

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

MONDAY

1:30 P.M.

JUNE 15, 2015

CONCURRENT MEETING

PRESENT:

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

Jaime Dellera, Deputy County Clerk
John Slaughter, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 1:35 p.m. in special session with the Reno City Council and the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District/Sierra Fire Protection District in the Reno City Council Chamber, One East First Street, Reno, Nevada, with Chair Berkbigler presiding. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Deputy Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

15-0486 AGENDA ITEM 4 – Public Comment

On the call for public comment, William T. Steward stated he appreciated the City Council, County Commissioners and Fire Departments coming together to solve their differences and determine the best practices to serve the public. He hoped everyone could sift through information and details to do the right thing. He believed the discussions should center on the fire departments, but also include the Emergency Medical Services (EMS), police, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and University of Nevada Reno (UNR) as well to quantify a true public safety model.

Steven Perez stated he was a retired firefighter and had been actively involved in fire issues for the past six years. He discussed the history of the past fire agreement between the City of Reno and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) stating the reason it did not work was the City refused to put fire tax monies into a dedicated fire fund. Instead, the funds were put in the General Fund and as a result, those monies were spent on things that were not fire related. He said the City chose to close or brownout stations and, at that time, the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) ended up responding to and taking care of the City's citizens by providing paramedics

with no compensation. He said firefighting was supposed to be about the people they were tasked to protect, without regard for jurisdiction. He said we should be able to come up with a simplistic plan that would work for everyone no matter where they lived.

Jeff Church explained a Reno Ballot Measure Initiative passed in 1996 for additional firefighters and when it went into effect in 1998, Reno had approximately 226 firefighters and now there were only 204. He thought paying \$4 million in taxes for additional firefighters that they were not going to get was wrong. He said those taxes were going into the General Fund when the Somerset and Skyline fire stations had been closed 98 percent to 100 percent of the time, which put the public in danger. He noted under the present union contract for 4-man crews if one called in sick then the other three would not be allowed to stay at that station; they would be transferred to another station. The Somerset fire station was empty except for the apparatus, which meant the equipment would not be taken care of and would rust. He said this affected automatic aid because no one was there to provide aid to Verdi or the County areas when it was needed. He said the Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) Report indicated efficiency and effectiveness were sacrificed for local control.

Jerry Gamroth stated fire personnel and their families should not have to worry about how to pay for injuries, long-term care or if their retirement contributions were current. He said if he was a Reno resident, he would be concerned that no money was appropriated to train and certify paramedics and to equip their apparatus with Advanced Life Support (ALS). He said he knew most of the Council and Commissioners were newly elected and did not create the current financial sins, but County residents should also not be responsible for them. He thought regionalization was just a “buzz” word to cover up progress with regard to consolidation and he felt that was not right. He said the lack of transparency upset a lot of people and the fact that Sparks, Pyramid Lake and North Lake Tahoe were not present at the meetings was not a way to move ahead with the regional concept. He said spending more money on staff for a merge or consolidation was a waste of money and he hoped the Commissioners would protect their County taxpayers with respect to automatic aid.

Robert Parker provided a brief background of the Interlocal Agreement, by stating that in 2000 the TMFPD hired the SFPD to operate the TMFPD. TMFPD provided the rolling stock, fire engines, trucks, water tenders and fire stations and paid Reno to operate and maintain them. The contracts provided that the County would get back the equipment and the stations in good shape upon expiration; however, that was not the case. He said all of the rolling stock required major repairs and three of the fire engines were inoperable. Engine 18 in Cold Springs and Engine 13 in Silver Lake had tire cords sticking out of the tires and were leaking motor oil and transmission fluid; those were pieces of equipment that Reno was being paid to maintain. He said Engine 14 in Damonte Ranch continuously overheated and Brush Engine 14 had both front tires cut; and both engines had dead batteries. The Brush Engine and Engine 16 in Washoe Valley were four quarts low on oil and none of the fire extinguishers in the stations or on the fire trucks had been serviced for three years. He concluded the equipment the TMFPD got back could not initially be used to respond to emergencies and all six of the fire stations

were filthy and had damage. He said it was important to remember that each one of those stations had a Reno supervisor (Captain) on site and it was impossible to believe they did not know that was going on. He wondered why the TMFPD would want anything to be managed by Reno after discovering how all the equipment and stations had been managed. Mr. Parker provided a handout, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

Jaime Deller, Washoe County Deputy Clerk, explained Commissioner Lucey received an email from Debbie Sheltra who requested that it be read into the record. The email was placed on file with the Clerk.

Tom Motherway urged the Council and the Commissioners to take advantage of the legislative order regarding automatic aid. He thought that set a foundation in the statute, which could be improved upon, but he hesitated to discuss regionalization, joint power agreements or interlocal agreements until a couple of conditions could be met. He thought there should be a fire tax in the City of Reno allocated specifically for fire and EMS like there was for the County, so there would be assured funding all the way through. He also believed there should be an independently elected Fire Board across the whole region and said there should be union agreements to provide for flexible staffing. He urged the Council and the Commissioners to go ahead with automatic aid, because he felt that was important; however, he wanted them to keep regionalization as a vision with respect to his conditions.

15-0487 **AGENDA ITEM 5** – Presentation, discussion and possible direction to staff regarding an outline of the process to develop and automatic aid agreement including major components of automatic aid, cost, geographic areas and a timeline for implementation.

There was no public comment on this item.

David Cochran, Reno Fire Department Interim Chief, stated the Commissioners and Council met on May 26th to discuss regionalization and at that time, staff was directed to move forward with automatic aid and regionalization. Since that time, Senate Bill (SB) 185 had been passed by the Legislature, which mandated that the closest fire vehicle would respond to any brush or structure fire and the affected entities were to negotiate to reach an automatic aid agreement. He said those negotiations had already begun and the only entity exempt from those negotiations was the Airport Authority. He explained he had worked with the Reno City Manager to view the deal points and had met with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore and his staff to discuss the details.

Interim Chief Cochran went over his presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk, highlighting the automatic aid negotiation points. Those points included geographical limitations, analysis of career stations to determine where the closest vehicles were, resource availability, service levels, training, service commitments and reimbursement. He noted that the service levels would not be “like for like” as Reno staffed their vehicles with 4-man crews and the TMFPD staffed their equipment with 3-

man crews. He believed training was going to be an issue. He said they would have to identify areas of skill level, service delivery and where improvement needed to happen on both sides. He believed the training was an opportunity which could be learned jointly and effectively. He said service commitments were critical when a host agency would be obligated to send sufficient resources to relieve the agency providing aid. He said it was not clear if they needed a mechanism for reimbursement at this time, but it was one of the mandated negotiation points within SB 185. He said dispatch was not a deal point, but should be considered as a mechanism to be considered.

Interim Chief Cochran said the next step in the process was where to go from here and what would be the time period for implementation of the automatic aid agreement. The law goes into effect October 1, 2015; therefore, he said they intended to have several meetings in the weeks to come. He thought the next step would be to identify those deal points that everyone agreed upon and then look at the deal points that needed to be negotiated.

Paul McKenzie, Reno City Councilmember, asked if Reno or the County had reached out to Sparks since they were also involved in SB 185. Interim Chief Cochran responded they had not reached out to Sparks. Councilmember McKenzie stated he was aware Reno had an agreement with Sparks for one particular area and the County also had an aid agreement with Sparks, but he thought those would likely change under the provisions of SB 185 based upon which station was closest to respond.

Councilmember McKenzie stated the Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) Report contained a section which indicated staffing did not comply with national consensus standards NFPA 1710. He asked for an explanation of NFPA 1710. Interim Chief Cochran stated that was the standard for service delivery with four people per apparatus and he noted Reno complied with that standard.

Chair Berkgigler asked Interim Chief Cochran if he had a sense of how long it would take the Chiefs to come up with a consensus to bring back to the Council and the Commissioners. Interim Chief Cochran stated, in the interest of being consistent, he thought 60 to 90 days would be realistic.

Commissioner Jung questioned the resource availability issue and wondered if they had to prove that resources were not available or if that was something that could be fabricated. Interim Chief Cochran stated he did not think it could be fabricated because all of those resources were tracked. He said some apparatuses may be out of service due to mechanical reasons. Commissioner Jung asked if the City of Reno had an automatic aid agreement with the City of Sparks. Interim Chief Cochran stated they did. Commissioner Jung asked if Sparks had to reimburse Reno, because they only had 3-man crews. Interim Chief Cochran stated he would not characterize the agreement as like-for-like because it was more like an exchange of services, but it was an important point that needed to be addressed. Commissioner Jung stated she wanted the County to be treated as fairly as Sparks was being treated and she would like the Chiefs to pursue all kinds of options.

Commissioner Jung questioned the joint training that law enforcement did, which involved lots of different agencies. Interim Chief Cochran stated they did that for 12 years and on occasion they still had joint drills particularly with the regional teams like Hazmat. The training exercises stopped due to budget constraints and the inability to commit resources out of district. Commissioner Jung asked why the new recruits weren't trained together at one regionalized location. Interim Chief Cochran explained that the entities hired at different times. Commissioner Jung said she understood that, but other entities had one regional place and time for training. Interim Chief Cochran stated there were division academies but Reno had not hired anyone for eight years. Commissioner Jung asked if that could be worked toward in the future and Interim Chief Cochran said it could.

Commissioner Jung asked the Interim Chief to look at reimbursement to see if data was ever tracked during the consolidation agreement and how much money was exchanged for automatic aid. Interim Chief Cochran stated at that time they were essentially one department and there wasn't anything to track because there was no such thing as automatic aid. He said since all the apparatus was owned by one entity, there was just one dispatch and they sent whatever was available and closest. Commissioner Jung felt it was going to come to reimbursement and a cash exchange before they could look at anything such as regionalization, and she wanted that reimbursement policy to be agreed upon in a contract. She noted the deconsolidation exposed a lot of new expenses and was one of the main reasons why the deconsolidation occurred. She said the 4-man crew versus the 3-man crew was not the reason for the deconsolidation, but was a method for union-busting. She wanted to keep the transition clean and data-driven.

Chair Berkbigler asked legal counsel to remind the Commissioners that there was still litigation pending between the County and the City of Reno. Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, stated the litigation referred to was the complaint the City of Reno filed against the TMFPD and there was still more action to be taken, which could include counter-claims about the City's performance under the contract. He stated talking about those things at this level among the members of the governing bodies could potentially be disruptive to the litigation. While he understood Commissioner Jung's interest in learning from past experiences and not wanting to repeat mistakes, he would urge the Commissioners to avoid discussions about performances and the issues from the contract until the litigation could be resolved.

Commissioner Jung discussed tracking data and asked about automatic aid to the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD). She wondered if she could get a report on that data as well. Interim Chief Cochran stated he could get data from when they were consolidated in the past. Commissioner Jung stated she believed that information needed to be part of the decision making process as well.

Commissioner Hartung asked the Interim Chief if they might be better off to establish an escrow account and employ a third party to manage reimbursement requests. He questioned if that would satisfy Reno's side of the table. He understood the

City Council would have to decide but that way it would take the entities out of the loop. He noted there needed to be prearranged ground rules. Interim Chief Cochran stated if the entities decided to establish an escrow account, that would cause different negotiation points, such as how much money would be put into it, how it would be maintained, and who would draw out the funds. If they decided to do a grace period as he mentioned earlier and found they needed an escrow account, the discussions regarding who was in what area and how many times, might show it was close enough to call it a wash. He suggested they determine if there were any issues and work toward solutions like that. Commissioner Hartung said the only reason he suggested an escrow account was it sometimes put people at ease because a third party was managing the funds. After 60 days, or so, it could be determined to either keep funding those escrow accounts or dissolve them.

Commissioner Hartung stated there must have been some type of automatic aid agreement prior to the contractual arrangement with the City of Reno and wondered if that agreement could be reviewed to see what could be gained from the original language. Interim Chief Cochran stated he anticipated that would be done and would be one of the factors they would consider during negotiations. Commissioner Hartung asked about NFPA 1710 and if it was mandatory or a standard to have 4-man crews. Interim Chief Cochran replied it was a standard, but not mandatory. Commissioner Hartung wondered if the Interim Chief agreed that 4-man crews were always needed. Interim Chief Cochran responded he did believe that 4-man crews were needed, but thought 5-man crews were better than 4-man crews and so on. Commissioner Hartung stated Reno had 2-man rescue teams. Interim Chief Cochran confirmed those were for medical responses. He stated a 2-man crew rescue would never respond first to a fire because they carried no water. Commissioner Hartung stated his point was that rescue teams responded to medical incidents. He said Spanish Springs had an automatic aid agreement with the City of Sparks and it worked seamlessly every day. Interim Chief Cochran stated the SB 185 agreement that was being negotiated was specifically directed at fire responses and that was what they were working towards.

Andrew Clinger, City of Reno Manager, stated the automatic aid agreement with the City of Sparks was not really comparable because the City of Reno was part owner in the fire station with the City of Sparks. He felt that agreement was not one to model other agreements on because it was based on unique circumstances.

Jenny Brekhus, Reno City Councilwoman, stated there were comments made about lock-boxing as a part of the City of Reno's General Fund for fire operations. She said the tradition of funding fire services had urban components from the beginning. She said there were stories about the great fires in downtown Reno when the population in the unincorporated County was comparatively small. She stated as the population grew the unincorporated County did not stand up fire departments to the degree that Reno did. Cities and counties had certain bases, foundations and tax structures and when counties decided to get into the municipal land development patterns and services; they had to search for other resources. As the analysis was done to determine where Reno was required to serve automatic aid, she wondered how much focus would be given to

undeveloped land areas. She thought we were in a growing boom. She was mostly concerned about the development called Sierra Reflections, because the County decided to send the sewer treatment lines to 938 units. She asked Interim Chief Cochran if he had looked at that to see if that would be an automatic aid service area.

Interim Chief Cochran stated they had been headed in that direction before SB 185 passed, but the SB 185 mandate was to respond to all fires; structure and brush. So the buildout would enhance the exposure, but it would not change the automatic aid response because it was based on the closest engine to wherever a fire was in the service areas. Councilmember Brekhus asked if Reno was closest to the Sierra Reflections development. Interim Chief Cochran stated depending on how the roads were built, Station 12 might be closest. Councilmember Brekhus said so under SB 185, Reno could be closest before Damonte Ranch which she thought that would be leap-frog sprawl development. She said that was her biggest concern about SB 185.

Neoma Jardon, Reno City Councilmember, asked why the City of Sparks was not present at this meeting. She said the minutes from the last joint meeting indicated staff would seek feedback from the City of Sparks during the process with regard to their automatic aid agreement and financial statistics and that was to specifically provide a framework. She understood the demographics could be different but she thought a renewal of existing strengths and weaknesses in their existing automatic aid agreement might aid their efforts. Interim Chief Cochran said they sought and received a copy of their agreement. He said they were reviewing that agreement as part of the negotiations to see what worked and what was not working to model their agreement with TMFPD after. Based on his reading of the agreement, he was not involved in the negotiations so he did not want to say what their goal was but after looking at their agreement, it was not necessarily modeled on the mandate of SB 185. He said he thought their agreement also included the EMS response. Councilmember Jardon stated she could understand the factors in the automatic aid agreement may be quite different due to the law that was just passed, but she was specifically interested in looking at how one agency responded to the other and where the differences were. Interim Chief Cochran stated they had a reimbursement mechanism built in and it was his understanding that they had not utilized it in either direction. He said they had that mechanism along with a rate schedule, but they did not have call statistics. Councilmember Jardon stated that was what she was most interested in. She thought in anticipation of SB 185 passing, they had decided to invite everyone and if they chose to not participate that was their choice. What she thought she heard today was that Sparks had not been invited. Interim Chief Cochran stated he believed that discussion happened, but in terms of a motion and direction to staff he did not believe that happened.

Commissioner Lucey said the closest stations to the Sierra Reflections development were TMFPD stations. He said there were a number of TMFPD stations that would reach a call before Reno Station 12 would be called.

Charles Moore, TMFPD Fire Chief, stated he was tasked with discussing the major components of automatic aid, the costs, the geographic areas to be covered and

a timeline for implementation. He said there were automatic aid agreements in place prior to the contract for service Reno had with the TMFPD 12 years ago. He noted that until July 1, 2012 there was an automatic aid agreement with Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) and the City of Reno, particularly for the area of Boomtown, but those agreements were cancelled. He said that SB 185 set forth the ceiling for structure and brush fires and nothing more. Although, nothing in the bill prohibited the Council or the Board from considering going beyond that, they were required to respond with the closest unit to structure and brush fires. He asked their Geographical Information System Department (GISD) to conduct some assumptions and illustrate how to go about the process. He reviewed a map depicting a layout of the areas around Station 11 and Station 35. He said the TMFPD Station 35 would be the closest to areas in the City and Reno's Station 11 was closest to its jurisdiction. He showed areas where firetrucks leaving their respective stations at the same time would meet. He noted the colors on the map illustrated an eight-minute response area. He stated there might be some fire stations closer to a property; however, they might not get there faster because of the way the road was networked. It seemed logical to him to use time as the benchmark.

Chief Moore reviewed a slide depicting Stations 6 and 37 in Hidden Valley. Engine 37 would be able to service Reno and Engine 6 might be closer to portions of the TMFPD jurisdiction. He next reviewed the slide showing Stations 9 and 13. He said Station 13 was in Stead and Engine 9 was located by the Stead Airport. He said Engine 9 could also help them in the Lemmon Valley area and the TMFPD could help Reno in a substantial way in lower Stead and up and down the Highway 395 corridor. The methodology would be to look at each and every one of their stations to determine if the TMFPD could get to Reno faster or if Reno could get to the TMFPD jurisdiction faster. Once those areas were identified they would move on to the next process, which was called a Unit Resource Management (URM), formerly referred to as a Fire Response Zone. They would draw a line around the areas where the TMFPD would respond for Reno and where Reno would respond for the TMFPD and then build an address database for the dispatchers. He said when there was a structure fire reported and Reno was on one side and the TMFPD was on the other side, the dispatchers would "clone" the call.

Chief Moore stated SB 185 did not indicate there were areas of exclusion and the closest engine must respond regardless of what was negotiated and the process of dispatching would have to be built manually. He talked about the Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL) and getting dispatch to a point where that would become a simple process. He displayed a screen shot from his mobile data terminal (MDT) that allowed him and the dispatchers to see the position of every firetruck and every police vehicle even as they were moving. He showed an example of Engine 13 outside of its Station, Engine 9 in quarters, Engine 10 in quarters and Engine 15 out on a call. He said one of the problems with the manual system was what if the TMFPD's Engine 13 was out on a call and there happened to be a structure fire very near that station. The AVL would allow the dispatcher to send the closest fire engines to whatever emergency there was. He said in fact the jurisdictional boundaries would drop and the dispatcher only would need to see what the CAD software recommended and simply dispatch the proper resource. He

noted it would take about three to four weeks to build the GIS maps, another 3 weeks to build the URM and a couple weeks to test the system. He said it was not going to be difficult but it would be a little heavy for staff to get it all done and make sure it worked.

Chief Moore it seemed most costs were already embedded into the budget and the firefighters would be paid whether or not they were responding to a call or if they were in quarters. There could be some other costs with damage to equipment and he agreed with Interim Chief Cochran to see what the experience would be after a year. He said October 1st would come quickly and he would like to have the system set up and running and measure the costs component later.

Mayor Schieve asked what Chief Moore thought the AVL would cost. Chief Moore said we would not know if that software was already embedded within the Tiburon upgrade or if we would have to buy additional models. Mayor Schieve asked how long that software had been around. Chief Moore said Tiburon had been used by both agencies for a number of years and just within the last few months it had been upgraded. Mayor Schieve said from the research she did, most entities were using it and she could not imagine there was anyone on the Board that would disagree that the AVL would be extremely beneficial. Chief Moore concurred and said it would also allow the Board and Council the ability to add cardiac arrest and other types of calls. He said that was really the gold standard in serving the citizens. Mayor Schieve wondered if that had ever been proposed in the past. Chief Moore stated it was discussed at the Committee level when Tiburon was being discussed, but it was decided not to opt for that. He said 100 percent of the TMFPD Engines were equipped with GPS that were tied to their MDTs, which always sent a signal to dispatch. He said he left his MDT on all the time. Mayor Schieve said it seemed to be such a small thing to implement to save a lot of lives.

David Bobzien, City of Reno Councilmember, thanked Chief Moore for presenting the maps; however, he did not understand how the automatic aid agreement would progress in terms of how it was built out from those maps. He asked Chief Moore if he would build all the street addresses into dispatch so we would know who would roll where. He said SB 185 contained language to be specific in the agreement about geography and he wondered if the maps were for the areas needed for the automatic aid agreement or were there other areas to focus on. Chief Moore stated the maps he presented were only an example. Councilmember Bobzien said it was certainly helpful to have the maps laid out. He asked if the response time of eight minutes was in the middle of the night or 8:00 p.m. on a Friday evening. Chief Moore stated he picked eight minutes simply because they wanted to get to 90 percent of their calls within eight minutes. He said some of those areas, particularly in Lemmon Valley, Engine 9 might need 10 or 12 minutes because it was a little more rural. He said eight minutes was picked arbitrarily so they could get a time delta between the time at the station to the time of arrival. Councilmember Bobzien stated he was not trying to pick apart the eight-minute time itself, but wondered about traffic at different times of the day. Chief Moore responded they factored in speed limits, but did not factor in traffic or time of day.

Councilmember Bobzien said when he looked at the maps he wondered about some of the other areas such as Lemmon Valley to the east and he assumed that was coverage that was provided by the volunteers. He asked if we needed to be looking at what the Reno response time would be to some of those areas that were further out. Chief Moore stated there were a number of data points that would fall into that category and certainly Reno might have to respond on farther road miles, but TMFPD might have to respond more frequently.

Naomi Duerr, Reno City Councilmember, stated her focus was on dispatch and she wondered how that worked. Chief Moore stated Reno and TMFPD were on the same CAD system. He stated Sparks would be the last municipality to get the Tiburon upgrade. Councilmember Duerr asked when the entities parted, was dispatch also separated. Chief Moore said that was correct. Councilmember Duerr said we still have the same radio-band and Tiburon system, but she wondered if there was a systemic problem with the agreement because it came up over and over that one of the challenges was that we were on different systems and it was hard to dispatch the closest trucks. She wondered if we called for automatic aid on the radios. Chief Moore stated the dispatcher would see on the screen when the City could provide aid to us, and when we could provide aid to the City. Councilmember Duerr asked if the MDT was in everyone's vehicle or just his. Chief Moore said it was in every truck and engine as well as all the chiefs' and deputies' vehicles. Councilmember Duerr asked if that was just for TMFPD trucks. Chief Moore said no, but he thought Reno had this because he could see Reno Engines, but he did not know if the City equipped 100 percent of their equipment, but he knew there was the capability. Interim Chief Cochran stated Reno had a similar system but it was not in all their apparatus. He said the budget was augmented and they were in the process of purchasing them in the future. Councilmember Duerr said Chief Moore said he could see police and she asked if Reno could see police. Interim Chief Cochran said he believed Reno could.

Councilmember Brekhus said looking at the map where Station 9 and Station 13 were shown; she said it looked like the TMFPD Station 13 was now the first responder in that area for fires. She said Amazon was located there, which was a specialized building with a lot of inventory and she wondered how Engine 13 would respond to those rather complicated structures. Chief Moore said it would respond exactly like an Engine from Reno would. The job of the first arriving engine was to size-up the situation. He said if they could get there three or five minutes faster, the arriving crew would first determine if there was a fire or not. He said they had many reports of fires that were not bona fide. In a large building they would depend on sprinkler systems as the number one way the fire would be put out, but size-up was absolutely critical and to get it early. The crew would ascertain how much of the building was involved, if the sprinklers were flowing and then the first responder would hit the hydrant and start pumping the fire protection system or they may take some interior operations if they were able to do that. He said if it was a bad situation they could let the City know and they could bring more help. Councilmember Brekhus said she understood that they could start suppression, but what if the property owner did not see a ladder truck responding and wanted to opt out of the first responder. She questioned if the owner could say they only

wanted the City to respond. Chief Moore said that did not seem to meet the intent of the law, but nevertheless, the ladder trucks and full complement would be coming. The law would just add TMFPD to the fire because they were closer and he thought that was the only thing that would really change. He said it would work both ways.

Councilmember McKenzie referred back to the map and said he appreciated the work put in to figure out the eight-minute zones but he saw some areas within eight minutes of Station 13, but was probably within 5 minutes of Station 10. He assumed they had to consider all the stations in the area instead of just a couple of them. Chief Moore said that was correct. Councilmember McKenzie said it concerned him to use an eight minute standard when another station outside of that covered area could get there faster. He thought we needed a true run time, not estimations. He said there were times when Station 35 could get to an area quicker with traffic than Station 11, but there were other times when Station 11 could get there faster due to the freeway entrance. Chief Moore said it would be helpful to not emphasize the eight minute response time but to look at areas where a station could arrive the soonest. He reiterated that the eight minute response time was used arbitrarily.

Councilmember McKenzie next discussed the dispatch issue and asked if Chief Moore could see REMSA from the MDT in his vehicle. Chief Moore said he could not see REMSA. Councilmember McKenzie asked why we could not see REMSA if they were part of the response network. Chief Moore said that was a good point and he thought that was part of regional dispatch that would be critical to have on the long-term so everyone could see everyone.

Mayor Schieve said she was curious if both Chiefs worked on the mapping together. Chief Moore said no, but he discussed the methodology with Interim Chief Cochran. He explained he simply asked his GIS Department to create a map with the following assumptions: show the areas where a TMFPD engine would arrive first for the City and where a City engine would arrive first for the TMFPD; and, draw the district's and the City's borders. He noted the mapping was just intended to be an illustration, but it showed the Board and Council how the URM's would be built. He noted when they got into it deeper they would use this methodology to figure out which addresses should reside within the automatic aid zone. Mayor Schieve said she imagined the Chiefs were on the same page and working on the plans. Interim Chief Cochran said Chief Moore identified an area that needed to be discussed along with the methodology, the data points, and the time and distance for response. He agreed with putting an engine on the road to factually determine the response time and the eight minute response zone did not necessarily define who was closest; it was a tool for the negotiating table but it was not the end point.

Commissioner Jung stated for the record that the franchise agreement with REMSA required them to provide AVL locations when they reached the CAD connections.

Commissioner Lucey said he did a little research on NFPA but did not know if that allowed the use of two in, one out, when there were life threatening issues happening. Chief Moore stated when there was bona fide information that someone was trapped inside a structure they could enter with three people. He said there had been an incident where that was the case and they entered with three, rescued the individual and proceeded to extinguish the rest of the fire. He said there was an additional benefit with the 3-man crew because they used paramedics who could deliver an effective drug to reduce the carbon monoxide in a person's blood.

Commissioner Lucey asked if all commercial buildings within the City of Sparks over 10,000 square feet required fire suppression systems. Chief Moore said yes, which happened with the latest Code update about a year ago. Commissioner Lucey asked how extensive the fire suppression systems were. Chief Moore said they had to be engineered and that was based on what was in the building. If the building contained high fire material, the density of the sprinkler heads would be engineered to increase the amount of water.

Commissioner Lucey asked Interim Chief Cochran if Station 9 and Station 10 had ladder trucks. Interim Chief Cochran stated they did not, but Station 1 did. Commissioner Lucey said if they were in need of a ladder truck from the stations in the North Valleys they would have to call Station 1. Interim Chief Cochran said a first alarm response included a ladder truck regardless of where it was. He said Station 1 or Station 3 sent three engines, a truck and a rescue unit, so a six-man crew would be dispatched.

Mayor Schieve said if AVL was required in the REMSA franchise agreement, why was it not being implemented. Jim Gubbels, President of REMSA, said the current re-instated franchise agreement provided for a CAD-to-CAD linkage and to do AVL with the 9-1-1 centers. REMSA's dispatch center was already upgraded and they were waiting for the upgrade for Tiburon at the other two centers to be able to do it. Reno was the closest to being completed right now and once that was completed, they could go ahead and initiate the CAD-to-CAD linkage, which would connect the dispatchers and then they could move with the AVL component at the same time. When Sparks came on board, they could take the same interface (Tiburon) and do a replicate interconnect to the City of Sparks. Mayor Schieve confirmed REMSA was with Tiburon and Mr. Gubbels replied they were on Tri-Tech, who purchased Tiburon. Mayor Schieve asked if they would both be able to read one another. Mr. Gubbels stated that was correct. Mayor Schieve asked how long ago that was put in the contract. Mr. Gubbels said July 1, 2014 and at that time, Reno's new CAD was supposed to be up, but it took longer to get the new Tiburon CAD installed.

Mayor Schieve asked Chief Moore if the City of Reno residents paid a tax to the County for dispatch. Chief Moore said they did not. The City paid for their dispatch component and he thought nothing came from Reno to TMFPD, but TMFPD paid the Sheriff and the Sheriff paid the City of Reno.

Councilmember McKenzie stated he had questions regarding fire protection taxes that a County resident paid versus what a Reno resident paid. He believed as a City resident, he would make the same payment for Sheriff coverage, dispatch coverage, district attorney coverage and for any other type of coverage that was provided to the unincorporated County, because zero dollars of that base tax went to the City. Chief Moore said he did not think so. Councilmember McKenzie said the tax tables showed he was correct and every person in the City of Reno paid the same taxes to the County as every other person who lived in the unincorporated area for TMFPD & SFPD protection.

Andrew Clinger, City Manager, said Councilmember McKenzie was correct. He said the tax base for the County applied to all the County residents, both unincorporated and incorporated and he thought that was Councilmember McKenzie's point. He said if you were a City resident you would also pay the basic operating tax for the County. He noted the exception was the fire tax, which only applied to the Districts which were located outside the incorporated areas of the City.

Commissioner Berkbigler said she concurred; however, that had nothing to do with the subject on today's agenda, which was how to provide the best overall safety to the citizens. She wanted to point out that Chief Moore prepared the maps as a diagram so the Council and Board could get an idea of the areas. The maps were not set in stone; they were only examples of how it could go. The truth was it could go the opposite direction; it would depend on what the two Chiefs came up with and brought back to the Board. She stated the Commissioners did not just represent the unincorporated County they also represented the City of Reno and Sparks residents. She and the Mayor concurred they needed to turn this over to the safety specialists and let them tell the Board and Council what they needed. She said her main concern was about dispatch and if they had to expend extra dollars to make sure dispatch was up and running quickly, there needed to be a comprehensive and clear automatic agreement.

Councilmember Bobzien said the reimbursement component was part of the new law and it was important to look at it closely. He noted the maps were a work in progress and he did not know if this needed to be as complicated as establishing an escrow account, but he wanted to make sure it was clear, transparent, understandable and workable. Interim Chief Cochran said Councilmember Bobzien identified a lot of the issues they needed to look at and his suggestion earlier about a grace period was more intended as something to discuss and not necessarily to be a concrete part of the negotiated automatic aid arrangement. He said they could model the Sparks/TMFPD agreement whereby that was already built in. He thought we needed to get the Chiefs and the City and County Managers involved to make sure the arrangements were workable. We don't want to get down the road and find out it wasn't working.

Mr. Clinger stated staff for the City of Reno was looking to the Council for any changes, deletions or corrections to the principles in the agreement moving forward. Interim Chief Cochran said that was an excellent point, not trying to reach an agreement here in Chambers, but to direct staff.

Commissioner Berkbigler asked Chief Moore what the mutual aid payment agreement was with the City of Sparks. Chief Moore stated they had not really exchanged any money. In the mutual aid agreement they had a 12-hour threshold, so if there was an extraordinary operational period for a large fire that Sparks would be reimbursed for, they would be reimbursed for any extra hours until the incident was concluded.

Neoma Jardon, City of Reno Councilwoman, discussed the importance of including Sparks' Chief and Sparks' Council at future joint meetings and she did not believe it was anyone's intent to not include them in the meeting today. She did not think there was any value looking back, particularly with things that were not statistical in nature. She said they needed statistics, facts and history, and not emotional history.

Councilmember Duerr stated she wanted to know how quickly the AVLs could get done and what the cost would be. She would like to come to the next meeting and hear the costs to equip all the vehicles, and where that money would come from. She thought we needed to be moving forward with specific objectives and they would have some concrete answers and not so many questions. She concurred Sparks was not left out of the legislation and they needed to be part of the future meetings. She thought if the automatic aid agreement with Sparks could be improved upon during this process, it should be done with all entities in the room.

Councilmember Brekhus reiterated her concerns with timing development in the region with fire services in mind. She said she wanted to make sure Reno residents were receiving the same level of service from the TMFPD that the Reno Fire Department gave. She stated she was not too concerned about the Sparks issue. She said they did not have this conflict because their boundary issues had not been that distinctive.

Councilmember McKenzie moved to direct staff to proceed with the negotiating points presented by Interim Chief Cochran for the development of an automatic aid agreement and that we reach out to Sparks elected officials and ask them to participate going. Councilmember Duerr seconded the motion.

Councilmember Bobzien stated he thought as the community was taking off again in terms of the economy and growth, there needed to be a lot of discussion and consideration of the geography and that it was not just the three maps presented, but the entire region.

Mayor Schieve added other entities like North Lake Tahoe should be included in the motion. Councilmember McKenzie stated he did not think we had anything close to North Lake Tahoe, but he believed that the bill addressed every fire agency within the County so he said involving every fire agency in these negotiations was important. Chair Berkbigler stated she doubted the City of Reno had anything near North Lake Tahoe to respond but that was not the point of SB 185. The point of SB 185 was that every fire department in Washoe County be included, so she thought if we were

going to ask all fire departments to participate, North Lake Tahoe should be included. Councilmember McKenzie agreed to amend his motion.

In response to the call for public comment, Cliff Lowe stated SB 185 brought everyone together now but would sunset in 2017. He noted the unincorporated County had approximately 25 percent of the population, Reno had 50 percent and Sparks had 25 percent. He said the reason for this meeting was not because of automatic aid, but was about consolidation and regionalization. He said the reason Sparks had not come to the meetings was because the County did not want regionalization with Sparks and he was not sure Reno wanted it. He asked if the Reno City Council would embrace the provisions of SB 185 without regionalization and consolidation. He also asked if Reno would go beyond the provisions of SB 185 or be dragged kicking and screaming to fulfill SB 185's provisions. As the unincorporated area had recognized, getting an apparatus to the scene quickly was critical. Would Reno accept that and would they accept there might be times an apparatus that's not in their jurisdiction could get there faster. If Reno could not embrace that, then they would be doing their constituents a disservice. He asked the Council and Board to take the time to make it happen.

Stephen Perez stated the Legislature put a target on the wall and everyone was to throw a dart at it until they came up with a plan that would work for both jurisdictions. He said it seemed like the number one priority was being reimbursed, but it appeared it could not be calculated. He noted in 35 years of being in fire service, the greatest innovation he experienced was paramedics. If you ask someone lying on the floor who had a heart attack if they wanted four people who were paramedics who could save their life, or four firefighters, they would tell you they wanted the paramedics. They did not care how many men were on an Engine or where it came from; they just wanted their life saved. He was really upset that EMS calls were not part of automatic aid, because he thought that was what automatic aid was. Saving lives was what people expected of a fire department. The Council's direction to the Chiefs was to figure out a way to put an additional piece of equipment on a fire scene a couple of minutes faster, which would only be about 10 percent of the calls. What happened to the other 90 percent of people who could possibly be dying? The rigs and manpower were paid for, but it was the cost of doing business of having a fire department. It did not cost anyone anymore other than a little bit of gas to put that piece of equipment on the road to save a life or get it to the fire quicker.

Mike Pilcher, Reno Fire Department, stated he wanted to clarify the percentage of calls. He said 100 percent of their calls could be considered as EMS because people were who and what they protected all of the time. Rescues from ponds, or being cut out of vehicles, or brought out of burning buildings, they all required safety for people. They had over 40,000 calls a year and what they did was one of the most dangerous professions there was. He said firefighter safety should be paramount and following standards would ensure that. He said we were a nation of standards, whether that was for aviation, medicine, transportation, or buildings. He said the fire stations were built to NFPA standards, their equipment met standards, the tools they used and the fire

engines had to be up to NFPA standards. He could not believe that anyone would consider using sub-standards when referring to manpower. There was case law that NFPA 1710 could be introduced for civil liability, so he would not discount the importance of standards in this Country. He said commercial and residential build-out was not perfect, due to topography challenges such as ravines, slopes, rivers, and mountains. He noted annexation and growth had always caused pockets of County here, and pockets of City there. Those issues were addressed 20 years ago and as things happened and bumped up against other jurisdictions, the question was, what should we do? We could not change Washoe County boundary lines, but as City limits and jurisdictions from fire protection districts grew, they could change the fire station district responses. He noted this had been done before and could be done again, but safety of the firefighters should be paramount.

Tom Dunn, Vice President Reno Firefighters Association, stated there was a lot of talk about NFPA 1710 and he read a portion of the definition. He noted the purpose of the standard was to specify the minimum criteria addressing the effectiveness and efficiency of the career public fire suppression operations, EMS and special operations delivery in protecting the citizens of a jurisdiction and the occupational safety and health of the fire department employees. Section 5.23 stated engine companies shall be staffed with a minimum of four on-duty personnel and truck companies shall be staffed with a minimum of four on-duty personnel. In jurisdictions with tactical hazards, high-hazard occupancies, high-incident frequencies, geographical restrictions or other pertinent factors identified by the authority having jurisdiction, they should be staffed with a minimum of five on-duty personnel. When you look at the risks in our community, whether that was high-rise buildings, high-rise residential, universities, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, or airports, there was a minimum standard to do business for the safety and occupational health of the firefighters and the public. He further added, Section 5.2 talked about high-median and low-hazard occupancies. Firefighters who responded to high-median or low-hazard occupancies that presented hazards greater than the low hazard described in 5.24.22 shall deploy additional resources. The argument about 4-person staffing or 3-person staffing was based on a standard and that standard had been maintained by Reno since 1977 and that was based on the risks in the community, the risks of the job and more importantly the hazards this fire department protected every day.

On the call for the vote for the Reno City Council, the vote was 5-0 with Councilmember Brekhus and Councilmember Delgado absent.

Commissioner Lucey asked Chief Moore if he was in agreement with the negotiating points submitted by Interim Chief Cochran. Chief Moore responded he was.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Herman absent, it was ordered that in addition to the questions she asked of both Chiefs regarding data, she moved to direct staff to begin to work to develop the components of the automatic aid agreement.

15-0488 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Presentation (by Washoe County Sheriff's Office), discussion and possible direction to staff regarding regional dispatch.

John Spencer, Washoe County Undersheriff, stated there was an association between the fire departments and law enforcement, and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office was the regional dispatch provider for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), Gerlach volunteers, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD), and the ambulance on the Pyramid Lake Tribal. Undersheriff Spencer stated the purpose of their involvement was to ensure the improvement of the dispatch situation, which was co-located in the same room and using the same equipment benefited them. He said they were still two separate entities that once brought together would benefit the community.

Undersheriff Spencer mentioned the City of Reno and the County were in the testing process with the Tiburon upgrade, which had caused failures forcing them to work with manual cards. He felt thankful they had started on the manual card system, and how they were always prepared for technical issues. He mentioned automatic aid situations between NLTFPD and North Tahoe in California, and between the TMFPD and the Sparks Fire Department. He felt that they were fully capable of working through whatever was necessary in providing automatic aid. He mentioned the technology associated with the Automatic Vehicle Locate system and once installed in all fire apparatuses and law enforcement vehicles would benefit the community and satisfy SB 185, which focused on ensuring the quickest fire response to the scene. He stated quick responses all started with the receipt and dispatch of the service.

Undersheriff Spencer stated he appeared before the Board regarding the audit involving a 1990 agreement, which referred to trade between the City of Reno and Washoe County for crime lab services. He mentioned the Sheriff's Office was given six months by the Board to work towards a regionalized dispatch concept. He said they had meetings with the City of Reno Director of Finance and Administration, Robert Chisel, and the City of Reno Human Resources Director, Kelly Leerman, to determine employee structure. Undersheriff Spencer mentioned the audit listed various entities in South Carolina, California and Washington, which did similar things they could learn from. He stated some of those entities had private ambulance franchises operating in their public safety system, which was similar to our region with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) component.

Undersheriff Spencer stated automatic aid with the Sparks Fire Department was automatically programmed into certain geographic areas, and units were dispatched simultaneously without delay. He stated he wanted to assure the Board that the Sheriff's Office was willing to work with anyone involved.

Chair Berkgigler thanked Undersheriff Spencer for his report and asked him about the regionalization timeframe. Undersheriff Spencer stated after having conversations with Director Chisel, they were probably six weeks out before they could come back before the Board. He mentioned Councilmember Duerr asked about issues

related to the costs involved for AVL, and explained he did not know which apparatuses did or did not have it. He stated they needed to obtain more information to be able to report what the projected cost and timeline would be. He explained the current technology in the Sheriff's Department patrol cars required them to keep the vehicle idle for a long time so the system would not go off since it took a while for the system to come back on.

Chair Berkbigler asked John Slaughter, County Manager, to clarify how the TMFPD received its funding for dispatch services. Manager Slaughter stated his understanding of the question was whether the TMFPD was being subsidized by County and City residents through property taxes. He stated the County's base tax rate was \$1.39 per \$1,000 of assessed value, and the TMFPD was \$0.54 per \$1,000. TMFPD had various agreements with the Sheriff's Office for dispatch, and on an annual basis was paying close to \$560,000 from their revenue to the Sheriff's Office for dispatch services. He concluded there was no additional subsidization from County and City residents to residents in the TMFPD jurisdiction.

Mayor Schieve asked Director Chisel to clarify the steps for regionalization of dispatch services. Director Chisel mentioned how the Sheriff's Office and the City of Reno had discussions in the past regarding how dispatch should be operated. He stated several years ago the City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County had a Shared Services Subcommittee that directed the parties to consolidate dispatch; however, it was decided at the time to seek a co-location. He provided a historical account of how the City of Reno, at one time, did all the dispatch for the region except for the City of Sparks, and how Washoe County handled the dispatch for Incline Village. Over the years the dispatch service evolved to where Washoe County provided dispatch services for various surrounding areas, and the City of Reno only provided dispatch services for the City of Reno, the University of Nevada Reno and the Truckee Meadows Community College. He stated the dispatch service for the City of Reno and Washoe County were currently co-located and using the same equipment. Director Chisel stated the two biggest hurdles were how we would handle governance and personnel for consolidation of dispatch services. He indicated the technology portion was the easy part since we were already there and working on it.

Councilmember Duerr asked what the hang up was on governance and personnel decisions. Director Chisel mentioned the issue for personnel was the difference with the pay scale, benefits and longevity. He explained how health insurance benefits were fairly comparable. He stated the City of Reno was six dispatchers short, and emphasized how difficult it was to recruit, retain and train dispatchers. He mentioned the dispatcher position was not a position they wanted to take lightly and they wanted to ensure they were well taken care of as they were an important and integral part of public safety.

Councilmember Duerr asked Director Chisel if there was joint training for the City of Reno and Washoe County dispatchers, which he replied there was on-the-job training for the dispatchers in the same facility. Councilmember Duerr indicated through

her own experience, related to joint arrangement training, she wanted to challenge Director Chisel and others involved to think about how to train the dispatchers as a pool of employees. Director Chisel replied he would hesitate for the dispatch service to go into that direction due to different and complex dispatch protocols between the entities. He stated dispatching for Reno fire would be slightly different than dispatching for the TMFPD. He said it was very similar but it could put the dispatchers in a difficult position, and he questioned how the employees' abilities would be rated. He stated it would be better to identify what the cost and impact would be. There had been a number of unfortunate times where the City of Reno had to call upon the County to take over dispatch calls and vice versa. He said the dispatchers were more than capable to do cross dispatching, but it was more of an individual basis as to what their abilities were. He provided an example of whether a dispatcher was able to dispatch for the Reno Police Department on a busy Friday afternoon when he or she was more used to dispatching for the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District where it was quieter.

Councilmember Jardon asked where the City of Sparks dispatchers were located. Director Chisel replied the City of Sparks had a separate dispatch center, and they were in the process of upgrading their CAD system with Tiburon, which was expected to be completed in mid-July. Councilmember Jardon stated she heard having an off-site dispatch service was a benefit for redundancy purposes. Director Chisel indicated the City of Sparks dispatch service would be the backup facility should the City of Reno and Washoe County have to evacuate their current facility, and vice versa.

Councilmember Jardon asked Undersheriff Spencer to clarify what he meant regarding failures during the testing of the Tiburon. Undersheriff Spencer explained it was a technical failure with the Tiburon upgrade of the CAD system.

Councilmember McKenzie stated he had personal experience with dispatchers and believed dispatchers were the last hurdle. He thought the dispatchers were ready to go, and all they needed was to be in a position to succeed. He said the committee did not have to look outside the State for examples of efficient regional dispatch services, and mentioned how he was involved in the regionalization of the Elko County Dispatch System. He felt regionalization was not rocket science, and was more effected by politics

Mayor Schieve asked Undersheriff Spencer to clarify why it was so important to consolidate dispatch. Undersheriff Spencer gave the example of people in the community who believed they lived in an unincorporated area of the County, and contacted dispatch to get a hold of a County fire engine or deputy. Due to the call taking system currently in place, the person may believe he or she was speaking to someone within the County but was actually speaking to a City of Reno employee. When the calls got transferred around there was potential for delays as to how the call would be handled, which could delay response times of the appropriate apparatus.

Mayor Schieve asked Suzy Rogers, Assistant Manager Reno Emergency Communications, how often delays happened with dispatch. Ms. Rogers provided an

example of how the City of Reno dispatch service answered all 9-1-1 calls for the County, and the first thing a dispatcher would ask was what the person's address was; however, after determining the person's location, the caller would be transferred to the appropriate entity. If it was a major emergency or a medical call, based on the location, the dispatcher would enter the fire call, and at the same time contact REMSA for emergency medical services. She stated a dispatcher would enter information into the CAD system, and based on location and type of call, the CAD system would route the call to the radio dispatcher responsible for the area or agency at that time. She said while REMSA was verifying the caller's address a fire engine would be on its way to the scene.

Mayor Schieve believed her question was not answered, and asked why people who had studied our dispatch system stated it was deadly. Ms. Rogers stated she did not know where the delays would be within the City of Reno. She gave examples of possible reasons a delay would occur; such as, the dispatcher not being able to verify the location or the police would already be handling other issues. She clarified the delay issue may be due to the resource availability rather than with a dispatcher entering the call. Mayor Schieve asked Ms. Rogers how regional dispatch would work for her. Ms. Rogers stated she was going on 26 years with the City of Reno, and explained when she started, the dispatch center was consolidated. She said it worked very efficiently, the dispatchers could speak to each other directly, and if she needed backup she was able to rely on the person sitting next to her as he or she would have the same training. She said the dispatchers knew what they needed to get done, and how the teamwork was priceless.

Councilmember Duerr was not content to just accept the report, and believed since the City Council and County Commissioners were all together they needed to make use of the time to take action. She made a motion to have staff come back with specific information to streamline regionalized dispatch.

Chair Berkbigler stated during the Board of County Commissioners meeting last week, they had already directed Undersheriff Spencer to obtain and provide more information, as was requested in the City of Reno's motion, so the County would not be making a duplicate motion.

There was no public comment on this item.

15-0489 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Presentation, discussion and possible direction to staff regarding consolidation, regionalization and the Blue Ribbon Committee Report.

Dave Cochran, Reno Fire Department Interim Chief, updated the directive from the May 26th meeting to continue to pursue regionalization discussions. He stated he and his staff met with Chief Charles Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), and his staff to go over specific numbers and dollar figures, which were presented in a plan at the joint meeting between the City and the County. He wanted the opportunity to explain the numbers and give the TMFPD an opportunity to ask questions. He noted the meeting with Chief Moore, which detailed a breakdown of the budget

numbers, occurred on June 4th, and they were able to review the same plan that was presented at the joint meeting a couple weeks ago. He stated he was waiting for feedback from Chief Moore.

Chief Moore summarized the findings of the Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) regarding consolidation. He mentioned key points which had to be resolved before they would be able to move forward. He listed the following points: (1) governance as to how the fire district would be governed, (2) how were the people going to be represented and what was the service level going to be, and (3) how would the regionalization be financed. He felt once they had an agreement, particularly regarding service levels, they would then be able to move forward. He emphasized there was nothing more important than to get automatic aid up and running. He said staff was going to be very busy because failure was not an option, and they wanted to be ready by the October 1st deadline. He requested to be unencumbered so they would be able to work on automatic aid for at least the next 60 days before the Board considered any additional direction to staff to regionalize the fire departments.

Commissioner Jung concurred with Chief Moore regarding automatic aid. She stated she wanted both fire chiefs to focus on the completion of automatic aid. After the automatic aid project was completed, she requested a report from both sides showing what would be the best model for regionalization in regards to funding and best practices. She did not feel comfortable putting the unincorporated County fire district in the position of inequity right at the beginning.

Mayor Schieve believed the best way to work on regionalization was to have both parties bring to the table proposals, and then pick apart which items they could and could not live with or without. She mentioned the County's issue with the City for not having a dedicated fund for fire protection as a point of contention.

Commissioner Hartung stated for true regionalization to occur all parties must come to the table. He said it was very bothersome that the joint committee did not know the specific reasons why the fire districts did not renew the regionalization contract and divided in the first place. He felt the conversation should include funding, service level, and flexible staffing. He strongly believed the joint committee should have the conversation, and allow some time to pass after automatic aid was in place to see how it went before they talked about true regionalization.

Councilmember Bobzien stated he wanted to urge staff to work diligently on automatic aid due to the time restraint, but also work on other aspects of regionalization at the same time to ensure compliance with the State prior to the next legislative session. He felt some issues would require a lot of time due to their complexity, and he did not want staff to defer on those items.

Councilmember Brekhus believed they should be thinking and promoting the big ideas such as merging the City and the County. She passionately emphasized how

much time staff on both sides spent preparing and monitoring Interlocal Agreements, and if this was one body doing the people's business it would be more efficient.

In response to the call for public comment, Cliff Lowe stated comprehensive regional coverage was previously mentioned by the City Council during a past meeting, and there were two pieces required to achieve comprehensive regional coverage: 1) mutual aid between entities; and, (2) comprehensive automatic aid. He believed the reasons for not renewing past agreements should be reviewed.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Herman absent, it was ordered that Chief Moore use his discretion in creating the timeline for regionalization planning.

15-0490 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Discussion and potential direction by each governing board to its respective staff on possible dates and items for agendas for future Concurrent meetings relating to fire services.

Chair Berkbigler believed the deadline for a report regarding regionalization of the fire departments should be left to the City of Reno's and the TMFPD's fire chiefs. Andrew Clinger, Reno City Manager, stated the next regular joint meeting was scheduled for August 3rd. Interim Chief Cochran said that was enough time to be able to provide a report or get further direction. Chief Moore concurred and added by then they would be able to have geographical areas identified.

Councilmember Jardon was worried about pushing the regionalization timeline further out, and asked Tom Garrison, Sparks Fire Department Chief, if he would work with the other two fire chiefs and the Spark's Council regarding regionalization prior to the August 3rd concurrent meeting. She wanted to know what the City of Sparks' intentions were regarding automatic aid and regionalization. Chief Garrison stated the City of Sparks had already participated in automatic aid, so it was business as usual.

Manager Clinger stated the rules and procedures for the concurrent meetings were to have the Mayors and Chair of the Board set the agenda. He said a meeting was set for tomorrow, and assuming City of Sparks Mayor Gino Martini was going to be there, they could discuss regionalization with him. Mayor Schieve stated that she and Chair Berkbigler had already been meeting regularly, and they should continue to meet at least once a week, which would be beneficial moving forward regarding regionalization.

Councilmember Jardon wanted to clarify what was going to happen at the August 3rd meeting, and asked if they could expect to talk about regionalization or only automatic aid. She did not want the direction here today to only be about automatic aid. Mayor Schieve replied by stating both automatic aid and regionalization would be addressed.

There was no public comment or action on this item.

15-0491 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Commissioners’/Reno City Council and Fire Chief’s announcements, requests for information, topics for future agendas, and statements relating to items not on the Agenda. (No discussion among Commissioners/Reno City Council will take place on this item).

Commissioner Jung addressed Chief Moore by stating she believed it was important to know the City of Reno’s annexation policy, and how it would affect the Truckee Meadow Fire Protection District and their funds in terms of revenue stream loss.

There was no public comment or action on this item.

15-0492 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

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5:23 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

MARSHA BERKBIGLER, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

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