

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

TUESDAY

11:00 a.m.

AUGUST 23, 2011

PRESENT:

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

**Amy Harvey, County Clerk**  
**Katy Simon, County Manager**  
**Paul Lipparelli, Assistant District Attorney**  
**Michael Greene, Fire Chief**

The Board convened at 11:38 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, and conducted the following business:

**11-105SF     AGENDA ITEM 6**

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

**11:39 a.m.**     On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried, the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) Employee Organization per NRS 288.220.

**12:28 p.m.**     The Board reconvened as the SFPD BOFC with Commissioners Jung and Weber absent.

Katy Simon, County Manager, said a tentative agreement with the SFPD had been reached, which included three-person staffing. She thanked the negotiating team for their work on reaching an agreement, and the agreement would be brought to the next BOFC meeting for approval.

**\*12:29 p.m.**     Commissioners Jung and Weber arrived.

**11-106SF     AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Agenda Subject:** “Acknowledgement of a report on the implementation of the FY 2011-12 spending reduction plan including a reduction in force and shift coverage overtime and its projected impact on station staffing at District fire stations.”

In response to the call for public comment, Karin Tancrell said she was happy a tentative agreement was reached, but she was against a permanent staffing reduction at the Bowers Fire Station because she felt it would have a drastic impact. She stated she never envisioned citizens groups being pitted against each other to vie for services to protect their lives and homes, which she felt would happen once the Arrowcreek Fire Station opened. She believed decisions would be made based on funding, population, and who had the most influence. She commented on the probable 16-minute response time for West Washoe Valley. She stated playing Russian roulette with the Bowers Fire Station as the scapegoat was not the logical or fair solution.

Jane Countryman, West Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) representative, discussed the lack of funding to staff the new Arrowcreek Fire Station. She said in reading the Chief's staff report, it was apparent only the West Washoe Valley residents were being sacrificed in the coverage plan. She said all SFPD residents paid the same dedicated tax for service, and coverage should be based on adequate response times with all areas in the SFPD sharing in the reduced service levels. She requested the Board look at merging the County's two fire districts to make all services equitable and to have enough staff at every station.

Peggy Lear Bowen discussed the staffing at the Verdi Fire Station if the agreement came to fruition. She stated the concern was regarding equity and what would protect the community. She requested the Board go back and work on a plan that would not require the proposed cuts.

Janelle Vetter stated she wanted to know how the Verdi area citizens could create their own Fire Board for the Verdi area. Katy Simon, County Manager, asked Ms. Vetter to leave her contact information so the District Attorney's Office could give Ms. Vetter some direction. She advised since there was an existing District, there would have to be a process to break up the current District.

Commissioner Humke asked about managing staffing going forward based on the tentative agreement. Michael Greene, Chief, said the tentative agreement would provide the flexibility in staffing to ensure the current stations would be staffed 100 percent of the time with a minimum of three people, and it provided the opportunity to expand the staffing to be able to staff the Arrowcreek Fire Station as well. He stated the agreement provided the flexibility with the current number of FTE's to absorb sick leave absences and to go with the option of going to a two-person rescue unit. He said the absences would have to go pretty deep into the organization on a daily basis to create a staffing problem. He stated the agreement gave him the authority to use four people when possible and to go to three people or a two-person rescue when necessary.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be continued until the next Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) meeting.

**12:36 p.m.** Commissioner Humke left the meeting.

**11-107SF AGENDA ITEM 2**

**Agenda Subject:** “Public comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to two minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Board of Fire Commissioners agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, *with* comment limited to two minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Board of Fire Commission as a whole.”

In response to the call for public comment, Garth Elliott spoke on items on the Board of County Commissioners’ agenda. His comments were placed under those items in the BCC minutes for August 23, 2011.

**11-108SF AGENDA ITEM 3A**

**Agenda Subject:** “Approval of Agenda for the August 23, 2011 SFPD Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.”

There was no public comment on this item.

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

**11-109SF AGENDA ITEM 3B**

**Agenda Subject:** “Approval of BOFC meeting minutes from June 14, 2011.”

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 3B be approved.

**11-110SF AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Agenda Subject:** “Chiefs Report including Arrowcreek Station.”

Michael Greene, Chief, thanked the Board for taking the action to accept the tentative agreement, Mark Gregersen for his work, County staff for their support, and the union as well. He felt this was an historic agreement and a great opportunity to set the course for the future.

There was no public comment on this item.

**11-111SF     AGENDA ITEM 7**

**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).**

There were no announcements.

**11-112SF     AGENDA ITEM 2**

**Agenda Subject: “Public comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to two minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Board of Fire Commissioners agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to two minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Board of Fire Commission as a whole.”**

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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**12:41 p.m.** On motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, the meeting was adjourned.

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**JOHN BRETERNITZ**, Chairman  
Sierra Fire Protection District

**ATTEST:**

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

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