

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (TMFPD)**

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 18, 2016

PRESENT:

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

Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk
David Watts-Vial, Legal Counsel
Charles Moore, Fire Chief

The Board convened at 9:00 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

16-118F **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS 4A THROUGH 4D

16-119F **4A** Approval of minutes from the September 20, 2016 meeting.

16-120F **4B** Authorization to reclassify one (1) vacant Firefighter/Paramedics position (#70008288) to Firefighter/EMT Intermediate.

16-121F **4C** Accept monetary donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Brigid and Mark Slavin in operational support to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Fire and to express appreciation for the thoughtful contribution and direct Finance Department to make appropriate budget adjustments.

16-122F **4D** Approval of a Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement and corresponding Annual Operating Plan for Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District Office, Winnemucca District Office, USDA Humboldt – Toiyabe National Forest Carson Ranger District and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

Commissioner Berkbigler acknowledged Brigid and Mark Slavin for their donation.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Consent Agenda Items 4A through 4D be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 4A through 4D are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

16-123F AGENDA ITEM 5 I.A.F.F Local 3895 Report.

Ian Satterfield, International Association of Firefighters Local 3895 President, stated Local 3895 members' hearts and thoughts were with those affected by the Little Valley Fire. He thanked Local 3895 members and the TMFPD for their work. On the first day of the Little Valley Fire, he noted 86 people, 84 percent of the TMFPD's staff, were on duty. He added Local 3895 would be helping out with the Chemistry of a Cocktail event at the Discovery Museum. A spaghetti dinner at a fire house would be submitted as a silent auction item. He mentioned members of Local 3895 attended a memorial in Las Vegas for an I.A.F.F. member who died in the line of duty. He thanked Chief Moore for his support and for providing a TMFPD vehicle to the Local 3895 members who attended to the memorial. He concluded his report by informing the Board of an upcoming Fire Ops event.

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

16-124F AGENDA ITEM 6 Fire Chief Report: A) Report and discussion related to fire district operations. B) Career Statistics and Report for August 2016. C) Volunteer Statistics and Report for August 2016

Chief Moore acknowledged his staff's hard work during the Little Valley Fire and the hard work done by County staff during the recovery phase. He said he had never seen quite an effort of cooperation since the TMFPD was created in 2012. He noted at 1:38 a.m., as an 80 mile-per-hour wind gust swept in, fire crews saw a glow on a hill. When fire crews arrived, they found a fire that was approximately five acres, which grew into 50 acres in a short amount of time. He mentioned he spoke with Battalion Chief Alexander Kukulus and they were formulating where the fire would go. They also had to predict what the fire would look like as time passed. He noted he and Battalion Chief Kukulus determined the fire was going to come down into the Franktown Road area. He spoke about having to defend and evacuate the area. He praised the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and the Washoe County Search and Rescue who went door-to-door to evacuate the residents. He mentioned there were three documented rescues of people who did not hear the reverse 911 call or the Code Red. He stated no one had been hurt or killed during the Little Valley Fire. There were a couple of minor smoke inhalation incidents with firefighters but they were well. He thanked the regional partners who

quickly responded. He mentioned there were approximately 300 firefighters on the morning of Friday, October 14th. Once the transition was made into Type 1 and Type 3 teams, there were approximately 855 firefighters on the scene. He spoke about an incident in which an ember cast landed in East Washoe Valley. The ember started a two-acre brush fire, which a City of Sparks brush engine responded to and suppressed the fire with the aid of Brush Engine 39 from Joy Lake. He stated a crowning fire which moved from tree top to tree top could not be fought from the ground. Firefighters with hand tools could only fight a fire that was around three feet tall. With fire engines and hoses, firefighters would be able to fight a fire that was six to eight feet tall. Once a fire was in the tree tops, aircraft would be needed. He added because of the winds, there was nothing firefighters could do to prevent a crowning fire from spreading from tree to tree and eventually to homes. He said he was very proud of the citizens who echoed the call to evacuate. He was also proud of the County's partners and firefighters for their work. He introduced Kim Martin, Great Basin Coordination Center (GBCC) Team 2 Incident Commander, Tony DeMasters, GBCC Deputy Incident Commander, and Stacy Saucedo, Sierra Front Team Incident Commander, who all assisted with the fire.

Mr. Martin explained a Type 1 team bore a lot of resources which could handle very complex incidents. Those resources included aircraft, resources crews, engines, logistical support and financial support. He said his team was one of 16 federally sponsored national Type 1 teams in the United States. He noted there were two Type 1 teams in the Great Basin area and they handled the most complex incidents. He said he personally had been involved in hurricanes, the Columbia Shuttle recovery, and the Newcastle Disease incident in Las Vegas. He stated a Type 2 team was a step down from a Type 1 team and a Type 3 team was the next step down below a Type 2 team. He commented the Board should be proud that it had several Type 3 teams along the Sierra Front. He noted Ms. Saucedo was the Incident Commander for the Type 3 team that his team transitioned with during the Little Valley Fire. He spoke about the stellar interagency cooperation. He said the Board should also be proud of what it had in regards to the cooperation amongst its resources. He acknowledged Mr. DeMasters was a Type 2 Incident Commander who was transitioning into a Type 1 Incident Commander. He noted the last assignment he and Mr. DeMasters had together was the Pioneer Fire in Idaho, which was an 188,400 acre fire.

In response to Chair Jung's question regarding where he was based out of and whether he was a Federal employee, Mr. Martin replied he was a Forest Engineer with the United States Forest Service out of Salt Lake City. He provided a status update regarding the Little Valley Fire. He stated the fire was remapped by the Nevada Division of Forestry helicopter which utilized a global positioning system. The fire was determined to be 2,291 acres rather than the reported 3,400 acres. The 3,400 acre number was obtained by utilizing infrared flights which took heat signatures from the ground. He referenced an 11 by 17 map which was displayed on the overhead projector and handed out to each Commissioner. The map was placed on file with the Clerk. He mentioned there were individuals who patrolled the areas of the fire and assessed the situation. Containment had gone up to 90 percent from 20 percent a few days ago. He said the fire had pretty much stabilized and would not grow in size. The objective was to get to 100

percent containment within the next few days. He added there were still 600 firefighters on staff. He mentioned when the fire started on October 14th, fire engines were ordered from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. At one point there were about 115 fire engines with approximately 500 firefighters working from those fire engines. The fire engines were ordered with the anticipation that the fire would be more severe. He noted a contingency of fire engines plus hand crews would be maintained. The Nevada Division of Forestry's inmate crews were also being utilized. He also noted his team was not trained to deal with structural firefighting so he was coordinating with others in regards to that matter. He concluded by stating the evacuees would be allowed back into the area.

Mr. DeMasters stated he was a Deputy under Mr. Martin on the Type 2 Great Basin Incident Team. He echoed Mr. Martin's comments about the outstanding cooperation between the TMFPD and the other entities.

Ms. Saucedo recognized the TMFPD for their work and for making it easy for the Sierra Front Team to come to their assistance.

Commissioner Hartung asked Mr. Martin what the cost of the resources amounted to.

Mr. Martin said he believed the accumulative cost-to-date for all resources, including local resources, was estimated to be around \$4 million.

Commissioner Lucey thanked Mr. Martin and his teams for their work. He also commended Ms. Saucedo and her team for their work. He mentioned the impressive show of force and response to the fire. He noted the loss of 23 residential structures and he said it could have been worse. He stated without their assistance on the Little Valley Fire, the County would have been in dire straits due to the lack of resources fighting three fires in his District on Friday, October 14th.

Mr. Martin said it was commendable how the County worked with all of the different resources. He believed being prepared for a natural disaster was a good deal for the taxpayer and he thought the County was well-prepared.

Chief Moore noted the GBCC team did not try to assert control over the fire but instead they asked how they could support the TMFPD. He said it was a great relationship and he thanked them for their assistance.

Chair Jung stated every time the County thought it was out of fire danger, a fire would occur. She inquired whether this was a measure of climate change, what was driving the fires, what the experts were saying, and whether the County should expect a longer fire season.

Chief Moore recalled there was significant rainfall earlier in the year which resulted in the growth of grass. Then there was a period of almost 120 days

without any rain. This in combination with the stressed timber was a factor which led to the fires. The timber had been stressed for at least five years and even with the rainfalls the County received that timber had not recovered in terms of their moisture content. He noted experts informed him that it would take two to three years of normal precipitation for the trees to return to a healthy condition. He also noted sagebrush was always inherently dry. He spoke about the weather patterns that came in during the months of October through January, and he noted the certainty of strong winds due to the strong low pressure systems that came in from the Pacific Ocean. He stated as weather patterns moved in, there would be strong winds during the first 24 hours followed by the moisture. He asserted the first 24 hours of wind was always critical for the TMFPD. The TMFPD had to anticipate those weather patterns with greater urgency while working on creating defensible space, new Codes and new construction methods. He stated he would love to give the Commissioners a tour of the fire affected area so they could see the types of homes that survived and did not survive. He acknowledged the erratic behavior of the fire contributed to the destruction of the homes, but noted the type of construction and amount of defensible space also came into play.

Chair Jung inquired how the fires received their names. She also asked who first reported the Little Valley Fire.

Chief Moore replied the Incident Commander would name a fire based on the most relevant geographical point. In regards to who first reported the Little Valley Fire, he said a citizen contacted 911 after seeing a glow on a hill. He noted the TMFPD was aware of a controlled burn that took place in the area when it responded. When fire crews arrived, they found approximately five acres had caught on fire and they quickly communicated to him that there was nothing they could do with the resources they had.

Chair Jung asked whether the TMFPD would conduct a meaningful event or ceremony to honor the first responders for their hard work.

Chief Moore thanked Chair Jung for her words and he said their main priority was to return a sense of normalcy to the citizens who were affected by the fire. After that, he said the TMFPD would be honored to recognize the first responders.

In regards to the Reverse 911 system, Commissioner Hartung noted very few people had landlines. He mentioned how difficult it would be to notify people in outlining areas who did not have landlines and also those people who had out-of-state cellular phone numbers. He inquired whether there was a way to create a contact list of residents in a given area to ensure people were notified.

Chief Moore remarked that someone would have to have a landline to receive a Reverse 911 notification. He added cellular phone notifications could be done through Code Red; however, he was unaware of how the Code Red broadcasts worked in regards to cellular phone towers. He mentioned old fashion door knocking was what saved the lives of three people during the Little Valley Fire. He said he would do more research and provide more information at a later date.

Commissioner Berkbigler inquired whether any more structures were in danger.

Chief Moore said he was confident the fire was at a point where there was no imminent threat to structures; however, until there was 100 percent containment there could still be a threat. In regards to the Fire Chief Report, he noted Amy Solaro, TMFPD Fire Marshal, had done a phenomenal job on her own over the last year; however, after many months the TMFPD finally staffed up their Fire Prevention Bureau. He introduced a new employee, David Ridley, who joined the Fire Prevention Bureau as a Fire Prevention Specialist I. He said Mr. Ridley worked as a Fire Protection Engineer at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Mr. Ridley said he was delighted to work with Chief Moore and Fire Marshal Solaro. He stated he emigrated from Scotland approximately four and a half years ago, and it was a privilege to be in the United States.

Chair Jung welcomed Mr. Ridley to the County.

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

16-125F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Authorization to reinstate one (1) previously frozen flexibly staffed Fire Prevention Specialist I/II Position at a salary range of \$55,140.80 to \$78,811.20.

Chief Moore explained when the TMFPD was created in 2012, it was anticipated the TMFPD would have a Fire Prevention Bureau of three individuals. He noted approval of the item would allow the TMFPD to hire a third person to get the TMFPD to the point where it could timely review construction plans and start programs such as defensible space training.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be authorized.

16-126F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Approve the purchase of fourteen (14) X Series ® Manual Monitor/Defibrillators with accessories and training from ZOLL Medical Corporation in the amount of \$438,686.50.

Chief Moore stated the approval of the item would allow the TMFPD to replace their aging frontline defibrillators and heart monitors. Since 80 percent of what the TMFPD did was related to Advanced Life Support (ALS), he noted the equipment was a critical piece of their work. He mentioned an upgrade to the state-of-the-art equipment would allow the TMFPD to place their existing monitors on brush engines.

Should a TMFPD crew happen to be in a brush engine rather than a structural engine, this would provide them with the ability to assist in ALS situations.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be approved.

16-127F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Approve the purchase of eleven (11) Chest Compression Systems from Physio-Control Inc. in the amount of \$165,487.39.

Chief Moore stated the chest compression systems were previously showcased through the allocation of funds from Commissioner Hartung. He mentioned two cardiac arrest situations where the TMFPD utilized the devices. Approval of the item would allow the TMFPD to place the devices in the fire stations staffed by career firefighters.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be approved.

16-128F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Presentation, discussion and possible approval of a renewal of a Cooperative Agreement and corresponding Annual Operating Plan between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and City of Reno for automatic and mutual aid.

Chief Moore stated he and the City of Reno Fire Chief, Dave Cochran, were both in support of the Cooperative Agreement. He noted Chief Cochran wanted to attend the meeting but he was unable to due to his schedule. He explained the approval of Cooperative Agreement would continue the automatic and mutual aid system until 2019. He believed the agreement did not place an onerous burden on any of the fire departments and it furthered the fire departments' ability to send the closest unit to a call when a fire broke out. He mentioned a typographical error referencing the Sierra Fire Protection District in the Annual Operating Plan needed to be struck from the agreement.

On the call for public comment, Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

Chair Jung commended Chief Moore for his work in regards to the Cooperative Agreement.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved.

16-129F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Possible Closed Session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.

There was no closed session.

16-130F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Announcements/Reports.

Chief Moore stated the salary study the Board asked him to complete during his evaluation had concluded. He indicated he would present the study at the next meeting.

In response to Chair Jung's question regarding when his evaluation was done, Chief Moore replied it was in July.

Chair Jung reminded the Board she asked Chief Moore to complete the salary study because she believed it was a disgrace that he was making less than some of his counterparts when he had more responsibility and had proven himself.

Commissioner Lucey requested a status update on Fire Station 14's construction and he asked what the plans were for the existing fire station. He also inquired about the status of the executive staff changes within the TMFPD and he wanted to know what Chief Moore's intent was with those positions. He thanked County staff and other entities, including entities from California, for their work and assistance during the fires.

Chief Moore said he would be proud to reciprocate the assistance provided from entities in California.

Commissioner Hartung concurred with Commissioner Lucey's comments.

16-131F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Public Comment.

Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

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9:58 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

KITTY K. JUNG, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared By:
Michael Siva, Deputy County Clerk*