

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

TUESDAY

10:00 a.m.

JULY 27, 2010

PRESENT:

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
Joan Presley, Fire Marshal

ABSENT:

David Humke, Chairman

The Board convened at 10:51 a.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:

10-55F AGENDA ITEM 2

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.

10-56F AGENDA ITEM 3A

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

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 3A be accepted.

10-57F AGENDA ITEM 3B

Agenda Subject: “Approval of the BOFC January 19, 2010 and January 26, 2010 meeting minutes.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 3B be approved.

10-58F AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Fire Chiefs Report – Report on operations and update on station brown outs by Reno/Truckee Meadows Chief Michael Hernandez.”

Chief Michael Hernandez reported on several incidents and the contamination associated with those incidents. He indicated the Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department initially responded to a fire in that vicinity and upon arrival requested support from the Reno Fire Department and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD). He noted that incident was in a California jurisdiction. He said the fire that occurred 18 miles outside of Gerlach was approximately 6,000 acres and was 10 percent contained. Chief Hernandez stated the Garson Fire near Verdi was completely distinguished and burned approximately 40 acres.

Chief Hernandez said during the month of June the system responded to 3,169 fires, and the TMFPD responded to 973 of those calls for service. He listed the following as a break-down for those calls for service: Station 13 responded to 6 structural fires, 12 wildland fires, and 165 medical calls; Station 14, responded to 12 structural fires, 8 wildland fires and 132 medical calls; Station 15, responded to 5 structural fires and 104 medical calls; Station 16 responded to 4 structural fires, 13 wildland fires and 33 medical calls; Station 17 responded to 3 structural fires, 8 wildland fires and 77 medical calls; and, Station 18 responded to 7 structural fires, 4 wildland fires and 7 medical calls.

Chief Hernandez distributed and reviewed a memorandum, which was placed on file with the Clerk, explaining the brown-outs for stations over the past five months. Currently, he indicated that Station 19 in Somerset had been reduced to a two-person patrol unit responding to medical calls on a daily basis.

Commissioner Larkin asked if the recent fire activity had been erratic and unusual. Chief Hernandez replied due to the heavy fuel load and high winds experienced in the area, those conditions made for a significant challenge. He stated the fires started quickly and spread quickly. Commissioner Larkin asked if there was a contingency plan in place if the erratic conditions continued. Chief Hernandez commented that had been discussed. He said with the recent anticipation of dry lightening, staff had been called back to man brush trucks, but explained that occurred on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Larkin inquired if there was any increase in the use of volunteer firefighters. Chief Hernandez stated there was an open communication with the volunteers. He indicated when there were interface areas the volunteers were dispatched along with career firefighters. Commissioner Larkin stated that would be normal procedure; however, with the erratic behavior being currently experienced, what would happen in the next few weeks when the conditions become extremely dry. Chief Hernandez recognized that was a concern. He said within the organization staff would be increased in anticipation of the dry conditions and communicate with the volunteer departments to know what assets would be available. Commissioner Larkin commented there was a tremendous amount of resources available with the volunteer departments and he encouraged the Chief to use those resources. Chief Hernandez agreed and stated the volunteers were considered to be a force multiplier and were highly beneficial to the District's service.

Commissioner Jung requested written reports be given to the Board prior to the meeting so those reports could be reviewed and analyzed.

Commissioner Larkin requested an update on the additional load that Station 13 was now experiencing due to brown-outs. Chief Hernandez replied he would compile that report and then present those findings to the Board.

Commissioner Breternitz asked, in terms of the effect of the brown-outs, was there any data available for the levels of service or responsiveness in the affected areas. Chief Hernandez replied calls of service could be reviewed for the preceding 90 days and those calls would be reviewed in a district that had brown-outs. He said staff would assess the number of calls into the other districts that were covering those calls for service to determine the impact of the brown-outs.

There was no action taken or public comment on this item.

10-59F AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: "Update, discussion and possible direction related to the Action Plan of the Fire and Fire Based Emergency Medical Services Master Plan."

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, commented the previous action directed by the Board had been followed. He said he would return with additional recommendations related to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) item contained within the Master Plan and the Action Plan as a result of action taken by the District Board of Health. Mr. Latipow explained action items related to dispatch had been referred to Fire Chief Michael Hernandez with a request to follow-up on those items. He indicated the action items related to prevention and public education had been referred to the City of Reno Fire Department, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) and the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) for review and response.

Commissioner Breternitz asked for a summarization of the actions taken by the District Board of Health. Mr. Latipow replied direction was given that the EMS recommendations and related tasks within the Master Plan and Action Plan be referred to the Board of Health for consideration of action. However, the Board of Health, per their legal counsel, noted they only had oversight over the ambulance franchise and since those recommendations were much broader than that franchise, the Board of Health decided it was not within their purview to take on those recommendations. He said it was offered that should the Commission convene a task force for the purpose of following up on those items, the Board of Health would fill a seat on that task force.

There was no action taken or public comment on this item.

10-60F AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Update, discussion and possible direction related to the Joint Fire Advisory Board meeting and Interlocal Agreement review process status.”

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, stated during the Joint Fire Advisory Board (JFAB) meeting staff introduced proposed draft changes to articles 2 and 6 of the Interlocal Agreement, which were the purpose of intent and drove how equipment was purchased. He noted staff received a fair amount of recommendations from the JFAB which could be included into the proposed drafts. In addition, the JFAB agreed to generate a “Bin” list whereby the items not agreed upon would be “parked” and then taken up as the balance of the sections were reviewed. Mr. Latipow stated it had been reconfirmed that the work plans contain a process by which all the changes had been agreed to from an advisory perspective. He said staff would present the entire document to the JFAB and ask for their recommendation to move that document forward to the elected bodies. He commented articles 4, 5 and 7 were currently under review and were scheduled for presentation before the JFAB on August 16, 2010. He noted those articles had a level of complexity since they featured worker’s compensation and insurance and liability sections.

Commissioner Larkin said the JFAB had considered an item labeled “X.X,” placed under article 2, which was administrative procedures dealing with the request to be included in the collective bargaining with the City of Reno. He clarified that was placed on a bin list, not excluded, and noted the bin list was established because negotiations were on-going. Commissioner Larkin explained the Board had received a letter, based upon the Fire Boards action of Chairman Humke sending a letter to the Reno City Council, requesting that the JFAB be included in current negotiations. In response to that letter, the City indicated an impasse had been reached with negotiations and there were also several pending legal proceedings. The labor and litigation attorney’s for the City indicated in order to protect confidentiality of the attorney/client privilege and because of pending proceedings and other legal concerns it was not legally advisable at this time to proceed with the Board’s request for the current negotiations. Commissioner Larkin said some discussion ensued at JFAB as to what was the best approach for the contract negotiations concerning the Interlocal Agreement and the best way to proceed in

moving forward with the generic X.X. Commissioner Larkin suggested authorizing Mr. Latipow to begin talking and seeking a remedy to the labor agreement for inclusion in the updated Interlocal Agreement.

Commissioner Breternitz stated he supported having a representative participate and also supported the concept.

Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel, indicated with regard to the issue under the Interlocal Agreement, a motion could be allowable for the purpose of directing staff.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke absent, it was ordered that Mr. Latipow be authorized to approach the fire related labor unions and obtain their opinion or consensus on the Fire Board participation, consistent with the Boards previous direction, and to bring back a methodology.

10-61F AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “ Recommendation to the Board of Fire Commissioners approve participating in the Trust Agreement for Washoe County, Nevada OPEB Trust Fund and a resolution authorizing the creation of a new fund entitled “OPEB Trust Fund” effective July 1, 2010; and that the Board of Fire Commissioners authorize the Finance Director to transfer \$2.5 million in the Truckee Fire Protection District’s Pre-Funder Retiree Health Benefits Fund to the Washoe County, Nevada OPEB Trust Fund for investment in the Retiree Benefits Investment Fund in Fiscal Year 2010-11.

Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, indicated this Trust Fund had previously been approved by the County Commission and was now being brought forward to the Fire Commissioners. She explained the OPEB Trust was an irrevocable trust established for the retiree group medical benefits for former Truckee Meadows employees now employed by the City of Reno. Ms. Walker said this would be a benefit since it allowed the Fund to expand investments and increase the investment return.

Ms. Walker thanked Finance Director John Sherman and Comptroller Sheri Mendez for compiling the OPEB Trust.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be approved.

10-62F AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: “Approval of the TMFPD Five-Year Buy Out of Workers’ Compensation Claims for Fiscal Year 2004/05 in the amount of \$976,077.37 per the Reno-TMFPD Interlocal Agreement.”

Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, stated this item was presented annually to the Board. She indicated the amount was higher this year because there were four heart and lung claims in 2004/05. She explained by this buy-out there were no further worker’s compensation liability claims for Truckee Meadows employees concerning Fiscal Year 2004/05. However, because the heart/lung was a lifetime benefit, State law read, if a person retired in 2004/05 and then developed heart disease in 20 years, they could claim that back to 2004/05 since it would be job related, but was unknown how to estimate for such claims.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be approved.

10-63F AGENDA ITEM 9

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.)”

Vice Chairperson Weber expressed the Board’s concern and best wishes to a volunteer fire chief who recently became ill.

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ADJOURNMENT

11:29 a.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Jung which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke absent, the meeting was adjourned.

BONNIE WEBER, Vice Chairperson
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared By:
Stacy Gonzales, Deputy County Clerk*