

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

TUESDAY

11:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 25, 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 12:15 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:

**12-199F      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 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.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

**12-200F      CONSENT AGENDA – AGENDA ITEM 3A**

**Agenda Subject:** “Approval of TMFPD-SFPD meeting minutes from August 28, 2012.”

**12:16 a.m.**      Commissioner Breternitz left the meeting.

There was no public comment on this item.

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

**12-201F – 12-203F AGENDA ITEM 4A**

**Agenda Subject: “Fire Chief Report – A) Report and discussion related to Fire District operations by Chief Charles A. Moore; B) Monthly Statistics; and C) Volunteer Reports.”**

Fire Chief Charles Moore felt any good organization should document its successes, and it was his pleasure to announce that Captain Joe Schum IV received a three-year scholarship to the Company Officer Leadership Symposium (COLS) sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs Foundation. He said Captain Schum was also the first person in the State of Nevada to achieve “Designated Fire Officer” through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. He stated he hired Captain Schum in Avon, Colorado, lost him to North Las Vegas, and had the opportunity to hire him again for the District. Chief Moore congratulated Captain Schum, and Chairman Larkin congratulated Captain Schum and welcomed him aboard.

Chief Moore said Captain James Solaro, Captain Bill Steward, and Randy Gates, Equipment Operator, who typically staffed the Verdi area, were nominated by Trauma Intervention Programs, Inc. for their Heroes with Heart award for the work they did in helping the senior citizens in the Verdi area. He stated the awards dinner would be held October 4, 2012 at the Peppermill and there was a seat available at the table if one of the Commissioners wanted to attend with him.

**12:18 a.m.** Commissioner Breternitz returned to the meeting.

Fire Chief Charles Moore said one of the significant calls during August was for a structure fire in the Stead area, which was limited to the exterior front-porch area and was quickly extinguished. He stated the other call was an East Washoe Valley electrical fire in the attic, which four firefighters suppressed. He stated the only significant brush fire was along Highway 395 in the Washoe Lake area, which was mostly within the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) jurisdiction. He said the vegetation was so thick it was burning very deep within the roots. He stated four Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) hand crews; BLM resources, including two helicopters; and Carson City assisted the District in fighting the fire. He said the fire rekindled a few days later, but fortunately it did not spread beyond its original perimeter.

Chief Moore said the District’s data base software had not been providing the desired information about the District’s average response times for the suburban and rural land-use designations. He stated the data was being skewed because the outlying response times were being comingled with all of the other averages, which made the average response times to the suburban areas look a little worse than they probably were. He said staff had been trying to separate the suburban from the rural and the frontier response times, which they believed was finally accomplished. He stated that meant the response times in October would be more accurate relative to the land-use designations.

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

**12-204F      AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Agenda Subject: “Update and discussion regarding report of volunteer participation at the Reno Air Races September 12-16, 2012.”**

Fire Chief Charles Moore said Chief Dave Rebhan, Washoe County Volunteer Firefighters Association President, was available to answer any questions regarding the volunteer’s past participation in the Reno Air Races and the decision not to participate this year.

Chief Rebhan said he met with Chief Tim Spencer, Reno Fire Department, who indicated the volunteers would be stationed outside of the gates because of a possible threat by the union to file a grievance. He said when he notified volunteers of that, they decided unanimously not participate if they were not allowed inside the perimeter fences as they had been for the past 30 years. He stated a week later Chief Spencer responded to his letter explaining there had been a miscommunication and indicating the union had not threatened to file a grievance. He stated the City of Reno wanted the volunteers to be stationed outside the gates because the airport was under the City of Reno’s jurisdiction. Chief Rebhan said he forwarded that information to the volunteers, who again decided not to participate.

Commissioner Weber said Chief Rebhan’s letter to Reno Fire Chief Michael Hernandez was dated August 10, 2012, which was sent the day after Chief Rebhan’s meeting with Chief Spencer and included the Commissioners, the Mayor, and so on. She stated she was not made aware of the subsequent exchange of e-mails, which meant she did not have all of the information when she spoke at the last meeting. She requested the Commissioners be included in any future correspondence.

Commissioner Weber said this issue needed to be addressed for next year, because she believed the volunteers and all of the first responders needed to be involved in the Air Races.

Commissioner Breternitz said he was also unaware of the further e-mails, and he asked if there had been any additional changes after the follow up conversation with Chief Spencer or was that the way it all played out. Chief Rebhan said that was how it all played out. He stated the Chiefs said they would staff from their stations if they would not be allowed on airport property.

Commissioner Weber noted Commissioner Jung gave her the additional e-mails just before today’s meeting. She placed a copy of that correspondence into the record, which was placed on file with the Clerk, and requested the Commissioners be sent a copy of those records.

In response to the call for public comment, John Howe, Silver Lake Volunteer Fire Department President, felt what happened was sad. He discussed the

volunteers' previous experiences at the air races and how they and the career personnel received training on suppressing aircraft fires and rescuing anyone still inside. He felt things should go back to being done as they had been for the last 30 years.

**12-205F      AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Agenda Subject: "Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding Annual Work Plan for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District."**

Fire Chief Charles Moore stated each Division identified all of their tasks that had to be done by next July. He said some tasks were critical and some involved a lot of man-hours. He stated he was presenting the Annual Work Plan to the Board so they would have a yardstick to measure the progress of the District, to serve as a tool to evaluate him when the time came, and for the Board's review and comment. He said it would be a dynamic document and quarterly updates would be provided to the Board.

Chief Moore stated with I-580 opening, he was concerned about winter operations being a big risk to the District and winter driving being a big risk to the public. He stated some of the District's employees had been hired from warmer climates where it did not snow much. He believed operating on the Interstate was riskier than going into any structure fire, because motorists approaching the scene of an accident may not be able to see it. He said operating safely on the Interstate would be a major training initiative, which needed to be accomplished before the snow started to fly around the end of October.

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

**12-206F      AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Agenda Subject: "Commissioners'/Manager's announcements, requests for information, topics for future agendas, and statements relating to items not on the Agenda. (No discussion among Commissioners will take place on this item)."**

There were no Board member comments.

**12-207F      AGENDA ITEM 8**

**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."**

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues that concerned her.

William Steward said he hoped this would be a good time to have discussions with the City of Reno about working together, which would benefit the whole County. He stated lives were at risk and more firefighters and paramedics were needed instead of less. He said public safety should remain as job one.

\* \* \* \* \*

**12:46 p.m.** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned without opposition.

---

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

**ATTEST:**

---

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

*Minutes Prepared By:  
Jan Frazzetta, Deputy County Clerk*