

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

TUESDAY

11:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 13, 2011

PRESENT:

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

Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy Clerk
Katy Simon, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel
Tim O'Brien, Division Chief

ABSENT:

David Humke, Commissioner

The Board convened at 11:54 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:

11:54 a.m. The Board convened as the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) and the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD).

11-128F AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible direction regarding the formation of a Regional Fire Task Force. (Requested by Commissioner Larkin.)”

This item was heard during the Board of County Commissioner’s meeting, Agenda Item 21.

12:12 p.m. The Board recessed as the Board of County Commissioners and the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD).

11-124F 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.

CONSENT AGENDA – AGENDA ITEMS 3A AND 3B

11-125F AGENDA ITEM 3A

Agenda Subject: “Approval of BOFC meeting minutes of October 25, 2011 and November 8, 2011.”

There was no response to the call public comment.

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

11-126F AGENDA ITEM 3B

Agenda Subject: “Approval of Volunteer Report for September 2011.”

There was no response to the call public comment.

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

11-127F AGENDA ITEM 4

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

Fire Chief Michael Hernandez, Reno Fire Department/Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), reviewed the response to the Caughlin Fire. He noted he saw Chairman Breternitz and the County Manager at the fire’s command post, so they saw firsthand the complexity of managing the various agencies coming to assist. He recognized the Galena, Pleasant Valley, Verdi, Cold Springs, Lemmon Valley, Peavine, Red Rock, Silver Lake and Wadsworth Volunteer Fire Departments for their assistance in fighting the Caughlin Fire. He said they helped by maintaining fire service delivery to the community as well as by combating the Caughlin Fire.

Chairman Breternitz said he was impressed and awestruck by the job the firefighters did during a very complex situation. He stated even though some homes were lost, they worked hard to save 4,000 other homes. He stated without the efforts of a large group of people, it could have been a lot worse. He read the list of the responding agencies: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Division of Fire, Cameron Park Fire Department, Carson City Fire Department, Central Lyon County Fire Department, City of Reno Fire Department, City of Reno Police

Department, East Fork Fire Protection District, Eldorado County Fire Department, Eldorado Hills Fire Department, Fallon Naval Air Station Fire Department, Georgetown Fire Department, Incline Hand Crew, Lake Valley Fire Department, Mason Valley Fire Department, Meeks Bay Fire Department, Nevada Air National Guard, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Highway Patrol, North Lake Tahoe Fire Department, North Lyon County Fire Department, Northstar Fire, Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), Rescue Fire Department, Rockland Fire, Roseville Fire Department, Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), SFPD Volunteer Fire Department, Sierra Front Incident Management Team with Chief Mike Brown, Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Center, Slide Mountain Hand Crew, Sparks Fire Department, Squaw Valley Fire Department, Storey County Fire Department, Tahoe-Douglas Fire Department, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Truckee Fire Protection District, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Volunteer Fire Departments, USDA Forest Service, Washoe County Fire Suppression Volunteers, Washoe County School District Police Department, and Washoe County Sheriff's Office. He said this list showed the unbelievable necessity for coordination and, for a large part of that time, Chief Hernandez was in the driver's seat doing one heck of a job.

Commissioner Jung echoed Chairman Breternitz's accolades about Chief Hernandez and all of the other responding agencies. She asked if the utilities were required to mitigate fuels when they ran through the wildland interface. Chief Hernandez replied he understood there was a code process that looked at where the easements would go and how close the utilities would be to structures and such, but he would have to research if that requirement existed and would have to get back to Commissioner Jung.

Chief Hernandez noted the Caughlin Fire's initial-response crews worked 18 hours bouncing from neighborhood-to-neighborhood and house-to-house. He stated Mike Heikka, SFPD Battalion Chief, had an amazing dash-cam video that captured the ferocity of the fire as it moved from house-to-house and the actions of some of the first responders. He said he looked forward to seeing the end product once it was edited.

12:27 p.m. In addition to being convened as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), the Board convened as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD). (Agenda Items 9 and 10 on the SFPD agenda.)

11-129F AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: "Discussion and recommendation to direct staff to initiate the changes to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Strategic Transition Plan to include administrative and operational consolidation of the Sierra Fire Protection District within the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District no later than July 1, 2012 (All Commission Districts)."

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, said staff was working on the expansion of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Strategic

Transition Plan required to fold in the operations of the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) under the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District as the result of a contract. He advised the consultant was brought back to identify what tasks, if any, needed to be expanded; and several things being done for TMFPD also had to be done for SFPD. He said that included inspecting the stations, making sure there was a full catalog of the rolling stock, and making sure there were accounting, payroll, and staffing systems that would be adequate for the roughly 106-person operation.

Mr. Latipow said several tasks relating to the volunteer system were also incorporated into the Transition Plan based on feedback from the volunteers. He stated the volunteers would be brought under the control of one organization, which would ensure they would have a consistent contract and policies and procedures, while maintaining their autonomy.

Mr. Latipow said in accepting this item, those tasks would be implemented through the expanded Transition Plan, which staff recommended accepting.

Commissioner Larkin said Mr. Latipow had explained the operational side of the agreement between the County and the SFPD, but also being discussed were some operational considerations between the TMFPD and the SFPD. He asked if those were included in the Transition Plan. Mr. Latipow replied when staff received the direction to start re-establishing the TMFPD, staff identified what would be required to bring the SFPD into the TMFPD and, from an administrative perspective, the staff who were proposed to stand up for TMFPD would have the ability to manage the additional workload in the office. He said the office staff would not expand, but what would expand would be the number of people on the ground along with a minor expansion of the supervisors. He asked if that answered Commissioner Larkin's question.

Commissioner Larkin replied it did. He said what he was getting at was it was demonstrating the ability to scale an organization to fit conditions and the objectives of this or any other board. He stated it was a model that could easily be transferred or scaled up or down to fit a regional fire management authority if needed.

Commissioner Larkin said as part of the regional discussion, he encouraged Mr. Latipow to seek validation from his peers. Mr. Latipow said as staff was drafting the organization, he asked the consultant to draw up a staffing plan without sharing what staff was doing, and the staffing plans produced were almost identical. Commissioner Larkin stated one of his expectations would be to have a scalable organization and not lock the organization into a rigor that would be unmanageable or untenable for future Boards or organizations. He thanked Mr. Latipow for doing that.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, it was ordered that staff be directed to initiate the changes to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Strategic

Transition Plan to include administrative and operational consolidation of the Sierra Fire Protection District within the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District no later than July 1, 2012.

11-130F AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible direction to staff related to the proposal of a cooperative service agreement between the City of Reno, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Sierra Fire Protection District for fire services to include utilization of resources from all three fire agencies to provide initial response service from the closest TM, SF or Reno station regardless of boundaries, and possible direction regarding additional opportunities for mutually beneficial exchange of services and costs. (All Commission Districts).”

Kurt Latipow, Fire Service Coordinator, stated staff was requesting direction on moving forward with the automatic aid agreements. He stated Attachment 1 was a memo from November 26, 1991 regarding an emergency aid agreement with the City of Reno, from the Fire Chief of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), advising the best course of action for the citizens was to send the closest resource first; and that was the first documentation he could find regarding a written agreement. He stated several of the agreements merged into each other, boundaries were fully dropped, and the organization was operated as one entity once consolidation occurred.

Mr. Latipow said he asked the consultants to look at whether or not there was an imbalance of service. He advised he, along with many others, had a hard time putting a dollar value on sharing the closest resources first, but there was at least an attempt to put some justification to it. He said the consultant, who did the Reno and the Regional Standard of Covers (SOC's), used the data used in creating the SOC's, with the exception of showing the Arrowcreek Station staffed, and concluded the imbalance would be marginal and would be outweighed by the goal of providing quality service to the citizens. He said comments had been made that the TMFPD was asking for business as usual, but it was asking for business as usual pre-1991 prior to consolidation.

Mr. Latipow said staff was also looking for direction on handling the returnees who previously worked for the TMFPD before going to work for the Reno Fire Department, but who now chose to return to the TMFPD. He noted the formula currently in the Interlocal Agreement, if adhered to, would mandate the City of Reno keep the liability for a percentage of their retiree health benefits. He said before the Board was the consideration for the TMFPD to take on the entire liability, which would have been the case if there had been no contractual consolidation. He stated as the employees came back, the TMFPD would enter into an agreement with the City of Reno that they would accept the entire liability.

Mr. Latipow said the other part of this involved transfers, sometimes referred to as laterals. He stated if transfers were accepted for people who did not work for the TMFPD prior to working with the Reno Fire Department, staff was

recommending the TMFPD offer to absorb the leave banks and the liability for those banks. He stated the staff report showed some options, which were not meant to be inclusive, but were items staff needed direction on in order to conduct the negotiations with the City of Reno.

Mr. Latipow advised Station 14 and its apparatus was owned by the TMFPD, but the City of Reno paid 100 percent of the staffing costs. He said as contained in the Transition Plan, the City of Reno wanted a lease for whatever length of time the City felt appropriate so they could remain in the station until they made other plans.

Mr. Latipow said in reviewing the jointly acquired equipment, there were potentially some items the TMFPD might not need, but the City of Reno might. He stated staff was requesting the authority to review those lists and to work out a quid pro quo arrangement with the City of Reno.

Mr. Latipow stated obviously staff was looking at an all inclusive service agreement instead of doing the agreement piecemeal. He said he was working with the financial consultant to determine the financial impact of the issues contained in the staff report. He stated so far it appeared the impact would be \$90,000 a year to start with for the returnees, but some of the items were still being costed. He said it was tough to cost out the value of a response due to budget discrepancies, but it was getting close to being done.

Mr. Latipow said staff was requesting direction to develop a proposal for a cooperative service agreement between the City of Reno, the TMFPD, and the SFPD to provide initial service from the closest station regardless of boundaries; along with possible direction regarding any additional opportunities. He stated the analysis done by the consultant included all the fire stations as if TMFPD and the SFPD were operating as one entity.

Commissioner Larkin noted the map in Attachment 2 had areas in green that appeared to favor the City of Sparks as being the primary responder; and why was Sparks not included in the discussions to develop an agreement. Mr. Latipow said there were agreements with the City of Sparks in those areas, which were currently served by the consolidated fire department. Commissioner Larkin asked why the green areas were included in the analysis. Mr. Latipow stated the analysis was only for the TMFPD and the SFPD providing service in and out of Reno, and the consultant was not directed to include Sparks. Commissioner Larkin asked why Sparks was not included in the analysis. Mr. Latipow said negotiations were currently underway with the City of Reno, and the automatic aid agreement with Sparks would come later. Commissioner Larkin advised he did not believe Sparks could be left out of the equation because those canyons would be included in the discussion. Mr. Latipow indicated there was a task within the Strategic Plan to meet with Lyon County, Storey County, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Reservation to develop a three-way agreement. Commissioner Larkin understood there was a rigorous schedule, but those were the kind of discussions the fire professionals needed to have. He felt this was picking and choosing rather than looking at everything in

a holistic manner that would serve the population of Washoe County the best. Mr. Latipow said he did not disagree, but the Transition Plan did not include regionalization. Commissioner Larkin said he understood, but that conversion was now being advanced and he expected it would be more of a dynamic process than what was originally envisioned.

Fire Chief Michael Hernandez, Reno Fire Department/Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), said if a secondary analysis including the City of Sparks was requested, he asked that analysis also include Station 9, because the plans to lighten the staffs at Stations 9 and 10 would significantly alter the report with respect to aid. Katy Simon, County Manager, said if the report was added to, it would not exclude information based on a proposed policy decision by the City of Reno to no longer brownout a station; but would be looked at geographically and to assess value based on where incidents occurred and who would be closest. She requested the Commission give direction to look at those stations because that was an important part of the information the public should be aware of.

In response to the call for public comment, Thomas Daly said the staff report and the Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) report suggested the burden of cross-jurisdictional calls was relatively equal based on data through 2010. He stated he looked at the Fiscal Year 2011 data, which showed a shifting burden to the Districts due in no small part to the layoffs by the City of Reno and further fire station closures. He said the data for the first six months of Fiscal Year 2012 would be available in two weeks, and he encouraged staff to report to the Board using the latest data. He stated in Fiscal Year 2011, Station 14 responded to calls in the City of Reno 1,147 times and to the District 646 times. He said whoever operated Station 14, if a cost-recovery model was used for automatic aid, would be on the receiving end of a check estimated to be seven figures. He requested the County be careful regarding how it handled Station 14.

Brad Jensen believed this discussion was why the Interlocal Agreement was originally put in place. He felt the agreement was working well because the firefighters knew if a rig was coming from another jurisdiction, it would be same-for-same and there would be no inequity in service. He stated everyone was looking at dollars and cents, but the service needed to be considered and not just dollars.

Steven Perez said it was important to look at all of the jurisdictions because automatic aid was crucial, and he felt the aid had to be about the responses. He stated everything that happened would revolve around Station 14, which made it the number one bargaining chip in the discussions.

Chairman Breternitz asked which stations had provided initial response to the incorporated area around Stead and north of Hoge Road and for how long. Chief Hernandez said for the Stead area, it was initially Station 9 until it was browned out and then it was the TMFPD Station 13. He believed Station 9 had been browned out for at least 18 months.

Chairman Breternitz asked what was the per station cost for the Reno Fire Department to staff a career station. Chief Hernandez replied the labor cost was \$1.4 million. Chairman Breternitz asked if an agreement between the TMFPD and the City to continue first response as it was today, would allow the redirection of some of those funds to Skyline or somewhere like that. Chief Hernandez said that would be an option. Chairman Breternitz asked if it would be beneficial and if it would be beneficial for the City of Reno to have the closest station respond to the request for service. Chief Hernandez replied it would.

Chairman Breternitz asked if the District decided not to enter into a lease for the use of Station 14, what would be the cost to construct an alternative and what would be cost of a lease for space to occupy while a building was being constructed. Chief Hernandez said he would have to research the exact cost, but a typical fire station cost \$2 to \$3.5 million to construct. He stated the cost of the lease would depend on the location and terms of the lease.

Chairman Breternitz noted he wanted to make those points on the record, and he wanted to work with the City of Reno. He believed ways could be found that would mean everyone would win. Chief Hernandez felt the ultimate goal was service to the public. He stated clearly the economic downturn had an impact on all governmental entities and they were scrambling to meet the needs of the citizens. He said there were some issues with respect to equity that the City looked at, but he looked at this as an opportunity to reform and reshape how service was delivered. Chairman Breternitz said the bottom line was providing sustainable fire service to the people living in the Truckee Meadows.

Chairman Breternitz said he was concerned because the costs were not available to be able discuss this intelligently, and he had no idea how those costs would affect sustainability. He stated a fine line was being walked relating to the finances required to set up the TMFPD and to bring the SFPD in. He felt there should be some dialogue with the City of Reno, and some of that discussion should take place at the level of the elected officials.

Commissioner Larkin echoed the Chairman's concern about the costs. He stated he was also concerned a regional approach was not being taken because the automatic aid agreement was only with the City of Sparks and not necessarily with all of the resources that might be deployed in a community-wide effort. He requested Mr. Latipow go back and include that analysis as well as bringing back to the Board hard numbers in terms of the questions the Chairman asked of Chief Hernandez. Mr. Latipow said he understood the direction. He noted the data would have to be requested from the City of Sparks because the City did not participate in the SOC. He stated data would also have to be requested from the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, because there were automatic aid agreements with them as well.

Ms. Simon said Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, conducted the financial analysis and that information would be shared with the Commissioners.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, it was ordered that Mr. Latipow include the fiscal analysis and the hard numbers as discussed in the proposed cooperative service agreement.

12:46 p.m. The Board recessed as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD).

11-131F AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: “Review and acceptance of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District’s Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2011.”

Felicia O’Carroll, Partner with Kafoury, Armstrong & Company, said the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District received an unqualified opinion, which was the highest level of assurance given during an audit. She noted when money was transferred to the Washoe County, Nevada OPEB Trust, it created an additional asset on the books of the TMFPD of about \$1.4 million, which was why there was a finding.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

11-132F AGENDA ITEM 9

Agenda Subject: “Update, discussion and possible direction related to the status of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Transition Plan.”

Kurt Latipow, Fire Service Coordinator, stated The Transition Plan was on task and the team continued to meet every other week. He said the work was about accounting, facilities, fleets, and so on.

Chairman Breternitz asked if the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) was at the table. Mr. Latipow replied they had been since Chief Tim Leighton took over.

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

11-133F AGENDA ITEM 10

Agenda Subject: “Update on Joint Fire Advisory Board Meeting of November 21, 2011.”

Kurt Latipow, Fire Service Coordinator, advised there was no meeting due to the lack of a quorum. He noted there might not be a meeting next week because the holidays were creating challenges in obtaining a quorum.

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

11-134F AGENDA ITEM 11

Agenda Subject: “Possible Closed Session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters associated with delivery of new fire services by July 1, 2012.”

There was no closed session.

11-135F AGENDA ITEM 12

Agenda Subject: “Approval of proposed benefit packages for former Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District employees currently employed by the City of Reno choosing to return to the District and for others to be classified as new employees or transfers, authorization to provide returning TMFPD employees with a choice of benefit plans and direction to send notifications to former TMFPD employees currently employed by the City of Reno as to the process required for reinstatement.

Kurt Latipow, Fire Service Coordinator, stated the language in the Interlocal Agreement was clear that if offered reinstatement, those individuals had to be offered the benefits in the Interlocal Agreement at a minimum. He stated the benefits were laid out in the staff report’s Attachment 1, which included benefits per the Agreement and the benefits in Option II. He said Option I provided what was in place prior to TMFPD contracting with the City of Reno in 1999, and Option II was a more contemporary benefit package. He said the returnees would have their choice of either option. He stated staff was also looking for authorization to send letters to the former TMFPD employees notifying them of the process they needed to follow so offers could be made.

Commissioner Larkin asked how many applications were received. Mr. Latipow replied the total was 353. Commissioner Larkin asked what the current Interlocal Agreement stated about the base pay. Mr. Latipow said the current agreement said “the employee shall be reinstated with the District under the terms and conditions of employment covered by said collective bargaining agreement, except for base salary.”

In response to the call for public comment, Seth Williams said page 2 of Attachment 1 indicated no constant staffing, and he felt the “no material difference” statement was a mischaracterization of what the Board would get. He stated in 1996 the TMFPD realized the importance of having operators on their tenders and they started running four-man engine companies, but no tender would be manned under Option II. He

said the best-case scenario was for the tender to leave with the fire engine, but they would still arrive behind the engine by five to eight minutes because they were slower. He stated there was a plan to have a volunteer pick up the tender, which might be a good plan on paper, but most volunteers had full-time jobs and it would take time for them to get to the station to deploy. He said tenders were the most dangerous apparatus in the fire service, and he questioned putting the least experienced driver on the most dangerous piece of equipment. He stated a study done in the 1990's showed there would be a 38 percent increase in injuries by going to a three-person crew as well as a like number of more severe injuries, which could increase costs due to increased workman's compensation claims.

Commissioner Larkin believed the option should stay with exactly what the Interlocal Agreement stated, which unfortunately locked it into 1999.

Commissioner Larkin made a motion that Option I be approved as the proposed benefit package to be offered to former TMFPD employees to stay within the terms of the Interlocal Agreement. It was further ordered that direction be issued to notify former TMFPD employees currently employed by the City of Reno of the offer and of the process required for reinstatement. Chairman Breternitz seconded the motion.

Katy Simon, County Manager, clarified the staff recommendation was to offer both options to former TMFPD employees, which would provide the returning employee with the opportunity to pick an option. She asked if Commissioner Larkin did not want to offer both options. Commissioner Larkin replied his motion was to not offer both options.

Commissioner Jung asked how only offering Option I would affect the recruitment efforts. Mr. Latipow felt the benefits in the Interlocal Agreement were not adequate for medical, the FLSA cycle was inconsistent with the cycle being built for the new consolidated District, and there were several other items that would cause him concern if he was being offered the package. He personally believed only offering Option I would deter former TMFPD employees from applying for reinstatement.

Commissioner Jung asked if part of the assumption of setting up the TMFPD was having enough former TMFPD people return with the knowledge of how the region worked rather than getting people from outside the area who did not have that knowledge. Mr. Latipow advised the models were built forecasting there would be a significant core of people already working in this area and were familiar with the response patterns, radio systems, command structure, and policies and procedures. He said if fewer people returned who had that knowledge, it would require an increase to the transition budget to run an academy before going live on July 1, 2012. Commissioner Jung asked if this would affect the SFPD employees. Mr. Latipow replied there was the potential for two to three tiers of employees. He stated the SFPD would not be affected because a similar process was being looked at to bring in the whole SFPD. Commissioner Jung stated she did not support the dissolution of the consolidation between the City of Reno and the TMFPD largely because of this issue. She said she continually asked for a

plan B if the TMFPD could not be stood up. She stated she supported staff's recommendation and opposed Commissioner Larkin's motion.

Commissioner Larkin asked the Manager to explain staff's rationale behind offering the two options. Ms. Simon said staff recognized the importance of keeping with the letter of the 1999 Interlocal Agreement, and proposed offering the employees the ability to come back under the 1999 Interlocal Agreement or to take a modified benefit package that changed some things.

Commissioner Larkin asked if he could get an opinion from legal counsel about offering exactly what was in the Interlocal Agreement along with something else. Paul Lipparelli, Assistant District Attorney, said when the Interlocal Agreement was drafted, it was contemplated the consolidation would need to be dissolved and, in that event, it would be important to provide for the people who left the TMFPD and became Reno Fire Department employees. He stated that lead to the provision those employees were entitled to an offer to come back to the TMFPD. He explained the difficulty was the collective bargaining agreement's terms and conditions were out of date. He said by strictly offering what the Interlocal Agreement required, it could deter someone who wanted to come back from doing so. He stated staff tried to honor the mandate of the Interlocal Agreement while providing an alternative for them to choose from what more closely resembled a modern benefit package. He said allowing that choice would be going beyond fair and would be doing more than minimally required. He stated offering the choice of the two options was sound from a legal perspective.

Commissioner Larkin asked if the crafters of the Interlocal Agreement envisioned the salary increases, but did not envision the rapid health-care increases. Mr. Lipparelli said it was reasonable to assume they could not foresee everything.

Commissioner Larkin asked the Chairman to allow him to modify his motion. Chairman Breternitz agreed, but asked if Option II was sustainable. Mr. Latipow replied Option II, absent the longevity and the retiree health, had been presented as sustainable on more than one occasion.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Chairman Breternitz, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, it was ordered that the returning Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District employees be presented with a choice of benefit plans identified as Option I and Option II. It was further ordered that direction be issued to notify former TMFPD employees currently employed by the City of Reno of the offer and of the process required for reinstatement.

11-136F AGENDA ITEM 13

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.

11-137F AGENDA ITEM 14

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.

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1:33 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Commissioner Weber seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke 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:
Jan Frazzetta, Deputy County Clerk*