

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

TUESDAY

11:00 a.m.

MAY 15, 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 1:27 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:

1:27 p.m. The Board convened as the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) for the Sierra Fire Protection District and remained convened as the BOFC for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD).

12-78SF 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 Commission 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 District as a whole.”

Bob Ackerman suggested former Sierra Fire Protection District Fire Chief Mike Greene be invited to participate in the official opening of the Arrowcreek Fire Station because his initiative and action brought about its construction. A copy of his comments was placed on file with the Clerk.

12-79SF AGENDA ITEM 9

Agenda Subject: “Action to suspend the rules of the Board of Fire Commissioners to allow reconsideration of a vote from April 10, 2012 on a cooperative service agreement between local fire agencies for fire services.”

Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, stated the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) voted on April 10, 2012 on a motion that was part of the published agenda. He

advised there was a request by Commissioner Jung at a recent meeting to reopen that issue. He said he was not sure the Board of County Commissioner's (BCC's) rules applied to the BOFC because the BCC's rules did not expressly say they did. He said if they did, reconsideration of the April 10th item would not be possible because it was not agendized at the next meeting. He said for the Board to do a reconsideration of the April 10th vote, the Board would suspend the rules, take a motion for reconsideration, and then rehear the April 10th item. He said an alternative would be for the Board to proceed to Agenda Item 12, which was a more broadly worded item that allowed discussion and action on the essence of the vote the Board conducted on April 10th.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Breternitz voting "no," it was ordered that the rules of the Board of Commissioners be suspended.

12-80SF AGENDA ITEM 10

Agenda Subject: "Action on reconsideration of vote from April 10, 2012 on a cooperative service agreement between local fire agencies for fire services."

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Breternitz voting "no," it was ordered that the vote from April 10, 2012 on a cooperative service agreement between local fire agencies for fire services be reconsidered.

12-81SF AGENDA ITEM 11

Agenda Subject: "Discussion and possible authorization to the Chair to submit an amended proposal to the City of Reno for a cooperative service agreement between the City of Reno, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) and the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) for fire services (closest resource first regardless of jurisdictional boundaries) with exchange of benefits to include assumption by TMFPD-SFPD of several City labor related liabilities and a \$1.2 million payment for FY 12-13."

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, said there had been changes to the proposal since it was first presented to the Board on April 10, 2012. He stated this proposal allowed the City of Reno to lease Station 14, but it was obvious they had no desire to do so because they removed the City owned generator and fuel tank. He said when the \$1.2 million payment was originally proposed, it was with the understanding the City of Reno would continue to occupy Station 14 and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) would not place additional staff there or in Hidden Valley.

He said the District would be placing staff at both stations by adopting Plan B, so the \$1.2 million payment was no longer financially feasible.

Commissioner Jung asked since the City of Reno received the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant, was the City permitted to take a payment from the County. Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, replied he had no idea. He stated the City of Reno was not willing to provide a copy of the application, so he was in the dark regarding any constraints placed on the Grant. Cadence Matijevich, Reno Assistant City Manager, said the SAFER Grant had not been formally awarded, which was why the application was not available as a public document. She said there was concern that the premise under which the City requested federal assistance would prohibit the City from accepting financial compensation for fire services from another entity. She said until the award was received, staff was unable to make the final determination regarding their concern.

Commissioner Humke asked if the County stood up the Hidden Valley Station and kept Station 14, would \$1.2 million be too high an offer. Mr. Latipow said the analysis done by staff, based on some of the comments by Councilmember Aiazzi, took into consideration the savings realized from not staffing Station 14 and not staffing Hidden Valley. He said the \$1.2 million was no longer available now that the County was moving forward to staff those two stations. Chairman Larkin asked if this issue was moot now that the County was moving forward with Plan B or was there still a demand for automatic aid for Hidden Valley and Caughlin Ranch. Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, said the budget included hiring 15 people for both stations, which needed to occur now because they would be starting in mid-June. She stated the \$1.2 million was not available for the City of Reno.

Commissioner Breternitz said because of staffing the two stations, there was no longer any need for the payment. He believed besides the payment not making financial sense, things had gone beyond the point where this was an applicable resolution; and Chief Moore made it clear his goal was to provide fire service to those areas.

Mr. Latipow stated staff's current recommendation was the Board not approve staff's recommendation as contained in the staff report dated April 10, 2012, and that the Board move on to Agenda Item 12.

12-82SF AGENDA ITEM 12

Agenda Subject: "Discussion and possible action on proposal to the City of Reno for a cooperative service agreement with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) and the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) for fiscal year 2012-13 for fire and related emergency services to be provided by the agency with the resources closest to the location of the incident regardless of boundary with the possible exchange of benefits including offsets, credits, in-kind services, exchanges or use of property and equipment and/or the payment of money."

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, said the City of Reno gave the County notice it was cancelling the 1991 service agreement. He stated staff recommended offering \$1.2 million to the City of Reno if Station 14 and the Hidden Valley Station were not staffed, as well as offering all of the other items. He said the analysis and calculations as to the value of automatic aid to the agencies assumed the Reno stations that were browned or closed would remain so, which was a fair assumption until recently. He said the City of Reno was going through the normal steps prior to the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant being awarded. He stated the primary goal of the SAFER Grant was to improve or restore local fire department staffing to allow the local fire departments to more capably respond to emergencies. He said the Grant period was two years, and its requirements had changed so the positions no longer had to be retained past that two-year period. He said staff looked into the applying for the SAFER Grant, but people being laid off was the number one priority in awarding the Grant and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) was hiring people.

Mr. Latipow noted the applicants with automatic or mutual aid agreements and those that based their request on a staffing needs assessment would receive higher consideration. He said the region had been incredibly fortunate to have automatic and mutual aid agreements between all of the agencies, and there was a chance the application might have referenced those agreements; but that had not been confirmed due to the grant application not being public. He stated staff continued to work towards regional cooperation, and all of the agreements would be brought to the Board before July 1, 2012 for refreshment. He said staff hoped that would include an agreement with the City of Reno.

Mr. Latipow stated with the SAFER Grant allowing the City of Reno to open all of its fire stations, the need for automatic aid by the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) into Reno might be reduced. He said staff looked at Reno's performance objectives in their Standard of Cover (SOC) and at areas throughout the County that could still benefit from automatic aid. He reviewed the maps (Attachment's 1 through 10 in the staff report), which showed the various response times throughout the area when utilizing automatic aid. He also reviewed the total assessed valuation of the parcels served by each jurisdiction in each area. He said this information was based on computer modeling, but tests run on the computer models determined they were accurate to within 30 seconds.

Mr. Latipow said there was a tremendous benefit to the region's citizens and visitors in having automatic aid agreements with all of the surrounding entities. He stated staff agreed the agreement with the City of Reno was appropriate. He noted pages 3 and 4 in the staff report detailed the offer to the City of Reno. He said the information about the Silver decision and its impact on automatic aid in Item 2 was provided by the District Attorney's Office. He stated based on the opinion by the District Attorney's Office, there was no conflict with the Silver arbitration decision.

Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, said a person's opinion about the Silver decision depended on where they sat. He said the District Attorney's Office concluded it was an arbitrator's resolution of a grievance. He stated the grievance concerned a practice of having employees of the District collocated in fire stations along with employees of the City of Reno, while being treated for most purposes as City employees. The arbitrator agreed the District employees were being treated like City employees, found in favor of the union, and the practice ceased. He said the Silver decision did not address automatic or mutual aid, but only addressed the grievance. He felt if the Silver decision was a problem, someone would have heard about it from the union; but it was appropriate the City officials involved wanted to be careful in deciding whether they would be impacted by the Silver decision. He said the advice given to staff was this proposal for a cooperative service agreement was a way the relationship between the City and the District could be structured so there would be no potential legal problem for the City.

Commissioner Breternitz said he had no doubt the Silver decision did not impact the ability to do automatic aid. He stated the staff report indicated there were great benefits to the City of Reno to have automatic aid in place, even with all of their stations open. He said the assessed valuation of the TMFPD serving the City was a lot greater than vice versa and the number of calls was more in favor of the City. He stated he supported doing whatever it took to get automatic aid in place but, after looking at all of this information, he wondered why the County agreed to pay \$3.6 million to take on the liability for the employees and do the equipment, which the County was adding on top of the benefit of having automatic aid.

Commissioner Breternitz stated the City of Reno had chosen not to extend automatic aid after June 30th, and what was being discussed was something that could not happen because it took two parties to have an agreement. He said that was the reason he requested a policy discussion on automatic and mutual aid, which was Item 14. He said as to this item, the Board had tendered a similar offer already. Mr. Latipow clarified it was similar except for the true up. Commissioner Breternitz said the Board was discussing the terms of automatic aid when there was no indication the City of Reno wanted to do automatic aid. He asked why the Board was talking about this now.

Chairman Larkin said he heard the Assistant City Manager state they were under the impression no money could be exchanged for automatic aid. Mr. Latipow confirmed that was what he heard. Chairman Larkin said even if both parties wanted this to happen, there was a glitch in terms of the SAFER Grant. He indicated he was not sure where that left the Board for Agenda Item 13, other than talking about the Board's general philosophy.

Mr. Latipow noted the proposal also included a couple of other offers. He said at the start of the discussions, it was felt doing what was right for the employees and the people coming over from the City of Reno was important. He stated staff felt the retired TMFPD employees had started out with the TMFPD and, if the District had never gone to the City, the District would have incurred those liabilities anyway. He said

regarding the equipment and supplies, the County/City team identified there were things the District did not need that the City did, which again was trying to do what was fair.

Mr. Latipow said he respected the concerns regarding the SAFER Grant. He advised he talked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and was informed the only agency that could request an opinion was the agency receiving the SAFER Grant. He said the City currently had a SAFER Grant, and there were thresholds in the automatic and mutual aid agreements that resulted in payment from one agency to another. Chairman Larkin said unfortunately it was not our opinions that counted.

Commissioner Weber suggested giving staff direction to work with the City of Reno to come up with ideas on how to arrive at an automatic aid agreement. Commissioner Humke stated he disagreed, because the data showed there was no desire by the City of Reno to negotiate.

Katy Simon, County Manager, suggested giving staff some parameters to work with. She said there needed to be specific clarification from the federal government regarding the SAFER Grant and the automatic aid proposal, which might not be forthcoming. She stated the first threshold question was did the Board want to offer an automatic aid proposal. The second was if an automatic aid proposal was offered, would there be some exchange of benefits. She said the third was if there was an agreed upon and accounted for difference in what the benefits were, could a reconciliation or true up at the end of the year be negotiated. Chairman Larkin said those questions drifted into Agenda Item 13.

There was no public comment on this item.

12-83SF AGENDA ITEM 13

Agenda Subject: “Presentation, discussion and possible direction to staff and or action on Board policy concerning Automatic and Mutual Aid.”

Commissioner Breternitz felt automatic aid was the cornerstone of fire protection, and he did not understand the termination of the agreement by the City of Reno. He felt the basis of automatic aid was two entities coming together in the best interest of citizens within those jurisdictions. He stated he was not aware of any automatic aid agreement with any other jurisdiction that required payment, the use some sort of calculation of assessed valuation, or anything else along those lines.

Commissioner Breternitz said the Board could not unilaterally impose automatic aid on anyone, but needed to reach agreements. He stated if an agreement could not be reached with the City of Reno for automatic aid, then the County did not have ability to provide automatic aid. He said staff could be directed to talk with the City of Reno regarding automatic aid, but he did not know if the City wanted to discuss it any further. He stated he did not believe the basis of benefiting the people who lived in the Truckee Meadows should be how much the County paid somebody to come to a deal

regarding automatic aid. He felt automatic aid should be approached on the basis of it being in the best interests of the people living in the Truckee Meadows. He believed doing it on the basis of a financial deal was a no-win deal, and was why he asked for this agenda item.

Commissioner Jung said she agreed with Commissioner Breternitz. She suggested going back to the City of Reno with a proposal for automatic aid. She felt there should be honest discussions regarding what would be the exchange of benefits between the two jurisdictions, which were clearly shown in the maps indicating coverage with and without automatic aid discussed in Agenda Item 12 (attached to staff report). She believed there was nothing wrong with truing up costs. She said the direction to staff was always to try and keep things as fair and square as possible so the citizens received the best coverage they could without one citizen subsidizing another. She noted the maps showed not just houses, but people's lives. She felt the Board should not give up because automatic aid was good for everybody, including tourism. She said no one wanted this to be a community that people were afraid to visit because they did not know if they would be covered by basic life-safety measures.

In response to the call for public comment, Bob Ackerman said automatic aid was a quid pro quo situation, and it was a necessary to have such an agreement.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that staff be directed to engage in further discussions with the City of Reno to share the information presented today and to see if there would be a resulting draft agreement relating to automatic aid.

2:23 p.m. The Board recessed.

5:00 p.m. The Board reconvened with all members present.

CONSENT ITEMS – ITEMS 3A AND 3B

12-84SF **AGENDA ITEM 3A**

Agenda Subject: “Approval of BOFC meeting minutes of April 10, 2012 and April 24, 2012.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

12-85SF AGENDA ITEM 3B

Agenda Subject: “Update, discussion and possible direction related to the status of the Truckee Meadows – Sierra Fire Protection District’s Expanded Transition Plan.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

12-86SF AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Fire Chief’s Report to include an update on the Fire Season Outlook & Preparedness by Sierra Fire Protection District’s Chief Charles A. Moore.”

Rhett Milne, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service – Reno, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk. He said a lot of the Western United States would be dealing with some very dangerous fire conditions, which would have implications nationwide. He stated the region was coming out of a weak La Nina weather pattern, which was the reason for the lack of snow, and was going into neutral conditions. He said that had implications for the thunderstorm patterns going into the summer and the windy and dry conditions later in the summer. He stated the computer models indicated the region would be heading into El Nino conditions during June, July, and August.

Mr. Milne said this year the Sierra’s almost reached the record dryness that occurred in 1976-77. He stated the water content of the snow was 25 to 50 percent of normal and the rest of the United States had many areas where the snow pack was less than 25 percent of normal. He stated there were a lot of warm storms, which was why the snow pack was low and why the snow/water content was extremely low. He said a huge portion of the Western United States saw only two to four inches of precipitation, and only the Pacific Northwest received decent precipitation.

Mr. Milne stated the fuel in Washoe County was much drier than usual for this time of year. He said the Energy Release Component (ERC) was used by many of the fire agencies to predict a fire’s behavior in a certain area, and the Sierra Front ERC showed fuels were almost at the level of the all time driest fuels record. He said the Climate Prediction Center, a branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), was predicting there would be above normal high temperatures for the Southwestern United States, which would push into Nevada. He said those conditions had been the case for the last 10 years in a row. He stated Nevada was located in the area with the greatest fire potential over the summer. He advised a very active fire season was expected, not just locally but also nationally; and that meant firefighting

resources could be spread thin and local agencies could become reluctant to let their resources go in case they were needed locally.

Commissioner Breternitz said the presentation was informative, but was also a little scary.

Commissioner Weber asked the presentation be put on the County's web site, because she felt it was important for the public to see this presentation.

Katy Simon, County Manager, acknowledged Mr. Milne was always present providing assistance during emergencies and disasters, and staff could not do their jobs without his help during such situations.

Chairman Larkin asked about the fire in Colorado. Fire Chief Charles Moore said Fort Collins, Colorado seemed to be igniting annually. Chairman Larkin said it was very wet last year, and the vegetation was the greenest he had ever seen it around here. He stated all of that material was still around because only approximately 100 acres burned last year. He asked based on what Mr. Milne indicated and the Chief's knowledge of fire behavior and the area, what additional resources might be needed. Chief Moore said the District had 21 Type 1 structure engines; 20 Type 3 wildland engines with off-road capability; eight patrol vehicles, which were four-wheel drive large pickup trucks; and eight water tenders. He stated the air resources included the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Regional Aviation Enforcement Program (RAVEN) helicopter and a Type 3 helicopter, which had infrared capabilities that could be used to find hotspots. He said the 11 large air tankers were typically based in the west, but they would be hard to come by if other fires were burning. Chairman Larkin asked if the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would be standing up their air tankers in Stead and in Minden. Tim Leighton, Truckee Meadows Battalion Chief, said Stead would have only light air tankers, and he believed Minden would not be opened. Chairman Larkin asked where the closest large air tanker would be based. Chief Leighton said probably in California. Chairman Larkin said there was a DC-10 in Victorville. Chief Leighton said he hoped the DC-10 was not needed because it was expensive to use.

Chief Moore said there were automatic aid agreements with six fire departments, which could supply bulldozers and hand crews. He said the Nevada Department of Emergency Management had engines, hand crews, and water tenders to offer and the Lake Tahoe Regional Chiefs had engines and hand crews to offer. He said he was talking with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), which had engines, hand crews, bull dozers, water tenders, and a Type 2 helicopter. He noted he was talking with NDF about basing a hand crew during the daytime at the Bowers Station. He said regarding the federal agencies, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had two single-engine air tankers, a contract helicopter, and air-attack planes.

Chief Moore said last year's wildfire season never really ended. He stated with an aggressive attack, deploying a lot of resources early, and with a break in the wind he was confident the District could respond effectively. He said another worry was

lightning, which had a way of starting multiple fires. He stated if that happened, the District would rely on its mutual aid partners to respond as quickly and in as large a number as possible. He advised the District would do the same for its partners. Chairman Larkin asked how many volunteers would be available. Chief Moore replied there were 120 volunteers available to support the 112 firefighters trained in wildland fires.

Chief Moore stated the citizens needed to do their part, and fuel reduction efforts should be ongoing because the vegetation grew back. He said he was impressed with the number of citizens who had a keen awareness of the need to reduce fuels around their homes. He said he hoped to have a Fire Marshal in place in the next couple of weeks, and the Fire Marshal would take an active role in developing the District's strategies and the partnerships with the communities. He said the District was ramping up and everyone was working towards being response ready by July 1, 2012.

Chief Moore noted the Arrowcreek Fire Station was now open. He stated the grand opening would be held on June 15, 2012 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. He said Diane Rose and Bob Parker had been soliciting donations from the community and retailers, and a television, some furniture, and large kitchen appliances had been donated. He stated if Diane Rose was let loose on a project, it got done. He thanked all of the citizens who helped, and noted what a great partnership there was with the people in the Galena Forest and Arrowcreek neighborhoods. He said Bronx Pizzeria would be serving pizza and soft drinks at the grand opening.

Chief Moore said the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's (TMFPD's) corporate image was being developed, and he displayed the graphics of the door decals and the patch for the uniforms, which staff liked. A photocopy of the door decals and uniform patches was placed on file with the Clerk. He stated he would like to get the Commissioner's feedback on the patch and the door decal, and he would have examples of the official logo available at the next meeting for the Commissioners to look at. Commissioner Humke asked about the color of the fire engines. Chief Moore replied the engines were a mix of white and red, and the white decal would be used on a red engine.

Chief Moore said the TMFPD responded to a recent fire, which occurred in the City of Reno. He said Station 35 responded first, followed by a Reno engine, then by the Verdi Volunteer Fire Department. He advised after the fire was extinguished, it was determined it was located in the City of Reno. He said the issue was it was hard to know where the delineation line was for this particular property. He believed that would be a complication regarding automatic aid, because sometimes the firefighters did not know where the line was. He hoped his conversations with Reno Fire Chief Hernandez would reach the point where both Reno and the TMFPD would respond if there was any doubt which jurisdiction the fire was located in, because he did not want to see anyone hesitate to respond. Chairman Larkin said the policy should be to respond when in doubt. Chief Moore said the TMFPD would respond as long as the District was dispatched. He stated dispatch was complicated by the two jurisdictions being on different dispatch frequencies. He said they would not necessarily hear each other's calls unless somehow

both frequencies were scanned. He advised that was an issue the Chiefs would have to work out.

Chief Moore said there was a minor wildfire in St. James Village, which was extinguished fairly quickly by the crew out of Station 38.

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

12-87SF AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and action on the Sierra Fire Protection District Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13.”

Fire Chief Charles Moore said combining the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) was the first step in regionalizing fire. He said the two Districts would come together first as a functional consolidation and eventually as a political consolidation later in the year. He hoped that success would lead to more regionalization.

Chief Moore said the combined District would have 115 firefighters supplemented by 120 volunteers and 60 logistics volunteers at 11 career and 13 volunteer fire stations.

Chairman Larkin said the numbers were slightly different for the 2012/13 TMFPD/ SFPD consolidated fire budget on page 3 of the staff report and on a similar table in TMFPD’s budget packet. He said this total was \$20,600,141 and the other was around \$21,300,000. Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, explained there was a different table on page 4 in the TMFPD packet because the TMFPD had slightly different costs than the SFPD. She stated the SFPD had to pay for costs incurred as a separate local government in addition to the cost of payments to the TMFPD. She said the TMFPD had to pay the total cost of operating the SFPD and the TMFPD, plus the costs of operating the TMFPD as a standalone. She advised because the TMFPD was bigger, their costs were slightly more as a standalone than the costs the SFPD had as a standalone.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the SFPD Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 be approved.

12-88SF AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and Action on a Resolution creating the Sierra Fire Protection District Health Benefits Internal Service Fund as of July 1, 2011 and augment budget appropriations in the amount of \$550,000 from resources transferred from the District’s General Fund for Group Medical and Retiree Health

Costs and direct Washoe County Comptroller to increase the Sierra Fire Protection District's FY 11-12 health Benefits Internal Service Fund budgeted expenditures in the amount of \$550,000."

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be approved. The Resolution for same are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

12-89SF AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: "Acceptance of Sierra Fire Protection District's portion of a FY 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Regional Communications Grant award from the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, to the Reno Fire Department/Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District in the amount of \$131,328, and authorize staff to accept the District's portion of the Grant funded purchase of communications equipment, and recognize the District's portion of the required match in an amount not to exceed \$26,265."

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, said the grant was necessary due to the narrow banding requirements established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and was part of a regional approach. He stated the Sierra Fire Protection District's (SFPD's) portion of the Grant was included in the 2011/12 budget, and staff was prepared to begin installing and programming the radios upon approval.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be accepted, authorized, and recognized.

12-90SF AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: "Presentation and possible acceptance of a report, "Assessment of the Impact of the Transition on the Cost of Fire Insurance" dated April 2012 and discussion related to the cost of fire insurance from the transition of fire services."

Fire Chief Charles Moore said some citizens expressed concern regarding how standing up the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) would affect their fire insurance premiums, but the report by a subject matter expert concluded it would not have much affect on them. He explained capability had been added over the last decade, because a decade ago the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) did not exist; and insurance premiums were based on a fire response by the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF). He said it seemed unlikely the citizens would see any increase in their homeowner's insurance premiums as a result of the new fire district. He stated a GIS

analysis of the District found 91 percent of developed properties had a hydrant within 1,000 feet. He said there would not be any affect as long as there was a station within five road miles and a hydrant within 1,000 feet.

Chief Moore said for homes that did not have a hydrant, a Captain had the discretion to add a water tanker to the response, so there would be a Type 1 engine and a water tender on the scene to fight the fire. He stated in addition other resources such as volunteers, additional water tankers, and mutual aid partners would be called when a water supply did not exist. He stated the insurance companies recognized homeowners would pay more if they did not have a developed water source nearby, but that was not a result of how a fire department was designed because a fire department would make its best effort in bringing water to a fire. He said the only risk he could see would be the potential move of the Verdi station closer to Caughlin Ranch, and some people on the far side of Verdi could exceed the five road miles. He stated that impact could be mitigated by private water supplies, which would likely be a cost borne by the individual property owners.

Chairman Larkin noted the tender at Station 17 would require a fourth person be available to respond, and he asked what the plan was for the response. Chief Moore replied Station 17 personnel could respond with both the Type 1 engine and the water tender using a three-person crew. He said the forth person could come out of Sparks or Sun Valley, supplemented by the Battalion Chief and by volunteers.

Commissioner Humke asked if this report was done as a result of one person making a comment about insurance rates. Chief Moore replied the report was done at the direction of the Commission.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be accepted.

12-91SF AGENDA ITEM 14

Agenda Subject: “Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with Sierra Fire Protection District Employee Organizations per NRS 288.220.”

There was no closed session.

12-92SF AGENDA ITEM 15

Agenda Subject: “Commissioner’s/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 announcements.

12-93SF AGENDA ITEM 16

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 Commission 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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5:50 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

ATTEST:

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

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

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION ----- Creating the Health Benefits Internal Service Fund for the Sierra Fire Protection District as of July 1, 2011

WHEREAS, the Sierra Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners desire to create an internal service fund for the accounting of the Sierra Fire Protection District's group medical benefits and retiree health benefits; and

WHEREAS, NRS 354.604 provides that the Sierra Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners may establish an internal service fund according to its own needs; and

WHEREAS, NRS 354.612 provides that the Sierra Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners may establish an internal service fund by resolution which describes the purpose of the fund, the resources to be used to establish the fund, the sources to be used to replenish the fund and the method for controlling the expenses and revenues of the fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The District's Board of Fire Commissioner hereby creates the Health Benefits Internal Service Fund as of July 1, 2011.
2. The object and purpose of this fund is to account for resources and expenditures incurred by the Sierra Fire Protection District for the payment of group medical benefits and retiree health benefits; and
3. The resources to be used to establish the fund is operating funds in the General Fund which will be transferred to the Health Benefits Fund.
4. The source to be used for future replenishment of the fund is operating funds from the District's General Fund to the Sierra Fire Protection District's Health Benefits Fund and deductions from employees and retirees for group health benefits as revenue.

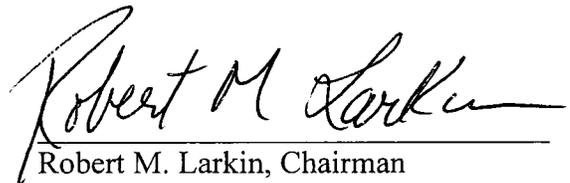
5. The method for which a determination will be made as to whether the fund balance is reasonable and necessary to carry out the purpose of the fund and for controlling expenses and revenues of the fund is the budgeting and financial accounting policies administered by the Sierra Fire Protection District and Washoe County Comptroller's office.
6. Any interest earned on the monies in the fund, after deducting applicable bank charges, must be credited to the fund.

ADOPTED this 15th day of May, 2012.

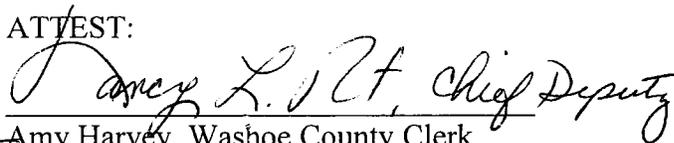
AYES:

NAYES:

ABSENT:


Robert M. Larkin, Chairman

ATTEST:


Amy Harvey, Washoe County Clerk