

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

TUESDAY

11:00 a.m.

JULY 23, 2013

PRESENT:

David Humke, Chairman
Marsha Berkgigler, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner

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

ABSENT:

Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner

The Board convened at 11:03 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:

13-95F AGENDA ITEM 2

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission 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 District as a whole.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

13-96F AGENDA ITEM 3A

Agenda Subject: “Approval of TMFPD Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting minutes from April 23, 2013 and June 25, 2013.”

There was no public comment on this item.

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

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

Fire Chief Charles Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), discussed how dangerous Junipers were when planted near homes. He emphasized that fact by showing pictures of the damage done to the siding and eaves of a house directly above a burned Juniper. He said if the fire had not been put out, it could have gotten into the attic and burned the house down. He also showed a video of what not to do when creating a home’s defensible space. He said the cause of fire in the video was undetermined. A copy of the photos and the video were placed on file with the Clerk. A copy of the video was also placed on the County’s web site.

Chairman Humke noted the Junipers dried out with the summer heat, and he asked if frequent watering would slow down how fast they went up in flames. Chief Moore said the Junipers were volatile all year round because of the oil they contained.

Commissioner Jung felt it was important to let homeowners know what the different varieties of Junipers were, so they would know what plants they should remove. She said besides placing the video on the web, she felt there should be a news release to notify homeowners of the Junipers’ danger. She asked if homeowners, like those shown in the video, were notified about the danger their Junipers posed when the issue was discovered. Chief Moore replied because there were many properties with defensible space issues, the District would be busy 24/7 just dealing with those issues. He stated the District relied on its partners, such as the Living with Fire Program, to get the word out about this issue. He felt the video would help drive the point home. Commissioner Jung suggested if the District’s firefighters were out and saw a property with defensible space issues, they could send the property owner a postcard indicating what the issues were. Chief Moore said the District’s plan was to disseminate this information to the Homeowners Associations and the Citizen Advisory Boards (CAB’s). Chief Moore advised contacting every home with a defensible space issue was beyond the District’s capability. Commissioner Jung asked why the area had so many Junipers. Chief Moore felt it was because they were an attractive low maintenance plant, which stayed green all year.

Chief Moore said most of the six structure fires in June were accidental. He stated the Red Rock fire was the most significant fire, because of its proximity to the Rancho Haven community. He said it started within the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM’s) jurisdiction, but spread into Washoe County’s jurisdiction. He stated a number of assets were deployed in the Ranch Haven community to protect the structures due to the fire spotting outside its parameter on a couple of occasions.

Commissioner Jung said she had been getting inquiries about the haze in the sky. Chief Moore stated the haze was due to a fire in California.

Chief Moore stated the standup of the Palomino Valley Volunteer Auxiliary was going well. He said a lot of people were interested in helping with logistics and with firefighting. He stated those interested in fighting fires would drive tenders and would be ground firefighters for wildland fires. He said there should be a functioning group by October 2013.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioners Hartung and Weber absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be accepted.

The following agenda item #5 was heard by the Board of Fire Commissioners for both the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Sierra Fire Protection District.

13-98F AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible approval of a merger of the Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department and Washoe Valley Volunteer Fire Department into the South Valley Volunteer Fire Department and to authorize the Truckee Meadows Fire Chief to assist with transitional matters. (Commission District 2)”

Fire Chief Charles Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), said since the District was stood up, the Washoe Valley Volunteer Fire Department struggled with having enough volunteers. He stated both of the Chiefs agreed the merger would enhance the ability to attract new members and to conduct the necessary training. He said this item was before the Board because statutes gave the authority to complete the merger to the Board. He stated the only merger costs would be for new badges, uniforms, and decals.

There was no public comment on this item.

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

13-99F AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Acceptance of a Nevada Division of Forestry grant award in the amount of \$80,698 for a Curbside Chipping Program and authorize Finance to make necessary budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)”

Fire Chief Charles Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), said last year the District provided biomass-collection points in an effort to reduce vegetation. He stated that effort was problematic due to the dust it created and the

lack of a biomass market. He said the District decided to try getting a grant for a curbside chipping program, and each homeowner would be required to do 15 hours of documented work in their yards. He stated the homeowners would pile up their debris and the District would make an appointment to chip the debris onsite, which they could use in their gardens if they wanted to. He said that meant the material would not be taken to the landfill and the homeowners improved the quality of their defensible space at no cost to the District.

Chairman Humke believed the program had been popular with the homeowners in the past. Chief Moore replied it had. He said the program would commence in the fall after the District got through the wildfire season. He stated the details on how to make an appointment would be available in the next few months.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioners Hartung and Weber absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be accepted and authorized.

The following agenda item #7 was heard by the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District only.

13-100F AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Authorize the Risk Manager to renew the Property and Liability Insurance Policy for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District with the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool, retroactively effective July 1, 2013 for an annual premium of \$121,945.45.”

Fire Chief Charles Moore, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), said the premium represented a 7 percent reduction. He stated this item was before the Board because the amount of the premium exceeded \$100,000.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioners Hartung and Weber absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be authorized.

13-101F AGENDA ITEM 8

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.

13-102F AGENDA ITEM 9

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.)”

Commissioner Jung noted the Sun Valley Neighborhood Watch was having another meeting. She suggested the evacuation route and the phone tree be done in partnership with the Sheriff’s Office. Chief Moore said he and the Fire Marshall would be ready make a presentation on July 25, 2013.

13-103F AGENDA ITEM 10

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 Commission 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 District as a whole.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

* * * * *

11:28 a.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

DAVID 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:
Jan Frazzetta, Deputy County Clerk*