

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 25, 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 3:20 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:

10-42F 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.”

Cliff Low, Franktown Estates Homeowners Association, stated he was speaking today because he was concerned about the safety of his wife, himself, his property and his community. He said there was no function of government more important than the safety of its citizens, and he predicted Washoe County officials would not have authority or control over fire services that are consolidated with the City of Reno. He believed the City of Sparks realized that fact, which was why their fire department remained separate. He also believed consolidation was not the answer for the citizens in the suburban unincorporated areas of the County. He understood there had been some broadening in functions of the Joint Fire Advisory Board (JFAB), but he said it had not been changed in name of function to the Joint Fire Authority or to the Joint Fire Board.

Mr. Low reminded the Commissioners that during the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) meeting held earlier, he had turned in a petition with over 400 signatures from the citizens of West Washoe Valley. A copy of the petition was placed on file with the Clerk. He said many of those citizens lived within the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District’s (TMFPD’s) boundaries and were concerned about their fire

protection and about seeing their tax dollars paying for their services instead of going to someone else.

Mr. Low stated he would like to see the numbers regarding the alleged savings generated as a result of the Interlocal Agreement. He asked if the Interlocal Agreement ended, who could say the reason for the savings would also go away. He stated there was an individual who believed the savings came from the closing of one fire station, and he did not believe even with automatic aid that station would reopen. He said it was thought that the consolidation saved money because three fire chiefs were not needed, but the City of Reno had five fire chiefs. He stated there was no way to be sure that regional consolidation would not result in another chief or two being added. He said he was unhappy the contract was extended for another year.

10-43F AGENDA ITEM 3

Agenda Subject: “Fire Chief Report – Report on operations by Reno/Truckee Meadows Chief Michael Hernandez.”

Tim Alameda, Division Chief, said Michael Hernandez, Fire Chief, requested his report be postponed until the next meeting. Chairman Humke felt Chief Hernandez’s request was reasonable due to the length of the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) meeting held earlier.

10-44F AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible approval of payment to City of Reno in the sum of \$662,170 as part of the implementation of the recently executed Amendment One to the First Amended Interlocal Agreement for Fire Service and Consolidation, and direct the Finance Department to transfer \$200,000 from the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District General Fund Contingency Account to the C810091710403 Account in the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District General Fund in support of the payment.”

Kurt Latipow, Washoe County Fire Service Coordinator, said this was the final piece as he promised when the Commission took action on the Resolution that extended the deadline by which the County would make notification to cancel or continue the Interlocal Agreement. He stated this action was identified in the Fiscal Impact section of his staff report for that meeting. He advised this action corrected an incorrect calculation made in 2007/08. He explained the City of Reno had been browning out fire stations, which also required adjusting the calculations and those adjustments were calculated with the Board’s approval. The calculations showed the County owed the City of Reno money. He said this legally required action was well within the TMFPD funding guidelines and would not draw the contingency account down to zero.

Mr. Latipow commented no Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) fire stations had been closed.

In response to the call for public comment, Cliff Low stated he believed approximately one year ago, Michael Greene, Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) Chief, unintentionally stirred up a hornet's nest by discussing staffing of the Arrowcreek Fire Station by moving personnel from the Bower's Fire Station. He noted a year had passed and the issue was much the same, except Chief Greene had come up with an interim solution. He believed the answer presented to the Board was not new information because the Chief discussed an Interlocal Agreement with the TMFPD and compensation for automatic aid. He understood the citizens in the Arrowcreek area were impatient, and he encouraged the Board to take action quickly.

Chairman Humke felt this action could not come at a worse time but, if the County owed the City money, it needed to be paid.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved and directed.

10-45F AGENDA ITEM 5

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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3:32 p.m. On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Weber, 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