



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 25, 2015

CM/ACM _____
Finance _____
Legal _____
Risk Mgt. _____
HR _____

DATE: July 9, 2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief
Phone: 775-328-6123 Email: cmoore@tmfpd.us
THROUGH: John Slaughter, County Manager

SUBJECT: Discussion and approval of a resolution proposing to consolidate Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District with Sierra Fire Protection District and to hold a hearing to determine whether consolidation is feasible and in the best interests of the County and Districts. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

This agenda item is to discuss and possibly approve a resolution proposing to consolidate Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) with Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) and to hold a hearing to determine whether consolidation is feasible and in the best interests of the County and Districts.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: *Achieving long term financial sustainability*

Strategic Objective supported by this item: *Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities*

PREVIOUS ACTION

October 25, 2011 Board of Fire Commissioners approved the operational and administrative consolidation of the SFPD and TMFPD with TMFPD as fire service provider and defined the level of service therein. Board directed staff to return with an Interlocal Agreement between the SFPD and TMFPD to effectuate the consolidation through contract.

March 27, 2012 Board of Fire Commissioners approved the Interlocal Agreement between the SFPD and TMFPD for Consolidated Fire Service.

On January 7, 2015 the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the potential legislation in concept to clarify and amend NRS 474 County Fire Protection District law to allow for a permanent consolidation of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Sierra Fire Protection District.

BACKGROUND

Since 2010, the Board of Fire Commissioners has taken steps to consolidation the operations and administration of the TMFPD and SFPD. The consolidation has taken place through an Interlocal Agreement approved by the Board on March 27, 2012 with subsequent extensions. However, consolidation through Interlocal Agreement means both fire districts are still in existence as two separate local governments creating much duplication of effort and higher administration costs.

For example, because the TMFPD and SFPD are currently two separate local governments, they both have to follow state law regarding auditing, budgeting and reporting requirements. This leads to duplicate auditing for both the TMFPD and SFPD. The auditors audit the SFPD expenditures which for the most part is merely the transfer of funds from the SFPD to the TMFPD for operational costs and then audits the operational costs of the SFPD during the TMFPD audit. The cost of the SFPD audit is in the \$20,000 range which could be saved if there were only one audit of TMFPD and SFPD combined.

Regarding budgeting, currently the TMFPD and SFPD have to have separate local government budgets when for the most part the expenditure of the SFPD is merely the transfer of funds from the SFPD to the TMFPD and then the TMFPD budgets for the SFPD operational expenditures. This leads to duplicate budgeting and several thousands of dollars of staff time in preparing duplicate budgets.

In addition, reporting requirements for the TMFPD and SFPD are currently duplicated adding additional staff time costs.

There are duplicate Board agenda items which take up Board and staff time and cost, duplicate insurance costs such as liability insurance for two Boards which could be streamlined into one insurance policy for one Board, etc.

The operational and administrative consolidation of the TMFPD and SFPD has been extremely successful and has provided financial stability to both fire districts. A permanent consolidation would insure this successful consolidation remains in perpetuity.

Recently enacted legislation, AB 333 allows a board of county commissioners of a county with a population of less than 700,000 to consolidate two or more fire protection districts. AB 333 provides that consolidation may be initiated by the adoption of a resolution proposing the consolidation of two or more fire protection districts.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact is a savings to the Districts of several tens of thousands of taxpayers' dollars. In addition, the legislation ensured no property tax increases due to an annexation of the SFPD by the TMFPD.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board approve a resolution proposing to consolidate Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District with Sierra Fire Protection District and to hold a hearing on September 25, 2015 to determine whether consolidation is feasible and in the best interests of the County and Districts.

POSSIBLE MOTION

If the Board of County Commissioners agrees a possible motion could be:

“I move to approve a resolution proposing to consolidate Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District with Sierra Fire Protection District and request staff to schedule a hearing on September 22, 2015 to determine whether consolidation is feasible and in the best interests of the County and Districts.”

RESOLUTION

PROPOSING TO CONSOLIDATE TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT WITH SIERRA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND TO HOLD A HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER CONSOLIDATION IS FEASIBLE AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY AND DISTRICTS.

WHEREAS, recently enacted legislation, AB 333 allows a board of county commissioners of a county with a population of less than 700,000 to consolidate two or more fire protection districts organized pursuant to NRS 474.460 provided (a) each district is contiguous to at least one other district subject to the consolidation, and (b) the territory of each district is located entirely within the county, and (c) the rates of the taxes levied by the board of county commissioners pursuant to NRS 474.510 and 474.515, respectively, are equal in each district at the time of consolidation; and,

WHEREAS, AB 333 provides that consolidation may be initiated by the adoption of a resolution proposing the consolidation of two or more fire protection districts; and

WHEREAS, following the adoption of a resolution proposing the consolidation of two or more fire protection districts the board of county commissioners is required to conduct a hearing to determine whether consolidation of two or more fire protection districts is feasible and in the best interests of the county and districts; and,

WHEREAS, if a board of county commissioners determines that consolidation is feasible and in the best interests of the county and fire protection districts, the board of county commissioners must adopt an ordinance creating a consolidated fire protection district that includes all of the area of the fire protection districts, and includes the name and identifies the boundaries of the consolidated fire protection district; and,

WHEREAS, the population of Washoe County is less than 700,000, the boundaries of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Sierra Fire Protection District, both organized pursuant to NRS 474.460, are located entirely within Washoe County, are contiguous to each other, and the rates of taxes levied by the Washoe County Board of Commissioners are equal in both fire protection districts; and,

WHEREAS, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners desires to propose the consolidation of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Sierra Fire Protection District into one district which will include all of the area of both fire protection districts and be named "Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District"; to have the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District assume all duties, debts, obligations, liabilities, revenues, expenditures and assets of the Sierra Fire Protection District; to dissolve the Board of Fire Commissioners for the

Sierra Fire Protection District and take all other actions necessary and proper to finalize consolidation of the Sierra Fire Protection District with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and cease all operations and activities of the Sierra Fire Protection District on or around June 30, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, prior to effectuating the consolidation of the Districts, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners desires to conduct a hearing to determine whether consolidation of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Sierra Fire Protection District is feasible and in the best interests of Washoe County and the aforementioned Districts,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Washoe County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. The Washoe County Board of Commissioners hereby proposes to consolidate the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District with the Sierra Fire Protection District and therefore directs that a hearing be held before the Washoe County Board of Commissioners on September 22, 2015 to determine whether consolidation of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Sierra Fire Protection Districts is feasible and in the best interests of Washoe County and the aforementioned Districts, and, if so, to adopt an ordinance which complies with the requirements of AB 333 and Chapter 474 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, and direct staff to take such other and further actions as are necessary to consolidate the aforementioned Districts on or around June 30, 2016.

ADOPTED this 25th day of August, 2015.

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

Marsha Berkgigler, Chair
Washoe County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Nancy Parent
Washoe County Clerk