

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

TUESDAY

11:00 a.m.

JUNE 25, 2013

PRESENT:

David Humke, Chairman
Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson
Marsha Berkbigler, Commissioner
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy Clerk
Katy Simon, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel
Charles Moore, Fire Chief

The Board convened at 11:49 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:

13-85F AGENDA ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Cathy Brandhorst addressed the Board.

13-86F AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Fire Chief Report – report and discussion related to Fire District operations by Truckee Meadows Fire Chief Charles A. Moore; Monthly Statistics; and, Washoe County Volunteer Fire Fighters Association Report for May 2013.”

Fire Chief Charles Moore said the subject of a recent press release issued by the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) involved a dramatic rescue by the Regional Aviation Enforcement Program (RAVEN) helicopter. Deputy Doug Russell, RAVEN Chief Pilot, narrated a video that showed the rescue of an injured hiker on the Hunter Creek Trail. He stated that RAVEN had responded along with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) and WCSO Search and Rescue volunteers. The video displayed the dramatic rescue by RAVEN and the use of the rescue hoist to recover the victim. A copy of the video was placed on file with the Clerk.

Chief Moore commented that RAVEN was an invaluable resource for the community and the TMFPD. He indicated they had been an integral part in suppressing the recent Red Rock fire.

Commissioner Weber stated that the Board appreciated having RAVEN as a resource in supporting fire and law enforcement. She also thanked staff for forwarding the pass down of incidents from RAVEN to the Commissioners. The remaining Board members all stated their appreciation for the program and commended the RAVEN crew for their tremendous efforts.

Chief Moore reported on an emerging issue that concerned the Department, which involved the sale and use of exploding targets. He explained that a recent wildfire began through the use of an exploding target. He indicated that this issue would be addressed in the pending adoption of the Fire Code.

Amy Ray, Fire Marshal, explained that binary exploding targets were sold at several retailers in the County and were readily available on the Internet. She said they were sold separately and as kits, which made them binary explosive targets. Once the kits were put together, they were considered an explosive device under the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) requirements and federal, state and local regulations. Ms. Ray explained that consumers were purchasing the kits for recreational shooting; however, they were unaware once they were put together they became an explosive device under federal, state and local regulations. According to the BATF, exploding targets were explosive materials subject to regulations and, under the Fire Code once they were put together, the components were considered a Division 1.5 blasting agent. She said the adopted International Fire Code, Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Codes (NAC) considered Division 1.5 blasting agents illegal and subject to the regulations of misdemeanor charges under the Fire Code and County Code. She indicated on June 29, 2013 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Nevada Department of Forestry (NDF) and the Forest Service would outlaw the use of exploding targets on all their lands. The violations for use of such devices on those lands could be up to a \$10,000 fine, six months in jail and, under federal law, would be considered a Class B misdemeanor. She said several of the jurisdictions in the area, including Washoe County, had proposed amendments to the 2012 International Fire Code and, under those new amendments, all binary explosive devices and their components would be removed from retailers within those participating jurisdictions. She indicated that the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) currently had those restrictions in place and had already adopted those amendments.

Ms. Ray stated the proposed amendment would read, “the possession, manufacture, sale and use of exploding targets including binary exploding targets are prohibited.” She indicated that the amendment would be brought forward for adoption during the July Fire Board meeting.

Commissioner Weber asked if a Public Service Announcement (PSA) could be made to inform the public of this message. Ms. Ray indicated that the BLM and the Forest Service would release their PSA on June 28th. She explained that she had reached out to the jurisdictions with the proposed amendments in an effort to conduct a coordinated PSA.

Commissioner Hartung asked if a person that started a fire with an exploding target was liable for the damage and the costs incurred. Ms. Ray stated that was correct. She said they could be fined, charged with a misdemeanor and billed for suppression related costs and damages.

Chief Moore commented that the first anniversary of the District was fast approaching. He reviewed the statistics from the past year and noted that a comprehensive annual report would be prepared and brought forward to the Board to document the service levels. He also said that an audit would be completed to indicate the financial position of the District. He said the first meeting of the Blue Ribbon Task Force was scheduled for July 24th and he was seeking a facilitator to guide the Committee in a non-partisan manner.

Commissioner Weber inquired about the Commission Districts listed on the significant incidents reports and suggested adding which Engine Company responded to a call within a certain District. Chief Moore replied that information would be included in future reports. He added that it was common practice for multiple units to respond to a call.

Commissioner Berkbigler questioned the number of medical calls in the Sun Valley area compared to other areas of the County. Commissioner Jung replied the Sun Valley was an area considered "best effort" by the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA). Commissioner Hartung stated that Sun Valley was a highly populated, dense area versus other areas less dense in population.

Chief Moore mentioned there had been a good response from citizens in Palomino Valley about starting fire fighting resources in that area. He said there was a meeting scheduled for June 27th to discuss basic wild land defense and delivering water and tenders in the area.

Commissioner Weber said the Lemmon Valley Volunteer Fire Department had not submitted a report and asked if they were still in existence. Chief Moore explained they were an active volunteer station. He was attempting to have those reports submitted.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda item 4 be accepted.

12:23 p.m. Commissioner Weber temporarily left the meeting.

13-87F AGENDA ITEM 3A

Agenda Subject: “Approval of TMFPD Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting minutes from May 28, 2013.”

There was no public comment on this item.

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

The following Agenda Item, No. 5 will be heard by the Washoe County Board of Commissioners who will convene as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Sierra Fire Protection District and the Washoe County Board of Commissioners (Agenda Item No. 9 on the County Commissioners Agenda).

13-88F AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Recommendation to approve Purchase and Sale Agreement to sell the original Arrowcreek fire station parcel (donated/deed restricted parcel of land APN 152-921-02) to ArrowCreek Construction LLC, and split the net proceeds with the parcel donor and Arrowcreek developer, Southwest Pointe Associates, per the Interlocal agreement, resulting in approximately \$34,119 in revenue to the Sierra Fire Protection District, and if approved, authorize the Chairman execute upon presentation all closing documents, deeds, warrants, and checks, as needed to facilitate the closing and transfer. (Commission District 2)”

12:24 p.m. Commissioner Jung temporarily left the meeting.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioners Weber and Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved, authorized and executed.

13-89F AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Approval for the purchase of 10 Mobile Data Terminals and associated Licenses and Software in the amount of \$80,006.90 in accordance with the FY 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for Regional Communications and to recognize the District’s portion of the required match in an amount not to exceed \$16,001.38. (All Commission Districts)”

Chief Moore explained that the original grant was approved in Fiscal Year 2010. He noted the funds were budgeted in the current fiscal year for the mobile data terminals, but would not receive the capital until next year. He said the funds would be

encumbered this year and paid out the following year. Since the grant period had been so long, he felt it would be prudent for the Board to review and also have a clear record for the auditors. Chief Moore mentioned that the City of Reno was the original grantee and that the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) were sub-grantees. He thanked the City of Reno for finding additional monies in the 2010 grant and asking the NLTFPD and the TMFPD to partner on that grant.

12:29 p.m. Commissioner Jung returned to the meeting.

In response to the call for public comment, Cathy Brandhorst spoke about the terminals.

12:31 p.m. Commissioner Weber returned to the meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be approved.

13-90F AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Possible Closed Session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.”

There was no closed session scheduled.

13-91F AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: “Commissioners’/Chief’s Announcements, requests for information and identification of topics for future agendas. (No discussion among Commissioners or action will take place on this item.)”

Fire Chief Charles Moore thanked retiring County Manager Katy Simon for her mentorship, coaching and strategic vision in standing up the Department.

During the Audit Committee meeting, Commissioner Berkbigler said she had requested an audit be conducted of the Fire Department since it was a good idea to ensure all the requirements were being met.

Commissioner Jung said she recently met with Sun Valley residents to establish a Neighborhood Watch program. She inquired on the type of outreach that had been conducted with the Sun Valley Fire Station. She requested a report on the establishment of evacuation routes and phone trees for the Sun Valley area. Chief Moore asked if the Citizen Advisory Board’s (CAB’s) would be an appropriate venue to discuss that topic. Commissioner Jung suggested beginning with the Sheriff’s Office and their community liaison.

Commissioner Hartung inquired if there had been an increase in accidents around La Posada and Cordoba Boulevard in Spanish Springs with the placement of the four-way signage. Alex Kukulus, Battalion Chief, said he would research those numbers and would also check with the City of Sparks since it was close to that jurisdiction.

13-92F AGENDA ITEM 9 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: “Comment heard under this item will be limited to three 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 three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”

William Steward thanked County Manager Katy Simon for her leadership, especially during the past five years, and said she raised the bar for public service. He hoped that the future would bring an open dialogue for regionalization.

Cathy Brandhorst spoke about homeless individuals.

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ADJOURNMENT

12:43 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, the meeting was adjourned.

DAVID E. HUMKE, Chairman
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows
Fire Protection District

*Minutes Prepared By:
Stacy Gonzales, Deputy County Clerk*