

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

MONDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 16, 2005

PRESENT:

Bonnie Weber, Chairman
Bob Larkin, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
David Humke, Commissioner
Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel
Tim Rochelle, Regional Forester

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

AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried, Chairman Weber ordered that the agenda for the special meeting of May 16, 2005 be approved.

05-08SF PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2005/06
TENTATIVE AND FINAL BUDGET

10:00 a.m. This was the time set in a Notice of Public Hearing, published in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* on May 6, 2005, to consider the tentative budget for fiscal year 2005/06 as well as possible adoption of the final budget.

Chairman Weber opened the public hearing.

Tim Rochelle, Regional Forester, presented the District's proposed budget noting a correction needed to be made on Page 1 of the Budget Summary to move the \$145,537 from State Reserve, Capital Outlay, to Counties Reserve. Mary Walker, Walker and Associates, further explained that the State bills the County quarterly for expenditures according to the budget rather than on actual expenditures. They are asking the State to bill on actual expenditures, and the County reserve funds will earn interest.

Chief Rochelle reviewed the District's staffing and advised they are enhancing the seasonal staff by one firefighter. He further stated a Battalion Chief has recently retired; they have been holding several positions open pending consolidation;

and they will be filling some of the critical command positions before fire season. Chief Rochelle also explained the capital outlay requests for exhaust systems, a water tender, and one new fire engine.

Commissioner Humke stated, at the appropriate time, he would move to accept the budget and forward it to the State with no recommendation.

Commissioner Sferrazza said he would second the motion, but first he wanted to know the status of consolidation. Chief Rochelle stated there was a meeting last week between the District and Reno and Truckee Meadows Fire. They are working on identifying the issues prior to contract discussions, and there would be another meeting in the next two weeks.

Commissioner Galloway asked why the motion does not make a recommendation concerning the budget. Commissioner Humke said the report came to the Board very late, and it was difficult to digest in the short timeframe. Chief Rochelle explained staff was waiting for revenue figures from the State Department of Taxation, which were delayed due to SB489, the bill capping property tax increases. He also indicated there may be a need to amend the budget when the final numbers are presented by the State. Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, advised it is the Board's duty to adopt the final budget as the governing body for the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District. He further stated if no final budget is adopted, the budget for the current year would go to the State Department of Taxation; and they would make whatever adjustments they deem appropriate. Commissioner Humke withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Sferrazza moved to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2005/06, noting that since it is a tentative budget, they would have an ability to amend it. Katy Singlaub, County Manager, stated this is the final budget.

Ms. Walker stated they went through a very thorough budgeting process with the County Manager's office. She agreed the budget should have been presented to the Board at least a week prior to the public hearing, but said they were not able to get the revenue projections from the State until last Friday. Ms. Walker added there are some serious concerns about the accuracy of those numbers. She recommended the Board approve the final budget subject to the capital improvement program coming back to the Board. Commissioner Galloway asked whether there was a way to amend the budget if the revenue projections are wrong. Ms. Walker stated, since it is a legislative year, budgets can be amended up until 30 days after the close of the session.

Commissioner Sferrazza moved to approve the District's tentative budget as the final budget for fiscal year 2005/06 with the correction previously noted and with the understanding that the Board will have a chance to amend the budget, if necessary, once final revenue projections are received and once the Board has had an opportunity to review the District's capital improvement program. Commissioner Galloway seconded the motion. Commissioner Humke remarked he would support the motion because it is

critical that the fire protection districts have adequate budgets, and he did not want the State to determine the District's budget.

Commissioner Sferrazza noted the Chief's report indicates potential filling of the Battalion Chief and Fire Captain positions and stated the vacant positions should not be filled until after consolidation. Chief Rochelle agreed, but stated they have been working with these positions vacant for over two years, which has greatly impacted the budget for overtime. He said they need to get the training Captains back out into the field and they must maintain minimum staffing at the stations.

Upon call for the question, the motion carried unanimously.

There were no comments from the Commissioners or staff, nor any emergency items. There was no response to the call for public comments.

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

BONNIE WEBER, Chairman
Sierra Forest Fire Protection District

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by
Sharon Gotchy, Deputy County Clerk*