

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

TUESDAY

11:00 a.m.

DECEMBER 17, 2013

PRESENT:

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

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
John Slaughter, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel
Charles Moore, Fire Chief

The Board convened at 11:52 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:

Fire Chief Charles Moore wished the Board and the public a safe and happy holiday on behalf of himself and all of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's firefighters.

13-152F 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 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."

On behalf of the Estates at Mount Rose Homeowners Association, Thomas Daly thanked the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) personnel for completing a fuel-reduction program in the community. He said the District's personnel assisted the Association in writing a grant last year, which was approved by the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) and accepted by the Board of Fire Commissioners. He stated District personnel also administered the grant and did the work, which cleared 29 acres of brush and was completed just before Thanksgiving. He said the work they did provided a fuel-break between their community and the adjacent communities where brush-clearing had not occurred. He stated this type of project saved lives and property, and everyone had seen the carnage that happened when fuel-reduction did not occur. He said there were plans for an additional project in 2014 and they would request assistance once again from the District.

11:54 a.m.* Chairman Humke joined the meeting by phone. His call disconnected and reconnected several times during public comment, with the final disconnect occurring at 11:59 a.m.

Robert Parker said he was amazed by the outburst from the Reno Mayor after the home of one of his campaign contributors burned down in Hidden Valley, and by him basically accusing this Board of causing it. He said the limited amount of mutual aid and the lack of automatic aid came from the Mayor and former City Councilmember Dave Aiazzi with the idea being to force the County to rehire the City of Reno to run the TMFPD. He said there was no basis to the argument that a single fire department in the County would be better than multiple departments. He stated Lyon County had four fire districts that all worked together. He said imagine that happening here. He stated during the time the Interlocal was in effect, Reno's population grew, but they built no new fire stations in the areas they annexed. He discussed a death that occurred because Reno did not call a District paramedic who was a mile away, which was unprofessional and inexcusable, and he asked the Board and the TMFPD to continue to do the right thing.

Malachy Horan discussed his request for the County to apply for a fuel-reduction grant for County properties in District 2. A copy of his comments was placed on file with the Clerk.

Cindy Davis spoke about her disillusionment with Reno Mayor Bob Cashell because of his choosing to make the recent fire in Hidden Valley a political issue. She said the District was a success story because it successfully navigated through the recession and improved service in the emergency medical response area where it was needed most. She stated the District kept all of its stations open despite a 25 percent decline in revenues and embraced a culture of customer service and community outreach. She said the District was a model of what fire services should be in this region, and the Mayor and the City of Reno owed the District and this Board an apology.

Cathy Brandhorst discussed matters of concern to herself.

CONSENT AGENDA – ITEMS 3A AND 3B

13-153F AGENDA ITEM 3A

Agenda Subject: “Approval of TMFPD Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting minutes from October 22 and November 12, 2013.”

There was no public comment on this item.

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

13-154F AGENDA ITEM 3B

Agenda Subject: “Accept a donation of assorted supplies from Metro Medical Supply Inc. of Stead to be utilized in maintenance operations at the District’s Career and Volunteer Stations at an estimated value of \$1,200. (All Commission Districts)”

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 3B be accepted.

13-155F AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Fire Chief Report: A) Report and discussion related to fire district operations, B) Monthly Statistics, C) Washoe County Volunteer Fire Fighters Association Report for October and November 2013, and D) Blue Ribbon Committee Update.”

Fire Chief Charles Moore said there had been 13 structure fires since November 30th, and there were two back-to-back structure fires last night. He stated a self-employed carpenter lost his tools in the fire and therefore his livelihood in Sun Valley. He stated with the help of the Sheriff’s Office, Truckee Meadows Local 3895, and the help of the District’s administrative staff, something would be done to help that family. He said if anyone in the community was looking for an opportunity to help someone who was in distress, the family in Sun Valley was in a tough spot and could use some help.

12:10 p.m.* Chairman Humke rejoined the meeting by phone.

Patrick Mooneyhan, Fire Prevention Specialist, stated Commissioner Hartung had the idea to provide the citizens of Washoe County with ash cans, so they could dispose of their fireplace ashes properly. He said the District partnered with Carter Bros Ace Hardware to purchase the ash cans with locking lids at a discounted price. He stated the District purchased 200 cans and another 300 cans were purchased due to donations by the Peppermill Resort Hotel and the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa. He stated to obtain an ash can, a citizen could go to the District’s web site at www.washoecounty.us/tmfpd and click on the Fire Prevention link to see the Ash Can link. The Ash Can link contained a flier with the details of the program and an application. He stated the application was being used primarily to track where the requests were coming from. He said the program would be countywide regardless of the fire jurisdiction someone lived in. He stated the District was partnering with the Boy Scouts, 4-H groups, and the Girl Scouts to assist in delivering the ash cans to the people who qualified for them. He stated three public-service videos were being developed, and the target launch date for the program was January 17, 2014.

Commissioner Jung asked if the program had an income requirement and how much the ash cans cost. Fire Prevention Specialist Mooneyhan said the purchase cost was \$15.98 per ash can. He stated the application would be looked at, but the basic criteria would be the applicant having a use for the ash can because they had a wood-burning stove or a fireplace. Commissioner Jung said not having an income requirement bothered her. She understood donations were received from the Atlantis and the Peppermill, but she suggested those donations could have been used for the fuel reduction program instead.

12:16 p.m. Chairman Humke's call disconnected.

Commissioner Jung said she would like to see a more stringent income requirement for the program, and more outreach should be done in the areas where it appeared the ashes were not being disposed of properly. She felt the County was not in a place budget-wise where it could afford to play Santa Clause.

Commissioner Hartung said the improper disposal of hot ashes affected all socio-economic levels. He stated once a fire started, it would rage through areas like it did during the Washoe Drive fire. He said he looked at the cost being worth it if it could stop one fire, which would save the County millions of dollars. He stated he wanted Fire Prevention Specialist Mooneyhan to talk with the Cities of Reno and Sparks to make sure they were aware the Cities had access to this program. He said he was a proponent of getting the ash cans into people's hands. He stated if someone was capable of making a donation, that donation could be given to the Boy and Girl Scouts or the 4-H program.

Commissioner Jung reiterated there was a limited supply of ash cans, and she felt there should be an income requirement. She stated if the Atlantis and the Peppermill were asked for further donations, they would see the donations were used conservatively and might be more likely to help fund removing fire debris on County lands.

Vice Chairperson Weber said she sided with Commissioner Hartung and felt the program would be very worthwhile and was a wise move on behalf of those who provided the donations. Fire Prevention Specialist Mooneyhan advised the ash cans were offered during the recent curbside chipping program and most people declined the offer because they could purchase their own ash can or already had one. He agreed with Commissioner Jung's concern and that was why there was an application process. He said the goal was community outreach and fire prevention, and not to pick and choose who the ash cans were given to.

Vice Chairperson Weber requested a report next month. Fire Prevention Specialist Mooneyhan said the program would launch in midmonth and there would be more accurate numbers available in February 2014. Commissioner Hartung asked if the community partners were mentioned in the insert being put in the ash cans. Fire Prevention Specialist Mooneyhan replied they were. Commissioner Hartung said it should mention all of the fire services and how to contact them.

Chief Moore said he challenged the volunteers to provide him with some of their success stories, because they did a lot of work while their reports were often limited to sheer numbers. He showed several pictures of the volunteers for the Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department, which were placed on file with the Clerk, putting 200-250 children through the Fire Safe House and talking with Santa. He said the Fire Safe House was a good tool to help children know how to get out of their house in case of a fire. He stated they practiced crawling through smoke, exiting through a window, and climbing down stairs with the aid of a firefighter. He said that experience would help them react calmly if they were faced with a fire. He thanked the Cold Springs Volunteer Fire Department for their assistance in putting this together. Vice Chairperson Weber said it was a nice event, and she noted Station 18 checked in as well. Chief Moore said the Safe Fire House was one of the great projects the volunteers did. He stated they were not just emergency responders, but were very active in presenting fire prevention activities to the community.

Commissioner Jung requested the Chief's report to show how many volunteers there were per department, which could help with recruiting efforts. Chief Moore replied he would include that statistic in the future.

Chief Moore said regarding the Red Rock fire last night, they were fairly certain propane was involved. He stated he was happy to report the occupant got out just in time with only minor injuries.

Commissioner Hartung asked if any community outreach was being done regarding how snow affected the regulators on propane tanks, especially in some of the rural communities where that was their only fuel source. Chief Moore replied the outreach being done was regarding the safety messages about immediately reporting if someone smelled gas. Vice Chairperson Weber felt it might be wise to put out a bulletin about how to maintain propane tanks during snowy or icy weather conditions. Commissioner Hartung agreed.

12:30 p.m.* Chairman Humke rejoined the meeting by phone.

Chief Moore stated there would be an investigation of the Red Rock fire to find out what happened. He said the main message to get out to the public was to call 9-1-1 if they smelled gas. He stated cold weather could play havoc with some gas meters and more leaks happened during the winter.

Chief Moore showed a picture of the District's new fire engine, which would be based in Galena. A copy of the video was placed on file with the Clerk. He said new engines would also be arriving for the Stead, Cold Springs and Damonte fire stations. He stated they were four-wheel drive vehicles with powerful engines, which would go up the Mount Rose Corridor very quickly. He thanked the Board and the taxpayers for providing the resources used to keep the District's tools and equipment up to modern levels.

Chief Moore stated the Hidden Valley station was upgraded from a rescue station to an engine station, which had been part of this Fiscal Year's budget. He said Hidden Valley would be paramedic-qualified intermittently between now and December 27, 2013, after which it would be paramedic-qualified 100 percent of the time. He said there would be a meeting on January 16, 2014 with the Hidden Valley community regarding their fire service. He stated the District was looking at adding a fourth firefighter to the Hidden Valley engine as part of the reserve program. He said that program would launch sometime between the middle to the end of January 2014 and had been contemplated in the budget. He stated a reserve firefighter would also be placed at Mogul when that station was built, and it was hoped 100 percent of the time there would be four firefighters at those two locations. He said it would cost less than \$40,000 to add an additional firefighter to both of those stations.

Chief Moore said he wanted to address the Hidden Valley fire, because he wanted to give the Board a factual report that was unfiltered by the media. He said his heart went out to the West family, who lost a significant part of their home, and to everyone else who recently lost property.

Chief Moore said some circumstances made one structure fire worse than another. He stated to fight a structure fire he needed the personnel, equipment, water, and access.

12:46 p.m. Chairman Humke's call disconnected.

Chief Moore stated mutual aid had no bearing on the outcome of the Hidden Valley fire. He said when a fire was detected was a critical component in being able to stop it. He stated they were able to determine last year's Thunderbolt fire burned for 2.5 to 3 hours before it was detected.

12:48 p.m. Chairman Humke rejoined the meeting by phone.

Chief Moore said if a better response time and throwing more resources at a fire made the fire less, then major metropolitan areas would not have large structure fires, which was not the case. He said the fire three days ago in Denver, Colorado involved a five-story apartment complex and the building was completely involved when the first engine arrived. He stated it took around twenty engines, six ladder trucks, four Division Chiefs, and mutual aid from other agencies to put out the fire. He said this happened in Denver where there were massive resources available. He stated it was not logical to assume that applying resources rapidly would always have a good result in every single instance. He said there was more at play than simply saying there was only a two-person rescue in Hidden Valley, which was why the fire was so big.

Chief Moore said the West family noted there was smoke in the kitchen 15 minutes after they arrived home. He stated Mr. West opened the door to the garage and was blown backwards by the force of the fire. He said if a room contained rubber,

gasoline, and the amount of storage the West family had in their garage, combined with the extended time of detection, those things would work against any fire department. He said an extended time of detection sometimes meant the fire was ahead of what a fire department would be able to do.

Chief Moore said for this particular fire, the incident commander was a very experienced Battalion Chief who got everything set up and started to apply water. He reported Chief Layton believed they had a handle on the fire, but when they started to darken it down they saw flames coming out of the attic of the main residence. He reiterated one of the four things a firefighter had to have was access, but the way the West home was constructed, the attic could not be accessed because it was some 45 feet in the air. He stated when the incident commander saw the fire coming out of the attic, he realized there were not enough resources on the scene and he called for mutual aid.

Chief Moore said he was asked by the press why mutual aid was not called for sooner, but he noted the District had responded to lots of garage fires; some worse and some less than this particular fire. He stated they did their best effort with the resources they had and the incident commander believed he could suppress the fire with those resources. He said as fire professionals, they could look at a fire and could determine how many resources and water would be needed to do the job. He stated when it was determined there was a need for more resources, they were called for.

Chief Moore explained when a fire truck showed up, putting water on the fire was not always the first thing the firefighters did, because the first tactical priority would be to determine whether or not a rescue was needed. He said there were a lot of bystanders and they had to determine who the owner was and to find out if everyone got out, which took a little bit of time. He stated the next thing to be determined was what the exposures (adjacent structures) were and to ensure the fire did not spread to them. He said it was only then that the third tactical priority of containment came into play and the firefighters would then start to apply water. He stated he would have to argue that in a fire this severe, no matter how many personnel arrived at the fire, they still had to do the same things. He said this fire had an exposure to the north, so lines had to be deployed to protect that exposure, to the West's garage, and then they could start to flow water. He stated the incident commander thought they could knock down the garage fire until flames were seen coming out of the attic, then they knew they had a totally different fire.

Chief Moore said in response to the call for mutual aid, Reno Engine 6 personnel went inside the house and attempted to access the fire from the attic, but they came back out and said they could not get to the attic because the ceiling was too tall. He stated Sparks Engine 12 went on the roof to cut a hole, which would act as chimney to draw fire to one point. He said the roof was metal and was very icy, but being metal meant a chainsaw would not cut through it. He said first the metal would have to be removed and then the plywood could be cut through. He stated it was a very dangerous operation to have anybody on that roof. He said while they were continuing to do those things, the fire continued to progress from the garage to where it burned the roof off of the structure. He stated the press reported the house was destroyed, but the insurance

company determined it was a restorable house and was not a total loss. He noted all of the exterior walls were still standing except for those in the garage and an area by the master bedroom closet.

Chief Moore said the response times and what equipment and personnel arrived at the scene of a fire were important. He stated every Chief across the country would love to have two engines and a ladder respond to every single structure fire, because the odds were better. He said having a really good chance of keeping a fire small was when it could be detected in a reasonable time but, when that did not happen, there would be fires like that of the West home and the fire in Red Rock where the detection time was virtually zero because of the explosion. He reiterated the time of detection and the amount of fuel in the garage played a significant role in the West fire. He said unfortunately the time of detection was what pushed the fire beyond the firefighter's ability to control it, even though at the time it was believed the fire could be knocked down with the available resources. He stated when it was determined there were not enough resources, mutual aid with both the Reno and Sparks Fire Departments were called for simultaneously. He said no one should speculate that we did not want to call for mutual aid, because it simply was not true. He said the District made attempts to extinguish a fire with the resources available, but he was not convinced that showing up with a four-person engine company would have made a difference given the time of detection and that the fire had already burned into the attic. He stated there were three vehicles in the garage filled with gasoline, rubber fencing, and a storage loft above the garage that was loaded to the gills with things to burn.

Chief Moore thanked the District's partners in fighting the fire, the City of Reno and the City of Sparks, because they fought it very aggressively with the District. He said the agencies worked very well together. He stated Reno Engine 6, and he believed Truck 3, along with Sparks Engine 12 encountered a lot of risk in being up on the roof. He said unfortunately it was a significant fire, but it was not the District's first significant fire nor would it be the last; nor would it be the last for any other agency because every agency had severe fires. He stated that was not because they did not respond with enough resources, even though he would have preferred to have responded to the fire with more resources; but in this particular case it was his best professional judgment that the fire was too advanced, the access into the attic was too difficult, which meant time beat them, the fire load beat them, and the acceleration of the fire beat them. He said that was just the nature of this particular fire.

Chief Moore reported the Blue Ribbon Committee would meet on January 18, 2014. He said they had done a significant amount of work to research best practices and were ready to begin writing the report, which should be completed in March 2014.

There was no action taken or public comment on this item.

13-156F AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Review and acceptance of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District’s Audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2013.”

Mary Walker, District Financial Consultant, said the financial statements were audited by Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. and the audit generated an “unqualified” opinion, which was explained in the staff report dated November 14, 2013. The auditors stated the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) conformed to all significant statutory constraints on its financial administration during the year, and they did not note any deficiencies or audit points. She stated it was recommended the Board accept the District’s audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2012/13. She noted this was one of the cleanest audits the District had in the 15 years she had been working with the District. She discussed some of the highlights of the audit.

Ms. Walker advised the District’s finances were now stable for both the short and long term. She said the District lost 22 percent or \$4.1 million in ongoing revenues. She stated those losses were projected and the Board took decisive action to stabilize the District’s finances through cost reductions and without closing fire stations or having to lay off employees. She said the Board stabilized the District’s finances by working with the unions to achieve cost reductions and by consolidating operations with the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) to allow for additional operational and administrative savings. She believed one of the reasons the District had been successful since the TMFPD and the SFPD were stood up together was because of the firefighters and the Chief’s unions. She stated they were just as concerned with keeping all of the fire stations open during the negotiations and their concessions culminated in providing significant savings to the District.

12:59 p.m. Chairman Humke’s call was disconnected.

Ms. Walker reviewed the General Fund expenditures, which were shown in item 2 on page 2 of the staff report dated November 14, 2013; the actual fund balance shown under item 3; the Capital Projects Fund; the Emergency Fund; the Worker’s Compensation Fund; Other Funds; and the Conclusion.

Commissioner Jung asked how much money came in due to the increase in taxes. Ms. Walker replied the increase brought in about \$1 million in additional revenues. Commissioner Jung requested an e-mail showing the actual breakdown. She said Item #4 under the General Fund discussed the net loss in investment income. Ms. Walker said typically the District would make a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year in investment income, which the Washoe County Treasurer invested on the District’s behalf. She noted as of June 30th there had been a decline in the market.

1:03 p.m. The Board recessed.

1:12 p.m. The Board reconvened with Chairman Humke absent.

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Jung asked if the internal auditor or the external auditor would do the analysis she requested of the anticipated and actuals costs of the deconsolidation. Fire Chief Moore replied the internal auditor would.

1:15 p.m.* Chairman Humke arrived at the meeting.

Convened as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), on motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be accepted.

13-157F AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: “Review and acceptance of the Sierra Fire Protection District’s Audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2013.”

Mary Walker, District Financial Consultant, said the financial statements were audited by Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. and the audit generated an “unqualified” opinion, which was explained in the summary of the staff report dated November 12, 2013. She stated it was a very clean audit and the Sierra Fire Protection District’s (SFPD’s) finances were stabilized in the same manner as that of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD). She reviewed the background information provided under the General Fund, the Wildland Fire Emergency Fund, and the Conclusion headings contained in the staff report.

Commissioner Jung requested an answer to the same question on the increase in taxes and the breakdown as was asked for in Agenda Item 5.

There was no public comment on this item.

Convened as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), on motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be accepted.

13-158F AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and action on Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Resolution to Augment the FY 13-14 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,194,869 for the purpose of paying the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) for the proportionate share of the Arrowcreek Fire Station cost and FY 12-13 operational savings per the TMFPD/SFPD Interlocal Agreement.”

Fire Chief Moore explained there were two ways to do a financial transaction: one being to net the amount and then make payments for the total aggregate amount, which still netted out to be the same amount. He said the auditors wanted to see checks exchanged for the full amount. He stated because it was not in the budget to write a check that large, the proposal was to augment the budget so the check could be written.

Mary Walker, District Financial Consultant, said this action would pay the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) for two provisions contained in two different Interlocal Agreements. She stated the Interlocal Agreement the Board adopted in September required the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) pay the SFPD for the TMFPD's portion of the Arrowcreek Fire Station's costs. She said the other was for the Fiscal Year 2012/13 operational savings per the TMFPD/SFPD Interlocal Agreement.

There was no public comment on this item.

Convened as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), on motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Berkgigler, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be approved. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

13-159F AGENDA ITEM 9

Agenda Subject: "Discussion and action on Sierra Fire Protection District Resolution to augment the FY 13-14 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,194,869 for the purpose of paying the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the proportionate share of the Mogul Fire Station cost and to make an annual contribution to the OPEB Trust to fund retiree health benefits."

Mary Walker, District Financial Consultant, said this resolution would take the money the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) was paying the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) and pay the TMFPD for the construction of the Mogul Fire Station per the Interlocal Agreement the Board approved back in September. She said the second purpose was to set aside some money to pay for the retiree health benefits. She stated because of the recession, no contributions had been made to fund retiree health benefits for the last few years. She said this was a financially prudent opportunity to take part of the savings and put it in the OPEC Trust. She said the investments in the Trust were managed by the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and they earned 12.9 percent on their interest earnings. She said it would also decrease the liability so 43.5 percent of the total liability would be funded.

There was no public comment on this item.

Convened as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), on motion by Commissioner Berkgigler, seconded by

Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be approved. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

13-160F AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Approval of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Five Year Buy Out of Workers’ Compensation Claims for the Fiscal Year 08-09 in the amount of \$149,361.31 per the Reno-TMFPD Interlocal Agreement.”

Mary Walker, District Financial Consultant, said the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) was a part of the City of Reno’s self-insurance pool for the District’s former employees and still owed on the claims that occurred in the last few years. She stated this amount would buy out Fiscal Year 2008/09, and approval of the buyout was recommended.

There was no public comment on this item.

Convened as the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), on motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be approved.

13-161F AGENDA ITEM 10

Agenda Subject: “Consideration and possible direction to Fire Chief to establish a framework and timetable of meetings with City of Reno staff to discuss amendments to the Cooperative Aid Agreement with the City of Reno.”

Fire Chief Charles Moore said the West fire brought the subject of mutual aid to the forefront. He stated the press had inquired why he had not called for mutual aid sooner and/or why was the City of Reno not dispatched at the same time the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) was, because the second nearest station to Hidden Valley was the City of Reno’s Mira Loma Station. He said his comment to the press was that he was restricted under the existing mutual aid agreement with the City of Reno to have a command officer on the scene to be able to call for mutual aid. He stated he was a little upset with the press for making this mutual aid issue, somewhat of an issue within the context of the effort of fighting the fire. He said bringing it back to the forefront was timely, because mutual aid had been discussed for quite some time with the City of Reno without making any progress. He stated the agreement with the City of Sparks included mutual and automatic aid, and automatic aid with the City of Sparks worked flawlessly. He said it worked well because both staffs sat down and talked about an annual operating plan and reframed the automatic aid response map.

Chief Moore said the mutual aid discussion with the City of Reno was quite contentious because Reno’s City Council initially required the complete exhaustion

of the District's resources before calling for mutual aid. He advised on July 24th the agreement was reframed to be a reasonable deployment of resources, which he felt meant the District had to make its best effort and use what resources it had before calling for mutual aid, but he believed the City of Reno had a different interpretation of what that meant. He believed it was finally at the point where there was an agreement to erase those constraints and do something more like the relationship the City of Reno and the District had with the City of Sparks, which would allow the incident commander to call for mutual aid whenever it was felt it was needed. He said the tools used to determine when to call for mutual aid included the severity of the 9-1-1 dispatch call, the volume of 9-1-1 calls, visual clues, along with arriving on the scene and assessing the fire. He stated he would like to lose the encumbrances in the mutual aid agreement and give discretion to both Fire Chiefs, and their staffs to call for mutual aid however it was determined it was needed. He stated unquestionably there would be a benefit to both agencies to have mutual aid and automatic aid agreements like those the District had with the City of Sparks.

Chief Moore displayed the map of the Hidden Valley area, which was placed on file with the Clerk. He said the areas in green were covered by the District and the areas in pink were covered by the City of Reno. He noted TMFPD Station 37 was in the middle of the map. He said if someone turned right out of Station 37, they would be in the City of Reno but, under the current arrangement, Station 37 would not know there was a fire two houses down from the Station because they would not be dispatched. He stated it was absolutely nonsensical to say the District did not have the ability to assist if a fire was only a few doors down from the fire station. He said the jurisdictional boundaries were goofy like this all over the place. He stated the public needed to understand what was needed was for the closest unit to respond to the scene; not on behalf of the District or the City of Reno, but in conjunction with one another. He said before he got here and the SFPD was in Boomtown, both entities were dispatched all of the time. He stated the SFPD got there much faster and would determine if the City was needed or if the call to them should be cancelled. He felt that was a good system that would work well. He said there needed to be a commitment to get to automatic aid working, so eventually there would be closest unit dispatching. He stated automatic aid would take some work to determine what the zones would be and some programming within dispatch, so the dispatchers could see what station would be closest.

Chief Moore said some analysis was done using GIS and the data base, which was shown on the map placed on file with the Clerk entitled, "911 calls between 7/1/2012 and 6/30/2013," and showed a one-mile radius around every fire station. He said it was found in the 1,060 incidents within the City of Reno's jurisdiction, the District would have been closer within that one-mile radius. He stated where the City of Reno would be closer to the District's jurisdiction, there were 60 such incidents. He said because of the geography and because the City of Reno expanded, four of the District's stations were located within the City of Reno's city limits. He noted he did not care about the numbers, but acknowledged there was a cost in responding for one another. He felt the place to start was on structure fires and priority-one medical calls. He advised the

current mutual aid agreement stated it could not be used for automatic aid, but could only be used on an incident specific response.

Chief Moore said he would like to meet with his counterparts at the City of Reno to start talking about automatic aid to see how they could help each other faster with closest unit dispatching or with whatever system was needed to speed the response to a citizen regardless of the jurisdiction. He stated his recommendation was the Board authorize he and his staff to discuss this with our counterparts at the City of Reno.

Commissioner Berkbigler said she understood at the recent meeting there was not a discussion on including provisions for automatic aid in this early step. She stated the goal was to tweak the mutual aid agreement so both fire departments could call someone without those having to meet preset prerequisites, but we were not far enough down the road yet to really address automatic aid. She said she received a call from City Councilmember Oscar Delgado, who had the same impression she had. She stated he specifically asked her to get it on record that it was not the intention of the group to create problems with the City of Reno as it related to their union contracts. She said she wanted the line on page 3 of the second paragraph taken out of the report before it was approved, because she did not want to create hard feelings with the City of Reno. She stated she would like to see the group continue to meet with Senator Ben Kieckhefer or however it had to be done. She would also like to see Chief Moore and the Reno Fire Chief get together to talk about these issues to try to find a way to move forward. She said her personal opinion was there should be one fire system in this valley for the protection of our citizens, which she felt was the direction we should move, but she did not want to rock the boat this early in the process.

Commissioner Jung said that was essentially how she remembered the conversation. She believed working out the mutual aid agreement was vital to the area's citizens. She stated the feedback she was getting was that it was semantics that were being discussed, and it did not appear things were moving forward. She felt the meeting was very positive and everyone agreed the union representatives needed to be in the room during the discussions. She said there was a little further discussion about automatic aid, but she and Commissioner Berkbigler were not authorized by the Board to renegotiate it. She said the citizens did not care who responded, but only that there was the fastest response, the most resources, and the most advanced life support provided. She said without direction from the Board, she could not speculate about automatic aid, but mutual aid needed to be fixed now and might lead us down the path to some sort of automatic aid agreement.

Vice Chairman Weber thanked everyone for participating in the informal meeting with Senator Kieckhefer, because we needed to do what was in the best interests of the entire community.

Vice Chairperson Weber asked what language needed to be taken out of items 1-5 on page 3 of the staff report to clarify what was discussed at the meeting. Commissioner Berkbigler said she had no problem with items 1-5, but only with the

ending clause that stated, “including provisions for automatic aid,” although that might come into the discussion, it was not something that was discussed at the meeting. She said the Chief’s report raised some red flags for some of the people at the City of Reno when they saw it. She stated she wanted it on the record that the Chief was not attempting to stir up trouble, but was looking to resolve this problem; and she thought the five points were valid points. She said both fire Chiefs were highly qualified and knew what they were doing. Vice Chairperson Weber believed automatic aid was still something that we wanted to discuss down the road. She noted Reno Fire Chief Michael Hernandez was in the audience.

In response to the call for public comment, Thomas Daley said the Board made generous offers to the City of Reno twice regarding automatic aid, but neither proposal was approved by the City, nor had any alternative been offered. He stated the City’s silence spoke volumes as to their intentions. He said if the City of Reno would not negotiate, then the focus should be on the City of Sparks. He said the automatic aid agreement with the City of Sparks had geographic constraints on where units could automatically respond and excluded contiguous areas on Sparks’ southern border with the District. He stated the agreement was approved 18 months ago, and with past and pending changes in the District’s resources, the agreement was no longer adequate. He said the agreement required the terms be revisited every other year, and it was time to refine the agreement to meet the current challenges.

Sarah Chivilick, Blue Ribbon Committee on Regional Fire Chair, said the recent politicization of the lack of a mutual aid agreement for between the District and the City of Reno was not in the best interest of the citizens of Washoe County. She requested the Board support a cooperative aid agreement that kept the safety of people and property first and foremost and allowed for the closest unit to be dispatched.

Chief Moore read the motion and noted the Board might want to amend it to exclude automatic aid from the discussions for now. Commissioner Jung stated she would be willing to make the motion. She said she liked the way the Chief was going with the language we were going to discuss for the time being and to come back for further direction when we were ready to discuss automatic aid. She stated she had spoken to the Reno Fire Department and they did not have a problem with items 1-5 and the real issue was that the Chief simply misunderstood. She noted the District’s staff reports were not previewed, but came directly to the Board. She stated Commissioner Berkgigler made what occurred abundantly clear, and she fully believed this was fixable and that was the spirit in which she would like to make the motion. Commissioner Berkgigler seconded the motion.

Chairman Humke asked if Chief Moore misunderstood anything. Chief Moore said what he recalled was both mutual and automatic aid were discussed. He stated he was fine with discussing mutual aid as the first step. He stated the issues had been contentious, but now there was a breakthrough. He felt the discussions should be deliberate and should be taken a step at a time.

Chairman Humke said regarding the motion, he recalled saying neighbors fought neighbor's fires, and it did not matter where the geographical or political boundaries were or what color the uniform or the fire equipment was. He believed on day one he said to the Chief and others to go and make that happen--please.

On a call for the question, the vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

13-162F AGENDA ITEM 11

Agenda Subject: "Commissioners'/Fire Chief's announcements, requests for information, topics for future agendas, and statements relating to items not on the Agenda. (No discussion among Commissioners will take place on this item)."

Fire Chief Charles Moore said an attorney/client meeting was needed to discuss matters for both the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD).

Commissioner Hartung asked if Chief Moore was aware of any fuel reduction grants that could be applied for regarding Mr. Horan's request during public comment. Chief Moore said he was working on authoring that grant, but he needed to discuss with the County Manager who would fund a share of the work, because the area needing treatment was owned by the County. Commissioner Hartung said he would like it to come back on an agenda.

Commissioner Berkbigler said she saw the Hidden Valley fire damage, and effectively putting it out before it destroyed the entire home was a big deal. She felt the Chief was doing a marvelous job. Chief Moore stated his success was based on his entire team and their teamwork. Vice Chairperson Weber said the point was we appreciated all of you.

Chairman Humke asked about the firefighter that was injured. Chief Moore understood he suffered a dislocated shoulder and an MRI had been necessary, but he was not sure if surgery would be needed. Chairman Humke said he was informed there was a fire in Washoe Valley where the people lost their well house and, therefore, their source of water. He said similarly at a recent fire in Sun Valley, the firefighters passed a hat to help those citizens out. He stated the Board could not say thank you enough for those activities. Chief Moore said Truckee Meadows Firefighters Local 3895 was the most compassionate group he had the pleasure of associating with. He said they were taking the proceeds of their union dues, and possibly some of their own money, to help the family who was in dire straits. He also thanked the District's administration staff and the Sheriff's Office also helping the family. Chairman Humke asked for his thanks to be passed on to everyone.

13-163F AGENDA ITEM 12

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 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.”

Cathy Brandhorst discussed matters of concern to herself.

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2:09 p.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 and Sierra Fire Protection
District

ATTEST:

NANCY PARENT, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows
Fire Protection District and Sierra Fire
Protection District

*Minutes Prepared By:
Jan Frazzetta, Deputy County Clerk*

**SIERRA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION TO AUGMENT THE FY 13-14 GENERAL FUND BUDGET
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,194,869**

WHEREAS, the Sierra Fire Protection District and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District have entered into Interlocal Agreements for Fire Service and Consolidation and for Fire Station Cost Sharing; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners have approved the District's FY 13-14 General Fund Budget; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to have resources set aside to insure the District can carry out the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement and to fund the retiree health benefit liability; and

WHEREAS, the revenues and other resources of the General Fund of the Sierra Fire Protection District were budgeted to be \$7,212,599 which included a beginning fund balance of \$932,311; and

WHEREAS, additional resources due to the \$1,194,869 payment by the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District are available to the Sierra Fire Protection District's General Fund and in which appropriations are required to be augmented as follows:

General Fund:

Intergovernmental Revenues	<u>\$1,194,869</u>
Total Augmentation	<u>\$1,194,869</u>

WHEREAS, there is a need to apply these proceeds in the previously mentioned fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Sierra Fire Protection District shall augment its FY 13-14 budget by appropriating \$1,194,869 for use in the above-mentioned fund, thereby is increasing its appropriations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District shall forward the necessary documents to the Department of Taxation, State of Nevada.

Upon motion by Fire Board Commissioner, Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted this 17th day of December, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: Berkbigler, Hartung, Humke NAYS: None
ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None



ATTEST
Randy L. Parent CLERK

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
David Humke
David Humke, Chair

TMFPD #11
BOFC 12-17-13
#9

**TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION TO AUGMENT THE FY 13-14 GENERAL FUND BUDGET
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,194,869**

WHEREAS, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Sierra Fire Protection District have entered into Interlocal Agreements for Fire Service and Consolidation and for Fire Station Cost Sharing; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners have approved the District's FY 13-14 Consolidated Fire Budget; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to have resources set aside to insure the District can carry out the provisions of the Interlocal Agreements; and

WHEREAS, the revenues and other resources of the General Fund of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District were budgeted to be \$30,604,831 which included a beginning fund balance of \$8,110,311; and

WHEREAS, additional resources from the FY 13-14 beginning fund balance are available to the General Fund and in which appropriations are required to be augmented as follows:

General Fund:

Beginning Fund Balance	<u>\$1,194,869</u>
Total Augmentation	<u>\$1,194,869</u>

WHEREAS, there is a need to apply these proceeds in the previously mentioned fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District shall augment its FY 13-14 budget by appropriating \$1,194,869 for use in the above-mentioned fund, thereby increasing its appropriations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District shall forward the necessary documents to the Department of Taxation, State of Nevada.

Upon motion by Fire Board Commissioner, Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted this 17th day of December, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: Hartung, Jung, Weber, Berkbigler, Humke NAYS: None
ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

David Humke
David Humke, Chair

ATTEST

CLERK

Randy L. Parent

TMFPD #11
BOFC 12-17-13
#7