

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

MONDAY

8:30 A.M.

MAY 18, 2015

PRESENT:

Marsha Berkbigler, Chair
Kitty Jung, Vice Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner
Bob Lucey, Commissioner *

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
John Slaughter, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 8:30 a.m. in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

8:33 a.m.* Commissioner Lucey arrived.

15-0396 AGENDA ITEM 3 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

15-0397 AGENDA ITEM 4 – ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

Agenda Subject: “Commissioners’/Manager’s announcements, reports/updates from County Commission members concerning various boards/commissions they may be a member of or liaison to. Requests for information, topics for future agendas and any ideas and suggestions for greater efficiency, cost effectiveness and innovation in County government. (No discussion among Commissioners will take place on this item.)”

Commissioner Hartung stated he attended the Nevada Military Support Alliance Gala and it was well attended. He said he felt it was extremely important to acknowledge our Veterans and our active military. He noted the Nevada Military donated

\$300,000 to the Truckee Meadows Community College Veterans Outreach Program at that event.

Chair Berkbigler stated she understood we received a statement for payment from the Regional Governing Board; however, the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) required them to submit a budget. She requested payment be held until the Board received a copy of their budget for review.

PUBLIC HEARING – BUDGETS

15-0398 AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Tentative Budgets, as well as possible changes to adoption of the final budgets, for Fiscal Year 2015-16.”

8:36 a.m. The Board convened as the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) and the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) Board of Fire Commissioners.

Fire Chief Charles Moore opened the public hearing for anyone wishing to speak for or against the budget. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing. He said there were three things the public needed to know about the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) budget. The TMFPD had no debt, was financially sound for the short-term as well as the long term, and they would maintain 100 percent staffing of all of the stations for the next year.

Vicky Van Buren, TMFPD Fiscal Officer, stated the TMFPD’s total General Fund revenues were estimated at \$24,910,227, which included the approximate \$6.7 million payment from the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) to pay for their operations. The total General Fund expenditures for the TMFPD/SFPD consolidation operations were budgeted at \$23,321,555 and the General Fund balance was at the Board’s established 25 percent of the expenditure level, at approximately \$5.9 million. She explained the TMFPD’s total expenditure for Fiscal Year 2015-16 for all governmental fund types was \$31,699,555 and for the Proprietary Funds, the total expenditures were budgeted for \$1,611,030. The changes from the tentative budget were due to finalizing the tentative estimates from revenues. The total changes were approximately \$9,000 to \$10,000.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be adopted.

15-0399 AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Tentative Budgets, as well as possible changes to adoption of the final budgets, for Fiscal Year 2015-16.”

Vicky Van Buren, Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) Fiscal Officer, stated their revenues had stabilized, the total General Fund revenues were budgeted at \$7,062,335 and the expenditures were budgeted at \$7,527,140, leaving a fund balance of approximately \$1.1 million. She reported there was a one-time capital expenditure budgeted for \$500,000 for building improvements at the Joy Lake Station. The total expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2015-16 SFPD budget for governmental fund types were \$8,172,140, and the changes from the tentative budget were due to finalizing the budget estimates.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be adopted.

Commissioner Hartung commented that during the recent legislative session, the County would have the ability to combine the TMFPD and the SFPD. He questioned if the fund balance from SFPD would go into the fund balances with TMFPD. Fire Chief Charles Moore responded the first thing that would happen was the Board would need to administratively dissolve the SFPD and then the TMFPD would assume the border boundary of SFPD; resulting in only one District. He said the budgets would not blend until Fiscal Year 2016-17 and the question of how the budgets would meld would be answered at that time. Essentially, he explained, they were really one budget now.

Commissioner Hartung said operations were already being moved from one side to the other and it should be a seamless transition. Chief Moore concurred stating it would be a paper transition, but there would be some work to be done with the County Assessor and the County Treasurer to change the tax bills. Commissioner Hartung inquired if the name would remain the same. Chief Moore stated he was not planning to change the name. He said the cost of changing the name could amount to about \$80,000 and he saw no reason for that expenditure. He noted that in the event a regional district was formed, then there might be a reason to change the name. Commissioner Hartung asked if they would change the color of the trucks or change the logos. Chief Moore stated none of that would change because they were all marked as TMFPD. He noted the only change would be a transfer of some assets from SFPD to TMFPD. Commissioner Hartung stated he was just making sure there would be no budgetary issues when the two merged. Chief Moore stated there should not be anything other than staff time.

15-0400 AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Tentative Budgets, as well as possible changes to adoption of the final budgets, for Fiscal Year 2015-16.”

Chair Berkbigler opened the public hearing. Al Rogers, Director of Management Services, said the agenda item was to take action on both the tentative budget and final budget for Washoe County. He acknowledged the County's tentative budget had been provided to the State by the April 15, 2015 deadline and was accepted.

Mr. Rogers went through his PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk. He explained the Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2015-16, revenue trends, the General Fund, Primary Operating Fund, salaries and benefits, services and supplies, governmental fund positions and the ending fund balance. He next went through the Proprietary Funds, total expenditures, and Internal Service Funds. In conclusion, he said the County had a strong and healthy fund balance for Fiscal Year 2016, was committed to providing quality customer service, was in a position to respond and facilitate new development, had the highest bond rating in Northern Nevada, and was reasonable but conservative to balance future needs while continuing to be fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Hartung stated the County was carrying an 8.3 percent fund balance and Mr. Rogers had mentioned the County's policy was to keep that between 8 and 10 percent. He questioned who set that policy. Mr. Rogers responded it was set by the Board.

Chair Berkbigler stated she had several constituents call and ask her why the County had not found extra money, like the City of Reno found. Mr. Rogers stated staff was in the process of doing the analysis that was requested by Commissioner Jung and would return with an answer after that was completed. He said in terms of what Washoe County did, he felt staff did a good job of being fiscally conservative and properly managed revenues and expenses during the year. He explained that during the new era and moving forward, staff would be more diligent about appearing before the Board regularly to present detailed information regarding any fluctuation in revenues and expenses, which would allow for more opportunities to address issues as they came up.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be adopted.

John Slaughter, County Manager, thanked the budget staff and department directors for preparing the budget in such an efficient, if not different approach, which made the entire process very successful.

15-0401 AGENDA ITEM 8 – CLOSED SESSION

Agenda Subject: “Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations with Washoe County, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and/or Sierra Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.”

There was no need for a closed session.

15-0402 AGENDA ITEM 10 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three 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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8:55 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, the meeting was adjourned.

MARSHA BERKBIGLER, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

NANCY PARENT, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:
Jaime Deller, Deputy County Clerk*