

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

TUESDAY

11:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

PRESENT:

**Robert Larkin, Chairman**  
**Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson\***  
**John Breternitz, Commissioner**  
**Kitty Jung, Commissioner**  
**David Humke, Commissioner\***

**Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy Clerk**  
**Katy Simon, County Manager**  
**Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel**  
**Charles Moore, Fire Chief**

The Board convened at 2:00 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:

**12-190F      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 Board of Fire Commissioners agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to two minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

**12-191F      AGENDA ITEM 3**

**Agenda Subject:** “Approval of the TMFPD-SFPD meeting minutes for July 10, 2012.”

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioners Humke and Weber absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 3 be approved.

**12-192F      AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Agenda Subject: “Fire Chief Report – report and discussion related to fire district operations by Truckee Meadows Fire Chief Charles A. Moore.**

**\*2:04 p.m.**      Commissioners Humke and Weber arrived.

Fire Chief Charles Moore stated as Americans reflected back on the tragic events of September 11, 2001, many different emotions were experienced. He shared that he was humbled while looking back at the sacrifice of not only those in public safety that lost their lives, but for the innocent lives lost on that day as well. Chief Moore said he was humbled for the chance of serving fellow man in times of tragedy. Some look at that as a duty, but he looked at that as a gift when there was something terrible facing citizens, as human beings, as a community, and as a nation. He said responders could put their face to the fire, put the community at their backs and defend. He was humbled that he had been called to that type of task and to lead the fine men and women of this department, both career and volunteer and that the Board picked him to lead the department. While looking back on that fateful day, it was a hard time for the nation, but the nation continued to move forward despite the evil hearts that were found in this world.

Chairman Larkin thanked the Chief for those words, his service and for all the men and women in public safety willing to give their lives to save others.

Chief Moore remarked that two meetings a month were no longer needed and proposed meeting once a month. He suggested the second meeting of the month so staff could assemble the reports. Chairman Larkin asked if the e-updates would continue. Chief Moore stated that those would continue.

Chief Moore reported on the events that occurred during the month of August and noted that losses due to fire during the month were light. He said one structure fire needed a two-in, two-out crew applied, but there was no delay because career and volunteer forces were on scene simultaneously. Chairman Larkin asked if the arrival of the volunteers counted as two-in, two-out while entering a burning structure. Chief Moore replied that two-in, two-out referred to a rapid intervention team and stated that the Chairman was correct. He said that term referred to two firefighters being ready to enter a building, with their protective clothing and air packs, whether professional or volunteer. Chairman Larkin stated that residents in the District could feel confident that their volunteers were actively participating in two-in, two-out and safety was not being compromised. Of the one structure fire, he asked for the percentage that constituted for the responses during the month. Chief Moore replied that incident constituted less than one half of 1 percent. Chairman Larkin asked if the Chief was confident that the current strategy of having three-person crews was working for the District. Chief Moore stated that was correct.

Chief Moore reported that the Hidden Valley Station conducted the final walk-through and all that was left to complete was the landscaping. He requested a

temporary Certificate of Occupancy from the Public Works Department while the landscaping was being installed. He proposed holding an open house after the landscaping and painting of the truck bay was completed. Chairman Larkin asked if the Reno Planning Commission had approved the zoning change for the Mogul Station. Chief Moore stated that the zoning change was approved and next would be for the Reno City Council to approve the change.

Commissioner Weber asked if the Mogul/Verdi community had been informed on the status of the Mogul property. Katy Simon, County Manager, said the challenge would be finding a venue to hold those discussions in the absence of Citizen Advisory Boards. She said a mailing could be completed and information posted on the County's website. Commissioner Weber was unsure of the effectiveness of a mailing and suggested scheduling a meeting for those residents.

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

**12-193F      AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Agenda Subject: "Discussion and possible approval of a new seal and badge for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District."**

Commissioner Humke felt the Fire Department could use a more descriptive name such as "Washoe County Fire" and suggested that be considered at a later date.

Commissioner Jung said the new badges had been ordered and received. She inquired on the cost for new badges and the life cycle of a badge and/or logo. Division Chief Tim Leighton replied that it cost \$100 per badge. However, he explained that a change would also include patches and trucks, and would be substantial.

Commissioner Weber asked if it would be possible to phase in new badges and patches.

Commissioner Breternitz said the concept made sense, but he understood the hesitancy because of the funds just expended. He requested a future agenda item to begin the discussions on the advantages and disadvantages in reviewing the Washoe County Fire concept.

Commissioner Humke agreed with provisions of phasing in a name change as trucks and engines were replaced. Chief Moore suggested an appropriate time to change the name would be when the Board chose to officially merge the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) and the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD).

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved.

**12-194F      AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible approval of a modified staff plan that creates one additional Battalion Chief Position and freezes one Division Chief Position.**

Commissioner Jung stated when the cost-savings were completed, it was anticipated that the Battalion Chief would be paid at the highest pay step to start. Fire Chief Charles Moore replied that was the calculation, but unlikely that the candidate would be appointed at that level. Commissioner Jung asked if the highest scoring candidate would be promoted from the list. Chief Moore explained that all the internal candidates on the list would re-interview. He clarified that the Division Chief position would be frozen for as long as the Board chose.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be approved.

**12-195F      AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the District and its Local 3895 Firefighters Union to allow for promotional examinations in deviation of Article 14 of the parties’ collective bargaining agreement.**

Fire Chief Charles Moore said the current Cooperative Agreement specified in order to promote from firefighter to fire equipment operator, or from fire equipment operator to captain, the candidate had to have a certain number of years within the employment of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) before they could promote. Since most of the employees of the TMFPD were tenured for two months, it would be impossible to find candidates to promote internally. It was proposed to honor the amount of professional experience of candidates and combine that experience with the experience accumulated with the TMFPD at the time of promotion and use that combined amount as the qualifier. A promotional list would be established and kept valid as long as the contract stated.

Commissioner Breternitz said the staff report indicated that the union was supportive of this proposal.

Commissioner Jung asked if this was a side agreement. Chief Moore commented that it was a side agreement, and indicated that he had been instructed by the Board to bring those before them for approval. Commissioner Jung asked if the Board

was giving the Chief the ability to do this for 26 months or 12 months. Chief Moore replied the Collective Bargaining Agreement allowed the Chief 12 months for the Memorandum of Understanding and, with the concurrence of Human Resources, gave him the authorization to extend that time.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be approved.

**12-196F      AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible direction to staff concerning operations under and continuation of the Amended Cooperative Agreement for mutual aid with the City of Reno.”**

Fire Chief Charles Moore commented this was the presentation he was unable to conduct during the September 10, 2012 joint meeting. He displayed maps as presented in the staff report, and he explained that staff completed additional analyses on the benefits of having Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid Agreements. Through those analyses obtained by using methodology from network data sources and from mapping firms such as TeleAtlas, NAVTEQ and DynaMap, the County’s Geographical Information System (GIS) was able to determine areas where the District could not currently achieve an eight-minute response within the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD). He said the same analysis also identified areas in the City of Reno where Reno Fire crews could not arrive within the standard eight minutes. Finally, an analysis was completed that determined if the closest unit was sent what would happen to those areas unattainable within eight minutes. He explained the areas on Attachment 1 that were unable to be reached within eight minutes. Chief Moore said the total assessed value of TMFPD parcels not served by TMFPD in eight minutes but served by the City of Reno was \$80,947,783.

Chief Moore explained that Attachment 2 showed the areas the City of Reno was unable to reach within eight minutes from their nearest fire stations, which were the Cold Springs area, the Verdi area and some areas in the southern part of their jurisdiction. He said when the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) was operating, Automatic Aid was the practice and the SFPD could make an initial response when a call was received from either the Boomtown or Verdi areas. Chief Moore said the total assessed value of the City’s parcels not served by the City in eight minutes but served by the TMFPD in eight minutes was \$109,663,811.

Chief Moore said additional analysis showed that if the response was made consistent with the closest unit regardless of jurisdiction, the areas outside of the eight-minute response area largely evaporated for both jurisdictions.

Chief Moore said the analysis was completed to indicate in a data-driven way when automatic aid was done through the closest unit dispatching, everyone within the jurisdictions of the TMFPD and the City would be served within the response standards noted in the Regional Standard of Cover. Without automatic aid, he said a gap in service could occur when there were simultaneous calls. He said jurisdictions must have automatic aid to ensure the best possible service delivery to their citizens.

Commissioner Breternitz felt it was a shame that the presentation was not shared during the joint meeting and supported the arguments for the benefits of mutual and automatic aid. He asked if the presentation could be posted on the County's website and inform residents there was a presentation available. Katy Simon, County Manager, indicated that the District packet was posted on the website and that this particular component could be extracted.

Commissioner Weber inquired about the response for the Cold Springs area as noted in Attachment 2 and asked if that area was in the annexation. Division Chief Tim Leighton explained when a call came in by the Bordertown exit, which would be a City of Reno call, the closest responder from the City was Reno Engine 9 by the Stead area. He commented that TMFPD's Engine 18 was not dispatched; however, was located in the Bordertown area. He said that run card needed to be reviewed to see where the annexation was located on the highway, but if it was within the City, the TMFPD would not be dispatched on those calls. Chief Moore stated that may be occurring with more frequency and citizens needed to be aware that the closest unit to an incident was not being dispatched, which defied logic.

Commissioner Jung asked if Chief Moore had a conversation with Reno Fire Chief Michael Hernandez or the City's map department to validate the areas where both entities were at risk. Chief Moore replied this presentation had not been shared, but he did have a brief conversation with Chief Hernandez after the Board had previously authorized him to approach the City about automatic aid. He said it was Chief Hernandez's opinion that the issue would not move forward with the Reno City Council. Commissioner Jung felt that Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) also had some responsibility since they were a third partner and should be overlaid on the maps. She asked if the City had a comparable map and, if so, could those maps be placed side-by-side for comparison.

Ms. Simon said there was not agreement about the underlying validity of the maps produced by the County, which was the reason the Chief had used National Software Systems as the basis for the analysis. She said she would contact the Reno City Manager to possibly have another conversation.

Commissioner Breternitz felt that the information in the presentation would be appropriate to place on another joint meeting agenda.

Commissioner Weber requested Chief Moore conduct the presentation on Washoe County programming in order to inform the public of the analyses that were completed.

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

**12-197F      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.)”**

Commissioner Jung said she previously had requested qualifications and depth of resources regarding the volunteers and asked if updates or on-going progress reports could be submitted. Fire Chief Charles Moore stated he would produce that information on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Weber said an e-mail had been received from David Rebhan, President of Washoe County Volunteer FireFighters Association (WCVFA), stating that Reno Local 731 informed the volunteer fire departments that the union would file a grievance against them should they respond or go to the Reno Air Races. She asked if anything had been done about that e-mail and if there was any truth to those statements. Chief Moore stated he was not aware of the facts, but understood that the Volunteer Chiefs decided not to participate in the Reno Air races this year. Commissioner Weber shared that she attended a counseling session the day after the tragedy and sat with nine volunteer firefighters who had responded and who were affected. She said the threats from Local 731 were wrong and that the volunteers had every right to be on that property. She felt that the Board needed to respond, be involved and the public should be appalled from this action.

Chairman Larkin asked that research be conducted to assemble the facts and then agendize the item for the next meeting. He suggested that Volunteer Chief Rebhan be invited to participate in the discussion.

Chairman Humke requested the Board suggest to the Air Race committee that the Volunteers be present for next year since it was too late for that to occur this year.

**12-198F      AGENDA ITEM 10**

**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 Board of Fire Commissioners agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to two minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”**

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**3:09 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, the meeting was adjourned.

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**ROBERT M. LARKIN**, Chairman  
Truckee Meadows Fire  
Protection District

**ATTEST:**

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

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