

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 12, 2009

PRESENT:

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

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Simon, County Manager
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel
Michael Greene, Fire Chief

The Board convened at 11:03 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:

09-31SF AGENDA ITEM 2A

Agenda Subject: “Approval of Agenda for May 12, 2009 Board of Commissioners Meeting.”

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that Agenda Item 2A be approved.

09-32SF AGENDA ITEM 2B

Agenda Subject: “Chief’s Report.”

Fire Chief Michael Greene announced an upcoming evacuation drill and test of the Reverse 911/City Watch system, which would reach 3,500 homes with the goal of having 1,000 people evacuate to Galena High School. He noted it was an interagency effort involving the Department of Emergency Management, the Red Cross of Northern Nevada, the National Guard, and several volunteer fire departments from across the County.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, Chairman Humke ordered that Agenda Item 2B be accepted.

09-33SF AGENDA ITEM 3

Agenda Subject: “Information regarding implementing reduced station staffing due to unforeseen and unanticipated on and off duty employee injuries.”

Michael Greene, Fire Chief, explained there had been numerous injuries of employees, either on or off the job, which had significantly impacted the District’s overtime budget. He remarked everything possible had been done to maintain staffing levels during the planning and development of the fiscal year 2009/10 budget, but there was a clause in the recently developed labor contract that allowed reduction to a two-person crew in the event two people were off for a sustained period of time. He said he hoped it would not be necessary to implement the clause, but he felt it necessary to inform the Board that it was possible and could impact service delivery. He stated if the current rate of injuries continued, the overtime cost could not be absorbed without significantly impacting the budget.

Commissioner Breternitz asked how coverage was split between the fire districts in Washoe Valley. Chief Greene replied the majority of Washoe Valley was in the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), although the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) maintained an area of about 200 residences on the west side of Franktown Road. He explained the majority of the SFPD responses in the area were to TMFPD calls.

Commissioner Breternitz asked if a 20-person seasonal crew was capable of handling structural fires. Chief Greene replied they were not. He stated wildland fires were the greatest risk for the area, and the seasonal crew would be moved there if two-person staffing was implemented.

In response to the call for public comment, Alex Kukulus, President of the Sierra Firefighters Association, expressed concern about the impacts of two-person staffing. He explained the option to reduce station staffing was mutually agreed upon, but only as a last resort. He indicated national and State standards mandated a minimum of four firefighters on the scene of any fire before firefighters could enter a building, unless a verifiable rescue was necessary. Mr. Kukulus stated the Association was concerned about any undue risk placed on the community, especially at the height of wildland fire season. He noted the Association was sympathetic to the current economic conditions. Upon meeting with Chief Greene, the parties believed the remainder of the current budget and the proposed 2009/10 budget would sustain staffing levels. He emphasized two-person staffing was to be considered as a last resort only after all other funding mechanisms had been exhausted.

There was no action taken on this item.

09-34SF AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and approval of the Sierra Fire Protection District tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2009-10.”

Fire Chief Michael Greene made a correction to the staff report that outlined the District’s proposed 2009/10 budget. He indicated it had been the intent to create a separate operating fund for the Fuels Management Fund, but the Comptrollers Office requested the District retain the designated amount within its original budget. He provided a brief overview of the budget, and indicated most of the impact of declining revenues was being absorbed in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Commissioner Larkin asked what was included in the \$10,500 listed for printing expenses. Chief Greene explained the amount covered the use of the copy machine, production of training materials, and production of a community newsletter that was previously distributed on a quarterly basis, but would now be done annually. Commissioner Larkin requested the Board and the County Manager be provided with a copy of any future newsletters. Commissioner Larkin wondered about the \$100 expenditure listed as advertising. Mary Walker, Financial Consultant, explained it was used to publish legally required notices such as the end of the year fiscal reports.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

09-35SF AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Commissioner’s/Managers 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.)”

Commissioner Weber stated she would meet with Volunteer Fire Chief Boykin to discuss a station that was previously consolidated between the Nevada Department of Forestry and the Cold Springs Volunteers.

09-36SF AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment and discussion thereon. The Sierra Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners welcomes courteous and respectful public comment and input. Due to the amount of business the District Board conducts, public comment is limited to two minutes per person.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

11:17 a.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Humke adjourned the meeting.

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DAVID E. HUMKE, Chairman
Sierra Fire Protection District

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:
Stacy Gonzales and Lisa McNeill, Deputy County Clerks*