

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

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m.

JUNE 20, 2017

PRESENT:

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

Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Paul Lipparelli, 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:

17-095F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Mr. Roger Puccinelli stated his Verdi home burned down last August and he realized how vulnerable the older community was. He indicated prior to the recent changes made by the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) the community had a good volunteer fire department with a fire truck, tanker, portable pumps and a full time fire station located at Boomtown. He requested a new investigation related to his home fire due to response times and damage that occurred. He noted access to water was an issue in the area. He stated Verdi residents were concerned more homes could be lost because of the lack of water access and excessive response times. He hoped there was money available in the budget to improve the protection of homes, pets, wildlife, personal property and lives in the Verdi area by adding additional firefighters and equipment. He said Verdi residents needed and deserved improved protection and assurances that the Board was behind their efforts to reduce vulnerability and ease fire concerns.

Ms. Lisa Nash stated she was a resident of Gerlach and a member of the volunteer fire department. She thanked the Board for the proclamation, which reinstated the volunteer fire department. She noted it meant so much to the community and residents. She stated there were rumors the volunteer fire department was being disbanded. She said there was no concrete information about the department closing but she heard rumors that volunteers did not have adequate training. She indicated the volunteer fire department started last July with 17 volunteers and 12 members continued to be active. She noted there was an immense amount of experience and schooling amongst the volunteers and she indicated they participated in weekly trainings, including

wildland training. She said the volunteers were planning for the long term and wanted to ensure the County was behind them. The department responded to every call within the past year. She said they had built up a trust within the community that was previously lacking. She was concerned Gerlach would end up back in a situation where they had inadequate fire coverage. She stated Gerlach was starting to grow again; the communities of Empire and Gerlach were coming together. She noted Gerlach needed support and said the volunteers helped take care of elderly residents. She asked for information about the continuation of the volunteer fire department and wanted to be part of the conversations regarding its success.

Ms. Cameron Hall stated she was also a member of the Gerlach volunteer fire department. She wanted the community to be informed regarding changes to the volunteer department. She noted there were 120 people in the community and 10 percent of the residents were active volunteers. She asked the Board to realize Gerlach was unique and the volunteers needed to be recognized as an important part of the community. She wanted to ensure Gerlach was getting the support from the County that it needed.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar said she was happy for Gerlach because positive things were happening. She stated she lived in Warm Springs and it did not have a manned fire station. She indicated the volunteers were not reliable. She said previously there were professional firefighters from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) who wanted to be involved with the volunteers but the professional firefighters were no longer involved. She was concerned about her home and safety being at risk due to the lack of resources. She wanted the County to provide adequate fire protection to her area.

Mr. Patrick Schickler stated he lived in the River Oak subdivision in Verdi. He said he was seeing significant growth in Verdi and the area was becoming more suburban than rural. He stated the growth in the area could double in size within the next five years if the rate of growth continued. He wanted information about the plans for the area and said so much of the area was being annexed into the City of Reno. He was concerned about replication of services between the City of Reno and the County. He was unclear why the County was purchasing new equipment for the area when the City of Reno was already fully equipped to service the area. He noted the TMFPD was responding in a reasonable amount of time but did not have the staffing or equipment to respond to the calls. He noted Verdi was a gateway community between Reno and Tahoe to the west. He said the volunteer program was 20 years old and needed to be updated for the size of the current community. He stated the area needed a plan for the future and it needed to include a strong volunteer fire station with experienced and committed members.

Mr. Michael Widmer stated he lived at 100 Hansen drive for 30 years. He was concerned about the lack of water sources in Verdi. He noted he had attended meetings but no feasible solutions were provided. He said the residents wanted a plan and to receive communications regarding the issue.

Mr. Jim Sievers stated he was a resident of Verdi. He said in June, Verdi and west Reno experienced fires in Belli Ranch, at River Belle homes and in the Garson Road area. He said the residents were grateful for the new tender at Station 351 in Verdi and they hoped the volunteer fire department would be fully operational soon. He indicated Station 35 was responsible for the areas of Verdi, Mogul, Juniper Ridge, Caughlin Ranch and Belli Ranch, and was manned with three to four firefighters depending on the day. He said the area had access to seven fire vehicles; three at Station 35 and four at Station 351. He mentioned that during the Garson Road fire, none of the trucks from station 351 were put into service and he was told it was due to lack of manpower to operate them. He expressed the fire season had begun with earnest and fortunately the area had not experienced any lightning strike brush fires. He asked the Board to act on the issues and continued to show leadership and focus resources on preventing fires from becoming a disaster in both Verdi and west Reno. He provided a handout, which was placed of file with the Clerk.

Mr. Ed Pitchford said he lived at 145 Hansen Drive Verdi. He thought the solution to the problem in the area serviced by Station 35 was additional work force. He was not optimistic that the volunteer program was going to help in the near future. He stated there were seven vehicles there but only four firefighters who could operate the equipment. He stated most of the time; two of the firefighters were supervisors. He said the issue was when the volunteers were called it would take them time to respond. He noted the first responder should be the water tender truck because there was no water in most of the areas. He recommended money be diverted from capital funds to hire additional staff to be placed at Station 35 or 351. He thought there was plenty of money in the budget to do that.

Mr. Gene Gardella said he was a long time resident of Verdi. He stated he served on the Verdi Community Advisory Board (CAB) for 10 years. He noted during that time the Mortensen-Garson annexation took place and the CAB dealt with the issues of having 3,000 houses built in the Verdi area. He indicated it was a very difficult time with significant negotiations but there was an opportunity to create change that could affect the community. He said when the financially tough time occurred; the Verdi CAB was consolidated into the west area of the Reno CAB. He noted the two CABs had completely different issues and eventually the entire CAB was dissolved. He encouraged the Board to reestablish a Verdi CAB. He stated many reoccurring issues could be solved through communications with a CAB. He said it was important to spend the money and find a way to reestablish the CAB so the issues could be resolved before they become more critical.

Ms. Brooke Brumfield said she was a Verdi resident, she thanked Commissioner Herman, and three of Chief Moore's staff members who were at a fire meeting recently. She thought it was important for a small town in a big County to get that type of attention and resources. She understood there was not a significant turnout for the reinstatement of the volunteer program. She stated her husband was one of the people who signed up for the program. She said her family was committed to doing everything they could and would open their home for the community to have educational

meetings. She noted at the meeting, the three TMFPD staff members were not provided a chance to present the plans that were in place. She thanked the Board for dedicating more staff to the area and a new water tender for station 35. She stated her husband was a wildland firefighter and she understood the amount of data required for decisions to be made. She also understood the County had no control over what the City of Reno did. She understood there were risks associated with living in Verdi. She said she would do whatever she could to support the TMFPD and the Board. She stated there were more people moving into the area. She said she read the County's Twitter tweets that stated Reno was lead for the Belli Ranch fire. She appreciated the communications.

Ms. Carly Borchard stated she spoke last month at the Board meeting expressing her concerns about the community's rapid growth. She shared a photo of the growth between Verdi, California and Verdi, Nevada, and stated the population was 3,000 residents. The map she displayed highlighted new developments that were being built or were in the plan to be built. She stated adequate fire services were necessary for a community this size. She said she grew up in Verdi and attended the Verdi Elementary School and she had seen the volunteer force. She grew up knowing them and attending barbeques with them and their families. The community was very strong with the presence of the volunteer fire department. She said she was as committed as others in the community were and the volunteers had the right people for a successful program. She encouraged the Board to help them. She thanked the Board for their efforts and for allowing discussions regarding reinstatement of the volunteer force.

Ms. Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

Ms. Nancy Podewils-Baba stated she lived in Verdi for 21 years. She was concerned about the fire situation and the lack of cooperation between the different fire departments. She said she was at a meeting shortly after Chief Moore was hired and he talked about a regional fire program that would allow response from whoever was the closest and by as many trucks as were needed. She said she was horrified about a house fire so close to where she lived. She was relieved there was an extensive work force and equipment to get to the Garson Fire and the fire was contained in a short time. She was interested in knowing the status the effort to work cooperatively with other programs and the reinstatement of the volunteer program. She said fire was devastating and residents needed to do what they could so the wildlands and homes were protected. She asked the Board to continue to work toward an agreement.

17-096F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports

Fire Chief Charles Moore addressed the public comment regarding Gerlach and the rumors about disbanding the volunteer department. He stated there were no plans to disband the department but there were plans to enhance its operation.

Commissioner Hartung stated he attended a Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) barbeque recently. He said it was well attended and a nice celebration with great stories told. He indicated it was important to acknowledge good

work and he was proud to have been involved in the celebration. He asked Chief Moore about the outlying areas and said it was mentioned earlier that Warm Springs had no fire protection. He was curious to know what the response times were to the outlying areas. He said people needed to understand no matter how many stations were in place, if a particular station was out on a call then help had to come from somewhere else. He said resources were moved around throughout the system to cover areas but it was difficult to have every area covered constantly.

Commissioner Berkbigler clarified the TMFPD was not responsible for Gerlach; Washoe County was responsible. She verified there was no plan to eliminate the Gerlach volunteer program.

CONSENT ITEMS 5A THROUGH 5D

- 17-097F** **5A** Approval of minutes from the May 16, 2017 meeting.
- 17-098F** **5B** Approval of three (3) separate 2017 Cooperative Agreements to include Corresponding Annual Operating Plans between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the following agencies: North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, North Lyon County and the Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District Office, Winnemucca District Office, USDA Humboldt – Toiyabe National Forest Carson Ranger District.
- 17-099F** **5C** Approve a Resolution authorizing Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District staff to purchase personal property and equipment necessary to accomplish the purposes of NRS 474.460 through NRS 474.540 and describing a process and limitations for such purchases.
- 17-100F** **5D** Accept a cash donation in the amount of \$2,500 from Curtis and Liz Weishahn of Reno Nevada for use at Truckee Meadows Fire Station 36 and to express appreciation for their thoughtful contribution.

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

Commissioner Jung read Agenda Item 5D and thanked the donors. She read a letter, which was sent with the donation.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5D be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5D are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

17-101F **AGENDA ITEM 6** I.A.F.F. Local 3895 Report

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Paramedic Alex Doerr stated Kids Fire Camp was complete and it was another huge success. He stated 38 children attended the camp. He noted there were 21 male participants and 17 female participants. The campers were from all the districts; there were eight campers from Chair Lucey's District; six from Commissioner Berkbigler's District; two from Commissioner Jung's District, 13 from Commissioner Hartung's District, six from Commissioner Herman's District and three from outlying areas. He explained that was the most kids they had ever had and he hoped the attendance would continue to grow. He stated this was not like any other camp; the campers performed maneuvers such as firefighters did. He said the kids put out fires, worked in confined space trailers, and participated in team building events. He expressed the wonderful opportunity it was for the children. He said the kids were shy at the beginning but were noticeably different after the camp. He explained that every year they picked a camper who had "wowed" them. He stated the young man who was chosen had issues he would have to deal with the rest of his life, but he was able to get through everything at camp with no complaints and showed 100 percent participation. Mr. Doerr introduced Connor, Camper of the year. He said on behalf of the TMFPD and the IAFF, he thanked the Commissioners and Chief Moore for the financial contributions which made the camp possible.

Chair Lucey commended the Local 3895 for their work for the Kids Camp. He also thanked Commissioner's Berkbigler and Hartung for their contribution to the camp. He said the camp allowed kids to participate in advancement. He explained this was not just a camp for the kids; it was a life event for them.

Commissioner Jung congratulated Connor for being a super star at camp and thanked his parents for their support.

There was no public comment on this item.

17-102F **AGENDA ITEM 7** New Employee Introduction

Fire Chief Charles Moore asked the following employees to introduce themselves to the Board:

Matt Loughran, Division Chief
Brett Lee, Fire Prevention Specialist

Commissioner Berkbigler thanked Mr. Loughran and Mr. Lee for joining the TMFPD team. She stated TMFPD had the best firefighters in the country and the Board was proud of all of them.

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

17-103F

AGENDA ITEM 8

A. Discussion and possible direction to staff on the Fire Chief Report to include the following items related to fire district operations:

1. Addition of Response Resources
2. Volunteer Program Update
3. Update on Sun Valley Cleanup Event
4. Mutual and Automatic Aid Update
5. Verdi Fire Protection Services Update

B. Career Statistics and Report for April 2017

C. Volunteer Statistics and Report for April 2017

Fire Chief Charles Moore announced the addition of response resources and firefighters in the daily staffing rotation. He stated the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) budgeted \$750,000 to add overtime capacity for existing staff through the busy wildland season. He commented since Memorial Day there had been a brush fire every single day and noted the past Saturday there were three structure fires and one brush fire. He said they had been thoroughly engaged in brush fires whether they were in TMFPD jurisdiction or not. He stated the plan was to utilize the additional resources starting July 1st and possibly continuing through October, depending on the need. He indicated on a nominal day he would add one firefighter to Station 35 to operate the water tender and would add one rescue crewmember to Station 15. He noted the long-term goal was to add additional capacity to the north because most of the brush and structure fires occurred in the north. He explained during critical weather events, the crew at Station 15 would add a full engine or a full brush engine. He stated that would allow Station 14 to stay in place because the North Valleys would be covered. If there proved to be a measurable impact, he would attempt to make it a permanent resource in fiscal year 2018-19.

Chief Moore was excited to announce the volunteer program update. He said 37 new applicants were going through background checks and physicals. He indicated they were close to his goal of securing 100 volunteers. He said they had some volunteers who were interested in combat firefighting along with those who only wanted to perform support services. He stated they needed volunteers who were able to drive and operate water tenders as well as wildland firefighters. He noted they depended on Silver Lake and Lemmon Valley volunteer programs, as they were instrumental with the brush fires in the north. He stated he was absolutely committed to building the volunteer program and the Board had authorized the transition. He explained that when he took over the department, 12 or 13 volunteer agencies were in charge of the volunteers and none of the agencies were responsive. He stated with the volunteer transition plan, it was imperative to have control over training the volunteers and control over the process to respond to calls. He noted when the volunteer agencies were active, the Galena volunteer department responded to one call in a year and the Cold Springs volunteer department did not respond to any calls in one year. He explained that tens of thousands of dollars was spent to support those agencies. He was proud of the volunteers that were coming on board and thankful for the volunteers that stayed through the transition. He was proud of

the direction the volunteer program was going and although there was more work to be completed, they were making measurable progress.

Chief Moore stated on June 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. a cleanup was scheduled at the Sun Valley Scolari's Market. He said there would be six dumpsters available for residents to dispose of green waste. He stated this was a good way to get residents to clean up their yards. He understood it was difficult to get enough green waste in a residential dumpster and was pleased the event was occurring.

Chief Moore stated the County and the City of Sparks were extremely close to dispatching the closest unit for every call. He explained currently the automatic and mutual aid process involved two agencies sending resources to respond to each call, which was somewhat inefficient, particularly when the call did not need two resources. He stated the arrangement with the City of Sparks stated if the Sparks Fire Department was closer to the call than the TMFPD, they would respond. The TMFPD would respond when they were closer to the call. He noted the Sparks Fire Department had added paramedic capacity to their engines so the service levels would be the same. He said there was a technical problem with the software so they were still approximately a month away from the change.

Commissioner Hartung asked how this new process would affect the investigations of the causes of fires.

Chief Moore indicated the Fire Marshal of each jurisdiction would always maintain the authority for investigations in their jurisdictions.

Chief Moore provided an update regarding the automatic and mutual aid relationship with the City of Reno and he presented information about the TMFPD and the City of Sparks responding to the closest calls. He stated the City of Reno was more interested in regional conversations. He explained his goal was to have the closest units dispatched in all the TMFPD areas before his career ended.

Commissioner Hartung asked whether the City of Sparks had an agreement with the City of Reno with automatic vehicle location (AVL). Chief Moore replied there was no agreement.

Commissioner Berkbigler stated various fire departments participated in automatic aid and it worked well in Clark County. Chief Moore agreed.

Chair Lucey said the conversations about automatic aid continued. The Garson fire was a challenge because it occurred in an area that was once the County but had been recently annexed into the City. He said there was confusion about whose territory it was and he did not understand why automatic aid could not address those needs. He stated firefighters should not worry whether they were the closest to respond or not, they would respond if they were called.

Chief Moore stated he let Reno Fire Chief Cochran know that he was adding the City of Reno to the run stream whenever Reno could be second to a call. He said that could be in Hidden Valley, Verdi, Stead, or near Station 14. He said Chief Cochran did not object. He indicated the Reno Fire Department would be dispatched to structure fires whenever significant dispatch information stated there was a working fire. He noted if the fire turned out to not be significant, they could cancel the call for the Reno Fire Department to respond.

Chair Lucey thanked staff and the TMFPD firefighters who responded to an automatic aid call for a house fire on Overland Trail. The Reno Fire Department was the first responder but TMFPD was the next closest engine to respond. He urged the City of Reno to continue to work with the TMFPD regarding mutual and automatic aid.

Commissioner Berkgigler was concerned about the political problem regarding responding to calls. She stated if the County and Cities were going to work towards what was best for the community, then the agencies' top leaders needed to work together. She indicated the firefighters were not the problem; they would respond to any fire; it was the political problems that needed to be fixed.

Chief Moore provided an update regarding Verdi fire protection services. He said Commissioner Hartung requested some statistics on response times and he noted they were summarized in the staff report including statistics from 2013 to 2016. He stated maps were included, which indicated where the crews responded. He noted average response time was never a good statistic to use, but he said for all calls within Station 35, the average response time was 8 minutes and 44 seconds. He stated in 2011, the Board adopted the standards of cover for rural areas, which included Verdi and the response times adopted by the Board were met. He displayed a photo of the fire at the home of Mr. Puccinelli, who spoke during public comment. He stated he performed extensive investigations as to the response times and fire conditions upon arrival. He knew this was an emotional issue and he understood the passion from the Verdi community. His investigations concluded the response time was identical to the time described in the computer aided dispatch (CAD) report; 8 minutes and 33 seconds after the alert tone was received. The photo displayed was taken upon arrival when the hoses were being pulled out and the house was severely engulfed in flames. He stated these were the fire conditions from the front of the house and the fire started on the rear of the house on the deck. The fire investigator determined the fire was started from oily rags which were left on the deck and unfortunately the fire propagated it a vast way. He explained that Reno had a severe structure fire recently and the home was destroyed. He noted Reno Fire Department had far more resources than the TMFPD had. He said from experience this home would have been served by 4 engines and 2 ladder trucks and the area had hydrants. Unfortunately, the home was still lost. He explained his point was every structure fire was different. There were times when a fire could be confined to the room of origin and times when it could not. He said in the case of the house in the photo, when there was this much fire showing, the only thing that would allow them to suppress this fire in a timely way was a significant amount of water and that amount of water did not exist in the Verdi community. There were no municipal water distribution systems. He

stated they have had to rely on water tender shuttles. He said the river was not an option because the laws of physics did not allow them to draw water from a height of 70 feet. He added they could not utilize water in swimming pools because they could not access back yards to draw out the pool water. Water supply was an issue and would continue to be an issue. He thought the conversation with the Verdi community needed to focus on how to develop more water. He had talked to some fire protection engineers from the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and to some fire equipment dealers about what the District could purchase and a short term solution could be more fire pumps. He explained a fire of this kind; with this much heat would require about 1,500 gallons per minute of water application for approximately for 15 to 20 minutes. The best they could do with a water tender shuttle was about 500 gallons per minute. The TMWA informed Chief Moore the water main line was more than two miles away from Verdi. He indicated the expense for that would exceed \$5 million and residents would be required to hook into the water system. He stated development drove that type of infrastructure. Chair Lucey had asked for a community meeting with the Verdi community, which would be the second of such meetings. The meeting was scheduled for July 26th at the Washoe County Commission Chambers. He indicated staff would send out announcements to everyone they could within Verdi. He said many had heard him say the four things needed to put out a fire were firefighters; tools and equipment; access and water. When any one of those resources was excluded there would not be a successful outcome. He said he retained the services of former Chief of North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District Mike Brown, the President of the State Chief's Association, who was an excellent analyst and speaker. Mr. Brown would be attending the meeting on July 26th. He provided a photo, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Gene Gardella referred to a meeting in November regarding the house fire in the photo that was just displayed. He stated Chief Moore engaged the community to find out what issues they had. He said water was the issue at the top of the list along with a plan to pull resources, followed by ash can distribution and volunteer issues. He stated Chief Moore committed to incorporating the services of a professional organization to discuss water supply issues and additional resources. Mr. Gardella suggested the use of water cisterns as were utilized in the city of San Francisco when a significant earthquake occurred. He stated the community understood they would not have the same level of service as a place that had hydrants every two blocks. He stated the firm that was hired did not meet the requirements and the report that TMFPD paid for was inadequate. He said afterwards there was no further communication regarding the water issues. He stated there was a great deal of anger and dissatisfaction in the community that needed to be addressed.

Ms. Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar said she would like to have a water tender in Warm Springs. She complained if Warm Springs had a brush fire, there would not be a water truck to use to put the fire out. She accused the Board of selective protection of life and property in her community along with knowingly, willingly and intentionally putting lives and investments at risk. She said she had a house fire and the volunteers saved her

house. She noted the career firefighters could not find her house. She stated Station 17 took 45 minutes to get to the turn on Pyramid; not 8 minutes and 33 seconds. She questioned the Commissioners about their responsibility to protect the whole community. She was frustrated the County refused to provide fire protection to her community. She noted the Board approved a suburban development where houses were being built without a fire protection plan. She was angry because her community received protection from people with water trucks, not by a fire department.

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

Chair Lucey stated due to time limitations, Agenda Items 14 and 16 would be pulled and heard at the next meeting.

17-104F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding ownership of volunteer Station 351 in Verdi and possible improvements to Verdi fire protection services.

Chief Moore stated Commissioner Berkbigler requested this item. He said he reviewed the site where volunteer Station 351 and the old Verdi Schoolhouse were situated on one parcel. He had discussions with Director of Community Services Dave Solaro as well as with members of the Historical Society. He stated if there was a desire to rebuild the volunteer fire station it would not be possible on that lot because of the schoolhouse. He said if the lot was subdivided there would not be enough space to place individual wells and septic tanks. He noted if discussions led to a new or different firehouse in Verdi, it would have to be located on a different parcel.

Commissioner Berkbigler asked if Chief Moore knew of another piece of property in that area that he would consider.

Chief Moore stated he could start looking for other parcels that were for sale.

Commissioner Berkbigler stated it would be nice to have a volunteer station, but the problem in Verdi was Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) was not there and until TMWA reached Verdi, she did not believe there was an advantage to building a new fire station. She noted there was a fire station that was close. She was not comfortable with the concept of the choices listed in the staff report. She thought if the Board was going to make a choice, it should direct the Chief to consider another place to put a volunteer station in Verdi. However, she said that was not to be construed as a fire station but rather as a place for volunteers to meet and a place to house the fire trucks.

There was discussion about possibly moving the old Verdi Schoolhouse to a different location so the entire parcel could be utilized for a volunteer station. It was mentioned the old Glendale School was moved from its original location on Freeport

Boulevard. It was suggested to compare the cost of a cistern to a water tender or water truck that could fill a tender for use at Station 351.

Chair Lucey asked staff to consider all options for the Verdi Station 351. He stated the County needed to continue to support the station. He said the volunteers completed 120 hours of training as stated in the Chief's report.

Commissioner Hartung said it should be considered to prohibit target shooting in the County due to fire hazards.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Roger Puccinelli asked for the photo of his home fire to be displayed. He thanked Commissioner Berkgigler for her comments about not blaming the firefighters; he knew the problems were political. He referred to the photo of his home and said the part of the house which was shown to be on fire was the garage. The fire started in the back of the garage, not the house. He said the house was to the left and no flames were visible. He explained if an adequate water supply was available; his home could have been saved from the fire. He said his wife saw smoke when they were driving home so they pulled over and called 911. He was impressed with the firefighters that suppressed the fire from going into the canyon. He said the community was fortunate that the north side of the mountain was still green. He believed if the helicopter had not been dropping water on the fire, it would have grown. He wondered why it was not standard practice to dispatch the helicopter immediately to a structure fire, because it carried 500 gallons of water. He explained the water from the helicopter suppressed the downwind area of the fire. He stated it was an issue that it was 40 minutes before the City of Reno was dispatched to the incident. He said if they had been called immediately they would have been there sooner and his home could have been saved.

Mr. Ed Pitchford stated he viewed the current site of Station 351 and said the standpipe across the street was used to fill the tankers. He also noted a canal was located next to Station 351, which was used to put out the Puccinelli's fire. He did not know of any plans by the Historical Society to renovate the property. He stated utilities were on the site and he recommended modular housing be placed on the property to create a fully operational station to back up Station 35. He said the closest back up station to Station 35 was 19 miles away in Stead. He stated there were five communities served by one station and they had the equipment but needed the work force to fully operate. He asked Chief Moore whether the 100 volunteers were ready to go. He explained the water tender needed to arrive to a fire sooner.

Mr. Rich Loverde stated he was a resident of Verdi for the past 12 years. He said he was an Architect, a contractor and a developer. He thought there were many possible solutions to providing a full time operation on the Station 351 property. He looked forward to the meeting on July 26 where there would be an open forum to discuss possibilities. He agreed with Commissioner Hartung about target shooting because he heard shots the afternoon of the Puccinelli's fire and later heard the helicopter. He stated this was not the first time a brush fire started because of target shooting. He noted there

were multiple indoor shooting facilities that people could utilize. He said the problem in Verdi was the annexation of the community and people did not know who to call in an emergency. He stated the issue needed to be resolved and mutual aid established.

Commissioner Herman stated there were not many rural fire stations that had fire hydrants to assist with water resources.

Commissioner Hartung moved to direct staff to research changes at Station 351 including the potential move of the Verdi Schoolhouse. Commissioner Jung seconded the motion, which duly carried on a vote of 5 to 0.

BLOCK VOTE 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15

10:50 a.m. Commissioner Berkbigler moved to approve the Block Vote but left the meeting prior to the vote.

17-105F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Discussion and possible approval of a Mutual Aid Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority.

There was no public comment on this item.

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

17-106F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation that the Board of Fire Commissioners approve quarterly requests for reimbursement from the Washoe County, Nevada OPEB Trust Fund to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the cost of retiree health insurance premiums.

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

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Berkbigler absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved.

17-107F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Discussion and possible action to approve the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to pay Workers' Compensation Heart and Lung Claims for the 1st and 2nd quarter of Fiscal Year 16/17 in the amount not to exceed \$142,623.29 per the Reno-TMFPD Interlocal Agreement and to authorize the execution of a resolution transferring \$325,000 from the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District General Fund Contingency Account to the Workers' Compensation Fund and to use that transfer to augment the District's Fiscal Year 16/17 Workers'

Compensation Fund Budget in the amount of \$325,000 for the purpose of paying Workers' Compensation Heart and Lung claims to the City of Reno for FY16/17.

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

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Berkbigler absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved. The resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

17-108F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Discussion and approval of the Property and Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District with the Travelers Insurance to include Data and Security liability through AIG, Pollution Liability through Great American, and Excess Earthquake coverage through Houston Casualty for one year beginning July 1, 2017 for a total annual premium of \$1,167,884.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Berkbigler absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be approved.

17-109F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Recommendation to approve an Owner-CMAR Construction Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and CORE Construction, Inc. to provide Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) construction services for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District – Station 14 with a total project cost of \$5,459,838.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Berkbigler absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be approved.

10:56 a.m. **Commissioner Berkbigler returned to the meeting.**

17-110F **AGENDA ITEM 17** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Hartung asked Chief Moore to discuss the prohibition of target shooting in high fire risk areas with the Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Commissioner Herman asked for the designated shooting area signs to be installed on Peavine Mountain.

Commissioner Berkbigler asked for action items on the agenda to be indicated “for possible action” as the Board of County Commissioner’s agenda read. She thought restricting target practice was a good idea as the *Reno Gazette-Journal* stated a fire in Reno was started by illegal shooting.

Chair Lucey thought the general public had the misconception that a wet winter would decrease fire risk. He stated the area was always in danger of fires and he encouraged citizens to be cautious when target shooting or operating all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) as they created fire risks. He explained citizens needed to be aware the rivers and creeks were moving extremely swiftly and were dangerous.

17-111F AGENDA ITEM 19 Public Comment.

Mr. Michael Widmer was called to speak but was not present.

Ms. Elizabeth Gambrell wanted to know about the enhanced plans that Chief Moore mentioned for Gerlach. She wondered why an audit was being performed and why TMFPD was involved with the audit. She stated the volunteer fire department was established in 1961 and the community raised funds for the equipment. She questioned the amount of training hours that were reported because she believed the training was underreported. She stated the volunteers were working hard to support the community of Gerlach.

Ms. Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

Mr. Sam Dehne spoke regarding the amount of time he has spent at meetings, the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, and the Open Meeting Law.

17-112F AGENDA ITEM 18 Possible Closed Session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.

11:07 a.m. On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the meeting recess to a closed session for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations pursuant to NRS 288.220.

Legal Counsel Paul Lipparelli indicated the meeting would recess until the completion of the closed session and Chair Lucey obliged.

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1:14 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection from closed session.

BOB LUCEY, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

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

Minutes Prepared By:
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk