

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 25, 2010

PRESENT:

David Humke, Chairman
Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson
Bob Larkin, Commissioner*
Kitty Jung, Commissioner
John Breternitz, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk (10:39 a.m. – 12:38 p.m.)
Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy Clerk (12:38 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.)
Katy Simon, County Manager
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel
Michael Greene, Fire Chief

The Board convened at 10:39 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:

10-41SF AGENDA ITEM 2A

Agenda Subject: “Approval of Agenda for May 25, 2010 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.”

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Breternitz, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Larkin absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 2A be approved.

10-42SF AGENDA ITEM 3

Agenda Subject: “Concerning a possible new Arrowcreek fire station: A. Discussion and possible approval of a funding plan for construction completion, fire equipment, operations, and a staffing plan for a new Arrowcreek fire station. B. Should these plans be approved, then discussion and possible acceptance of a \$2.5 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), funded under the American Recovery and Investment Act (ARRA), to construct the Arrowcreek fire station. C. If the Board approves the foregoing items, then discussion and possible direction to staff on methodology to collaborate with stakeholders and regional partners regarding the feasibility of various options to share the station or the costs of its operation to include the possible regional consolidation of fire services (Page(s) 1-11).”

Chairman Humke asked if some items were future actions. Michael Greene, Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) Fire Chief, confirmed there would be actions to take in the future. He explained the funding plan was for the completion of the construction, the equipment, the operations and the staffing. He said after approval of the plan, the Board could accept the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant. He stated if both of those items were approved, he would be back before the Board on June 22, 2010 with three action items. He stated the first item would be a 99-year lease for the property at the corner of Arrowcreek Parkway and Thomas Creek Road, which was surplus land owned by the County that was set aside for the fire station. He said the lease would have to be approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). He said the second item would be a contract to complete the engineering design and to prepare the documents to go to bid. He stated the third item would be the tentative agreement with the developer to sell and split the proceeds for the land the developer originally set aside for the fire station.

Chief Greene advised Item 3C, which was to look at a whole range of options, would come back to the BOFC at a future date. He noted today's staffing plan was an interim plan, which would be in place while the BOFC evaluated regionalization, consolidation, Interlocal Agreements, billing for services, and possible General Improvement Districts (GID's). He stated those would be future actions.

Chief Greene conducted a PowerPoint presentation on the Arrowcreek Fire Station, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

During the discussion of the timelines and deadlines, Chief Greene advised the environmental assessment would be completed by July 2010 and, if the contract was authorized, the bid documents would be ready to go to bid within 60 days. He stated once the construction bid was awarded, the eight month construction window would start.

While discussing the history of the Arrowcreek Fire Station, Chief Greene noted studies had lead to asking the voters for funds to construct and fund the Arrowcreek Fire Station, which was defeated by 158 votes. He stated the vote indicated 64 percent of the area's citizens supported building a new fire station. He said the BOFC gave him the direction to work with the citizens to come up with options to move forward with the project, which led to the recommendation to apply for the FEMA grant. He said there was a three year construction window during which FEMA needed to see regular progress regarding the construction of the Arrowcreek Fire Station.

Chief Greene explained Option One for staffing the fire stations would have the funding to staff three of the five fire stations, which would require moving or dividing the fire crews. He said Option One would divide the Bowers Mansion crew into two two-person crews, each with a paramedic, to staff the Bowers Mansion Fire Station (Bowers Station) and the Arrowcreek Fire Station.

Chief Greene advised Option Two would move the crews around as shown on the Option Two slide. He stated Option Three would reject the grant and not build the Arrowcreek Fire Station, thereby keeping the fire crews at their present locations.

Chief Greene discussed the fire stations in the West Washoe Valley area. He noted 75 percent of the Bowers Station's calls went into the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), which had a large impact on the SFPD. He said Option One was a compromise attempt to solve a TMFPD service problem by having a paramedic available.

Chief Greene said as the SFPD's Chief, his job was to provide the highest level of service to the SFPD's residents and relocating a crew to the new Arrowcreek Fire Station would help do that. He stated it would also put the highest concentration of resources in the area with the highest population. He advised his job was also to help his neighbors and many issues could be solved by working together.

Chief Greene advised staff recommended choosing Option One as an interim step towards a future joint funding effort. He stated there had not been a legal or fiscal analysis regarding Option One, which could indicate it should be the permanent solution. He said staff would like the Board to look at the future options during the time the Arrowcreek Fire Station was being built, so everyone's concerns could be addressed prior to the Station opening its doors.

Chief Greene said a third of the SFPD's calls went outside the District and the SFPD was not compensated for those calls. He stated the City of Reno/TMFPD agreement in essence provided for cost sharing because they were consolidated. He said the SFPD had an automatic aid agreement for service, but it did not contain any cost-sharing provisions. He believed those issues could be resolved during future discussions.

Chief Greene indicated he was confident in the response numbers he used because the information was obtained directly from dispatch and the actual locations, whether in the SFPD or the TMFPD, and were confirmed through the Assessor's web site by staff.

Chief Greene stated staff also recommended creating a stakeholders' committee, with a citizen chair, to work with staff to come back with a recommendation regarding one of the options prior to the completion of the Arrowcreek Fire Station. He stated the committee would need legal and financial help, but it would be an opportunity for the Board to hear their recommendations.

Chief Greene concluded his presentation by going over the staff recommendation of choosing Staffing Option One, utilizing the existing equipment, funding the annual operating costs with savings, accepting the FEMA grant, and appointing a stakeholders' committee to recommend future options prior to November 2010.

In response to the call for public comment, Dorothy Ramsdell thanked the firefighters and the BOFC for serving the community. She said having an eight minute response time in the area served by the Bowers Station was critical, especially during a wildfire and due to the accidents that happened on the highway near there. She stated the crew needed to stay at the Bowers Station because she believed volunteers did not have the same ability to respond as trained staff would.

Jane Countryman, West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) representative, discussed the history of the Bowers Station. She said this Board had agreed there would be no decrease in the level of emergency services provided to the residents of the SFPD as a result of the Resolution to change Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 473 and create NRS 474. She stated the residents of Washoe Valley were opposed to the recommendation to decrease the staff at the Bowers Station to a two-person crew. She noted it would be unsafe for the firefighters who could not function until backup crews arrived. She believed relocating staff to the Joy Lake Fire Station was not a fiscally responsible decision, because it was not designed to handle a four-person crew and their equipment and it would be costly to upgrade. She said the people in the West Washoe Valley within the TMFPD were paying taxes for inadequate services. She felt the Board should make the necessary agreements between the TMFPD and the SFPD to address the service issues.

Ms. Countryman stated volunteers were great as backup, but they should not be expected to replace career firefighters because their jobs were seldom located near the fire station where they volunteered. She felt short-staffing existing fire stations was robbing Peter to pay Paul, but in this case it affected lives. She stated the citizens wanted the Bowers Station to continue providing first response services to the West Washoe Valley.

Steven Perez said the people living in the Mt. Rose area had asked this Board to provide better fire and medical protection to the area for the last six years. He stated anyone who voted not to accept the stimulus money to build the Arrowcreek Fire Station and to staff it, would have to explain their vote to Washoe County's citizens. He advised the constituents on Mt. Rose were drawing a line in the sand and would not wait for another study or more consolidation talks, but were only interested in the immediate construction of the Arrowcreek Fire Station.

Malachy Horan noted the original estimate for constructing the Arrowcreek Fire Station was \$3.4 million, but now the construction costs were \$2.5 million. He asked what had changed and would taxes need to be raised after building the Arrowcreek Fire Station. He also asked if short-staffing worked effectively in other areas. He said he was concerned the area was heavily travelled, but there was no traffic light at the corner of Arrowcreek Parkway and Thomas Creek Road and no caution light where the fire vehicles would emerge onto the road.

Mandy McNitt said she supported maintaining full staffing at the Bowers Station and suggested resolving the inequity issue without robbing Peter to pay Paul. She felt taking protection from her area to protect another area did not solve any inequities.

Diane Rose stated she was part of a volunteer oriented neighborhood, which developed a Neighborhood Watch program and a phone tree. She said that effort evolved into a network of neighborhood watch groups and phone trees that were linked for informational purposes. She said because her neighborhood was in an area of extreme fire danger, the residents started asking Chief Greene for his input in creating an evacuation plan. She noted three years later the success of the evacuation drill made it a model for FEMA and the phone trees became an important tool for distributing emergency information. She said the drill highlighted the areas in the Mt. Rose Corridor that were not within the national guidelines of eight minutes or less for fire and medical response times. She stated the residents again asked for help and Chief Greene applied for and received the \$2.5 million grant to construct the Arrowcreek Fire Station. She said the citizens were asking the Board to accept the grant, so it would not be lost and the Arrowcreek Fire Station could be put out for bid. She stated that would leave a year to formulate the staffing plan. She advised there were talented residents with expertise in many areas who would like to be a part of the process.

George Thomas, Arrowcreek Homeowners Association representative, reviewed his PowerPoint presentation that discussed the fiscal impact of calls going outside the SFPD. He said a regional plan should be developed to make the costs per call between the TMFPD and the SFPD more equitable for all County residents. A copy of the presentation was placed on file with the Clerk.

Bob Parker stated someone would suffer if fire crews were moved around. He suggested, as shown in chart 5, appointing a committee of concerned citizens to figure out a staffing solution. He felt if he called 9-1-1 and the TMFPD showed up, he should be paying his taxes to them and vice versa. He believed the Board could make that shift in funding and that the budgets would work if that was done. He asked the Board to fix the service issues and to let interested citizens help. A copy of the charts was placed on file with the Clerk.

Bob Ackerman mentioned he was a SFPD volunteer. He said the staffing plan was a compromise to provide coverage with limited manpower, which the citizens did not necessarily like but accepted. He asked the Board to approve the new fire station because the clock was ticking. A copy of his remarks was placed on file with the Clerk.

Ed La Pelusa stated Washoe County's construction industry was greatly affected by the recession. He said last year the federal government took steps to help by setting up a program to fund infrastructure to provide people jobs. He said the County won a grant from that program last September and that the grant was for a fire station was incidental because the idea was to put people to work. He asked the grant be accepted because \$2 million would put quite a few people to work and in two years there would be fire station located where every study indicated one was needed.

Donna Peterson requested the Board finalize the final steps to ensure equitable emergency services were delivered throughout Washoe County, which meant accepting the funding to build the Arrowcreek Fire Station. She stated the Board should approve a staffing plan that would ensure the citizens would pay for the services they received and that they would receive the services paid for, which everyone knew was not currently the case. She discussed the calls for the area and how the people paying for those calls were located outside the eight-minute response window. She believed there was an equitable solution, which would put everyone within an eight-minute response window. She requested the Board move towards that solution even if everyone needed to make some compromises.

Kelly McInerny said the Planning Commission and the BCC allowed massive growth to occur in the Arrowcreek, Saddlehorn and Galena Forest areas, which were areas of extreme fire danger, without sufficient medical or fire services. She said there was no doubt seconds counted when responding to a medical or fire emergency and those areas were 5.8 minutes over the recommended national response time. She stated having a massive fire in the Galena Forest/Mt. Rose area was not a question of if, but when. She believed not approving building the Arrowcreek Fire Station would be criminally negligent. She stated it was unlikely there would be another opportunity like this where the money and land were available, and she requested the Board approve building the Arrowcreek Fire Station.

Jess Traver, Builders Association of Northern Nevada representative, congratulated the Board on obtaining the funds to build the Arrowcreek Fire Station, which the Association supported. He said there was time to work out the staffing plan while the station was being built. He stated the response times were excessive in the Galena area, even when he was a volunteer firefighter, and something needed to be done.

Cliff Low, Franktown Estates Homeowners Association representative, stated he had three overriding points to make: 1) It was human nature that people would act in the interest of the people and things that were most important to them, 2) There is no function of government more important than its citizens' safety, and 3) Washoe County officials will never have authority or control over fire services that were consolidated with the City of Reno. He believed there would have been a lot more people in attendance if this meeting had been held in the evening, because over 400 signatures were collected last summer on a petition regarding the Bowers Station. He read aloud the petition's disclosure statement. He said much of the discussion had been about Arrowcreek/St. James Village/Galena Forest Estates versus West Washoe Valley, but both areas needed a fire station.

Mr. Low stated the money was available for the Arrowcreek Fire Station and the Board should make it happen. He noted the budget showed the TMFPD had almost \$17 million in revenue for the next fiscal year and only \$13 million went to Reno Fire and Dispatch. He said the TMFPD projected a surplus of \$5.5 million. He believed the TMFPD had enough money, which the people in West Washoe Valley paid into, to

compensate the SFPD for the services they provided to the West Washoe Valley area. A copy of the petition was placed on file with the Clerk.

Sally Weichert felt it was time to stop putting one area over another, and the residents should come together to figure out how to staff the fire stations. She said it was time to start thinking in terms of how much a life was worth.

Margaret Wilkinson indicated her taxes went to the TMFPD, but her first response would come from the SFPD. She felt there should be an equitable solution for the taxpayers and for the Districts. She stated the grant money was not free because it was taxpayers' money. She felt not having a staffing solution now was not prudent. She believed if the SFPD was making a call into a TMFPD area, there should be some way for them to receive the funds to support the work they did.

Ms. Harvey noted 57 citizens submitted written comments, which were placed on file with the Clerk.

Chairman Humke asked if the use of three-person crews had been considered. Chief Greene replied it was a contractual issue with the firefighters' union and the contract would be up for renewal on July 1, 2011. He indicated using a four-person crew was the gold standard to maximize firefighter safety. He felt a compromise was needed due to declining revenues, but using a three-person crew should be a countywide change. He believed four-person crews were more essential for remote stations, while three-person crews worked better in the central areas because there would be a greater concentration of resources. He stated if cuts would have to be made, he would rather go to a three-person engine company rather than having a two-person rescue crew. He believed any cuts should be universal and should not be targeted to any particular agency.

Chairman Humke asked Chief Greene about the makeup of the stakeholders committee. Chief Greene indicated the fire services representatives would get together to advise a group comprised of citizens from all of the SFPD and TMFPD areas. He said staff would support the citizen's group and would ultimately make the recommendations to Board.

Chairman Humke asked for clarification regarding Mr. Horan's questions on the construction costs. Chief Greene said the original grant request was for \$2.5 million, which was based on the cost of constructing two fire stations in 2005 using the same plan. He stated the construction of those stations was done during the peak of the building boom, so those numbers were used as the criteria to submit for the grant because there was no way of knowing what the actual costs would be. He said as building costs fell because of the decline in the economy, there were extensive discussions with FEMA and Dave Solaro, Assistant Public Works Director, to solidify the numbers. He said based on the national averages and current cost estimates, it was believed the fire station could be built for the lower amount. He advised Information Technology cabling was not allowed in the original grant, but FEMA increased the amount of the electrical bid to

include the cabling. He said FEMA experts on building fire stations were convinced the station could be built for the grant amount and the \$250,000 would be a buffer.

Chief Greene stated regarding Mr. Horan's issue with safety and access, there were road changes that were part of the plan. He indicated there would also be flashing warning lights that would be activated within 500 feet of the roadway to warn when a unit was approaching. He confirmed there would be no traffic light.

Chief Greene said in answer to Mr. Horan's question regarding short-staffing, the Reno Fire Department used two-person rescue companies, which was done in many parts of the country, and North Lake Tahoe used three-person engine companies. He said a two-person crew would have to wait until there were a sufficient number of personnel on the scene before engaging in active firefighting. He advised because 85 percent of the calls were EMS calls, putting a paramedic on those crews would provide the initial response in the peripheral areas. He stated paramedics had limited firefighting capabilities.

Chairman Humke asked how the technical deficit of \$250,000 was being managed. Chief Greene replied it was money being carried over and was placed in a Capital Improvement line item. He noted the SFPD was operating on the carry-over money because the SFPD was using more money every year than it was generating in revenue. He stated regardless of the new station, the SFPD was not sustainable as a fire district if it continued to provide the current level of service. He believed the intent had been to stabilize the SFPD when it was brought over from the Nevada Department of Forestry (NDF) and then it would become part of a long-term fire services plan.

Chairman Humke asked if Mr. Low's comment regarding cost sharing could be done, particularly in the Washoe Valley area. Chief Greene replied one way would be to modify the automatic aid agreements to contain a true bilateral cost component. He said cost sharing in one form or another was an essential element, specifically in the Washoe Valley area.

Chairman Humke asked if dispatch personally provided any analysis regarding responses. Chief Greene stated they only provided the raw data. He said staff examined the data for each of the stations to determine which calls were City and which calls were County. He stated the County's 6,684 calls were then looked at individually to determine whether they were in the SFPD, the TMFPD, or the Reno Fire Department, which was not something dispatch could break down. Chairman Humke asked if the Reno Fire Department or the TMFPD were consulted. Chief Greene replied during the initial analysis of the calls to obtain their breakdown of the calls.

Chairman Humke asked if Chief Greene would allow volunteers to work in SFPD's stations under the interim staffing plan. Chief Greene replied volunteer fire engines could be staffed. He explained one of the ideas would be to place the volunteers on an engine to provide coverage when a training exercise took an engine out of service, rather than calling career personnel back and paying them overtime.

12:08 p.m. Commissioner Larkin arrived at the meeting.

Commissioner Breternitz asked what besides modifying the automatic aid agreement, needed to take place before implementing cost sharing. Chief Greene stated it would require looking at regionalization, the modification of the Interlocal Agreement between the TMFPD and the SFPD, modification of the automatic aid agreement to include cost reimbursement, and the creation of a GID. He said the stakeholders would be brought together to determine how those would work.

Commissioner Breternitz asked if a three-person crew could have one person go inside to fight a fire. Chief Greene said there were two separate standards. He said the first standard, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rule, stated for every two firefighters in the building, two had to remain outside. He explained the exception to the OSHA rule was an immediate life threat. He said there could be a chance for someone to go into the burning building to perform a rescue if only three firefighters were on scene, but it would not be in the best interests of the firefighter's safety. He said the second standard was the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA's) eight minute standard, which was based on research on how quickly a fire would grow and how many people should be on scene. He advised NFPA wanted the necessary people to assemble at the scene of a structure fire within eight minutes to perform the rescue. He said NFPA also wanted a secondary engine to arrive a few minutes later to have 15 people at the scene within 12 to 15 minutes. He advised several engines would be dispatched simultaneously for a structure fire knowing travel time would be longer the further away an engine was.

Chief Greene stated NFPA Standard 1710 was for career departments. He noted NFPA Standard 1720 was for combination or volunteer departments and had a looser response time criteria due to it taking longer to assemble the firefighting force. Commissioner Breternitz said it appeared using three-person crews for fighting structure fires was not a good policy. Chief Greene replied that was correct unless the engines could arrive at roughly the same time to assemble a six-person crew. Commissioner Breternitz felt there would be the same situation with two-person crews regarding structure fires. Chief Greene advised they could lay hose lines and fight the fire from the exterior, but they could not enter the structure unless there was an immediate life threat.

Commissioner Breternitz asked if there was a promise that the level of service would not be reduced when the District changed to NRS 474 from NRS 473. Chief Greene said the State Forester needed to approve the transfer agreement, which he did provided there was no reduction in the service levels. He explained the translation of no reduction in service levels was interpreted by one group to mean legally there must be four people at the station in Washoe Valley, but that did not take into account that the service to the people in Arrowcreek was being increased. He stated his discussions with the State Forester regarding the level of service was there was not a conflict and that making those changes did not change the terms of the agreement.

Commissioner Breternitz asked what the anticipated fire station construction period was from groundbreaking to ribbon cutting. Chief Greene replied eight months, which meant the earliest construction could be done would be June 2011. He stated that would be 13-months prior to FEMA's deadline.

Commissioner Jung asked if Chief Greene received in writing confirmation that the terms of the conditions the Board agreed to when going from NRS 473 to NRS 474 would not be a conflict. Chief Greene said he did not have anything in writing, but there had been a meeting to discuss the issue. He stated it was really an interpretation of what was the level of service, which was something the Board would decide and not NDF. He said the plan enhanced the level of service in one area, so it clearly was subject to interpretation.

Commissioner Jung asked if two volunteer firefighters and two career firefighters met OSHA's requirement of two in and two out. Chief Greene said that would constitute assembling a four-person crew. Commissioner Jung said that meant volunteers could fill the gap that OSHA said was the best practice. Chief Greene indicated they could.

Commissioner Jung asked if changing a service area and what district taxes were paid to, went back to modifying the automatic aid agreement or could it be done at the Joint Fire Advisory Board (JFAB) level since there was data to support who responded to what. Chief Greene stated the TMFPD and the SFPD Boards could do a quid pro quo exchange of territory. He explained a simpler solution would be an Interlocal Agreement, which would be a contract for services between the SFPD and the TMFPD to set the rates for revenue sharing. Commissioner Jung asked if the TMFPD was able to do that outside of their Interlocal Agreement with the Reno Fire Department. Chief Greene said the current agreement was between Reno and the TMFPD, and the SFPD was an interested observer instead of a participant in that process. He understood inclusion in the decision making process was one of the things being looked at. He stated Reno was a participant in Interlocal Agreement and would need to approve what happened because of their vested interest in the Interlocal Agreement.

Commissioner Jung said Chief Greene was looking for the Board to make a staffing option decision to be able to accept the \$2.5 million grant. Chief Greene stated NRS 354 indicated there had to be an operations plan ready before a capital facility could be built. He said he received written clarification that FEMA would allow some latitude in staffing, such as two-person crews. He said the letter stated it could be staffed by one person and it could be a volunteer station. He stated FEMA wanted the operations plan showing how the staffing could be done.

Commissioner Weber asked Chief Greene if volunteers could fill in for a career firefighter. Chief Greene said two volunteers could not be put on the same engine with two career firefighters if it was a career station, but volunteer engines could arrive with two firefighters to augment or assist the two-person crew on a career engine. He stated the Reno Fire Department had the exclusive right to serve, which meant there were

no volunteers within the City of Reno. He noted the TMFPD and the SFPD did not have that limitation. He said the contract stated there would be four people on a fire engine or two people on a rescue vehicle. He noted the contract did not say that two people on the rescue vehicle could not work with two volunteers who arrived on the scene to put the fire out.

Commissioner Weber asked if career and volunteer firefighters could be housed together at one fire station. Chief Greene replied a volunteer fire engine and a career fire engine could be designated with the volunteers going out the door on one fire engine and the career firefighters on the other fire engine. He reiterated two career people and two volunteers could not go out the door on one fire engine by contract. He said the career people could not be replaced by volunteers, but career staff could be augmented using volunteers.

Commissioner Weber asked if the Joy Lake Fire Station was manned. Chief Greene replied it was not. He stated having both the Arrowcreek Fire Station and the Mt. Rose Fire Station made the coverage almost too concentrated. He said the staffing plan would move the Mt. Rose crew to the Joy Lake Fire Station and the Mt. Rose Station would serve as a volunteer station. He said that would provide the greatest concentration of resources and would cause the coverage circles to almost overlap each other. He said the Joy Lake Fire Station was small because it was built to house a two-person crew.

Chief Greene explained the Battalion Chiefs used the Joy Lake Fire Station as their office and the seasonal fire crew used it as their base, but they were responders to wildland fires and not structure fires. He stated under the plan the seasonal fire crew's base would be moved to Washoe Valley.

Commissioner Weber asked about equipment. Chief Greene said a Battalion Chief's vehicle, a two-person patrol truck, and the seasonal firefighting equipment were located at the Joy Lake Fire Station, but no SFPD firefighting equipment. Commissioner Weber felt that was a disservice to the community because people believed it was manned and that belief gave them a false sense of security. Chief Greene agreed it was an issue because people saw the seasonal crew there and did not understand they were not a regular fire crew.

Commissioner Weber asked if the SFPD had the equipment for the Joy Lake Fire Station. Chief Greene stated two-person crews in career fire stations would have 3,000 gallon water tenders. He said the water tenders would be used to drive to fires and the Suburban's, which were located at each fire station, would be used to go to EMS calls. He said one of the options in the plan was to look at purchasing some rescue units if the \$250,000 was not used, because they had more capabilities. Commissioner Weber asked if grants for equipment would be sought. Chief Greene replied he would look for grants for rescue units first because of their multiple capabilities.

Commissioner Weber asked where and when the cost sharing discussion would be held and by whom. Chief Greene said if the Board appointed a citizens committee that would represent the affected areas, then staff would be directed to vet each of the options and to present that information to the group for analysis. He said after the analysis was completed, a recommended option would be brought back to the Board. He felt this would be an open and inclusive process, which was similar to Mr. Latipow's plan for the Master Plan. He said this was not a new direction, but was consistent with the direction the Board was already heading.

Commissioner Weber felt the cost sharing would not be handled through the citizen committee. Chief Greene agreed, but said they would bring the Board recommendations for making the policy decisions. He noted this was outside the scope of the JFAB. He said it should be a coordinated process because the Reno Fire Department and the TMFPD would look at the numbers and would come back with a recommendation. He stated two months ago there was a stakeholder's meeting regarding the Master Plan to develop action items and a tremendous amount was accomplished. He saw replicating that process with greater citizen participation and coming to the Board, so the Board could ultimately make a policy decision. Commissioner Weber felt the communities had the ability and the expertise to come together and devise a plan if given the opportunity. She believed the stakeholder's committee should be put together. She felt up until now the communities had been pitted against each other and this was an opportunity to turn that around and make it a win-win situation for everyone.

Commissioner Larkin felt Chief Greene was able to best deploy his resources in the most cost effective manner, and he was not opposed to the two-person crews. He asked if Chief Greene was aware that JFAB's role had been expanded by the BOFC and the Reno City Council through the Interlocal Agreement. Chief Greene believed the expansion included looking at the inclusion of the SFPD and other interested entities. Commissioner Larkin asked Mr. Latipow to explain. Mr. Latipow explained the expansion of the JFAB's role included making recommendations on budgetary items, governance, and the inclusion of other parties in the Interlocal Agreement. He stated the language was written to be flexible enough so items that the Reno City Council or the BOFC wished to refer to the JFAB would be within the JFAB's authority to accept, review, and to make recommendations.

Commissioner Larkin asked Chief Greene to explain how he felt this was outside of the JFAB's role. Chief Greene stated he was not familiar with the expansion and did not know whether a citizen's committee could be involved with the JFAB or not. He said citizen participation was huge at an earlier JFAB meeting and a lot of questions were raised.

Commissioner Larkin said the SFPD represented a small part of all of Washoe County and the TMFPD's contract with the City of Reno involved the southern half of the County. He stated he did not hear Chief Greene discuss any of the other CAB's having a stakeholder's role in the discussions. He said anything involving the TMFPD would also involve those CAB's. Chief Greene felt Commissioner Larkin was

correct and there should be representation for all of the citizens. Commissioner Larkin felt that was the purpose of the JFAB because its role changed to accommodate this discussion. Chief Greene replied he was not familiar enough with the language to answer that question, and he was pleased to see the JFAB was expanding its role. He was not sure a venue where citizens spoke individually would be as successful as stakeholder meetings, which would involve the SFPD and TMFPD working with staff to obtain information before going to the JFAB or the Board.

Commissioner Breternitz said he understood volunteers came from locations other than the fire station and it would take time for them to arrive at the station, man the truck, and get to a fire. Chief Greene said it was important to acknowledge there was a whole range of services provided by volunteers and only a small percentage of the volunteers were firefighters. He said data showed volunteers were present at actual incidents between 4 to 10 percent of the time. He believed including volunteers in a staffing equation would require depending on something that might or might not occur. He hoped the staffing plan would be viewed as a stop-gap measure, which would allow the Board time to evaluate other options. He stated the volunteers were a force multiplier and could perform many other roles besides fighting fires. He advised they could be depended upon to follow up, but not to be the first responders.

Chairman Humke asked Pete Cannizzaro, President of the Washoe County Volunteer Fireman's Association, to describe his fire service career. Chief Cannizzaro stated he would celebrate in June his 29th year as a Galena volunteer and almost 20 as the Chief. He said he spent 14 years with NDF and worked with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He advised he had also been part of the Great Basin Operations Committee, so he had a varied background. He stated he had worked with volunteers statewide and most rural communities relied on them for service. He stated he had been the project manager for the Fire Services Master Plan, which led to the State devolving itself of local operations.

Chairman Humke asked Chief Cannizzaro to discuss volunteer training. Chief Cannizzaro explained volunteer training was the same as the training for career firefighters. He noted career firefighters had more opportunities to train because of being located at the fire stations for the duration of their shifts. He said the City of Reno, the TMFPD, and the SFPD had combined their training programs for volunteers. He said policies and procedures were being developed to ensure the volunteer firefighters were in compliance with the training.

Chairman Humke asked about the road running behind the Galena Volunteer Fire Station. Chief Cannizzaro said it was part of Saddlehorn Drive and ran about 50 yards behind the Station and would provide access into the nearby subdivision if necessary. Chairman Humke asked if punching a road through would be helpful in providing access to the Saddlehorn/Arrowcreek areas. Chief Cannizzaro said he and Chief Greene had looked at that for additional access. He stated the volunteer station was placed where it was because it was on the north side of the creek in case high water would deny access to the area by firefighting equipment coming from the highway.

Chairman Humke asked how many volunteers moved into career positions. Chief Cannizzaro replied 53 people from the Galena area had moved into various levels of career firefighting positions over the last 20 years.

Chairman Humke advised he was concerned about how the stakeholders committee would be staffed. Katy Simon, County Manager, said she shared that concern. She stated citizen involvement and input was valued, but it was difficult to gather together the technical people identified in the report and the citizens. She cautioned the meetings would fall under the Open Meeting Law if the Board appointed people, which was a slower and more bureaucratic process. She stated getting an expedited decision was what the Board and the citizens wanted to see happen. She indicated the huge reduction in the County's staff would make it a challenge to support a stakeholder's committee. She advised staff would like to include the citizens during the process. She suggested scheduling some noticed public meetings to obtain citizen input rather than having a large number citizens charged by the Board to bring forward a recommendation. She reminded everyone the Nuisance Committee took two years to bring forward recommendations to enhance and improve the County's Nuisance Ordinance.

Chairman Humke believed staff would need to vet the citizens' ideas before they could be presented to this Board to make policy decisions. Ms. Simon said that was correct. She asked who would determine all of the citizens that would be impacted by the decisions. She said it was part of the BOFC's and the JFAB's roles to represent all citizens and many more people were impacted than the communities represented here. She felt the only way to have everybody be part of the process was to bring forward recommendations that were vetted for legality and financial feasibility. She said after the recommendations were vetted, there could be open publicly noticed evening meetings so people could participate more easily. She stated staff members would have to be paid overtime if regular evening committee meetings were held, which would create a fiscal challenge.

Chairman Humke asked if the stakeholders' group would work if it was restricted to the SFPD with the intent of negotiating the agreements with the TMFPD and the Reno Fire Department later. Ms. Simon felt excluding some people from the process would lose the buy in by some important affected citizens. She would rather the meetings be as open as possible, so any citizens that wanted to participate could do so.

Chairman Humke asked if it was possible for the stakeholders to conclude their work by November 2010. Ms. Simon said it was possible the options could be understood and vetted by November, but arriving at a consensus might be another story.

Chairman Humke said he did not believe Chief Greene was saying he had the staffing capability to analyze all of the questions, especially their legality. Chief Greene stated his administrative staff consisted of himself and the Administrative Secretary and everyone else was on the line. He felt vetting the components legally, fiscally, and moving towards making payments equitable were important because no one

wanted to present a half-baked plan to anybody. He felt there would be sufficient expertise to do that because it was aligning with what was happening with the Master Plan and was complementary with what was happening with the JFAB's role expansion. He also felt the focus was shifting, so ideally all of these things would line up with the Board deciding to do the Master Plan Study and expanding it to include the City of Reno so the assets could be looked at as a region. He said this would require a lot of staff time in addition to the time already expended. He reiterated he did not want to bring anything forward where people did not have an opportunity to provide their input before asking the Board to make a policy decision.

Commissioner Larkin said Chief Greene brought forward an excellent interim staffing plan. He stated if Chief Greene was confident the FEMA grant would be there, he had no problem with moving forward with building the Arrowcreek Fire Station. He indicated he had concerns about appointing a stakeholder's committee because he did not believe it had been fully vetted between Chief Greene, Mr. Latipow and Ms. Simon. He said citizens needed to be involved, but the stakeholder's committee needed to be fine-tuned and brought back to the BOFC with a more concrete idea regarding its operation.

Commissioner Breternitz believed working out the inequities in funding calls should be on the JFAB's agenda. He stated he was somewhat uncomfortable with the idea of splitting the fire crews. He said he could see the complexities of having a citizen's committee coming together to make recommendations, and he did not hold out a lot of hope of that coming together within a reasonable amount of time. He believed building the fire station at Arrowcreek made sense and felt authorizing the design could be done. He advised he was uncomfortable with starting construction until after the design was completed. He indicated that would allow Chief Greene time to take another look at staffing, even though he was not sure there would be another solution.

Chairman Humke suggested taking the 30 days before the next BOFC meeting for Chief Greene to consult with the Manager and the District Attorney's Office, which he felt would save time overall. He said the formation of a GID had not been discussed, but some citizens had talked to him about forming a Special Assessment District (SAD). He stated the citizens would have to be consulted regarding the formation of a GID or a SAD, and the formation of a SAD would require following the rules set forth in NRS. He said he was rusty on the requirements for forming a GID, but he believed it could be done by this Board. He stated there had been some testimony regarding people being willing to pay more and it was the Board's duty to measure that willingness. He stated he did not agree with doing the design and putting off the rest, and there would be a year to 13 months to solve the staffing issue.

Commissioner Weber believed it was time to move forward because needed construction jobs were at stake. She felt Option One was the best way to go for now, while acknowledging changes could be made. She said not moving forward would lose the grant money needed to construct the Arrowcreek Fire Station, and would be

doing a disservice to a large population of the County's citizens. She agreed with having the stakeholder's committee and with waiting until next month to bring it back.

Commissioner Jung agreed with using Option One as an interim step. She believed the Board should uphold the commitment it made that the citizens would be treated equitably when the SFPD was brought into the County, which she believed the Arrowcreek Fire Station would enhance. She felt not accepting the grant would be tantamount to saying jobs were not needed here. She said she did not want to wait any longer because of the upcoming fire season. She understood the design was one that had been used for other area fire stations, which would save time and money. She believed the area's citizens could come to an equitable compromise, and she would not be satisfied until that point was reached. She agreed the stakeholder's committee was important, but also agreed it needed to be fleshed out a bit. She requested at next month's meeting, there would be a staff report that would indicate what the group would look like, the legal ramifications, and so on. She felt it was vitally important this come before the JFAB when it was ready. She supported this item moving forward and would provide whatever support she could to the community's stakeholders.

Commissioner Breternitz stated he supported the idea of having the fire station built as quickly as possible, but the staffing discussion was still about piecemeal coverage. He did not believe an interim staffing plan was what was conceived of by the statutory requirements of having a staffing plan in place before proceeding with construction. He said from the standpoint of being fiscally responsible, having two people manning two stations did not provide the kind of protection the people deserved. He believed the solution was to find a viable and sustainable staffing plan, which this staffing plan was not. He stated he could not support this concept at this time.

Chairman Humke noted the staffing plan before the BOFC was satisfactory to show progress to FEMA, while it was not satisfactory on a long-term basis. He said the staffing plan was inherently modifiable over the next 12 plus months.

Commissioner Larkin made a motion that the staff's recommendation on Items A-D on page 10 of Agenda Item 3 of the staff report be accepted and that Item E be modified to direct Chief Greene to work with the County Manager and Mr. Latipow on the policies, procedures, methods, and the representation of the stakeholder's committee. It was further ordered that the representation of the stakeholder's committee was to be brought back to the Board on June 22, 2010. Commissioner Weber seconded the motion.

Chairman Humke asked if the motion was acceptable from a legal standpoint. Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel, said the items were clearly laid out in the staff report and Commissioner Larkin's amendment of Item E was clear.

Chairman Humke commented the follow-up action would be to enter into the lease with the County for the site and to dispose of the developer-dedicated property. Ms. Foster replied those items required specific actions under the law and would have to

come back to the BOFC at future meetings. Chairman Humke indicated he wanted to clarify no action on those items was happening today.

Chairman Humke said he wanted Chief Greene to work with the County Manager, the District Attorney's Office and any other necessary people on Item E, the stakeholder's group, so there would be a staff report ready to go on June 22, 2010. He stated he was not thrilled with peoples' suggestions that the Board was dragging its feet on any piece of this.

On the call for the question, the motion duly carried with Commissioner Breternitz voting "no."

10-43SF AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: "Commissioner's/Managers 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.)"

Commissioner Weber thanked everyone for coming out and being involved in the discussions on the Arrowcreek Fire Station.

Chairman Humke thanked various individuals for providing the space to hold meetings for the citizen's to discuss the new fire station.

Commissioner Larkin said this spring had been extremely wet, and he requested the SFPD bring back a readiness report to the BOFC. Mr. Latipow replied that would be done at the next joint meeting.

10-44SF AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: "Public Comment and discussion thereon."

There was no response to the call for public comment.

10-45SF AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: "Emergency Items."

There were no emergency items.

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1:30 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, the meeting was adjourned.

DAVID E. HUMKE, Chairman
Sierra Fire Protection District

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by Jan Frazzetta,
Deputy County Clerk*