

CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Minutes of the Special May 19, 1998, Meeting
Page 1

A special meeting of the Carson City Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 19, 1998, at the Community Center Sierra Room, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada, beginning at 6 p.m.

PRESENT:	Ray Masayko	Mayor
	Tom Tatro	Supervisor, Ward 3
	Greg Smith	Supervisor, Ward 1
	Jon Plank	Supervisor, Ward 2
	Kay Bennett	Supervisor, Ward 4
STAFF PRESENT:	John Berkich	City Manager
	Alan Glover	Clerk-Recorder
	Noel Waters	District Attorney
	Rod Banister	Sheriff
	Mary Walker	Finance Director
	Louis Buckley	Fire Chief
	Steve Kastens	Parks and Recreation Director
	Tim Homann	Deputy Public Works Director
	Steve Mihelic	Assistant Fire Chief
	Barbara Singer	Recreation Superintendent
	Scott Fahrenbruch	Park Superintendent
	Don Davis	Fleet Manager
	Bill Callahan	Chief Deputy Sheriff
	Vince Pirozzi	EMS Battalion Chief
	Liz Teixeira	Administrative Asst. - City Mgr.
	Katherine McLaughlin	Recording Secretary
	Pat Hughey	Senior Secretary
	(S.B.O.S. 5/19/98 Tape 1-0001.5)	

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Mayor Masayko convened the session at 6 p.m. Roll call was taken. The entire Board was present, constituting a quorum. Mayor Masayko lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS CONCERNING THE FISCAL YEAR 1998-99 BUDGET - DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

A. SIERRA FOREST FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (1-0028.5) - Mr. Berkich distributed revised budgets to the Board and Clerk. Sierra Forest Fire Protection District Ranger Dan Holbrook explained the revisions. Supervisor Smith moved that the Board of Supervisors adopt and approve the budget as provided by the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District. Supervisor Plank seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

B. CARSON-TAHOE HOSPITAL (1-0058.5) - Carson-Tahoe Hospital Chief Financial Officer Ron Telles described the Hospital's budget process, including the budget committee's composition, and briefly reviewed its goals. He emphasized the fact that a rate increase would not be required during the coming year. Mayor Masayko thanked him for the report and acknowledged the decision to not raise the rates and its goals for the coming year. Supervisor Bennett, as the Board's representative to the Hospital Board of Trustees, described the budget in more detail. Supervisor Bennett moved that the Board of Supervisors accept the 1998-99 budget for the Carson-Tahoe Hospital as presented. Supervisor Tatro seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS (1-0160.5) - None.

C. STRATEGIC PLANNING (1-0164.5) - City Manager Berkich explained the Board's workshop establishing the goals and objectives and their use in establishing the strategies to accomplish the goals. The

CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Minutes of the Special May 19, 1998, Meeting
Page 2

strategies will be finalized and presented to the Board in June for approval. The budget proposed for adoption this evening included those goals and strategies. No formal action was taken.

D. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CARSON CITY FISCAL YEAR 1998-99 FINAL BUDGET (1-0194.5) - Mayor Masayko explained the procedure which would be followed in selecting the supplemental items which were to be added to the budget. The round-robin process which had been used in the past would be followed to determine the supplemental items which would be funded. Any item receiving three votes was to automatically be considered funded. Mayor Masayko then reviewed Ms. Walker's memo on the available funding. Supervisor Bennett moved that the Board of Supervisors establish the franchise fee increase of one percent in the amount of \$100,000 as part of the ongoing funding source which is available to us (the Board). Mayor Masayko seconded the motion. Supervisor Smith noted the proposal would increase the telecommunication's franchise fee by one percent which is a pass through to the customers and increases the telephone bill by one percent. This would increase a \$100 telephone bill by \$1. Mayor Masayko indicated that the fee increase would be on the base charges and special equipment but not necessarily on the long distance. Ms. Walker indicated that the fee is intrastate or within the state and not interstate or outside of the state. It is very limited. Five percent is the typical fee which is charged elsewhere. It is up to the telephone company as to whether to pass the fee on to the users. It is generally passed on but with growing competition, it is unknown what action the company(ies) will take. Mayor Masayko acknowledged that the fee increase is in the customer's bill somewhere. The motion was voted and carried 4-1 with Supervisor Smith voting Naye.

Discussion ensued on whether to implement the electorate approved tax over-ride for the Fire Station Bond repayment. A previous Board had decided not to implement this tax and had used some of the SCCRT Funds to make the payment. The current Board could re-impose this tax rate if so desired. Supervisor Smith acknowledged the correlation between the use of these funds for addition staffing at the Fire Stations and the bond payments. He then stated, for the record, that while it may be possible to transfer the funds for this purpose, he felt it was morally/ethically wrong for the Board to do so as it may break trust as it is not what the original ballot question had stated, which he emphasized. He felt that the Board should discuss, later in the evening, a proposal to place a question on the ballot. He voiced his opposition to the transfer.

Supervisor Plank supported Supervisor Smith's statements as he felt it was an issue of principal, trust, and truth. The proposal would not use the funds as originally proposed and stated even though the use is related. It would damage the public's faith in the Board. There had been a commitment to the community to pay for the fire station from the sales tax distribution. He could only support the proposal if it is placed on the General Election ballot as an advisory question. There is adequate time to deal with this issue later.

Mayor Masayko agreed that this issue could be dealt with after the budget is closed if the need and urgency remain. He also supported the comments about the representation and commitment which had been made to the community to use the sales tax funds to retire the bond. Due to the City's financial stability, ability to efficiently and effectively manage its resources, he urged the Board to keep the four cents off of the ad valorem tax rate. He agreed that if the electorate decides against a ballot question, it should not be reconsidered. It may be necessary, at some future date should a financial reversal occur, to reimpose the tax for a brief period of time. This discussion should occur at that date. At this time he felt the Board should retain the current commitment/policy. He requested a motion be made for the record. Supervisor Tatro indicated that "he could count".

Supervisor Smith moved that the Board of Supervisors not enact the available 2.69 ad valorem tax increase. Supervisors Plank and Bennett seconded the motion. Comments were solicited but none given. The motion was voted and carried 4-1 with Supervisor Tatro voting Naye.

(1-0551.5) Discussion ensued on the one stop shop, the proposed fee increase, its proposed use, and the ordinance which the Board would have to adopt to implement the fee. Supervisor Plank suggested that only half of the fee be implemented and that the Board reconsider the issue next year when it is determined whether the additional funds are necessary. Comments supported phasing the project and fees. Supervisor Bennett moved that the Board of

CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Minutes of the Special May 19, 1998, Meeting
Page 3

Supervisors allocate \$50,000 toward the building and safety building permit fee increase for the one stop shop for the year 1998-99. Following a request for an amendment to the motion, Supervisor Bennett amended her motion to be for a 16 percent increase in the valuation and direct staff to begin the first phase of the one stop shop funding implementation which is a 16 percent increase in the valuation of the building permits. Supervisor Plank seconded the motion. Discussion ensued on the fee increase and the amount 16 percent would generate. Clarification emphasized that the fee increase was to be only on the valuation amount. The motion was voted and carried 5-0.

Clarification indicated the valuation fee increase would generate approximately \$50,000. This left a shortfall of approximately \$1,600. Ms. Walker requested a motion on the staffing. Supervisor Bennett moved that the Board of Supervisors approve the plans examiner one stop shop funding in the total amount of \$46,832 coming from the building fee increase as presented and for the upgrade of the senior building tech for the one stop shop in the amount of \$4,671 as presented. Supervisor Plank seconded the motion. Discussion ensued between the Board, Ms. Teixeira, and Ms. Walker on her funding chart. Motion was voted and carried 5-0.

Mayor Masayko explained the amount of funds available, the request for nine firefighters, and noted the pros and cons of requesting the electorate to approve a tax over-ride. Supervisor Smith questioned how a ballot question could be drafted which would address a federal regulation. His concern for the residents in outlying areas, his concern about the current service level, and the current compliance procedure were explained. He could not support the entire staffing request but favored six now and three later which would cost approximately \$285,000. He thanked all for their input.

Supervisor Bennett explained the original contact about the request and her sympathy for the firefighters and their dilemma. Since then the pros and cons and costs have been discussed in depth. She felt that the City should do something but could not support the entire program at this time. Questions remain to be answered. She suggested funding be given for three firefighters, the questions be answered, and the balance be considered next year. There is adequate work in the Department to keep these individuals busy. This is a good faith effort.

Supervisor Plank emphasized that the OSHA regulation is an employee safety issue and does not consider common sense. The time required to determine if there is a life involved could jeopardize that individual's life. The entire process had created a state of panic in some respects as it fails to provide time to analyze any options. He supported Supervisor Bennett's suggestion that three be hired and the other options be analyzed, such as the Dispatch Center improvements and the impact it will have on the responses. Discussion indicated the funding for three firefighters would be from the on-going General Fund and total \$142,722.

Supervisor Bennett then explained a discussion she had had with Mr. Berkich about her objections to funding nine firefighters over the other supplemental requests. She supported finding another funding source which is the reason for the proposed ballot question. **Supervisor Bennett then moved that the Board of Supervisors fund the three new firefighter positions in order to address the OSHA requirements in the amount of \$142,722 to come out of the General Fund on-going revenue. Supervisor Plank seconded the motion.**

Supervisor Tatro voiced his disagreement with Supervisor Bennett's comments, specifically, her comments that the other items on the first cut list were legitimate needs when compared to the firefighters issue. He felt that the firefighter issue was legitimate and definitely part of the Board's responsibility. Secondly, he did not think it was appropriate to refer to it as "their problem" because it is the "Board's" problem. It is this City's problem. We are the ones who are responsible. They can tell the Board what they think. They can say this is how we think you should deal with it. These are our suggestions as professionals in this area. But it is not their problem, it is ours.

Supervisor Smith expressed his feeling that he understood where the motion would be going so he would begin his remarks by apologizing in advance if his comments seem critical of his fellow colleagues as it is not meant that way at all. He felt a good way to put it is that we have talked and talked and talked and preached public safety as our number one priority, time and time and time, again. Tonight the Board is being asked to write the check and instead we are reaching into our pocket for pocket change. The Board is not addressing the need the way we

CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Minutes of the Special May 19, 1998, Meeting
Page 4

should be doing it. Again, this is not meant as a criticism of the Board, and he did not mean it that way, it is more of a statement on how he felt about the Board's method of addressing this issue.

Mayor Masayko stated for the record that he understood Supervisor Smith's comments and would like to indicate to the public that there are some public safety implications and some employee safety implications involved; however, it is, in his mind, one of those issues that is driven by work place safety versus public safety. Public safety may, however, be impacted by it. He stated that, as he makes a decision, he wanted to assure to any and every extent possible that public safety is not being compromised. He did not think that anyone could guarantee that a four man engine company would roll every time. He was not going to get into that issue as it is a philosophical decision. It is a difficult issue to assure that an adequate number of resources are made available for IDLH situations and the two in and two out responses which is for all contingency type of responses from the two stations. The current policy is to have a three man engine company and a two man ambulance at each station. He acknowledged that he had a take on the proposed three additional staffing method and was willing to go along with his colleagues. His suggestion would establish the funding mechanism of \$150,000 for those three employees and ask staff and the Fire Department to come back with a recommendation on the best way to handle the remainder. There could be a series of different approaches, alternatives, or maybe something very creative out there which may allow the other individuals to be working elsewhere. Three firefighters would provide staffing for 24 hour staffing with one person. This does not take into account training or time off but overtime, etc., could address this staffing. This provides a fourth person for all of Carson City if that person is available to respond. Mayor Masayko committed to looking at the situation, gathering more information, considering the alternatives, and, even before Supervisor Bennett had said it, he believed that the Board would be better informed about the numbers and the types of IDLH situations next year at this time. He urged the Board and staff to focus on it and gather the facts, the different kinds of information related to the kinds of critical responses and the issues which the Board must deal with given the unfunded mandate from OSHA. We, Carson City, and the Board of Supervisors need to deal with it. He proposed that the Board deal with it over time and that the Board give direction that, if it turns out that there is a better way than hiring three firemen as developed by the Chief and the City Manager, for them to try it. He urged them to use whatever it takes to make it work. He committed to, as long as he is on the Board, continuing the funding process to put the staffing in place as long as staff brings forth the justification and the actual results of what happens out there is reality. If there were unlimited funding available and the Board could grant everything to everyone, it would be different. Unfortunately, the City does not have this ability. The Board must make some choices. He thanked all who had been involved--the professional firefighters, the Fire Chief and his staff, the City Manager and his staff, the citizens and volunteers from Warren Engine Company, and the general public who had come forward with information, advice, and input on this issue. This had all been done due to their deep caring about the community. There are no winners or losers in this situation. There are only people who care. Sometimes we must make some tough calls. This is one of those tough calls. It is the best we can do given the short time that the Board has had to react and based on the information which had been available. The Board is doing the very best it could to make the situation workable without adding to public safety risks.

(1-1256.5) Supervisor Bennett felt that she was compelled to respond to Supervisor Tatro's comments. She agreed with his statements about the Board's responsibilities and priorities, however, would suggest that before this issue was presented a considerable amount of energy and time had been dedicated to the presentation of \$872,000 worth of requests which are also the Board's responsibility. The Board has only \$260,000 to allocate toward any of those items. She agreed with the Mayor that the Board had some tough calls and decisions facing it. She hoped that the different entities' vying against each would end immediately. She urged the Board and staff to proceed forward as the true professions which we are. This time next year she expected to see recognition of the issue in the tentative budget.

Supervisor Plank noted that there is time to consider and, possibly, approve a ballot question for the General Election in November. The question could divert the building funds or provide another version which would add more firefighters. The Board should not wait for twelve months.

(1-1305.5) Sheriff Rod Banister indicated that he and District Attorney Waters had written letter on this matter. Their comments are not meant to be personal or against the Fire Department. His concern is that of a public safety

CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Minutes of the Special May 19, 1998, Meeting
Page 5

nature and the removal of General Fund monies. Last year his Department had had 32,158 service calls. He did not feel that the Fire Department had received as many calls although he was unsure of the actual number. There are several times during a shift when he does not have anyone to respond to a call as everyone is tied up on other matters. His concern is with the allocation of future money for one Department. He hoped that if he provided the statistical data to support his service requests that the Board will consider it in its funding deliberations next year. He supported the proposal to present a ballot question to the electorate for funding. This would not impact the General Fund or restrict the funding ability for the remaining Departments. Supervisor Smith responded by explaining that in his eight year history on the Board he had always attempted to fund all of the high priority public safety requests. He could not fund projects which are not brought to the Board's attention. He committed to giving future requests the same priority. Sheriff Banister explained that additional staffing had not been requested due to the known new jail staffing requirements. Without the appropriate jail staffing, additional patrol deputies cannot provide an increased safety factor. This issue will probably be brought to the Board next year. He reiterated his concern as being related to the dollars.

District Attorney Waters explained Sheriff Banister and his questioning of the firefighters' request. He had and still has questions about the IDLH incident numbers. He had discussed the breathing equipment requirements with Assistant Fire Chief Mihelic which had persuaded him that there were more IDLH incidents than he had thought. He also expressed a concern with the fact that the OSHA rules had been around since 1996 but the manpower demand had only erupted two weeks ago. He was also concerned about the necessity to utilize other public safety budgets for this funding. He thanked the Board for having the ability to express his concerns.

Mayor Masayko then indicated that a lengthy debate would not be allowed to occur. Any information which should be placed on the record was solicited.

(1-1415.5) Carson City Fire Department Operations Tactician Richard Chrzanowski explained the research which he had done to determine if simultaneous arrival of personnel at incidents occurs. This year to date the Department had responded to 1,696 incidents. The Department had been dispatched on 131 full assignments for structure incidents which he described. He confirmed that 33 of the incidents were considered IDLH incidents.

Supervisor Bennett expressed her feeling that this information is "late in the day". The Board needed good solid information on which to make an informed decision particularly when funding allocations are being considered. An independent study needed to be conducted to provide an unbiased opinion. The community has a great deal of strength as exhibited by various Departments during difficult times. This strength is the ability to pull together and work together to meet the common need when the need is determined to exist. This strength runs through all segments of the community. She wanted the community/staff to look at the question and find a way to keep the firefighters safe, use the current resource levels, maintain what we have, and move forward. Better information is needed.

(1-1492.5) EMS Battalion Chief Vince Pirozzi responded to the statement that it is more of an employee safety issue than a public safety issue by expressing his feeling that it is not an employee safety issue at all. Staff does not take any more risks than current policy allows. There will be less of a risk under the OSHA requirement as staff will not be entering buildings which would have been entered before under the old policy. This will jeopardize public safety in the buildings not entered.

(1-1512.5) Firefighters Association President Bob Schreihans expressed his support for Supervisors Smith and Tatro's comments. The requirement would reduce the level of service currently provided by the Fire Department. If the issue goes to the electorate again and is approved, the Board should, in fact, implement the tax and hire the individuals to provide full engine companies 100 percent of the time. He requested a guarantee from the Board that the personnel would be hired. The Department was willing, if such a guarantee is made, to take and present the tax initiative to the electorate. Mayor Masayko indicated that the Board had implemented the original tax over-ride for two years and then had revoked it. Reasons for that decision were not to be discussed. Supervisors Plank and Bennett and Mayor Masayko indicated that if the electorate supported the tax over-ride, they would support the program. Mayor Masayko also pointed out the feeling that the Board could re-enact the tax, however,

CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Minutes of the Special May 19, 1998, Meeting
Page 6

was willing to ask the electorate.

Discussion then returned to the Board and the question. Supervisor Tatro pointed out that he did not have next year to consider. The Board has the situation right now. It is a public safety issue regardless of how it is painted. Fire Department response to his neighborhood is one engine. This means that the firefighters would be forced to wait until another vehicle arrives. If three firefighters are reassigned to another area, a different area will suffer. This is a decline in service. There are a lot of methods to deal with this issue. One way is straight forward and requires the hiring of nine additional firefighters. This may not be the best way. Perhaps Carson City should consider Sunnyvale, California's, program which established a public safety department. This program eliminated the Sheriff's Department and the Fire Department and created one Department with cross training to handle all calls. He was unsure whether this is a good or bad method as research had not been conducted on the program. It is an option. The Board had been provided with a dozen different alternatives from the Fire Department on how to deal with the issue. Supervisor Plank had pointed out that the Board could not wait until next year. The process of determining how to solve the problem needed to begin next week. The issue tonight is the budget. If the budget is built without the funding, any ideas or programs so developed from this process will be forced to wait until next budget year or the Board will have to reconsider the budget as established this week and remove items. He had reviewed the list as developed by the Fire Department. There is nothing on it which would be paid for with the \$142,000. He did not believe that the motion would adequately address the issue. If the Board approves the motion, it must be understood that the Board is cutting the Fire Department's service level.

The motion that the Board of Supervisors fund three new firefighter positions, in order to address the OSHA requirements, in the amount of \$142,722 from the General Fund on-going revenue was voted and carried 3-2 with Supervisors Smith and Tatro voting Naye.

BREAK: A ten minute recess was declared at 7:40 p.m. The entire Board was present when the meeting was reconvened at 7:50 p.m., constituting a quorum.

(1-1628.5) Following Mr. Berkich's explanation of the supplemental wish lists, the Board used its round-robin process to determine which items were to be funded. Comments were often made justifying the selections. From this process the following items were selected: the Juvenile Probation Officer I; Community Development's half-time Senior Secretary; Public Health Specialist I; Intake Officer at Justice Court; Sheriff's Public Safety Records Clerk; Witness/Victim Coordinator Grant for the District Attorney's office; Juvenile Detention's part-time Secretary I; (1-2272.5) Warren Engine Company's volunteer training program; \$11,910 for Ormsby ARC from one-shot funding; consolidation of transit services staff; Public Health Nurse Interpreter; Public Health Nurse one-quarter clerical support; Drug Testing for Justice Court; Juvenile Probation's Substance Abuse Intervention grant match; (1-2710.5) \$7500 for the Stewart Community Baptist Church's stove hood; Accounting Clerk I for Public Works; \$43,500 for the Fire Department's workout room; Carson Treatment Center for \$5,000; Health Department training for \$2,000; Public Safety Complex Maintenance Worker; a seasonal worker for Open Space projects; an additional \$15,600 for the Community Council on Youth; \$50,000 from on-going funds for Library book purchases; North Carson Street Medians; Seasonal Parks Ranger; \$8,280 for hourly Library staffing; \$7600 for the Children's Museum; Tahoe Transportation District; Recorder's staff upgrades; and Special Events Coordinator for the Recreation Department from one-shot funding. (2-0037.5) Mayor Masayko ruled that these items were funded by consensus. A motion was not made.

(1-2223.5) Discussion ensued on the use of Open Space funds for staffing. Mr. Berkich felt that it may be possible to use Open Space funds for Purchasing's part-time secretary.

BREAK: A five minute recess was declared at 8:40 p.m. The entire Board was present when the meeting was reconvened at 8:45 p.m., constituting a quorum.

(1-2655.5) Mayor Masayko explained that the Board had already considered the \$142,700 funding allocation for the firefighter positions. Supervisor Smith and Tatro's vote during the round-robin process for this purpose had been as statements to indicate the importance of the request as compared to the balance of the list. Supervisor

Bennett indicated that she had not understood the subtlety of their votes and withdrew her support.

(1-2875.5) Clarification indicated that the Nevada Rural Health Clinic had been funded previously.

E. REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (1-0040.5) - Mayor Masayko then recessed the Board of Supervisors session and immediately reconvened the session as the Redevelopment Authority. For Minutes of the Redevelopment Authority, see its folder. Following adjournment of the Redevelopment Authority, Mayor Masayko reconvened the Board of Supervisors session. A quorum was present as noted. (No formal action was taken by the Board of Supervisors under this heading.)

F. TRI-COUNTY RAILWAY BUDGET (2-0235.5) - Mayor Masayko briefly read the budget message into the record emphasizing that no Carson City ad valorem tax monies are involved with its budget. No formal action was required or taken on this item.

There being no other matters for consideration, Supervisor Bennett moved to adjourn. Supervisor Plank seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor Masayko adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's office. This tape is available for review and inspection during normal business hours.

CARSON CITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Minutes of the Special May 19, 1998, Meeting
Page 8

The Minutes of the Special May 19, 1998, Carson City Board of Supervisors meeting

1998.

ARE SO APPROVED ON ___August_20___,

_____/s/_____

Ray Masayko, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____/s/_____
Alan Glover, Clerk-Recorder