ (BOFC) participation in the collective bargaining process for the Reno Fire Department. He clarified there was more than one union in the City of Reno linked to the Reno Fire Department.

Mr. Latipow said page 2 of the staff report contained a legal opinion by the District Attorney’s Office. He noted Blaine Cartlidge, Deputy District Attorney, advised what the Board and the JFAB had been discussing regarding the representation of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) in the City of Reno staff negotiations and bargaining sessions concerning the Reno Fire Department labor organizations was permissible by law.

Mr. Cartlidge advised during the closed sessions when the governing body was being briefed regarding labor negotiations, a member of the BOFC being at that meeting would violate the Open Meeting Law. He understood there would be a team member the BOFC that would want to participate on the City team during the strategy and bargaining sessions. He said that member could attend the meetings and provide the BOFC's input, but could not come back and brief the BOFC. Commissioner Breternitz asked what would be the purpose of having a representative at the meetings if the representative could not report back to the BOFC. Mr. Cartlidge replied it was to have some BOFC input into the labor negotiations that impacted the TMFPD's budget. Commissioner Breternitz felt the whole purpose of the representative was to provide the BOFC with feedback on the progress of the negotiations. Mr. Cartlidge explained the negotiating team was appointed by the governing body to participate in a closed meeting with the labor organizations to negotiate a labor contract. He stated the negotiating team reported solely to that governing body because it was the employer, so no third parties could participate in the negotiations except to the extent they were part of the governing body team. Commissioner Larkin explained the BOFC was requesting the City of Reno do this even though they did not have to; but under the advice of their counsel and their JFAB members, the City of Reno suggested the BOFC request the City of Reno, as the employer, to appoint a member of the team that the BOFC proposed so the BOFC would have that representation. He said this was the best alternative available to having someone report back directly to the BOFC.

Mr. Cartlidge said even though the Fire Department was a consolidated department, under the Interlocal Agreement the City of Reno was considered to be the employer and all TMFPD employees became City of Reno employees at the time of the consolidation. He reiterated only the employer's representatives could participate in a closed labor bargaining session by statute.

Commissioner Breternitz asked if the agreement with the City of Reno was altered, what good would the amendment be with the State law being the way it was. Chairman Humke said this set of circumstances was not peculiar to this particular labor agreement, because labor agreements were negotiated confidentially by management staff. Commissioner Larkin explained if a fire district was formed, it would be the body of employment and would conduct the labor negotiations.

Commissioner Larkin said one recommendation was to request the Reno City Council appoint a representative proposed by the BOFC to its negotiation team and the second recommendation was a Commissioner would be appointed by the City Council as an official representative to liaison with the City Council and represent the BOFC at public meetings. He said those were the recommendations by the City Attorney for reasons known only by the City Council because of attorney/client privilege.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Commissioner Larkin made a motion that the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District BOFC request the Reno City Council appoint a representative for the

BOFC when the Reno City Council was briefed by staff concerning Reno Fire labor negotiations and during City staff meetings and bargaining sessions concerning the Reno Fire labor negotiations. He noted two different individuals would be appointed with one being a staff member and the other a BOFC Commissioner. Commissioner Breternitz seconded the motion.

Mr. Cartlidge asked the motion be clarified to state when the City Council was publicly briefed.

Commissioner Larkin retracted motion. Commissioner Breternitz agreed.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the TMFPD BOFC request the Reno City Council appoint a BOFC representative to participate during City staff meetings and during the bargaining sessions concerning the Reno Fire labor organizations.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the TMFPD BOFC request the Reno City Council appoint a member of the BOFC to be present when the Reno City Council was briefed by staff on Fire labor negotiations in public venues.

10-29F AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible action concerning potential milestones and or conditions related to a possible extension of the Notice of Non-renewal to the First Amended Interlocal Agreement for Fire Services Consolidation.”

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, stated the difference between the addendum dated April 7, 2010 and the staff report dated March 27, 2010 was the addendum contained some expanded language in addition to staff’s explanation of that language’s details.

Mr. Latipow noted the most important milestone from staff’s perspective was the discussion on the extension of notification of termination of the Interlocal Agreement. He said the milestones were listed on the top of page 2 of 3 in the addendum. He stated none of the milestones had been negotiated with the City of Reno because he had not yet received direction to do so.

Mr. Latipow said a Master Plan was completed, was accepted by the Board, and staff was given direction to post it for public comment. He and Reno Fire Chief Michael Hernandez believed the hole in the analysis was the participation of Reno in the development of the Standards of Cover (SOC). He reviewed the first paragraph of Milestone No. 1 on page 2 of 3 of the addendum. He noted the contract for the SOC was within the budget authority and capacity of the TMFPD and, with the concurrence of the

City of Reno, the purchase order for the contract could be processed quickly. He also noted the TMFPD would not be in competition with the City's bidding process.

Mr. Latipow reviewed the second paragraph of Milestone No. 1. He stated the Station Location and Response Time documents produced by the International Association of Firefighters on behalf of Reno Local 731 and the Sierra Fire Protection District's (SFPD's) Local 3895 should also be reviewed by the consultant. He said the consultant would then take all of the information and blend it into a regional SOC and would then render performance objectives recommendations to be considered for adoption.

Mr. Latipow said he had been negotiating with the International Association of Fire Chiefs regarding this area becoming a beta test site for performance analysis services. He explained once there was a regional SOC and the performance measures were in place, for the next year the consulting group under the direction of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, would perform an analysis of the performance objectives to determine if the desired objectives were being met. He advised they would provide quarterly reports and an annual report card on how it was going and if any adjustments should be considered to maximize resources. He advised that analysis would be at no cost to any of the parties. He said this community was only one of five that was awarded the opportunity to participate in the beta test. He stated tracking the performance measures needed to be done and it would help staff bring forward to the BOFC an objective evaluation of the performance measures.

Mr. Latipow reviewed Milestone No. 2 on page 3 of 3 in the addendum. He said staff would like the BOFC to consider the expansion of JFAB's role in reviewing the draft budget and commenting to the elected bodies as the budget evolved. He speculated that window might have been missed this year. Blaine Cartlidge, Deputy District Attorney, stated the idea was to take the language in the Interlocal Agreement that defined the JFAB's role and expand it to include governance model considerations. He said there was a practice under the current interpretation of the language in the Interlocal Agreement that stated operational policies and procedures would be confined to the operation "on the street" for fire service operations. He explained the deletion of the word "operational" would allow the JFAB to deal with anything that might come up under the Interlocal Agreement including potential governance models, revisiting the formula in determining workers compensation as a whole, and the consolidated budget model.

Mr. Latipow reviewed Milestone No. 3 on page 3 of 3 of the addendum. He stated last year he asked for the approval to buyout approximately \$600,000 in liability and remove it from the TMFPD's books. He said there was a process and formula used every year to determine the buyout for the previous periods. He stated staff believed this item was meant to be optional based on the impact to the reserves. He said that belief stemmed from the wording in the Interlocal Agreement and the history of how the item was crafted as related by the consultant. He explained for the purpose of the extension of the Interlocal Agreement, it would be understood that the buyout option

contained in the Interlocal Agreement for worker's compensation liability would be optional and at the discretion of the BOFC.

Mr. Latipow said he believed there was a misunderstanding regarding Milestone No. 4 on page 3 of 3 of the addendum. He stated the financial provision within the Interlocal Agreement governed the methods by which the budget would be prepared and by which the budgetary savings were recalculated and refunded. He advised there was a firewall between the County's General Fund and the TMFPD's funding. He said no money whatsoever from these reimbursements ever went into the County's General Fund, which meant the County experienced neither benefit nor risk from the TMFPD's expenditures. He stated staff believed it was appropriate to add clarifying language indicating how the funds were allocated and distributed, which was explained in the paragraph in italics under item (4) on page 3 of 3. He said once the TMFPD's budget was approved and there were additional cuts or savings as the result of operational efficiencies, traditionally those were shared between the City of Reno and the TMFPD based on a formula. He said it should be clarified that if it was an item TMFPD funded, then it would get a proportionate share consistent with the formula. He stated if it was not something TMFPD funded, the TMFPD would have no share. He explained staff would be coming back to the BOFC for a clarification of the formula and of the language within that section of the financial agreement during the period of the extension.

Commissioner Larkin stated the four milestones were on the Reno City Council's agenda for tomorrow, so the action taken today by the BOFC would be answered by Reno tomorrow. He said those four items were being positioned as milestones and preconditions for the extension of the one year notification. He believed Milestone No. 4 was the most significant issue, specifically the language in the addendum, because it went to the heart of Commissioner Weber's concerns regarding Fire Station 9 in Stead. He said it did not state Fire Station 9 would be staffed, but it did state any savings the TMFPD experienced due to reductions in service would be channeled into Station 13 to compensate for the closure of Station 9 over the course of the next negotiation period. He said that was JFAB's attempt to fill the hole as the budget issues were worked through. He stated it also addressed Reno Mayor Cashell's concern that, as city residents experienced service level reductions, the County residents serviced by the TMFPD at the BOFC's discretion could either maintain their service levels or see a reduction based on what the BOFC saw as a priority.

Chairman Humke stated the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) did not exist when the Interlocal Agreement was created. He noted there were concerns regarding the shifting of the burden that took place between the Reno Fire Department and the TMFPD, and he asked how it could be ensured the SFPD was protected from assuming any burden under the Interlocal Agreements or other circumstances. Mr. Latipow replied the logical response would have to do with a regional SOC. He stated once the consultants had the Reno piece of the SOC, they could look at the other impacts. He felt that was important because information was being presented that did not consult or validate the numbers and reciprocity, which would be achieved with the missing Reno

piece. He said he would assure those considerations would be in place as he worked with the consultants on the regional analysis.

Chairman Humke noted the citizens were sick of waiting for a new Arrowcreek Fire Station and they were not willing to wait to see those numbers, which for them was a 14 to 18 minute response time. Mr. Latipow believed that would be a question for SFPD Chief Michael Greene. Chairman Humke said part of the answer was the BOFC had no voice in the Interlocal Agreement and this was directed at providing that voice.

Commissioner Larkin stated one reason for the expansion of item 2 was to start including the SFPD in the discussions. He said the discussion currently had to be limited to the two parties in the contract. He advised the JFAB discussion had also expanded to include the City of Sparks, and he hoped the BOFC would authorize Mr. Latipow to begin discussions with the Sparks City Council. He noted he had discussions with two Sparks City Councilmembers who indicated they would like to participate, especially in the SOC discussion. He also felt the SFPD would benefit from the SOC. Mr. Latipow said the Master Plan recommendation included adding the SFPD to the Interlocal Agreement.

In response to the call for public comment, Jane Countryman stated she was more concerned about any extension of the Interlocal Agreement after sitting through this discussion. She advised the City of Reno had already demonstrated problems in working with the County, and the County had little or no say in what would be done or the services provided. She believed there was nothing that would preclude Washoe County from negotiating a workable agreement during the 12 months from the time the termination notice was given. She said notice could be given, but it could be rescinded if things were worked out. She believed notice should be given to the City of Reno, so they would know the County was playing hardball.

Donna Peterson stated she became more confused the more she listened. She stated she was not opposed to making sure the citizens in the City and the County were all getting six to eight minute response times, but she felt there was a lot of discussion on what was in the City of Reno's best interests. She wanted to hear what was in Washoe County's best interests. She said the area was already in its fire season and the Galena area was in extreme fire danger. She stated the citizens expected the BOFC to support them and to give the City of Reno notice that the BOFC was putting an end to the Interlocal Agreement.

Bob Parker asked how many more homes would burn down during another year of study and how many more people would have heart attacks that could not be gotten to in time. He indicated it was time to move forward and not to study.

Chairman Humke read e-mails from Stanley Bailey and Cliff Lowe requesting not to extend the Interlocal Agreement.

Mr. Latipow noted the Reno SOC was right out of the Master Plan, which recognized good planning required that piece be in place. He said the problem was understood and everyone had been working diligently on it for quite some time. He stated even though it might appear the milestones were meant to favor Reno, they did not. He indicated they were meant to give staff enough time to do due diligence. He said the notification and the period that followed termination was not to renegotiate the contract, but to withdraw and rebuild. He stated staff believed it would take every one of the 12 months to build a new fire department. He said the milestones provided a 12-month stay on the notification, which allowed 12 months to do the analysis, recommend changes, and find out if a better way existed. He explained at any time during the extension, the BOFC could direct staff to provide notice to the City of Reno that the BOFC wanted to start the termination process.

Commissioner Larkin asked how long it would take to do the SOC analysis. Mr. Latipow replied he would expect it to be completed no later than September 2010. Commissioner Larkin said the JFAB expected it would be done July 31st. Mr. Latipow replied it could not be done by then, especially since he did not have a start date on the contract. Commissioner Larkin said this would not drag out for a year and the intent was to be done by the end of September 2010 when a finalized contract would be ratified or the BOFC would move towards notification of cessation of the contract.

Commissioner Larkin reiterated the Reno City Council was considering this same action tomorrow, so this was being done very rapidly as promised. He stated stretching it out would be unfair to all constituents protected by the TMFPD. He requested the Commissioners accept what staff brought to the BOFC and move this forward so the Reno City Council could decide whether or not it wanted to continue with the fire contract.

Commissioner Breternitz understood it would take roughly a year to build a new fire department if the BOFC went through the process to terminate, and he asked if there was any idea how much money would be needed to establish a viable fire department. Mr. Latipow said the first thing would be to hire a fire chief to build the operation. He stated per the Interlocal Agreement, the next step would be to offer the TMFPD personnel, who went to Reno, their jobs back. He said there might be an issue with the personnel not having the necessary rank structure to operate a fire department and there were significantly less personnel than what transferred over due to retirements. He said because of the one year requirement, staff time in Human Resources would immediately be expended to hire personnel along with expending the funds to advertize and test to rebuild the workforce. He said the County owned the equipment, but confirming the ownership through existing documentation would require additional staff time. He stated going through the necessary due diligence to account for all of the equipment, making job offers and hiring, doing the necessary training, and updating policy and procedures would be done in the first month and within the existing budget. He felt the next phase was where substantial costs would be incurred.

Mr. Latipow stated the next phase after the new fire department was operational would be to take a look at the organization as a standalone agency and to identify if the fire stations were in the proper locations to best serve the citizens of the unincorporated areas within the TMFPD. He advised three of the five stations were within the City of Reno limits and there could be a case made for their relocation. He said there was also the issue of covering the islands that were created as the result of annexation.

Commissioner Breternitz commented he heard there were two logical directions that things could go in and neither was a doomsday scenario, but more of a policy choice. Mr. Latipow replied that was correct. He said at the point the fire departments were separated, the operational costs would increase due to losing the economy of scale, but he had no clue regarding what the exact numbers would be. He explained there were positions that the TMFPD only paid 28 percent of, such as Fire Chief, Fire Marshall, and the mechanics in the repair shop, which would go to 100 percent. He acknowledged the County had a good shop, but it no longer had enough certified fire mechanics to service the fleet. He said if the direction was to head that way, then staff would need time to do an analysis of the true fiscal impact and to come back to the BOFC with a report.

Commissioner Jung asked how much a year the County was saving due to the consolidation. Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, explained she did a 10-year analysis, which was reviewed and confirmed by the City of Reno. She stated over the last 10 years the City of Reno saved approximately \$25 million and the TMFPD a little over \$12 million. She stated 10 duplicate positions were eliminated due to the consolidation. She said the TMFPD was also able to save \$1.8 million because it got a fire crew to go to the Cold Springs Station at no additional cost and the City of Reno was able to use a TMFPD crew in South Reno where they annexed. She said the savings for both parties for fiscal year 2008/09 was between \$5 and \$6 million for that year alone.

Ms. Walker said Mr. Latipow stated correctly there would be some additional costs in separating from Reno, but there would be opportunities in going with the SFPD because only one Fire Chief would be needed. She stated there were several governance options that should be fiscally analyzed and brought back to the BOFC regarding how the finances would work and what the savings would be.

Commissioner Weber felt this would be an opportunity to change the face of the Fire Department, but it could not be done overnight. She said the BOFC needed to work with the City of Reno in the best interests of all constituents, and this was why she supported moving forward with this Board action.

Chairman Humke felt giving notice to end the Interlocal Agreement would be irresponsible and the opportunity to take a few additional months would lead to having some meaningful modifications that would be added to the Interlocal Agreement.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Board accept the amended staff report dated April 7, 2010 including items 1-4 and including the specific language in item 4 and to take the four items to the Reno City Council. It was further ordered that Mr. Latipow be authorized to discuss the Standards of Coverage (SOC) with the Sparks City Council.

10-30F AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Update on April 5, 2010 Joint Fire Advisory Board Meeting on the progress of the Joint Fire Advisory Board’s list of proposed Interlocal Agreement issues and provisions to be amended.”

There was no additional input on the Interlocal Agreement issues and provisions to be amended.

10-31F AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: “Commissioners’/Manager’s Announcements, requests for information and identification of topics for future agendas. (No discussion among Commissioners or action will take place on this item.)”

There were no announcements or requests.

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4:10 p.m. On motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered the meeting be adjourned.

DAVID E. HUMKE, Chairman
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

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

Minutes Prepared By Jan Frazzetta, Deputy County Clerk