

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

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m.

JANUARY 15, 2019

PRESENT:

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

Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
Paul Lipparelli, Assistant District Attorney

ABSENT:

Bob Lucey, Commissioner

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:

19-003F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Presentation and award of Citizens Medals of Honor by Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Nevada Highway Patrol

Recipients:

- Brian Morris, 1961-2018
- Manuel Torres, 1975-2018

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore announced this item was to honor Brian Morris and Manuel Torres who lost their lives assisting people injured in a car accident. He invited Brian Morris' wife Jan Morris, daughter Tera Matzen, son-in-law Dave Matzen, Manuel Torres' wife Rachelle Torres, mother Rose Torres, Major Rob Stepien of the Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP), Director of Ground Operations at Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority Paul Burton, Washoe County Undersheriff Wayne Yarbrough, and TMFPD Battalion Chief Alex Kukulius to join him at the podium for the presentation of the Citizen's Medals of Honor.

Chief Moore said a severe accident occurred on November 10, 2018 on Mt. Rose Highway and two bystanders Brian Wayne Morris and Manuel Torres stopped to assist. Their selfless act of kindness was unfortunately paid for by their deaths. He was reminded of the ancient story in *The Bible* of the Good Samaritan who came upon a man that had been beaten and left for dead. The Samaritan got him bandaged and to a safe place where he could receive care.

Chief Moore said Mr. Morris was born and raised in southern California and met his wife Jan during college. Together, they lived with their daughter Tera in Winnemucca for 20 years before moving to Reno in 2015. Mr. Morris' commitment and conviction to his family was his utmost priority. He was a man of deep faith with a passion for adventure in the outdoors. He loved to explore the valleys of Nevada in his Jeep as well as hunt, fish, and ski. He was known as a mentor to many in his profession and shared his experiences and wisdom with younger individuals including Tera. Mr. Morris earned a Bachelor of Arts with a major in geology from Humboldt State University. He was dedicated and skilled in his career as a geology and mining executive who served many of the state's mining companies: Blackrock Mining, Gold Corporation, Klondex Mines, Newmont Mining, Hecla Mining, and Great Basin Gold. Mr. Morris' love for geology and mining was infectious. His friends said if there was gold in the ground Mr. Morris would be the one to find it. He was a member of the Geological Society of Nevada and was known as an honorable man and an inspiration to all that knew him. His family and friends would all say that he would risk his own life to help someone else without question. The community would remember his kind heart and sacrifice, and he was being honored with a Citizen's Medal of Honor. Chief Moore expressed to his family, friends, and the community that he would not be forgotten.

Chief Moore said Manuel Torres was born in Madrid, Spain in 1975 and became a United States citizen holding dual citizenship to both countries. He spoke three languages fluently. He lived in many places throughout the world and moved to the Reno area in 2016 after being inspired by the beauty and peace of the Lake Tahoe region. Mr. Torres was an inspiration to his family and friends. He was known as an extremely kind and cultured individual who always put others before himself. He enjoyed the outdoors and loved to explore, hike, ski, and snowshoe in the Lake Tahoe basin with his wife Rachelle and their two dogs. He was also a member of the Reno Running Club. He was an overachiever and was fascinated by innovation; he received a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering from Parks College and a Master's Degree of Business Administration from the University of Michigan. He recently joined the locally-based company Aerion Supersonic and managed sub-contractors on the development of the world's first supersonic business jet. His wife said he had always encouraged her to be the best and to live life to its fullest. He never took anything for granted. He was known by his friends and loved ones as someone who always displayed a great deal of empathy and compassion towards others. The community would remember his kind heart and sacrifice, and he was being honored with a Citizen's Medal of Honor. Chief Moore expressed to his family, friends, and the community that he would not be forgotten.

Chief Moore presented Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Torres with the Citizen's Medals of Honor.

Major Stepien said it was with deepest sympathy, profound respect, and a heavy heart that the NHP present the highest honor of citizen's bravery and fortitude to the families of Mr. Morris and Mr. Torres. He read the certificates which were presented to Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Torres.

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

19-004F **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

19-005F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

There were no Board member comments.

19-006F **AGENDA ITEM 5** Recommendation to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2018 meeting.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved.

19-007F **AGENDA ITEM 6** Promotional Announcement and Badge Pinning.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore announced the promotion of Shane Akerson to Fire Captain. He said Mr. Akerson was one of those employees whose work ethic was extraordinary and noted he was active with the Reno Rodeo. Chief Moore introduced Mr. Akerson, who was pinned by his mother Nancy.

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

19-008F **AGENDA ITEM 8** I.A.F.F. Local 2487 Report.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 Secretary Captain Josh Kutz announced the 7th Annual Guns and Hoses Golf Tournament was scheduled for the end of April. He stated they raised more than \$130,000 over the prior six years to benefit the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation. He hoped for significant community support for this event.

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

19-009F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Fire Chief Report.

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of December 2018 and January 2019 to include the following items:
 - 1. Budget Calendar
 - 2. Open Burning Update
 - 3. Green Waste Update
- B. Fire Prevention Update
 - 1. Fire Prevention Statistical update
 - 2. Community Risk Reduction Plan
 - 3. Progress Report on Verdi CWPP
- C. Operational Update (Deputy Chief Gorgon)
 - 1. Significant Incidents and Operational update for December 2018
 - 2. Career Statistics for August, September, October and November 2018
- D. Commissioner Request Dashboard

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated the budget process would begin soon and he would meet with the Commissioners individually to discuss priorities for the District. He noted the draft budget would be presented to the Board in April.

Chief Moore said he would meet with District Health Officer Kevin Dick to discuss the possibility of exceptions to open burning. He indicated many requests were received to begin the open burning process earlier in Warm Springs and believed it would not impact the air quality. He hoped some exceptions could be granted for early open burning on agricultural property.

Chief Moore stated a document regarding the costs for the green waste program was included in the staff report. He indicated the waste produced for the year was three to four times greater than in the previous year and the program was growing in popularity. He said the majority of the costs were for heavy equipment and hauling the masticated green waste to a local recycler. He stated Deputy Fire Chief Scott Gorgon and his staff were researching trucks the District could obtain for free or at low cost to assist with the removal of green waste, which could reduce the cost of the program by half.

Chief Moore said the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Verdi/Mogul area was progressing and boundaries would be determined on January 17. He noted the committee was very active and he hoped they could target Verdi as one of the communities for a green waste make-over in the upcoming spring. He stated the District was looking for land to gather green waste so the program could continue throughout the summer.

Chief Deputy County Clerk Jan Galassini indicated a document for Agenda Item 9A was presented to the Board and placed on file.

Chief Gorgon said the Board approved water tenders in June of 2018 and noted the equipment would be delivered the first week of February; it would be put into service once radios were installed. He stated the Board approved two type-1 engines in September of 2018, which would be delivered by the first week in March. He indicated no significant calls were received over the holidays. He noted December was busier than normal months; the average number of calls received was close to 900. He said call volumes were increasing each month.

Commissioner Jung said the County paid close to \$11,000 to Full Circle Soils & Compost and asked whether the company gave finished product back to the County at a discounted rate or if the rate was already discounted. Chief Moore said he would inquire about the process because he did not know. Commissioner Jung said she did not know about Full Circle Soils & Composts' business model but she was curious if they had an abundance of compost at the end of the season.

Commissioner Jung asked whether Verdi was targeted because it was a wildland-urban interface for fire prevention. She wondered what made Verdi different than other areas. Chief Moore stated Verdi had significant wildland-urban interface. He indicated there was sagebrush at least 50 years old which was a significant hazard. He noted the population of Verdi consisted of older individuals who were less able to perform physical labor to remove the brush themselves.

Commissioner Jung asked about a full survey of the entire area and wanted to know what area was a priority for hazard reduction. Chief Moore replied they did not have a full survey, but it would be a priority once a fuels manager was hired. Commissioner Jung expressed concern about resources being equitable but more importantly being prioritized by the most significant hazard areas. She indicated Sun Valley had elderly residents and old sagebrush which needed to be maintained by property owners, the Sun Valley General Improvement District, or the TMFPD. She wanted a full area survey so the County could plan and lobby where needed.

Commissioner Hartung wondered about the County paying to have green waste hauled away. He thought one of the large nurseries in town would be interested in the material. He thought the green waste had value and the County should not have to pay to have it removed.

Commissioner Hartung said Verdi and Spanish Springs had the same wildland-urban interface and was interested in reviewing solutions and applying them region-wide. He commended the TMFPD for the ash can program and said more than 200 cans had been distributed. He compared seatbelts to ash cans because no one knew how many lives were saved by those preventative measures. He thought other agencies were considering starting ash can programs. Chief Moore confirmed the Tahoe Douglas and the North Tahoe Fire Protection Districts both started ash can programs.

Chair Berkbigler praised Commissioner Jung for requesting a survey of the area. She said the Commissioners had discussions regarding other areas that needed to be priority because sagebrush was accumulating in the community.

Chief Moore welcomed questions about the Commissioner dashboard.

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

19-010F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Discussion and direction to staff regarding 2019 Nevada Legislative Session and other legislative issues proposed by legislators, or by other entities permitted by the Nevada State Legislature to submit bill draft requests, or such legislative issues as may be deemed by the Chair or the Board to be of critical significance to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore said he and Public Information Officer Adam Mayberry met with consultant Mike Brown of R&R Partners and said they were continuing to look at the bill drafts. He stated not many specifics were pertinent to fire but they were monitoring items as they moved forward.

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

19-011F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Possible Closed Session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore indicated there was need for a Closed Session. Commissioner Hartung moved to recess the meeting after the final items, which was seconded by Commissioner Herman.

19-012F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Herman asked when the Board would receive a report about the Gerlach fire issue. Chief Moore said consultant Mike Brown of R&R Partners would present information to the Board with the next two months.

19-013F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

9:34 a.m. On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that the meeting recess to a closed session for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations after the Board of County Commissioners meeting.

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11:44 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

MARSHA BERKBIGLER, 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*