

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, SIERRA FOREST FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

TUESDAY

4:00 P.M.

MARCH 14, 2006

PRESENT:

**Bob Larkin, Chairman**  
**Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairman**  
**Jim Galloway, Commissioner**  
**David Humke, Commissioner\***  
**Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner\***

**Amy Harvey, County Clerk**  
**Katy Singlaub, County Manager**  
**Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel**  
**Michael Klug, Fire Management Officer**

The Board met in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

**06-08SF      AGENDA**

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioners Humke and Sferrazza absent, Chairman Larkin ordered that the agenda for the March 14, 2006 meeting be approved.

**4:06 p.m.**      Commissioner Sferrazza arrived at the meeting.

**06-09SF      FIRE SERVICE PLAN ALTERNATIVES**

Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, stated current discussions addressed whether the State or the County Operated 473 Fire District would be responsible for fire suppression services on State lands as outlined in the memorandum to the Board dated March 14, 2006. She said the State had a requirement that they be kept whole for fiscal year 2006/07. She stated the County would support any shortfall for one year, which she estimated would be \$75,000. She said there were transitional issues that would need to be worked out with the State during the first year, and the County would help fund a Fire Management Officer (FMO) for the State until they could go into the next budget process. She said staff needed direction regarding the State lands issue, and she commented on Director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Allen Biaggi's efforts to make this happen.

Mr. Biaggi confirmed the State required there would be no reduction in the level of service, it would be revenue neutral to the State, and there would be no loss of jobs. He said the State was willing to transfer all risk and wildfire responsibility to the District with the exception of wildland fires on State lands within the District. He said the State would work with the District on mutual aid agreements for the initial attacks on wildland fires, would retain command and control of wildland fires on State lands, and would bring the appropriate resources to bear. He said the State would also work cooperatively to utilize resources from the District and other agencies as needed and appropriate in the event of another major fire. Mr. Biaggi said the State recognized this was a temporary solution and there would be changes to the 473 District; but the proposed arrangement was in the best interests of the residents and taxpayers of the District, the forest resources and watersheds on State Lands, the State of Nevada, and the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF). He reiterated NDF and the District would continue discussions on mutual aid agreements and other resources that could be shared to make this arrangement work, to make sure the level of service is not diminished, and to ensure a smooth transition of NDF employees to the District. He said the State was putting together a transition team to work with the District to make the consolidation a reality by July 1, 2006.

**4:12 p.m.** Commissioner Humke arrived during Mr. Biaggi's comments.

Commissioner Galloway thanked Mr. Biaggi for his efforts, and he appreciated that the cost of a once every 25-year fire would not be put on the District. He understood something further would need to be done in the future, but he asked if there was a time limit on this arrangement. Mr. Biaggi replied there was no time limit, and the State and the District would work together to resolve the issues as they arise.

Chairman Larkin also extended his thanks. He asked where the FMO would reside. Mr. Biaggi replied it would be a shared resource of the District. He said the 473 District was a unique arrangement. He stated there were a lot of permutations of 473 and 474 Districts within the State, but this was the only one like this. He said the transfer of 43 staff and a good bit of hardware to the District had implications because of impacts to the State's capabilities to fight a fire elsewhere, and the reduction in staffing needed to be addressed.

Chairman Larkin said the Board would be sensitive to that, as would the District. In response to Chairman Larkin, Mr. Biaggi agreed any fire that occurred on Lake Tahoe Basin parklands was handled by interagency agreements within the Basin.

In response to Commissioner Sferrazza, Mr. Biaggi said the transition team would be working on clearing up any details that had not yet been addressed.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Larkin ordered that staff be directed to move forward with the implementation of transferring the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District's emergency medical, structure, and wildland fire services to County governance

through an Interlocal Agreement between the State of Nevada, Washoe County, and the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District on or before July 1, 2006. It was further directed that the Agreement specify that the State of Nevada will be responsible for fire suppression on State lands and the District will provide initial attack on State lands through mutual aid. It was noted that the SFFPD Summary of All Services Option Transferring the SFFPD to a County Operated 473 District, pages 3-4 of the memorandum by Mary Walker to the Board dated March 14, 2006, was placed on file with the Clerk.

### **COMMISSIONERS' AND STAFF'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Galloway said the District might be recovering equipment that was disbursed statewide, and he asked if staff could investigate if the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District was disposing of any equipment that could temporarily help fill the gap for the State.

Commissioner Sferrazza thanked staff for his tour of the District.

Commissioner Weber thanked everyone that had worked to get the consolidation where it was today.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Katherine Snedigar, local resident, addressed the Board about the County's relationship with Warm Springs.

Juanita Cox, local resident, addressed the Board on the World Bank.

Gary Schmidt, local resident, introduced himself as a victim of the Andrew Lane fire. He alleged this body had failed to address citizen concerns about the fire, especially Commissioner Humke. He said the Board had promised a review, which never occurred. He discussed the problems he perceived happened during the fire.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

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**ROBERT M. LARKIN**, Chairman  
Sierra Forest Fire Protection District

**ATTEST:**

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**AMY HARVEY**, Washoe County Clerk  
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Sierra Forest  
Fire Protection District

*Minutes Prepared By  
Jan Frazzetta  
Deputy County Clerk*