

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

TUESDAY

11:00 a.m.

APRIL 10, 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 11:27 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:

**11:27 a.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).

**12-54SF     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.”

Diane Rose read Donna Peterson’s letter in support of the Board continuing its course and asking the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) to support Charles Moore as the new Fire Chief for the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD). A copy of the letter was placed on file with the Clerk.

Alex Kukulus, President of the Sierra Firefighters, said the SFPD employees were informed that they were made employees of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) at 8:00 a.m. yesterday. He stated the contract in the TMFPD Agenda Item 5, Deferred Compensation, contained deferred compensation as a benefit. He said by not authorizing the TMFPD to enter into that benefit, it created a conflict because the SFPD contract instilled that right for the SFPD employees; and he wanted to alert the BOFC to the potential problem that was being created.

**Agenda Subject:** “Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding options for regional fire service for the Truckee Meadows and Sierra Fire Protection Districts, to include possible Joint Powers Agreements with neighboring jurisdictions.

Charles Moore, Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) Fire Chief, said there were some similarities to Colorado’s regional issues, which took 15 years to solve using patience and perseverance. He stated as he looked at the jurisdictions touching the SFPD, those relationships already existed at a high-quality level, and he felt there was a significant amount of regionalization already in place.

Chief Moore believed the issue going forward was increased efficiency. He said he was directed at the April 2, 2012 joint meeting to come up with a framework for moving forward on the efficiency issue and the discussion suggested a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) would be a good solution. He said his staff report indicated one way of doing a JPA would be to establish a working group of the fire chiefs and their senior staff to recommend to each of the jurisdictions ways of increasing efficiency and to hopefully come to an agreement. He stated another way would be to do a full JPA, which would ultimately make the decisions regarding how the fire department would be run. He said there were numerous ways to craft the JPA, so it would be difficult to say how it would be framed, but it would be important to put financial sustainability and service levels at the forefront of the JPA. He said staff wanted to know if there was direction to continue working on the JPA.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Commissioner Humke stated it was important the County lead the regionalization effort, and it should host the meetings for anyone wishing to participate. He said when he previously mentioned all of the agencies who might want to participate; it had not been his intention to leave out any agency whose service area touched Washoe County.

Chairman Larkin stated the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) directed Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, and requested Michael Hernandez, Reno/Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Fire Chief, Andreas Flock, City of Sparks Fire Chief, and Mike Brown, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District Chief, to be part of a formal working group. He asked what the status of that was. Chief Moore stated he met with Chief Brown and Stacey Giomi, Carson City Fire Chief, but had not yet met Chief Flock. He said he and Chief Hernandez had been informally discussing the working group, but there had not been any official meeting of the Chiefs.

Chief Hernandez stated he typically met with Chiefs Brown and Flock once a month for breakfast to talk about the region’s challenges and the opportunities, but the last meeting occurred prior to Chief Moore’s arrival. He said the concept of developing a more formal task force was discussed and it was unanimously decided the

Chiefs could participate, but any outcomes of those discussions would have to go back to their respective Boards for direction. He stated that process could begin now that Chief Moore was officially on board. Chairman Larkin asked if the three Chiefs felt having a working group would be beneficial and would there be merit in having the professionals involved in the discussion. Chief Hernandez replied there would be. Chairman Larkin asked if inviting the Volunteer Chief's to be involved was discussed. Chief Hernandez said it was discussed how the group should be formed, how to obtain citizen input, and things of that nature, but it was an informal meeting meant to discuss any current problems and potential problems 30 to 60 days out. He said it was a very high level meeting to discuss what the Commission was asking and the difficulty there would be with their respective Boards and with the political entities that currently did not have an appetite for regionalization.

Chairman Larkin said he believed the desire was to allow the fire professionals to have discussions on the particular policies and procedures instead of making appointments to turn the working group into a public body. He asked if there was an opinion about moving forward. Chief Moore said moving the dialogue forward needed to occur. He stated starting with the Chiefs was a good place to start, because he saw a lot of the efficiency issues as being technical issues. He noted a full on JPA would take a long time to negotiate. He said if the BOFC wanted to pursue a JPA, it could be done; but even six to nine months might be overly optimistic. Commissioner Larkin advised this community was well versed in JPA's and there were several successful models in the region. He said it would be a matter of determining the governance structure, which would be very controversial, and coming up with the terms and agreements.

Commissioner Breternitz asked if there would be any negative effect on the progress of Plan B when the Board engaged in discussions related to the JPA. Mr. Latipow said from a relationship perspective, it could cause speed bumps. He stated Plan B would not necessarily change the makeup of the JPA. He stated from a regional perspective, one or possibly two of the items in Plan B were not necessarily consistent with a regional model. Commissioner Breternitz asked if it appeared there were choices based on the conditions and the responses received so far from the City of Reno. Mr. Latipow replied it appeared the choices articulated in the next agenda item were limited, and there were costs and impacts associated with those choices.

Commissioner Breternitz said one of the elements of the motion he made at the joint meeting, which was supported by the majority of the Commissioners, was for the BOFC to have this discussion to identify the criteria for any conversations regarding a JPA. He felt this agenda item should discuss what items the BOFC would want to see as part of setting the theme of conversions amongst staff relating to the creation of a JPA. He felt it would be important to have the conversations because long-term regionalization would depend on the relationships, which were currently not at their best, and this seemed to be an opportunity to build up those relationships. He felt the discussions would take awhile, but the BOFC needed to support taking steps along those lines over the long-term.

Commissioner Breternitz suggested the current automatic-aid agreement should remain in affect while having the discussions. He said other criteria would be the JPA be sustainable over the long-term for Washoe County and, if the JPA would not be sustainable, it would be a non-starter. He said out of the proposed alternatives in the analysis, Alternative Three made sense as a mid-term solution with two independent departments operating under a governance structure and sharing some of the administrative functions.

Commissioner Humke said pursuing a model where each entity contracted for their labor with a labor organization and then adhered to the JPA by contract might have some traction with the City of Sparks. He stated that formed a standard of sustainability and provided for flexible staffing. He said if the County was saddled with someone else's concept of staffing, the County would end up with the same mess of not being financially sustainable as was the case currently. He truly felt separate contracting was the way to go. Chairman Larkin said that was represented under Alternative Three on the TMFPD/SFPD Regional Fire Service/JPA Alternatives matrix, which was contained in the Commissioners' packets.

Commissioner Humke said he was not impressed with the agenda packets for the SFPD and the TMFPD arriving after the cutoff. He stated he would have appreciated the opportunity to study the information, but he only received the packets this morning when he arrived at his office. He advised he wanted staff to do better.

Commissioner Weber said Chief Moore's staff report provided the pros and cons, which was exactly what she wanted to see. She stated besides Commissioner Breternitz's criteria of automatic aid and of the JPA being sustainable for the long-term, she also wanted to include the role the volunteers would play, whether there would be fire districts or a continuation of General Fund support, how the funding would be handled, and the impact on insurance ratings. She said she requested information on what the current ratings were for the different neighborhoods and what the ratings could be down the road based on the different scenarios. She felt that information would be important to have before talking about raising taxes. She believed because Chief Moore was not involved in the meeting Chief Hernandez discussed, there should be more conversations with Chief Moore. She said Tim Leighton, SFPD Battalion Chief, and a representative of the Volunteer Chiefs should also be involved.

Commissioner Weber said the BOFC also needed to have Reno's criteria prior to the joint meeting on April 19, 2012. She stated the meeting would also provide an opportunity to have everyone be accountable for what everyone said they would do. She commended Commissioner Humke for talking with his constituents, and she noted she hoped to do the same. She felt the BOFC was doing the right thing, and she thanked staff for moving things in the right direction.

Chairman Larkin stated Commissioner Breternitz said Alternative Three was an interim step, but he felt it would be important for staff to know Alternative Four was the long-term goal. He said along with Commissioner Breternitz's suggestion of

offering Alternative Three for study, he hoped the Commission would consider the Chief's working group as part of the mix otherwise, it would just become a political discussion. He felt all of this was not mutually exclusive, but could be moved along simultaneously. Chairman Larkin suggested if there was a motion, it would be a combination of Alternatives One and Three as interim steps, with Alternative Four as the ultimate vision.

Commissioner Humke said after seeing the matrix, he felt Commissioner Weber was on the right track when discussing the Insurance Service Office (ISO) ratings. He said people without any expertise were saying insurance rates would go up, which made his blood boil. He stated that type of nonsense had to stop and noted countering it took a lot of time, which should be shown on the matrix.

Commissioner Humke asked that all of the entities who provided a full medical response and were invited to participate in the JPA, bring their people with expertise in any kind of medical stabilization and response to the discussions. He also suggested inviting this County's franchisee, Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), because he felt this was something that had not yet been considered. He said he did not favor doing that with public employees who had collective bargaining power, but that would have to be dealt with someday. He asked how something could be left to our children and grandchildren if the hard issues were not dealt with now.

Commissioner Breternitz advised he received a document from the Reno City Attorney regarding a past arbitration decision. He stated because of that decision, it had been implied the contract with Reno and the firefighter's union precluded elements of automatic aid. He said since his motion would contain elements of automatic aid, he wanted to make a couple of comments regarding that issue. He felt there was a distinct difference between primary service and automatic aid and, if the agreement currently in place did not allow the TMFPD to service the City of Reno, he did not understand how there could be an automatic aid agreement between the Cities of Sparks and Reno because the same condition would hold true. He believed Local 731 was the representative group for the City of Reno within the City of Reno's boundaries, but he did not believe that contract could be extended to preclude the delivery of automatic aid. He said it was beneficial for everyone in the community for boundaries to be dropped when there was an emergency, thereby allowing the closest engine to respond to fires. He stated while there had been statements made by various public officials that automatic aid could not happen, he truly believed it could. He said it was a critical public safety issue, and he felt to have a union making policy for an elected body was wrong. He stated the people who lived in the Truckee Meadows needed to be protected, which was what this was about.

Commissioner Humke asked what would happen if the County said to the other entities around the table the County only wanted to do business in same way as the County had always done business. To wit, there was a dedicated source of revenue for the County's firefighting operation instead of having the General Fund supporting

firefighting operations where the full faith and credit of the entity would be open to negotiation. He asked what would happen if the County said that was a threshold issue in a JPA. He said that way there would be like operations coalescing with like operations. He felt governance should be treated as the most important thing rather than the least important thing, and this was an element of governance. He believed the 2000 Interlocal Agreement was rushed into, and he did not want the Board to replicate past mistakes.

Commissioner Breternitz felt it was important to move ahead with the dialogue related to the JPA and it seemed a dedicated source of income was a long-term goal. He asked if Commissioner Humke agreed with that. Commissioner Humke felt it needed to be done right from the start. He said in looking at the matrix, there was a yes under the category “requires labor agreement reopener,” which was a guarantee of having to go back to the unions if anything was ever changed. He stated that was under long-term, which was a flaw.

Commissioner Breternitz made a motion to instruct staff to invite the City of Sparks to a meeting with the City of Reno to engage in a dialogue related to forming a JPA, which would include, from the County’s perspective, the automatic aid provision remaining in effect; the JPA be financially sustainable; the full use of volunteers; having an eye towards the short-term and the mid-term Alternative Three shown in the matrix, which was the JPA under one governance with multiple union contracts that remained under control of each entity; and having a provision that there would be long-term consideration for Alternative Four, which was the regional fire district. Commissioner Humke seconded the motion.

Chairman Larkin said asked if the Chief felt the motion would hamper the Chiefs getting together to talk about a JPA. Chief Moore replied the motion summarized the direction very well. Reno/Truckee Meadows Fire Chief Michael Hernandez said he concurred.

Katy Simon, County Manager, said Commissioner Breternitz was specific about wanting to meet with the City of Reno and inviting the City of Sparks, but Commissioner Humke had suggested inviting other neighboring jurisdictions. Commissioner Breternitz stated it would be fine to invite them. He said primarily TMFPD type items would be discussed for the short-term, but that broad net should be included.

Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, clarified the motion and the discussion by the individual Commissioners did not intend to create a body that would have to conduct its business under the Open Meeting Law, and Chief Moore was directed to engage in the discussions as he saw fit. He stated the BOFC drew some very wide parameters, which included encouraging him to talk to the Fire Chiefs from the other jurisdictions and pointed to certain matters in the staff report as being critical items to be included in the discussion. He stated he wanted to ensure he was reflecting back what he heard and everyone was on the same page regarding what the BOFC intended to do. Commissioner Breternitz said that was exactly what he had in mind with the clarification the Chief and

any staff he chose would participate in the discussions. Commissioner Humke stated he agreed. He believed this was an interim step and was one of the reasons why he seconded the motion. He said he was serious that governance was the most important issue and was the essence of the problem created by the Interlocal Agreement in 2000. He reiterated he had no desire to replicate what happened in 2000. Chairman Larkin asked if it was Commissioner Breternitz's desire that the substance of this conversation be transmitted to the City of Reno in preparation for the joint meeting on April 19, 2012. Commissioner Breternitz indicated it was. Commissioner Humke agreed.

On a call for a vote, the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Jung voting "no."

## **12-56SF      AGENDA ITEM 10**

**Agenda Subject: "Discussion and possible authorization to the Chair to submit an amended proposal to the City of Reno for a cooperative 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 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 staff was given direction at the Board of Fire Commissioner's (BOFC) March 27, 2012 meeting to forward a very similar offer to the City of Reno. He said the difference between the offers was staff clarified a misunderstanding of one of the items in the offer, which had to do with rank-for-rank lateral transfers of those Reno employees who applied for positions with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD). He stated that was never meant by staff to be a condition of the offer. He said what was meant to be a condition of the offer was regarding the liabilities and lead banks that those individuals currently had as City employees. He said everything would be done to accommodate individuals applying for rank-for-rank positions with the TMFPD. He said the individuals applying for promotional positions would be treated as in-house promotional, which was how the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) employees were treated. He stated that was already happening absent of an offer. He stated he was sorry to belabor this point, but it had been misquoted numerous times.

Mr. Latipow said the other difference was a proposal that the BOFC consider the continuance of automatic aid. He stated he wanted to be careful with this terminology because there had been a 1990's grievance filed by Reno Local 731, which had to do with other entities serving primarily within the areas they represented. He said this was meant to propose automatic aid as it stood today. He stated in consideration of the fact that there were islands or gaps in the TMFPD that were more quickly serviced by the City of Reno, the BOFC could consider offering the City a \$1.2 million payment for the coming Fiscal Year for the City continuing to serve those areas. He said the change came as a result of staff listening at the joint meeting and then running some calculations.

Commissioner Jung said when looking at the number of incidents on page 4 of the staff report, she wondered why staff was advising there was no equality between the SFPD's response and the City's response, especially when Mr. Latipow indicated several times it was a complete wash; and she asked what changed. Mr. Latipow said he did not recall saying it was a complete wash, but believed he said there was an imbalance to do with the number of times calls were responded to from the TMFPD stations. However, the imbalance was offset by the BOFC's direction to maintain service as much as possible in those areas. He stated the imbalance would start to move towards being a more equal number when the City of Reno opened Station 9 in Stead, because the TMFPD would no longer be responding to the calls in that area. Commissioner Jung reiterated Mr. Latipow said several times on the record the calls were a complete wash because of the citizen outcry in the Washoe Valley. She asked again where the new numbers came from. Mr. Latipow said a citizen's presentation indicated there was an imbalance in the number of calls. He said that information was reviewed by employees of the SFPD and the TMFPD and was verified with recently updated data. He stated it did not take into account that the TMFPD stations served the north end of the SFPD. Commissioner Jung said she was still not convinced.

Commissioner Jung said the offer was already taken to the City of Reno and was denied. Katy Simon, County Manager, clarified the only formal offer made to the City of Reno was for automatic aid with no exchange of dollars, and this was different. Commissioner Jung asked why this offer was being proposed when the District was trying to be sustainable and fiscally responsible. Mr. Latipow advised the analysis of standing up Plan B indicated this was a beneficial proposal because Plan B had the TMFPD opening two stations and hiring additional personnel at a cost of \$1.7 million. He said in this offer, if automatic aid was retained as it was today, Reno would continue to occupy the TMFPD's Station 14 by the Wal-Mart in South Reno, the TMFPD would not have to rearrange its coverage for Verdi, Mogul and Caughlin Ranch, and would not have to expand coverage in Hidden Valley. He stated from an investment perspective, it would appear to be worthwhile to tender an offer of \$1.2 million.

Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, said this offer was looked at from a business perspective, which was originally brought up by Councilmember Aiazzi at the last joint meeting. She stated under Plan B, if the TMFPD stood up Station 14 by itself with three-person staffing and the operational costs, it would cost approximately \$1.1 million. She said a two-person rescue in Hidden Valley would cost approximately \$650,000 a year, and combined that would be \$1.75 million. She stated paying the City of Reno \$1.2 million would save \$500,000, which could be used for three-person staffing at West Washoe Valley.

Ms. Walker said the reason the \$1.2 million came up was because it was the direction of the BOFC to have staff go back and sharpen their pencils on costs. Plan B presented cuts to keep the property tax increase to the \$.54 level. She stated even though it would cost \$1.7 million to stand up the two stations, because the other cuts were made, the net affect between Plan A and Plan B was only \$1.2 million.

Commissioner Jung asked which stations would only have a two-person rescue. Ms. Walker replied for Plan B, the stations were Hidden Valley and West Washoe Valley. Commissioner Jung said essentially those two stations would subsidize the rest of the County in achieving a far better response. Ms. Walker replied not really because of the new Hidden Valley station. Commissioner Jung stated the Hidden Valley station had not been necessary because of Reno's station at Mira Loma Drive. Ms. Walker said because the SFPD did not have the financial wherewithal, they would be going down to two-person staffing anyway. She said currently the SFPD and the TMFPD budgets were \$23 million, which combined would bring the budgets down to \$21 million depending on the plan.

Commissioner Jung stated she would not support this item because it was based on faulty assumptions and really terrible fiduciary responsibility.

Chairman Larkin said Item 1 seemed inconsistent with the current contract where it suggested paying 100 percent of the retirees' group medical for former TMFPD employees who retired before July 1, 2012. He stated Legal Counsel had opined it went above and beyond the current contract, but he felt it went back to the basic question of deviating from the contract, which he was concerned would be an expression of bad faith even if it was a sweetener. Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, advised bad faith was a very broad concept. He stated it was clear the intent of the Interlocal Agreement when it was entered into was to set the terms under which those employees that transferred to the City of Reno would be allowed to return to the TMFPD if it was necessary to terminate the Interlocal Agreement. He said the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) that was entered into by the TMFPD and its employee association over 12 years ago formed the basis for those terms. He stated he did not think it would be unreasonable for the BOFC to supplement the items that were in that CBA with additional items that reflected more modern employee benefits and conditions. He said to expect those employees to come back under the precise terms of a 12-year old CBA would be unreasonable. He stated when the parties to a contract did not contemplate every possibility, it would be reasonable to interpret the contract in the modern context; while honoring the obligations under the contract to give the employees a reasonable and meaningful array of salary and benefits.

Mr. Lipparelli said his last point was he could not discern any reason why the City of Reno would accuse the TMFPD of breaching the Interlocal Agreement by offering people better benefits to return to the TMFPD than the bare minimum of the old Local 2487 Agreement from 12 years ago. He stated the City of Reno was the only party that would have the standing to try and allege there was a violation. He stated based on that, he felt the offer was reasonable and legal.

Chairman Larkin asked if it was normal practice to charge for automatic aid. Mr. Latipow replied it was not. Chairman Larkin asked why the TMFPD would want to pay \$1.2 million for automatic aid when the TMFPD was offering it to the City of Reno for free. Mr. Latipow believed there was a business case for it.

Commissioner Breternitz said he was worried about not coming to an agreement over automatic aid, which would cause the people who lived in the Truckee Meadows to suffer. He asked how Gold Ranch and Boomtown would be covered if there was no automatic aid. Reno/Truckee Meadows Fire Chief Michael Hernandez said the plan was to service those areas by using Station 11, Mae Anne, and to augment it with the resources from Station 10, on North Virginia. Commissioner Breternitz asked who currently provided service to that area. Chief Hernandez said it was the SFPD station right across the street. Commissioner Breternitz said his point was there were numerous areas like that within the Truckee Meadows. He asked if it made sense for the elected officials to continue to provide the service that would be most affective for public safety, which would be from the closest station to the fire. He stated he was troubled that games were being played with automatic aid and with people's safety to prove a point. He said the BOFC offered to maintain automatic aid, but the City of Reno had said it would not. He did not believe it was in the best interests of the people in the community to take that position. He said if this was passed, it would be a statement the BOFC wanted to work with the City of Reno. He stated the people in the middle were the citizens and officials should not be playing games with their safety.

Commissioner Weber made the motion as contained in the staff report dated April 4, 2012. Commissioner Breternitz seconded the motion.

Commissioner Humke moved to amend the motion by deleting the \$1.2 million payment to the City of Reno. Commissioner Weber stated as the maker of the motion, she did not accept the amendment. Chairman Larkin said the amendment would be a separate vote. Chairman Larkin said he accepted the amendment for the purposes of discussion.

Commissioner Humke said he believed there was no justification for the \$1.2 million payment.

Commissioner Weber said it appeared Commissioner Breternitz explained fully why the BOFC would want to offer \$1.2 million payment, which she believed Councilmember Aiazzi supported at the joint meeting. She said the BOFC should do whatever it took to protect the County's citizens.

Commissioner Breternitz stated he seconded the original motion even though this was not something he liked, but he felt it made a statement for the safety of the people in the community and formed the groundwork for further conversation.

On a call for a vote on the amendment to the motion, the amendment failed 2-3 with Commissioners Breternitz, Weber, and Jung voting "no."

Mr. Lipparelli said the staff report also outlined Items 1-6, and he asked if the intent of the original motion was to include that list as well in the offer. Commissioner Weber acknowledged the motion included Items 1-6. Commissioner Breternitz agreed as the seconder. He stated this offer of the numbered items would revert

to their current status, such as the lease terminating, should the Agreement not continue. Commissioner Weber agreed.

On a call for the vote, the motion failed 2-3 with Chairman Larkin and Commissioners Humke and Jung voting “no.”

**12-57SF      AGENDA ITEM 5**

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

**1:10 p.m.**      On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the meeting recess to a closed session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with Sierra Fire Protection District Employee Organizations per NRS 288.220.

**2:57 p.m.**      The Board reconvened as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Sierra Fire Protection District with all members present.

**12-58SF      AGENDA ITEM 3A**

**Agenda Subject:** “Approval of BOFC meeting minutes of March 13, 2012.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

**12-59SF      AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Agenda Subject:** “Chief’s Report including Arrowcreek Station update.”

Chief Moore said the utilities were installed and hooked up for the Arrowcreek Station, which would open on May 15, 2012. He stated the only possible delay might be the landscaping, because one of the bushes in the plan was not in season. He stated progress was being made on remodeling the Joy Lake Station, which would also open on May 15th.

**2:56 p.m.**      Chairman Larkin left the meeting and Vice Chairman Weber assumed the gavel.

Commissioner Breternitz suggested the approving agency might allow the entity to bond for the landscaping, which could be an alternative if there was trouble finding the specified bush. Chief Moore thanked Commissioner Breternitz for that suggestion.

Chief Moore said there was fire at 155 Riverdale in Verdi on March 29, 2012, which was caused by fireplace ashes. He advised fireplace ashes could remain hot for days and, even if they looked and felt cold, deep inside the charcoal could still be burning and a slight wind could fan the flame. He said the fire burned about an eighth of an acre and was fairly close to the house. He stated Station 35 responded and was assisted by the Verdi Volunteers and the Reno Fire Department. He cautioned the maximum amount of care should be used when disposing of fireplace ashes.

**2:58 p.m.** Chairman Larkin returned.

Commissioner Jung asked if there was any educational outreach planned regarding the proper disposal of fireplace ashes. She stated the man responsible for the Washoe Valley fire said he had been disposing of his ashes the same way for 30 years. Chief Moore said the educational outreach needed to be ongoing to educate people moving into the area. Vice Chairperson Weber said that was a great suggestion. She suggested Chief Moore work with the Keeping the Truckee Meadows Beautiful organization because people tossing their cigarette was also an issue.

**12-60SF      AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Agenda Subject:** “Discussion and possible approval of a collective bargaining agreement between the Sierra Fire Protection District and the Sierra Fire Protection District Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 3895 for a two year term, and if approved, authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.

**3:01 p.m.** Chairman Larkin assumed the gavel.

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, said the staff report highlighted the key changes to the collective bargaining agreement (CBA). He noted a paragraph was added making it clear the Chief had the ultimate authority to staff based on what was required on a daily basis. He said the sunset of the flexible staffing was also removed. He stated staff believed the CBA stayed within the guidelines provided by the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) during the negotiation process.

Commissioner Breternitz stated from the beginning there was an understanding of the circumstances the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) was in, and he wanted to acknowledge the union for working with the BOFC in bringing the CBA to fruition.

In response to the call for public comment, Diane Rose said she was working with Aaron Kenneston, Emergency Management Administrator, and Tim Leighton, SFPD Battalion Chief, on a two-hour training session to be held at Galena High School on May 1, 2012. She stated the plan was to move the training around the County, which included the items being discussed. She thanked the SFPD firefighters for reaching an agreement on their contract under the leadership of Alex Kukulus, President of the

Sierra Firefighters. She said the firefighters created a sustainable situation by agreeing to three-man crews and reasonable labor costs.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be approved, authorized, and executed.

**12-61SF      AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible approval of a collective bargaining agreement between the Sierra Fire Protection District and the Sierra Fire Protection District Chief Officers Association for a two year term, and if approved, authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.**

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, stated staff believed this collective bargaining agreement (CBA) stayed within the parameters staff was given during the negotiation process by maintaining the Battalion Chiefs’ salaries at regional parity, affording them the same incentive program for the maintenance of the emergency medical technician (EMT) intermediate or paramedic certifications, and restoring the temporarily suspended uniform allowance. He said it also provided Chief Moore with the ability to move the Division Chiefs occasionally into the Battalion Chief positions to give him the maximum flexibility whenever needed. He said both the Firefighters and the Chief Officers Associations embraced the sustainable and flexible guidelines the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) gave staff, and they were to be commended for that.

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 approved, authorized, and executed.

**12-62SF      AGENDA ITEM 8**

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

Kurt Latipow, Fire Services Coordinator, said the implementation of the pieces of the Expanded Transition Plan that concerned the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) were on track.

12-63SF      **AGENDA ITEM 11**

**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.

12-64SF      **AGENDA ITEM 13**

**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.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

\*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*

**3:11 p.m.**      There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Jung, the meeting was adjourned without opposition.

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

**ATTEST:**

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

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