

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

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 10, 2002

PRESENT:

**Pete Sferrazza, Chairman**  
**Jim Galloway, Commissioner**  
**Jim Shaw, Commissioner**  
**Ted Short, Commissioner**

**Amy Harvey, County Clerk**  
**Michelle Poché, Assistant County Manager**  
**Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel**  
**Robert Ruffridge, Regional Manager**

ABSENT:

**Joanne Bond, Vice Chairman**

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

**02-07SF      AGENDA**

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Bond absent, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the agenda for the December 10, 2002 meeting be approved.

**MINUTES**

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Bond absent and Commissioner Short abstaining, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 10, 2002 be approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sam Dehne, Reno resident, commented on various government entities and their activities.

**REPORT – DISTRICT ACTIVITY**

Robert Ruffridge, Regional Manager, said there has been no significant activity in the District since the last report.

Mr. Ruffridge advised the Board that he would be retiring in a few days, and he introduced Tim Rochelle, who would be the Acting Regional Manager for the District.

**COMMISSIONERS’/MANAGER’S COMMENTS**

Chairman Sferrazza said he had asked that the next agenda include an item concerning a ban on burning. Robert Ruffridge, Regional Manager, confirmed that item would be on the January agenda. Commissioner Short said burning is a real concern to the residents. He asked Mr. Ruffridge to provide the Board with maps of where burning permits had been granted in the Galena Forest and Joy Lake Road areas. Mr. Ruffridge said that information would be provided at the January meeting. Commissioner Short suggested that it would be beneficial to the Galena Forest Homeowner's Association if the Fire District would hold a meeting for the membership of the Homeowner's Association to explain the history of the burning permit process. In response to Chairman Sferrazza, Mr. Ruffridge advised that the Fire District would make an effort to contact the concerned citizens and inform them there would be an agenda item on burning permits if they wish to attend and voice their opinions and concerns.

Commissioner Galloway asked if the Fire District was one of the signatory's on the letter that went to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) expressing concern about maintaining defensible space in the Tahoe Basin and the impact of TRPA regulations on maintaining defensible space. Mr. Ruffridge said he did not believe that either the Fire District, nor the Division of Forestry, were signatories to that letter. In response to Commissioner Galloway, Mr. Ruffridge said the Fire District would provide an opinion on the contents of the letter.

Commissioner Galloway said it was his understanding that one of the Homeowner's Associations requires shake roofs, and he asked if that was consistent with burn permit concerns. Commissioner Galloway stated he feels having a shake roof is a greater fire hazard than a burn permit. Mr. Ruffridge said the District would try to bring information on shake roofs to the Board.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Sferrazza congratulated Mr. Ruffridge and thanked him for his years of service. He then welcomed Mr. Rochelle.

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

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**PETER J. SFERRAZZA**, Chairman  
Sierra Forest Fire Protection District

**ATTEST:**

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

*Minutes Prepared By  
Melissa M. Ayrault, Deputy County Clerk*