

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

TUESDAY

10:00 a.m.

MARCH 22, 2011

PRESENT:

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

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
John Berkich, Assistant County Manager
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel
Tim O'Brien, Battalion Chief

ABSENT:

Bob Larkin, Commissioner

The Board convened at 11:36 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:

11-25F 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.

11-26F AGENDA ITEM 3A

Agenda Subject: "Approval of the BOFC meetings minutes for February 22, 2011."

There was no public comment on this item.

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

11-27F AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Fire Chiefs Report – Report and discussion related to Fire District by Reno/Truckee Meadows Chief Michael Hernandez.

Reno/Truckee Meadows Fire Chief Michael Hernandez summarized the events that occurred during the month of February. He said the District had responded to 720 calls for service of which 469 were medical, 46 structural fire calls and, of those, five were actual structures. Specific to the District, a process was beginning to revise the station brown out plan. He said he would work with the Fire Services Coordinator to adjust what stations would be browned out and the order in which they would be browned out. Prior to implementation, it would be ensured that there would not be a disproportionate impact to the Districts’ service delivery model. He indicated that the specifications for the previously discussed apparatus had been completed and submitted to the County’s purchasing agent for review, distribution and solicitation of bids.

Chief Hernandez stated the local International Association of Fire Chiefs had accepted the concessions put forth and submitted by the Reno City Council. As a result, four laid off firefighters were recalled and placed back on duty. He announced that contract negotiations with the local association had begun for fiscal year 2011/12 and noted the president of the association was optimistic, but recognized the current fiscal conditions and challenges.

Chief Hernandez commented there may be news reports regarding the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Act Grant, which was a federal grant program that allowed local jurisdictions to recall laid off firefighters. Currently, the City of Reno had a grant pending that had been received favorably at the federal level. He said a pre-notification letter had been received asking the City of Reno for specific answers on whether the City would accept the grant if awarded and, if the City could meet the terms of the grant, in regard to maintaining the existing workforce. Chief Hernandez said that staff report would be submitted to the City of Reno at the end of the month.

Chief Hernandez said the Standard of Cover (SOC) for the City of Reno was completed and presented to the Joint Fire Advisory Board (JFAB) with some minor modifications per Commissioner Larkin’s request. He said that draft report would be presented to the Reno City Council on March 23, 2011.

Commissioner Weber requested the status of the brown out schedule be brought forward to the Board during the next meeting. Chief Hernandez stated that would occur.

Commissioner Humke said a big issue was whether the City of Reno would have three-person manned-stations and asked if that was under discussion since that would be a threshold question for regionalization. Chief Hernandez confirmed that was under discussion. Because of brown outs, Commissioner Humke said other area fire

agencies were covering calls normally covered by the browned out stations and stated that was not satisfactory or actual performance of a contract. Chief Hernandez remarked after some informal discussions, the prospect of regionalization was exciting and presented a host of opportunities.

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

11-28F AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and direction to Board Members on the Joint Fire Advisory Board to explore regionalization of fire services and request participation by the City of Reno.”

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, said staff had been given direction by the Fire Board that the County Joint Fire Advisory Board (JFAB) members share with their City counterparts on the JFAB, direction relative to the pursuit of options for regionalization. It was also directed to have that request carry forward to the City Council for their staff to be empowered to work with County staff in pursuit of those options. He said any discussion for ideas would take participation from all regional partners.

Chairman Breternitz said the intent was for the JFAB members to approach the City of Reno to look at broadening ideas for creating an efficient operation. He agreed it was important to have all entities involved in the discussions.

Commissioner Humke asked if regionalization equaled consolidation. Mr. Latipow replied there were many forms of regionalization with consolidation being one of those forms. Commissioner Humke asked if that included two entities contracting with one another on equal terms. Mr. Latipow replied it could include one or more interlocal agreements. During the regionalization discussion, Commissioner Humke asked if there were any topics from other entities that were forbidden, such as consideration of privatization for labor. Mr. Latipow confirmed he had not been constrained in any way. Commissioner Humke requested instant notification if any entity raised a forbidden topic.

Commissioner Jung remarked this would give staff the go ahead to have formalized discussions with the City of Reno. She clarified that direction included: all ideas be placed on the table to increase efficiency; out of the box ideas; the term regionalization was preferred; discussions regarding if consolidation was the only route or look at contracting as well as privatization; and, notification if any forbidden topics were brought forward by other entities.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Larkin absent, it was ordered that the JFAB representatives be directed to request the JFAB explore regionalization of fire

services and request participation by the City of Reno with County staff and others in the development of options and incorporating the items of consensus that was established under discussion. It was noted that discussion would take place with all entities.

Mr. Latipow clarified that the motion directed staff to include invitations to the City of Sparks, the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, North Lyon County and other surrounding departments that may be impacted. Commissioner Humke suggested Carson City be included in those discussions as well.

11-29F AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Update on Joint Fire Advisory Board meeting and Interlocal Agreement review process status.”

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, said there had not been a Joint Fire Advisory Board (JFAB) meeting since the Board last met; however, there was an interlocal finance meeting scheduled for March 24, 2011.

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

11-30F AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Update and discussion on the progress of the Reno Fire Department Standard of Cover and Regional Standard of Cover.”

As a result of Board direction, Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, said the Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) consultant presented a change order to encompass changes and mapping in anticipation of presenting the results to the Joint Fire Advisory Board (JFAB) of the action that was directed during the March 8, 2011 meeting. He said the multiple models being established would be presented in order to request policy direction. Once direction was received, the consultant would be able to include those into the draft Regional Standard of Cover and then return for a special meeting of the JFAB.

Commissioner Jung commented that the JFAB members had made a formal commitment to meet as often as necessary to conclude the process.

In response to the call for public comment, Cliff Low spoke on regionalization, leadership and the Interlocal Agreement.

11-31F 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 Board member comments.

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ADJOURNMENT

12:05 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Larkin absent, the meeting was adjourned.

JOHN BRETERNITZ, Chairman
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*