

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

TUESDAY

11:00 a.m.

MARCH 24, 2015

PRESENT:

Marsha Berkbigler, Chair
Kitty Jung, Vice Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner
Bob Lucey, Commissioner

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

The Board convened at 11:34 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:

15-0033F 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.”

Cathy Brandhorst spoke about problems at the Knitting Factory.

Cliff Low stated his support to hold Fire Board meetings on a different Tuesday than the regular County Commission meetings, which he thought was a great step towards perceptually separating Washoe County from the Fire Districts. He encouraged the County Commissioners to also consider hearing Proclamation and recognition items during regular County Commission meetings so there would be a Tuesday set aside just for the Fire Board meetings. He advised Board members to always refer to areas outside the cities of Reno and Sparks as the “unincorporated” County and said the Board should recognize the fiduciary duty they had to taxpayers who provided revenue for the Fire Districts. He provided plastic fire hats, which he said was a visible reminder that the Fire Districts were not the same as Washoe County.

15-0034F AGENDA ITEM 3

Agenda Subject: “Consent Items: None”

There were no consent items.

15-0035F AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Fire Chief Report: A) Red Cross Smoke Detector Campaign, B) Report and discussion related to fire district operations; C) Volunteer Statistics’ and Report for February 2015.”

Fire Chief Charles Moore introduced Zanny Marsh, Executive Director of the Red Cross, and Mike Kramer, Volunteer Partner Disaster Program Manager. He thanked the Red Cross for the work they did to distribute smoke detectors and for installing 128 of them in Sun Valley homes that did not have them.

Ms. Marsh said the Red Cross was really a collaboration of employees and volunteers. She asked Mr. Kramer to speak about the distribution and installation of the smoke detectors.

Mr. Kramer thanked the Board and Chief Moore for the recognition on behalf of all the Red Cross staff. He said 22 percent of homes did not have smoke detectors and home fires accounted for 57 percent of fire related deaths. He said the Red Cross developed the home fire prevention program to decrease the number of home fire deaths by 50 percent and without collaborative partners, such as the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), they would not be able to do that. He said the Red Cross looked forward to continuing their efforts alongside the TMFPD.

Chair Berkbigler stated the Board appreciated their efforts.

Chief Moore said they had to leverage the help they received from partners like the Red Cross because it was impossible for his busy staff to go to every residence in the County. He said the Red Cross was a force multiplier and allowed the effort to reach homes that were most at risk. He said it was a proven statistic that people in homes with working smoke detectors were two times more likely to survive a home fire than those without and he thanked Ms. Marsh and Mr. Kramer for their partnership.

Chief Moore asked if the Board had any questions related to the report on Fire District operations. Chair Berkbigler stated it appeared there were none.

Chief Moore said Assembly Bill 333 (AB333), regarding the merger of the TMFPD and the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), would be heard by the Legislature on the upcoming Thursday. He said if the bill passed it would increase financial efficiencies, streamline budget processes, and make Board meetings easier. He said it would take time for staff to develop a transition plan, which could take anywhere

from nine months to a year, but he anticipated the Fire Districts would be fully integrated by fiscal year 2016-17.

Commissioner Hartung asked what types of savings County citizens would enjoy due to the consolidation. Chief Moore said the County would no longer have to perform two audits. He stated the cost of the SFPD audit was \$22,000 and he thought that money could be used for other purposes, such as the installation of more smoke detectors. He did not see any reason for the existence of two Districts. He said it was hard to quantify the staff savings, but he estimated it would amount to about \$50,000. He said the process to develop two different budgets and figure out how to exchange money between them was very complicated. Commissioner Hartung asked if it would be reasonable to guess that savings could amount to somewhere between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Chief Moore said that would be reasonable.

Chief Moore talked about two individuals who suffered cardiac events and were saved due to the actions of both the District's paramedics and the Regional Emergency Services Authority (REMSA). He planned to bring crews from those events, as well as a crew from a past structure event, to a future meeting so he could introduce them to the Board.

Chief Moore noted the TMFPD meetings would be moved to the third meeting of the month starting on April 21st.

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

15-0036F AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: "Presentation, discussion and possible action to accept a presentation from the 2015 Kids Fire Camp Leadership Committee."

Fire Chief Charles Moore said the inaugural Kids Camp was a tremendous success. He introduced Mark Thyer, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Fire Equipment Operator and member of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local No. 3895.

Mr. Thyer conducted a PowerPoint presentation. He stated the second annual Kids Fire Camp was scheduled for June 23rd through June 25th and would be held at Camp WeChMe in Galena Creek Park. He said the camp would consist of three days of training and competitions for kids between the ages of 11 and 14. He stated camp topics included CPR awareness, water safety, back country survival, physical fitness, firefighting and rescue techniques. He explained the instruction, mentoring and supervision was primarily provided by TMFPD volunteers and the goal was to create an environment where positive behaviors were promoted and kids were inspired to adhere to the same principles firefighters held themselves to. He said the Sheriff's Office also participated and even brought the RAVEN helicopter to last year's camp, which was a big hit with the kids. He stated the facility was provided by the County's Regional Parks

Department. He said the enrollment fee was \$99, but they tried to keep costs low by soliciting donations from the community. He stated the IAFF provided some scholarships and also made a financial contribution, which were funds that came from firefighter dues earmarked for community outreach. He said the TMFPD and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District loaned some equipment to the camp, such as apparatus fire engines, a training tower, and some smaller equipment like hoses and tools. He described the organizational structure and said it was handled in the same way that the Fire District managed incidents, so they had a well-managed camp.

Mr. Thyer said the camp was meant as a mechanism for community outreach and to impact kids in a positive way by motivating, challenging, teaching, inspiring and empowering them. He stated the firefighters enjoyed the camp as much as the kids did and they all looked forward to going back. He said the opening ceremony would take place on June 23rd at 8:30 a.m. and the graduation ceremony would be held on June 25th at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hartung asked what the \$99 enrollment fee paid for. Mr. Thyer explained there were certain costs they could not avoid, such as t-shirts, safety equipment, and food. He said the Firefighters Association would take care of any costs that went above and beyond fees collected.

Commissioner Lucey said he thought it was a fantastic program and he planned to attend the camp's opening and graduation ceremonies.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be accepted.

15-0037F AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: "Approval of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Five Year Buyout of Workers' Compensation Claims for Fiscal Year 09-10 in the amount of \$275,316.30 per the Reno-TMFPD Interlocal Agreement."

Vicki Van Buren, Fiscal Officer for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), read directly from the staff report regarding the background of the Reno-TMFPD Interlocal Agreement and the recommended buyout of the Workers Compensation claims for the fiscal year 2009-10. She said staff recommended approval of the buyout.

Commissioner Hartung asked if Ms. Van Buren would be coming back to the Board in the next year with a similar figure or if this would be the final request. Ms. Van Buren replied she would return next year with a request to buyout 2010-11 and then the following year to buyout 2011-12, which would conclude the District's liability with the exception of any heart and lung issues. Commissioner Hartung asked if heart and lung

issues were covered under any other policies, such as the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Ms. Van Buren replied she was unaware of any other coverage for those issues.

There was no public comment on this item.

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

15-0038F AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and action on potential legislation regarding SB185, which would require the closest emergency fire-fighting vehicle to respond to and suppress a fire regardless of jurisdiction (Automatic Aid).”

Fire Chief Charles Moore talked about legislation that was proposed by Senator Kieckhefer and said he thought it was important the Board understood what the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District’s (TMFPD) obligations would be if the legislation was passed.

Chief Moore displayed a map which depicted the reported structure fires for 2013 and 2014 and fire station travel time. He explained many 911 callers could not tell if a fire was an actual structure fire, but if a fire was reported that way dispatchers had to send the appropriate response. Through an analysis of the data, he found only 35 to 36 percent of the structure fire calls made in 2013 and 2014 were actual structure fires. He calculated that during those two years, the TMFPD responded to 11 actual structure fires that were closer to a Reno fire station, which he did not find to be a significant burden.

Chief Moore said he also considered the issue from the Reno Fire Department’s perspective and by his estimation the TMFPD was closer to 27 structure fires that the Reno Fire Department responded to during 2013 and 2014. He said it was pretty easy to see why there would be a difference since three of the District’s fire stations were inside Reno’s city limits. He mentioned TMFPD’s Station No. 37 in Hidden Valley was literally 500 feet away from homes that were in the City of Reno and said it made sense to dispatch a crew from that station if there was a structure fire in one of those nearby homes.

Chief Moore said the Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) found that the first step to creating regional fire services was to engage in automatic aid. He thought it would be difficult to form regional services if Reno and the TMFPD could not come to a consensus on financial, governance, operational and service level issues. He said it seemed logical for the City and the District to agree to limited automatic aid in areas where they knew they could help each other and it did not have to be complicated or difficult to manage. He said if the Board authorized him to testify in support of the legislation he would suggest to the Senate that this would be a good first step towards regionalization.

Chief Moore explained his analysis did not include brush fires, car fires or trash fires, but he did not think those types of fires were significant enough to affect the numbers he reported. He talked about the cost implications of automatic aid and said he believed the District's costs were static because he had to pay his firefighters and for fire engine maintenance and utilities whether they were responding to a call or not. He said there might be additional costs for fuel and broken equipment, but those could be addressed in any automatic aid agreement. He thought the agencies could come to an agreement if there was a hugely disproportionate quid pro quo, but he thought the numbers indicated the two agencies were closely matched and that neither agency would be over-responding. He urged the Board to consider their position on Senate Bill 185 (SB185) and to authorize him to give testimony at the Senate hearing.

Commissioner Hartung asked if Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would be part of the agreement. Chief Moore stated the language in the bill did not address EMS, but it also did not prevent the District from talking with the City of Reno or any of TMFPD's other partners about including EMS in the equation. Commissioner Hartung said he understood the situation the Chief mentioned earlier about the Hidden Valley fire station being so close to the City of Reno and he thought, in the event of a medical emergency, the Hidden Valley crew could respond faster than anyone else. He said he was sure the City of Reno would also be able to help the District, especially in the North Valleys.

Commissioner Lucey stated it was the Board's duty to maintain the health and safety of citizens. He noted the TMFPD offered a six month trial period to the City of Reno if the legislation passed and said it was his recommendation that the Board support SB185 because it got them moving down the right path.

Chair Berkbigler said she thought Senator Kieckhefer asked the Board to take a position on the bill and John Slaughter, County Manager, confirmed that he did.

Commissioner Hartung asked if there was a fiscal note on the bill. Chief Moore replied Reno's fiscal note indicated it would incur costs of \$1.8 million to provide automatic aid and he did not know how they arrived at that number. He wanted it to be clear that Reno's Fire Department was funded by City revenues and the District's Fire Department was funded by the County. He thought if it was determined there was a disproportionate response from one agency to another, it could be resolved at the end of each year; however, he did not think there would be any significant costs over and above what each agency paid to manage its department on a day-to-day basis.

On the call for public comment, Thomas Daly said he thought the bill was timely. He expressed concerns about brown-outs in the City of Reno and how that might create a disproportionate response from the District, but he thought it was up to the Chiefs to work out the details.

Cathy Brandhorst said firefighters were not responding to fires in a timely manner.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered to approve the District's support of SB185 and authorize the Fire Chief to testify at a hearing.

12:31 p.m. The Board remained convened as the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) and convened as the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for the following item only.

15-0039F AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: “Supplemental presentation, discussion and possible action on the Blue Ribbon Committee Report on Regional Fire Service, a presentation on the history of the dissolution of the Interlocal Contract for fire, and a summary of TMFPD service levels.”

Sarah Chvilicek, Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) Chair, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the BRC's supplemental report, which was placed on file with the Clerk. She explained the BRC was created in February of 2013 and for nine months they worked diligently to gather data, interpret information, discuss results, and make conclusions and recommendations regarding the most efficient and effective way to deliver fire services, emergency medical services (EMS), and transportation services.

Ms. Chvilicek said presentations were made by a number of agencies and they followed a specific outline which included the demographics and size of their District of area, the number of stations, the ratio of career staff to volunteer staff, what equipment they had available, how they were funded, and the agreements they had in place. She stated the BRC did not hear from the Reno Fire Department, the Sparks Fire Department, or the Airport Fire Department. She thought if they had received presentations from those agencies, they would have had a better perspective on the Greater Truckee Meadows and could have made more specific recommendations as to how regional fire services would be affected.

Ms. Chvilicek stated the BRC made nine key findings and identified some other miscellaneous issues, which were listed in the presentation. She said the Committee recognized opportunities for borderless response (automatic aid), to educate for fire adapted communities, to enhance code enforcement, to facilitate a public/private relationship with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), and to standardize response protocols. She said, in regards to automatic aid funding issues, the BRC recommended those to be addressed and “trued up” at the end of each fiscal year.

Ms. Chvilicek stated some of the challenges included issues such as labor costs and labor contract alignment, deferred maintenance, and tax equalization; however, turf, power and politics were the primary reasons for regionalization failures. She said the BRC's report provided four regional options and outlined the pros and cons of each of them. She said “consolidation via Interlocal Agreement” was one of the options, but

explained that was the cause for the negation of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD)/Reno Fire Department Agreement.

Ms. Chvilicek said the BRC strongly supported an independent regional fire department governed by an autonomous board. She said the County should lead the regional collaboration effort and pursue legislative remedies to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 318 and 474. She said a true consolidation would include singular governance, a singular level of service and a single funding source.

Ms. Chvilicek said the Automatic Aid Agreement would be the first step in the path forward. She said the citizens did not care who governed the fire jurisdictions and they only cared about which fire engine responded first. She said governance had to be an independent elected Board because of turf, power and political issues and the goal would be to provide for the protection of the greater community and to maintain a borderless response. She said the service level should not be driven by crew size, but by governance, and a close review of current conditions would be necessary before contract negotiations for the combining of departments could begin.

Commissioner Lucey said he appreciated the presentation and it covered the information he was looking for.

Chief Moore said the economic realities of the recession caused a 25 percent reduction in revenues for the TMFPD and the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), which affected their ability to balance expenditures with revenues and keep fire stations open. He said despite the financial constraints the District had to continue to provide capable Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedic services to 911 callers and to handle structure fires. He said as much as the City of Reno and the TMFPD attempted to negotiate an agreement, those constraints were an impediment to moving forward with it in a sustainable way.

There was no public comment or motion on this item.

15-0040F AGENDA ITEM 9

Agenda Subject: “Acknowledge Receipt of Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Emergency Medical Services Review from the Internal Audit Division to include responses from the Washoe County Health District and REMSA.”

Alison Gordon, Internal Auditor, appeared to re-present the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) audit report. She said the report was first presented to the Board at the February 10th meeting and the Board requested she come back to a future meeting with an appearance by a representative of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA).

Ms. Gordon said during fiscal year 2013-14 the TMFPD responded to 6,257 EMS calls and she estimated the cost for each response to be about \$2,582. She

reported the TMFPD assisted with patient care in REMSA ambulances 56 times between January 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014. She said on June 22nd, 1994, the District Board of Health approved to allow REMSA to maintain an ambulance unit within Wadsworth and to increase the County's ambulance bill by 5.3 percent, or \$27, to cover REMSA's cost to provide 24/7 service in that area. She said REMSA claimed Wadsworth call data for fiscal year 2013-14 was not available, but the Health District reported that REMSA responded to calls in Wadsworth three times. She said various other local emergency service providers responded to calls in Wadsworth a total of 215 times during that same time period. She stated in the first four months of fiscal year 2014-15 REMSA reported that they responded to 19 medical calls in Wadsworth, while other entities reported a total of 101 responses in that area. She reported REMSA had been collecting an additional \$27 for providing service to Wadsworth since May of 1994 and it was estimated that over the last 20 years they collected revenues amounting to about \$6.1 million. She said the audit included a review as to whether REMSA was providing any reimbursement to the County and/or other non-County providers of EMS services for medical supplies used and it was found they only reimbursed the District about \$852 of the \$15,421 they owed through November of 2014.

Commissioner Hartung asked about the method used to calculate the District's costs for EMS responses and said he wanted to ensure that number did not include the cost for fire responses. Ms. Gordon asked Scott Mayne, LSM Consulting Contractor, to answer the question because he assisted with the audit and performed the analysis. Mr. Mayne stated the EMS response costs were determined by looking at the average cost per call and there was no weighting applied to it. Commissioner Hartung asked if the 6,257 calls reported were only EMS calls and Mr. Mayne said yes.

Commissioner Hartung read an email from Aaron Abbott (from REMSA), which was attached to the end of the audit report. In the email Mr. Abbot asked for an incident number to complete a request for reimbursement to the TMFPD. Commissioner Hartung asked if the TMFPD assigned incident numbers to each call and Chief Moore confirmed that it did. He asked if that same number followed a patient through the system and if REMSA used that number as well. Chief Moore said he could not answer that question.

Chief Moore said he wanted to talk about the cost reimbursement issue. He read from paragraph 2.7 of REMSA's Franchise Agreement which stated REMSA would develop and offer a supply exchange reimbursement agreement to County and City fire services. He said, as far as he knew, REMSA had not provided such an agreement, so they had been operating without a defined method for submission and reimbursement. He said the issue could be resolved if REMSA would provide a proposed agreement for the Board's consideration.

Jim Gubbels, REMSA President, said the Board was provided with a detailed response from REMSA in regards to the TMFPD audit review. He said the audit contained some inaccuracies and misleading statements and the information he submitted was meant to clarify and correct them.

Mr. Gubbels said the Health Department asked REMSA to service the Wadsworth area because the District did not have a Mutual Aid Agreement in place with the Fernley Volunteer Fire Department. He said in 2010 REMSA entered into a Mutual Aid Agreement with the North Lyon Fire Protection District who had an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance. He said the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe had also obtained a licensed ambulance and since 90 percent of Wadsworth homes were on Tribal lands, the Tribal ambulance was dispatched to those calls. He stated REMSA worked towards the establishment of a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Tribe; however the agreement was still being considered and Don Pelt, Paiute Tribe Emergency Response Coordinator, verbally indicated he would contact REMSA if the Tribal ambulance needed their assistance. He hoped REMSA could finalize a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Tribe in the future. He said REMSA would continue to post an ambulance in Wadsworth, but it would not be a 24-hour post like it was prior to 2010. He requested the Fire Board to direct the issue back to the District Board of Health because the Franchise Agreement was governed by that Board.

Mr. Gubbels stated REMSA entered into medical supply reimbursement agreements with Reno, Sparks and the TMFPD in 2013. He said the agreements indicated that the use of supplies would be monitored and documented for a four-month period of time and then the resulting data would be sent to REMSA. He claimed Reno and Sparks complied with the agreement, but the TMFPD only documented three of the four months. He said REMSA entered into additional agreements to pay Reno and Sparks a quarterly amount based on the history of their supply usage; however, REMSA was not able to complete the initial review process with the TMFPD. He said Chief Moore indicated he wanted to wait and see what his supply use would be, since the TMFPD was just starting up their paramedic stations, but the process was never completed. He suggested they re-set the process and start the data collection process over now that the paramedic stations were in place. He said he could not write a check unless there was some kind of audit process.

Mr. Gubbels said REMSA staff reviewed the audit report with Ms. Gordon and Vicki Van Buren, TMFPD Senior Accountant. He stated, in regards to the \$27 increase, the percentage collected by REMSA was misrepresented. He said the graph which was provided to the Board showed the fee rate was .55 cents on the dollar during good times, but was currently .36 cents on the dollar. He said that fact should be considered along with the increased cost to deliver services to the region. He said REMSA had 16 ambulances and 40 staff members in 1994 as compared to the current level of 38 ambulances and 92 staff members. He thought Ms. Gordon had much better information after she met with REMSA staff.

Mr. Gubbels stated REMSA wanted to build a cooperative transport and productive working relationship with the TMFPD. He said a lot of steps had been taken in the past two years, but the work needed to continue. He explained REMSA had a resolution process for complaints and concerns and he thought they should be addressed at the lowest level, between the two agencies, instead of at the Fire District Board. He said if no solution was found at the lower level, then it should go to the Health

Department's EMS staff so they could take a look at the problem from both sides. He requested the Board to direct its questions and concerns to Chief Moore so REMSA and the TMFPD would have the opportunity to work together to address them. He stated REMSA always wanted to be available to answer the Board's questions, but unless they were notified otherwise, they assumed they were not needed at the Fire Board's meetings. He asked the Board to agendaize any questions they had so REMSA would have a heads up and could respond.

Commissioner Jung asked Mr. Gubbels if he could provide information about where the money they collected for transportation fees was and to whom they reported those funds. Mr. Gubbels replied the money was reported to the Board of Health. Commissioner Jung said since REMSA was no longer providing a static ambulance in Wadsworth, as was agreed upon in the Franchise Agreement, she wanted to know what REMSA was doing with the money it collected. Mr. Gubbels stated the money went back into the overall system and Commissioner Jung asked if he could prove it. Mr. Gubbels responded he could because, as the community grew, REMSA added additional ambulances. Commissioner Jung asked if all of REMSA's 38 ambulances were statically placed somewhere. Mr. Gubbels responded the number fluctuated, but due to their system status plan they currently had 17 or 18 on the streets. Commissioner Jung asked if REMSA's 92 employees held full-time equivalent positions and Mr. Gubbels said they did.

Commissioner Jung asked if the District Board of Health approved the Mutual Aid Agreements REMSA had with the North Lyon Firefighters, the Fernley Volunteer Firefighters, and the Tribal EMS providers. Mr. Gubbels replied the Board of Health was aware of the agreements, but did not approve them. He said the Franchise Agreement stated REMSA could not subsidize other entities, which was why the Agreements were for mutual aid. Commissioner Jung stated she was trying to figure out how REMSA had the legal ability to make side agreements when they had a sole-vendor agreement with the County. She said the Mutual Aid Agreements should have been considered by the Board of Health because REMSA was no longer complying with the Franchise Agreement. She said she did not think anyone was providing any oversight and that REMSA was not being transparent.

Commissioner Jung asked Mr. Gubbels who decided the TMFPD did not comply with the supply reimbursement process. Mr. Gubbels said REMSA entered into an agreement with the TMFPD and it was signed by Chief Moore. Commissioner Jung questioned Chief Moore's authority to sign such an agreement and said REMSA did not inform the Board the TMFPD was out of compliance. She thought the vendor/vendee relationship was backwards and that REMSA was telling the governing bodies what to do rather than the other way around. She said she wanted the County's attorney and the attorney for the Board of Health to weigh in on the matter. She said she thought these types of issues should be worked out at a lower level and if they could not be resolved they should be considered by the EMS Oversight Board. She said EMS Oversight Board recommendations should go to the Board of Health for review because they were

ultimately in charge of the Franchise Agreement. She remarked the current process was inefficient, bad for relationships and very frustrating.

Commissioner Hartung stated that REMSA had not provided a static ambulance in Wadsworth since 2010. He said he also knew the North Lyon Fire Department indicated they did not have a Mutual Aid Agreement with REMSA. Mr. Gubbels replied the Mutual Aid Agreement was attached to the backup he provided to the Board and that the Agreement allowed the other agency to decline a mutual aid request from REMSA. Commissioner Hartung said the North Lyon Fire Department had limited resources so he thought they would always decline such a request.

Commissioner Hartung stated REMSA was requiring the TMFPD to provide incident numbers in order to document supply items used to treat patients before the arrival of a REMSA ambulance and he wanted to know if that incident number followed each patient through the system. Mr. Gubbels said it did not, but he hoped the anticipated upgrade to the Washoe County dispatch services would present the opportunity to merge TMFPD identifiers with REMSA's. Commissioner Hartung said he was frustrated with the whole system and he wanted the County Manager to be a part of the conversations between Chief Moore and Mr. Gubbels going forward.

Commissioner Jung thought that was an appropriate suggestion because, even though the Manager had no authority over Chief Moore, he sat on the EMS Oversight Board. She stated she wanted to see evidence of all the Mutual Aid Agreements REMSA had with other entities, an auditing process to show where the extra money was that they collected since 2010, and information about how many ambulances were posted at static locations. Mr. Gubbels replied he could provide the Board with the System Status Plan. Commissioner Jung said she would like to see that information submitted to the Board of Health.

Kevin Dick, District Health Officer, clarified that REMSA's new Franchise Agreement allowed the Board of Health to require more information from them. He stated the audit had been conducted during the transition from the old Franchise Agreement to the new one and some of the information was not available during that period of time, but the Board of Health had better data now. He said the new Agreement also provided for oversight of the reimbursement of funds from REMSA to the TMFPD and the Board of Health would investigate the matter at Chief Moore's request.

Chair Berkbigler declared she met with Mr. Gubbels and had expressed her concerns about the money REMSA collected for servicing Wadsworth. She said she had concerns about taxpayer money being utilized to pay for services REMSA was supposed to provide and the fact that the money was not being reimbursed was a problem that Chief Moore and Mr. Gubbels needed to fix.

Commissioner Hartung talked about a records request that Ms. Gordon made and wondered why the Fire Board had to utilize the Freedom of Information Act in order to obtain information from the Board of Health. Mr. Dick replied he did not think

that was an accurate characterization of what occurred. He said Mr. Mayne submitted a public records request to obtain information that the Health District did not have and did not have the authority to require under the old Franchise Agreement with REMSA. He said he asked the auditors to request the information directly from REMSA and to come back to him if they did not get what they were looking for. He said one of the reasons the Health District put so much work into developing the new Franchise Agreement was to improve the ability to provide oversight. Commissioner Hartung said he was frustrated. He stated elected officials had a duty to account for taxpayer money and he did not know why the data had not been collected all along. Mr. Dick said he shared the Board's frustration.

Chair Berkgigler said she knew the Board sounded frustrated but that was because they were getting a lot of feedback from concerned constituents.

Commissioner Lucey said the citizens in his District were concerned that REMSA failed to respond to a number of calls and response time was poor. He thought data and patient identifiers should be standardized throughout the system. He stated it seemed each agency was taking a position of wanting to do things their own way and he found that frustrating. He wanted to know if there was an estimated timeframe for the update to dispatch services. Mr. Gubbels responded the computer aided dispatch interface (CAD-to-CAD) was a huge project and things were still being finalized. He said the Health District was working to determine a timeline. Commissioner Lucey thought the project should be a number one priority for both REMSA and the TMFPD.

Mr. Gubbels said he had a letter to give to the Board and it was placed on file with the Clerk. He said, since 2012, REMSA continually tried to improve communications, but they kept running into roadblocks. He said REMSA proposed to place an 800 MHz radio with their dispatch service to better communicate with the fire departments and it had been approved by the Fire Chiefs, so that was in the process of being finalized. He stated the Regional Oversight Board was working to collect regional data; however, they had only been up and running for six months. Commissioner Lucey replied he was more concerned about data standardization. He urged Mr. Gubbels and Chief Moore to get together on that issue.

Commissioner Hartung asked if the new CAD system was going to provide for two-way communication. Mr. Gubbels said it would be a true CAD-to-CAD connection. He said they currently had three Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), including one in Reno, Sparks and Washoe County. He said the Tri-Data report recommended the entities institute a virtual-to-virtual communication system and the CAD-to-CAD system would accomplish that.

Commissioner Lucey moved to acknowledge the receipt of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Review from the Internal Audit Division to include responses from the County Health District and REMSA; and for the report to go to the EMS Oversight Board for review.

Commissioner Hartung did not think the motion included direction to the County Manager to work with Chief Moore and Mr. Gubbels. Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, said the agenda item contemplated acknowledgement of the audit review and Commissioner Lucey's motion was consistent with that. He said if the Board wanted to change or set policy it could do so at a future meeting. Commissioner Hartung wondered if it was beyond the Fire Board's ability to give direction to its Fire Chief to work with Mr. Gubbels. Mr. Lipparelli replied that almost every agenda item implicitly included the ability of the public body to give direction to staff because the Board could only act through its staff, so in his view directing staff was permissible. However, he said if the Board was ready to give new direction, establish a new policy, or chart a new course, it might want to do so very clearly and expressly in a future agenda item. Commissioner Hartung asked if the Board could direct staff to come back with a future agenda item and also direct the Fire Chief to come back to them with more information without including it in the motion. Mr. Lipparelli stated he would expect it to be associated with the motion. He said he wanted to clarify that point because the agenda item did not inform the public that the Fire Board was going to be recommending changes in its relationship with other emergency service providers or other regional partners. He said directing the Fire Chief to deliver a report or come back at a later time with more information was appropriate, but he cautioned the Board to be careful about making a policy statement when it was not on the agenda.

Commissioner Lucey amended his motion to acknowledge the receipt of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Review from the Internal Audit Division to include responses from the County Health District and REMSA; and to direct staff to pass the information on to the EMS Oversight Board; and to further review the item on a future agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jung. On call for the question, the motion was passed on a vote of 5-0.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

15-0041F AGENDA ITEM 10

Agenda Subject: "Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor issues with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220."

There was no closed session.

15-0042F 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 the issue regarding exploding targets was still being researched and he hoped to bring that information to the Board in April. He said the issue regarding the requirement for fire sprinklers in homes had been resolved.

He thought people now understood they did not need to install fire sprinklers unless their homes were greater than 5,000 square feet. He said it was his intent to codify that with an Ordinance and with the Board's permission he would bring that item back to the Board in May.

Commissioner Herman stated she wanted the Board to be aware that the Red Rock Volunteer Fire Department made some corrections to data that was provided at the last meeting. Chief Moore said he would look at the data and make sure the corrections were noted. Nancy Parent, County Clerk, stated she received a copy of the documented corrections from Commissioner Herman and she would provide a copy to Chief Moore.

Commissioner Lucey stated he personally supported Assembly Bill 333 (AB333).

Commissioner Jung wondered if Chief Moore would meet with her and Chair Berkbigler to discuss a process to create a more efficient agenda for more businesslike meetings.

Chair Berkbigler said she would be happy to attend that type of meeting.

15-0043F 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 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 spoke about items of concern to herself.

Jim Gubbels, President Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), said Nancy Parent, County Clerk, requested that he state that the letter he referred to and submitted earlier was a history of what REMSA had done to try to improve communications. The letter was placed on file with the Clerk.

Scott Huntley, District Fire Chief North Lyon County Fire Protection District, confirmed there was a Mutual Aid Agreement between REMSA and his District. He said it was a reciprocal arrangement in which either agency would respond if it was available to do so. He said he did not think an automatic aid agreement would be as equitable. He said his crew often responded to Wadsworth and he thought patient care was an important aspect of what they provided. He said his District was definitely interested in helping the TMFPD.

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1:55 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried, the meeting was adjourned.

MARSHA BERKBIGLER, Chair
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:
Cathy Smith, Deputy County Clerk*