

JOINT MEETING
of the
WASHOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RENO CITY COUNCIL
SPARKS CITY COUNCIL
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

THURSDAY 2:00 P.M. OCTOBER 7, 1999

PRESENT:

WASHOE COUNTY			CITY OF RENO
TRUCKEE MEADOWS F.P.D.			
Jim Galloway	Chairman	Jeff Griffin	Mayor
Ted Short	Vice Chairman	Dave Aizzai	Councilmember
Joanne Bond	Commissioner	Sherrie Doyle	Councilmember
Pete Sferrazza	Commissioner	Pierre Hascheff	Councilmember
Jim Shaw	Commissioner	Tom Herndon	Councilmember
Katy Singlaub	County Manager	Dave Rigdon	Councilmember
Madelyn Shipman	Legal Counsel	Charles McNeely	City Manager
Amy Harvey	County Clerk	Mike Melner	Legal Counsel
Donald Cook	City Clerk		
CITY OF SPARKS		WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Tony Armstrong	Mayor	Anne Loring	Board President
Mike Carrigan	Councilmember	Jonnie Pullman	Board Vice President
Geno Martini	Councilmember	Bob Bentley	Member & Clerk of the Board
Phil Salerno	Councilmember	Dorothy Dermody	Board Member
Phil Zive	Councilmember	Marilyn Fendelander	Board Member
Shawn Carey	City Manager	Nancy Hollinger	Board Member
Greg Salter	Legal Counsel	Lezlie Porter	Board Member
Deborine J. Dolan	City Clerk	Jim Hager	Superintendent

The Washoe County Commissioners, the Reno City Council, the Sparks City Council and the Board of Trustees of the Washoe County School District convened in a special joint meeting at Truckee Meadows Community College, Vista Building, Room B206, 7000 Dandini Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, with Sparks Mayor Tony Armstrong presiding. Mayor Armstrong called the meeting to order, the Clerks called the roll for their respective entities, and the following business was conducted:

Mayor Armstrong welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the elected officials for attending calling the meeting a very historic event providing an opportunity for some real regional cooperation. He also stated that he had placed a large garbage bag at the door as a symbol and that it would be his hope that everyone would leave their "garbage" at the door so that the group could concentrate on accomplishing something for the good of the entire region.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lois Avery, President, Spanish Springs Valley Ranches Homeowners Association and Co-Chairman of the Coalition for Community Friendly Power Facilities, addressed the group concerning Sierra Pacific Power Company's proposal to put up 108 miles of 120KV power lines and stressed that Sierra Pacific needs to be included in the regional planning process so that these ugly power lines hanging all over can be avoided.

Dr. Bill Avery, P.E. and Professor in Electrical Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno, explained that the proposed power line from Tracy to Spanish Springs will carry 200 megawatts and what Sierra Pacific is planning is called "wheeling," or selling the power, and stated that it would be the same as having a freeway through Reno with no exits.

Frank Partlow read excerpts from a textbook concerning the history of 16th century Poland and presented the analogy that the local entities should be looking outside of the region for their enemies and not towards each other.

Sam Dehne suggested that the Commissioners and the Councilmembers should order their appointees on the Airport Authority Board to televise their meetings and stated that there is nothing dumber for this area than the postal and cargo plans the Airport Authority is pursuing.

99-1011 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING COOPERATION AMONG THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

On motion by Trustee Pullman, seconded by Trustee Porter, which motion carried unanimously, it was ordered that the following resolution be adopted and Board President Loring be authorized to execute on behalf of the Washoe County School District:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Washoe County School District, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners, the City Council of the City of Reno, and the City Council of the City of Sparks are having a joint meeting October 7, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the elected representatives of these governing bodies will be reviewing the 800 MHz regional communication system, envisioned as an area-wide, interagency system for communication and dispatch of public safety personnel; and

WHEREAS, the elected officials will also be discussing ways in which they can interact in a true spirit of regional cooperation and cohesiveness for the betterment of the entire Truckee Meadows;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, with the Washoe County Board of Commissioners, the City Council of the City of Reno, and the City Council of the City of Sparks pledge to work together in a spirit of unity and harmony for the common good of all residents of the Truckee Meadows.

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WASHOE COUNTY

On motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion carried unanimously, it was ordered that the following resolution be adopted and Chairman Galloway be authorized to execute on behalf of Washoe County:

WHEREAS, The Washoe County Board of Commissioners, the City Council of the City of Reno, the City Council of the City of Sparks and the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees are having a joint meeting October 7, 1999; and

WHEREAS, The elected representatives of these governing bodies will be reviewing the 800 MHz communication system, envisioned as an area-wide, interagency system for communication and dispatch of public safety personnel; and

WHEREAS, The elected officials will also be discussing ways in which they can interact in a true spirit of regional cooperation and cohesiveness for the betterment of the entire Truckee Meadows; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Washoe County Board of Commissioners, the City Council of the City of Reno, the City Council of the

City of Sparks and the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees pledge to work together in a spirit of unity and harmony for the common good of all residents of the Truckee Meadows.

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CITY OF RENO

On motion by Member Aizzai, seconded by Member Rigdon, which motion carried unanimously, it was ordered that the following resolution, be adopted and Mayor Griffin be authorized to execute on behalf of the City of Reno:

RESOLUTION NO. 5658

WHEREAS, The Washoe County Board of Commissioners, the City Council of the City of Reno, the City Council of the City of Sparks and the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees are having a joint meeting October 7, 1999; and

WHEREAS, The elected representatives of these governing bodies will be reviewing the 800 MHz communication system, envisioned as an area-wide, interagency system for communication and dispatch of public safety personnel; and

WHEREAS, The elected officials will also be discussing ways in which they can interact in a true spirit of regional cooperation and cohesiveness for the betterment of the entire Truckee Meadows; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Washoe County Board of Commissioners, the City Council of the City of Reno, the City Council of the City of Sparks and the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees pledge to work together in a spirit of unity and harmony for the common good of all residents of the Truckee Meadows.

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CITY OF SPARKS

On motion by Member Zive, seconded by Member Martini, which motion carried unanimously, it was ordered that the following resolution be adopted and Mayor Armstrong be authorized to execute on behalf of the City of Sparks:

RESOLUTION NO. 2618

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Sparks, the City Council of the City of Reno, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, and the Board Members of the Washoe County School District are having a joint meeting October 7, 1999; and

WHEREAS, The elected representatives of these governing bodies will be reviewing the 800 MHz communication system, envisioned as an area-wide, interagency system for communication and dispatch of public safety personnel; and

WHEREAS, The elected officials will also be discussing ways in which they can interact in a true spirit of regional cooperation and cohesiveness for the betterment of the entire Truckee Meadows;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Sparks, the City Council of the City of Reno, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, and the Board Members of the Washoe County School District pledge to work together in a spirit of unity and harmony for the common good of all residents of the Truckee Meadows.

99-1012 APPROVAL/ RATIFICATION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - 800 MHZ COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Rick Bareuther, City of Sparks Information Services Manager, Gary Goelitz, Washoe County Senior Administrative Analyst, and Ralph

Jaeck, City of Reno Assistant City Manager, had presented the staff reports to their respective agencies and were present to respond to questions. Mr. Bareuther pointed out that there have been three suggested modifications to the interlocal agreement previously presented; that those involve

- (1) changing all references to the State of Nevada to the Nevada Department of Transportation, (2) adding a funding out clause in the event one of the partners experiences financial difficulties and wants out of the system, and
- (3) clarifying liability limitations; and that the Sparks City Attorney has reviewed the changes and determined they are not substantive.

In regard to the first change, Mr. Goelitz explained that the Nevada Highway Patrol has chosen to use a different frequency. In response to Mayor Griffin, Mr. Bareuther listed some of the reasons for that decision. Mr. Goelitz expressed his belief that it does not make sense for NHP to build a separate system.

Mr. Goelitz also explained that the clarifications concerning the funding out clause apply only to operating and maintenance costs. Mr. Bareuther stated that the end-user equipment belongs to the particular agency forever as that equipment is not pooled.

Mr. Jaeck reviewed the next steps in the process stating that the next action would be for all agencies to go forward with the Ericsson contract, which is anticipated to occur in October; that completion of construction of the backbone is anticipated by February, 2001; and that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) should be operative by July, 2001. Mr. Jaeck also discussed the testing process for the 800 system and explained that there would be no disruption of public safety services as the current systems will continue to operate until the 800 system is functioning.

Mr. Jaeck then stated that at a previous meeting, the Reno City Council members asked several questions regarding costs and he explained that the County is providing \$9.1-million from the bond issue; that the total cost of the system is almost \$14-million; that the difference will be provided by the School District, NDOT, and the various agencies towards the purchase of their non-safety mobile and portable units; that Reno's share of the maintenance costs for the backbone will approximate \$185,000 annually; and that he anticipates maintenance costs for the radios, base, etc., will be about \$50,000 more than the current system. Mr. Jaeck also pointed out that the service level to the residents of the Truckee Meadows will be greatly enhanced.

Reno Councilmember Aizzai asked why the costs for the non-public safety radios appear to be different for each entity. Mr. Goelitz explained that there are a number of variables and options for the radios; that each entity will be deciding exactly what they wish to have; and that the choices they make will influence the cost per radio. Mr. Bareuther further explained that the costs are different for the mobile radios versus the portable units. Mr. Goelitz stated that one of the next steps will be the critical design review where they will sit down with the Police Chiefs, the Fire Chiefs, etc., to go over everything and, at that time, each entity will decide which particular features they desire.

Councilmember Aizzai then requested that the maintenance costs on the radios be identified. Mr. Goelitz stated that everything will be under warranty the first year, so the cost will be near zero for that time period, and that maintenance costs are going to have to be developed. He advised that he did contact the City of Oakland to find out what their experience had been, but they have not yet responded to his request.

Sparks Councilmember Zive asked if Ericsson could provide a billing statement or any information that would help staff determine what the costs might be. Mr. Goelitz stated that he would make that request. Mr. Jaeck stated that when they did their field trips to research other systems, they found a tremendous range in the maintenance costs, but he believes the majority were between \$10 and \$25 per month and that \$15 would be a better number. Councilmember Aizzai expressed concern that using \$15 to \$25 amounts to \$405,000 per year; that it appears no one really knows what the maintenance costs are going to be; and that they are being asked to agree to pay when no one is sure of the exact amount. Mr. Goelitz further explained that the County intends to maintain their radios with existing staff just as they currently maintain their existing radios; that they do anticipate adding one additional person for maintenance of the microwave backbone; and that, unless an agency dramatically changes their number of radios, he does not think their already budgeted radio maintenance costs should change dramatically.

Councilmember Aizzai then stated that it appears to him that residents in the Cities of Reno and Sparks are paying approximately 72 percent of the cost of radios that are exclusive to unincorporated residents and that, by his calculations over a 10-year period, it seems that the residents in the incorporated cities will be paying an extra \$2.5-million to fund the radios for the unincorporated residents.

Katy Singlaub, County Manager, responded that approximately 30 percent of the County's non-public safety radios would be exclusive to the unincorporated area; that those will be funded by other dollars such as fuel taxes, building permit fees, user fees, etc.; that there have been a lot of arguments on both sides concerning fiscal inequities; that the Regional Planning Governing Board is in the process of commissioning a fiscal equity study; and that it would be her hope that all those issues be addressed by that study.

Councilmember Aizzai disagreed and stated that this radio system is a new and separate item; that it does not need to be part of the fiscal equity study; and that it could be decided here and now.

Reno Councilmember Herndon stated that there are probably all kinds of fiscal inequities going both ways and sorting through all that is not going to happen quickly; that he feels this communication system is close enough; and that it is an important enough regional effort that it should go forth. He further stated that the fiscal issue is on the table and will be addressed in the study; and that this cooperation happening today is a big step in the right direction.

Commissioner Sferrazza commented that there was a fiscal equity study done several years ago through the University; that there were many inequities going both ways; and that the flood improvements and the ReTrac project that will benefit the cities are being paid for by the unincorporated residents as well as the incorporated residents.

Mayor Griffin stated that he believes the group will seize this opportunity and move forward in a cooperative, region-wide approach to establish this radio system; that even if there is an inequity, he will support it; and that he would just like to know if there is an inequity.

Ms. Singlaub stated that she does not dispute that the tax system and the legal structure of the fiscal system does allow for unincorporated area services to be funded from the County's general fund into which all residents of the County contribute.

She added that it is going to be difficult to address the inequity issue but the County is committed to doing so through the study. Mayor Griffin repeated his question asking Ms. Singlaub if she believes there is an unknown cost for the radio system being paid by residents of the incorporated cities for services provided in the unincorporated areas. Ms. Singlaub stated that there is.

Sparks Councilmember Zive stated that this communication system was approved by all of the voters of Washoe County three and a half years ago; that it has taken way too long to get to this point; and that it needs to keep moving forward to completion.

In response to Reno Councilmember Doyle, Washoe County Commission Chairman Galloway pledged to everyone that the fiscal equity issue will not be forgotten.

Mayor Armstrong called on members of the public who wished to speak concerning the radio communication system.

Frank Partlow stated that the three staff members who have worked so hard on this are to be congratulated and urged the Councils and Boards to approve the interlocal agreement and communication system.

Sam Dehne stated that as far as fiscal equity goes, Reno is so far ahead of Sparks and Washoe County because of the railroad trench that the other entities will never catch up. He also urged the group to have more joint meetings.

Dr. Bill Avery spoke of the importance of thoroughly testing the system before it is implemented.

On motion by Councilmember Aizzai, seconded by Councilmember Rigdon, which motion carried unanimously, it was ordered that the following resolution be adopted and Mayor Griffin be authorized to execute on behalf of the City of Reno:

RESOLUTION NO. 5655

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FOR A REGIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the City desires to enter into an interlocal agreement for sharing of resources to provide a regional communication system and system governance between the County of Washoe, the Washoe County School District, the State of Nevada, the City of Sparks, and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. A copy of the Washoe County Regional Communication System Interlocal Agreement is attached to the original resolution as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to eliminate the individually operated communication systems and create a combined radio communication system for public safety; and desires to replace its existing radio communication systems with modern radio system as more particularly set forth in the Washoe County Regional Communication System Interlocal Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to establish a method of governance over the administration, management and use of the regional communication system, in which the City is an active and equal participant in all issues pertaining thereto; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washoe County Regional Communication System Interlocal Agreement upon execution of all parties thereto shall operate as the governing agreement for a regional communication system, the terms of which are hereby approved. Further, as required by NRS 277.045(3), each annual budget for the City shall provide for any expense to be incurred under the agreement which is not otherwise provided for by grant, gift or other source.

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WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

On motion by Member Porter, seconded by Member Dermody, which motion carried unanimously, it was ordered that approval of the Washoe County Regional Communication System Interlocal Agreement between the Washoe County School District, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, Washoe County and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, as amended, be reaffirmed and President Loring be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Washoe County School District.

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WASHOE COUNTY

On motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion carried unanimously, it was ordered that approval of the Washoe County Regional Communication System Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County, the Washoe County School District, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, as amended, be reaffirmed and Chairman Galloway be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of Washoe County.

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TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

On motion by Commissioner Sferrazza, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that approval of the Washoe County Regional Communication System Interlocal Agreement between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Washoe County, the Washoe County School District, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks, as amended, be reaffirmed and Chairman Galloway be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

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CITY OF SPARKS

On motion by Councilmember Martini, seconded by Councilmember Zive, which motion carried unanimously, it was ordered that approval of the Washoe County Regional Communication System Interlocal Agreement between the City of Sparks, the City of Reno, Washoe County, the Washoe County School District, and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, as amended, be reaffirmed and Mayor Armstrong be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Sparks.

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There being no further business to conduct, the special joint meeting between the Washoe County Board of Commissioners, the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, the City Council of the City of Reno, and the City Council of the City of Sparks adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

JIM GALLOWAY, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST: AMY HARVEY, County Clerk

JEFF GRIFFIN, Mayor,
City of Reno

ATTEST: DON COOK, Reno City Clerk

TONY ARMSTRONG, Mayor,
City of Sparks

ATTEST: DEBORINE J. DOLAN,

Sparks City Clerk

ANNE LORING, Board President,
Washoe County School District Board of Trustees

ATTEST: BOB BENTLEY, Clerk

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