

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

TUESDAY

8:30 a.m.

MARCH 19, 2019

PRESENT:

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

Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
David Watts-Vial, Deputy District Attorney*

The Board convened at 8:30 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:

A brief conversation occurred where it was determined the meeting could not continue until Deputy District Attorney David Watts-Vial arrived.

8:31 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

***8:38 a.m.** **The Board reconvened with all Commissioners and the Deputy District Attorney present.**

19-031F **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar indicated she wanted the Warm Springs volunteer firefighters back how they were in the 1990s with emergency medical technicians and several volunteers in Palomino Valley. She said volunteer firefighters put out several wildfires and saved her house from burning down. She questioned why the Board took them away. She expressed frustration about fire protection issues in her area.

19-032F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore requested Consent Agenda Item 5A be pulled for discussion; he had a minor change to make to the minutes for the February 19, 2019 meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A through 5C

- 19-033F** **5A** Recommendation to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2019 meeting. (All Commission Districts).
- 19-034F** **5B** Recommendation to approve a job classification and salary range for a position titled Fire Communications Program Manager. (All Commission Districts).
- 19-035F** **5C** Recommendation to approve an agreement to retain Eide Bailly LLP to perform independent audit services for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the Fiscal Year 18/19 in an amount not to exceed \$33,700. (All Commission Districts).

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore suggested a change to the minutes for the February 19, 2019 meeting. He requested the words “Valley Road” on page 5, paragraph 2, line 5 be changed to “Sun Valley”.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5C be approved with the recommended changes by Chief Moore. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5C are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

- 19-036F** **AGENDA ITEM 10** Presentation, discussion and possible direction to staff regarding a study of Gerlach Fire Services.

Consultant and Lobbyist Mike Brown of R&R Partners said he had been working on several issues in Washoe County and throughout the State. He appreciated the opportunity to work on some issues with Area 22 North, which was labeled as Gerlach/Washoe Rural/22 North (GWR22) on the findings report. He stated he met with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore and County Manager John Slaughter in December 2018 to review the services already in place and to assess possible suggestions for future improvements. He apologized for not meeting with each Commissioner individually to discuss the issues. He had met with Commissioners Herman and Berkbigler, and briefly with Commissioners Lucey and Jung, and said he appreciated the information they provided. He noted GWR22 was in Commissioner Herman’s District and she had provided a wealth of information to help make the process work. He appreciated the information and the support she lent to residents of those areas.

Mr. Brown said he evaluated GWR22, which was located in north part of the County, with the purpose of providing a report of findings and recommendations for fire and emergency services. He limited his report to three recommendations to avoid confusion. He noted there had been many discussions during the prior months about the level of services provided, what had been done in the past, and what could be done in future. He reviewed his report, including a description of the area and a brief history of

the volunteer fire department. He mentioned GWR22 had been a topic of discussion for many years and was considered to be within County boundaries, not within District boundaries. He said there had been good volunteer services in GWR22 for many years. The call statistics in his report showed a significant number of calls went directly to the volunteer agency when it was in place; many calls still went through the normal 911 system.

Mr. Brown noted Gerlach was the largest community in the GWR22 area and had the neighboring Tribal communities of Nixon and Sutcliffe. He reviewed the existing Tribal emergency services, the Gerlach Fire Department services, and staff as noted in his report. He said his findings prior to 2014 indicated volunteers were the backbone for service delivery in GWR22.

Mr. Brown referred to the service call history for the previous five years included on page 2 of his report. He said emergency medical services (EMS) constituted the majority of call volume, both in the region and nationwide. He pointed out an error in the report: the EMS calls from 2017 were not included. He noted the call volume had increased significantly since 2013 when volunteer services were active. He believed many emergency calls went directly to volunteers in the past. He stated Burning Man increased the call volume during certain times of the year. He said the GWR22 area was also a pathway from California to Nevada, which increased the traffic and call volume in the area.

Chair Hartung asked whether the EMS calls could be categorized to distinguish between the Burning Man event, neighbor calls, and automobile accidents. Mr. Brown replied the calls could be separated by type.

Commissioner Jung asked whether it would make more sense to show what time of the year calls were received. She said she would be able to identify calls attributed to Burning Man based on when they were received. She asked about the increase in calls from 20 in 2015 to 137 in 2017, saying the population did not increase that much. She asked whether it was due to data not being tracked because calls went directly to the volunteer fire station. Mr. Brown replied the data he used was supplied by the County. Chief Moore clarified the difference was data-related in some cases but largely there was better recordkeeping. Commissioner Jung summarized the increase in calls was artificial and could be attributed to better recordkeeping and not to Burning Man since their permit for approximately 10,000 people had stayed the same. Commissioner Jung reiterated she would like to see the calendar breakdown of service calls because it would help her to make decisions and recommendations.

Mr. Brown reviewed the existing fixed facilities within GWR22, including Station 242, which was attached to the Gerlach Community Center. He recommended installing a generator for backup power supply and an exhaust extraction system. He noted most of Gerlach's vehicles had diesel engines and the hydrocarbons from diesel exhaust could settle throughout the bay when the vehicles were turned on. Exhaust extraction systems were used primarily for the safety of both people and equipment. He

said the generator could be used in emergencies for the fire station and the community center. He discussed a modular home adjacent to the fire station which was donated by Washoe County. He recommended completion of skirting around the modular unit, potential removal of mold, and other essential repairs. He said the equipment in the GWR22 area was of good quality. He read the list of existing equipment from the report. He stated the facility and equipment necessary for providing services was in place.

Mr. Brown noted each of his three recommendations included service delivery standards and expectations, an explanation of which was included in the glossary of terms and at the end of the report. He said the term community associate members, which was defined in the glossary, referred to volunteers. He stated he believed in volunteer programs, but they were becoming less common throughout the nation. People wanted to work within their communities but there were levels of service they needed to be able to provide. A Volunteer Qualified Firefighter was someone who had qualified for a Firefighter I certification and met all of the expectations of that designation. He reviewed the other community associate titles and briefly explained the requirements for each. He said there was a large population of individuals who were not able to qualify as volunteer firefighters but who could still provide support services in other capacities. He mentioned a certification program provided through the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and some fire departments throughout the State. He said those certified volunteers would be used to a level they felt comfortable with. He said the District needed to develop a description of participation levels for each type of volunteer.

Mr. Brown reviewed his first recommendation of potentially creating a fire protection district under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 474 to 474.495. He stated it had been done in the past; Sierra Fire Protection District was established under NRS 474 and it had been an entity under NRS 473 managed by the State Division of Forestry prior to that. He addressed budget concerns by indicating none of the properties in GWR22 were subject to an additional fire tax as seen in other fire protection districts. He recommended establishing an ad valorem tax for all properties in GWR22. He said the ambulance service in the area did not charge a fee for their services and suggested establishing a transport fee. He explained automobile insurance would pay for ambulance transport in cases of car accidents and proposed fees billed to insurance as a revenue source.

Mr. Brown spoke about ambulance subscription services for residents as another source of revenue. He explained the Government Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) cost reimbursement program made possible by legislation approved in 2017 could be utilized to receive 100 percent reimbursement for services; this was not the case when using the customary Medicaid reimbursement rates. He noted volunteers were a necessary component and recommended establishing minimum requirements for each community associate job title. He spoke about providing monetary incentives for community associates to get their certifications. He said fire prevention was necessary in any part of the jurisdiction and was included in every recommendation. The statutes under NRS which would apply to each recommendation were listed in the report.

Mr. Brown said his second recommendation also included establishing a fire protection district or a general improvement district (GID) under NRS 318; the Commissioners would maintain the Fire Board. He proposed establishing a leadership and management structure to oversee services and ensure they were carried out in a uniform manner that met the expectations of the Board. He suggested establishing minimum requirements for each community associate, providing an ambulance subscription service, creating a request for proposal that would encompass service delivery standards, and discussing contract services for ambulance transport fees using the GEMT cost reimbursement program. He spoke about providing monetary incentives for volunteers and entering into discussions with neighboring Tribal Emergency Services (TES) to establish a possible Interlocal Agreement for services. He stated the TES was the closest response factor. He said the TMFPD response time for the Gerlach area was 1.5 to 2 hours depending on location; response times from California were close to one hour. He stated the next closest service provider, the TES, was being used significantly. He noted the TES was interested in discussing a potential agreement. He said it was not necessarily a final solution; the GWR22 could potentially transition over to the TMFPD as the population and ad valorem tax base increased.

Mr. Brown indicated the third recommendation would improve services already in place in GWR22. The TMFPD would continue to have management responsibility and the County would have budgetary responsibility. He said minimum requirements for community associates and ambulance transport fees would need to be established. He suggested endorsing an ambulance subscription service and allowing for ambulance service reimbursement through the GEMT cost reimbursement program. He noted the three recommendations included ambulance capabilities because, in terms of establishing a budget, the ambulance fees which were not being charged could make a difference over time. He stated any of the recommendations would take approximately two years to produce successful outcomes. He summarized the necessary components for a successful fire protection program were extant in the GWR22 area. He commended the work being done by the two career staff members working in Gerlach, including working with volunteers. He said Chief Moore and his staff were doing everything they could within the Interlocal Agreement but improvement was needed for the future success of GWR22.

Mr. Brown asserted it would be geographically difficult to establish services where Gerlach would be responsible for responding to Red Rock. He said cooperation would be required to provide community associate designations to the volunteers in the Red Rock area. He suggested using the same concepts in Red Rock that were recommended for Gerlach to get proper training for people interested in serving and to get the equipment necessary to provide services. He said defining the community associate requirements would help people realize the level of service expected of them.

Chief Moore commented Gerlach would like to be an autonomous fire department. He thought it was important to develop the sense of community in and around those residents because volunteers would take pride and work hard since it was where they lived. He indicated the TMFPD was not interested in making Gerlach an

ancillary part of their department but they did want to make them successful. He noted the fire district would be more successful in submitting grant applications if it was a legal entity because it would have standing with the federal government. He said it would have the ability to apply for grants, even if the tax rate was very minimal, and would be more successful in grant applications as an independent entity with a modest budget. He noted the County budget, which was substantial, had been used in the past as the budgetary basis when applying for grants. He said more people were needed and, as Gerlach grew, they could add additional people to the fire district in emergency response and support roles. He expressed confidence in the development of a successful operation in the next couple of years.

Commissioner Herman agreed that Gerlach wanted to be its own entity. She stated Gerlach had a GID and asked whether fire protection could be established under that GID. She noted residents were taxed for roads but she received many complaints about the condition of roads. She expressed concern about a similar situation with a fire tax where residents might not receive services. She said she lived in an area with the highest taxes in the County but where few services were provided. She acknowledged the need to finance the fire station in Gerlach. She did not think taxing the designated area would be the solution; the residents would not be responsive to the tax. She thought there was more work to be done.

Commissioner Berkbigler asked whether Gerlach would be an independent fire department within a larger district if the decision was made to form a separate fire district for the area north of Township 22, or whether there would be two fire districts, one for Gerlach and one for the other communities. Chief Moore replied it would be a separate district for the Gerlach community and the area it served. It would not be one fire district north of Township 22, so the taxes collected would serve the residents who paid them. He said the fire district in and around Gerlach would not need to be expansive. The TMFPD had the ability to serve Red Rock, although he admitted the distances were an issue. He thought Red Rock needed the same type of support. The issues in Red Rock were very similar to those in Gerlach. He envisioned two small fire districts, one for Gerlach and one for Red Rock. Commissioner Berkbigler asked whether having a small fire district for Gerlach would be fiscally possible and whether merging Red Rock into the TMFPD would be an option. Chief Moore said it was legally possible and might be fiscally possible.

Commissioner Berkbigler expressed concern about some residents receiving services they were not paying for while other residents paid for those services. She thought it was an issue which needed to be corrected. She was aware there were many issues in the area but the County was not able to continue to spend money to provide services for residents who were not paying for them. She said the TMFPD had great employees who deserved to receive a fair wage and expressed concern because they would not receive a fair wage if money was not coming in. She thought the Board needed to consider Mr. Brown's advice and work on the issue. She thanked Mr. Brown for his efforts on the report.

Commissioner Lucey asked Mr. Brown whether he completed a fiscal analysis for the ongoing costs of the three different recommendations. He noted the staff report discussed the modular building, which required maintenance. There were a significant number of assets in the Gerlach area which would require ongoing maintenance. He asked whether Mr. Brown was able to provide a report of those costs. Mr. Brown replied he did not have information about the costs. He noted there were other costs beyond those mentioned by Commissioner Lucey. He said the costs would depend on which services would be provided.

Commissioner Lucey requested an itemized fiscal analysis of fixed asset costs for ongoing maintenance and the costs for employees, both firefighters and community associates, including the costs for training. He wanted an idea of what costs would need to be offset by whatever type of organization was considered, whether it be through an ad valorem tax or through grants. He noted finding grants was an opportunity but was not necessarily a guaranteed source of funding. Chief Moore responded many of the services the TMFPD provided were funded through the countywide cost allocation process. TMFPD staff could provide support by testing fire hoses, pumps, and ladders, and by checking that equipment was up to date. There would not be many costs besides staff time. He said there would be costs for contracted services and staff would provide that information.

Chair Hartung expressed interest in having discussions with the Pyramid Lake volunteers. He said services in Wadsworth were very efficient. He requested information about what an Interlocal Agreement with them might entail. He noted they had experience with the process of training volunteers. He said they had an ambulance service and were structured in a way which would be conducive to service the Gerlach area.

Chair Hartung expressed doubts about the emergency call statistics being driven by Burning Man. He noted they offered their own services including emergency medical technicians and ambulance services because they contracted with Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA). Emergencies that happened on the Burning Man site would be covered. Mr. Brown responded he had not meant the increase in calls had originated from the Burning Man event but the roads were more congested due to event traffic. He stated he would work with Chief Moore's staff to review call activity during the months surrounding the event. He agreed with Chair Hartung about working with Tribal partners. He said the Tribe had been offering ambulance transport; they charged a minimal rate for services and used the GEMT program through the State to receive reimbursement. He noted those fees were a funding source which was not being used. He believed it was a funding source that would be beneficial for the Gerlach area both immediately and in the long term.

Chair Hartung said it would be helpful to have a discussion with local healthcare providers about the possibility of opening an urgent care clinic in the Gerlach area. He suggested it could solve some issues and there might be healthcare providers who would like to serve in a rural area.

Commissioner Jung asked whether the report had been presented to the Gerlach GID. Mr. Brown replied it had not been presented to the GID but he had spoken with representatives of the GID. Commissioner Jung requested the report be put on the GID's agenda to allow the people who would be affected to provide feedback and vote on it before the Board made any decisions.

Commissioner Jung requested information about the population flux that occurred throughout the calendar year along with the calendar of emergency call distribution. She said the Burning Man organization had the population information. She recognized there were many people on the roads for approximately two weeks before and two weeks after the event. She speculated the increase might account for the increase in emergency calls.

Commissioner Jung stated it was important to look for options for funding sources that did not include raising taxes because the Commissioner for the District had promised her constituents taxes would not be raised. She said it would be difficult for the Board to move forward without the support of the Commissioner for the District.

Commissioner Jung expressed concern about the proposal which suggested creating a GID. She believed Commissioner Berkbigler had spent a considerable amount of time working to collapse GIDs during the previous legislative session. She expressed concern about the expansion of government through the creation of GIDs. She requested further discussions about how GIDs would fit into all regional plans.

Commissioner Jung remarked Mr. Brown was the expert on fire services in northern Nevada and possibly the entire western region; the County was lucky to have his services. She requested Mr. Brown explain the hazards and liabilities that occurred when untrained volunteers interacted with professional staff. She clarified she was not saying one was better than the other. She acknowledged many firefighters started their careers as volunteers or by working for REMSA. She asked for an example of when the interaction became a hazard for the life of the service provider and a financial liability.

Mr. Brown replied that was a topic discussed nationally. He said there was a minimum acceptable level of training and physical fitness for both volunteers and career staff due to the extreme conditions of the work. Most organizations had minimum requirements applied across the organization. He stated the same training, equipment, and understanding of the chain of command were needed. He asserted the training was important because it would ensure everyone understood how an emergency incident would be managed. He said it was not unusual for people wanting to be part of the emergency response program to be unable to meet the minimum requirements. They could fill a position at some level but they needed to have the same level of training and fitness required of all staff members to be considered for the emergency incident level as an all-risk provider. He stated the Board and the leadership of the organization would potentially endanger staff or volunteer staff if they did not set minimum requirements; the resulting liability would be assumed by the community. He said an untrained volunteer

who was injured during an incident would become the financial responsibility of the County for that person's lifetime.

Commissioner Jung stated the County had several such experiences with volunteers in the past. The Board had asked Chief Moore to professionalize the volunteer crew when he became the Fire Chief. She noted there had been high volunteer attrition when they were asked to meet the basic entry-level physical fitness requirements. She stated it was important to be strict about the minimum requirements for emergency service volunteers. She did not want anyone to get hurt. She noted the County had been sued in the past by disgruntled, unpaid volunteers. There was significant liability for taxpayers and, as a fiduciary agent for the County, she could not overlook the risks. She requested an approximate bottom-line price for each of the scenarios recommended by Mr. Brown.

Commissioner Jung noted Burning Man periodically appealed to the Board for new roads because the roads in that area were not in the best condition. She asked whether the County had considered creating a toll road in the Gerlach area for special events. She suggested each vehicle could pay \$5, which would go into a fund to pay for ambulances in Washoe County, roads, and a fire district. She requested a report on the feasibility and legality of a toll road. She understood there were many components involved. She noted local residents would get better roads as a result of the toll. She knew Burning Man and event supporters were buying property in Gerlach and suggested a different population might be agreeable to a private-public partnership for maintaining the lifestyle in that area.

Commissioner Jung stated it was not fair to TMFPD taxpayers that Gerlach area residents received services even though they did not pay taxes for those services. She said when Sierra Fire turned into the TMFPD the County raised taxes. At that time, residents of the district being represented by Sierra Fire asked for taxes to be raised further because they understood the value of full-service fire protection and medical service providers. She thought the Board needed to be more creative to find funding but the project could be accomplished. She disagreed with relying on the Tribe; she said they had their own issues. She believed having automatic aid was the best practice internationally. She expressed support for establishing fire protection for GWR22 if that was what residents wanted, or for discontinuing the project if it was not what residents wanted. She said presenting to the GID was a start.

Chair Hartung requested future clarification from Deputy District Attorney David Watts-Vial on whether toll roads were allowable in Nevada. He recalled they were not allowed by NRS.

Commissioner Herman suggested there might be funding available to help the Gerlach fire station if it became part of the existing GID.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Katherine Snedigar said Warm Springs previously had fully-trained volunteers who quit because they were not allowed

to leave their trucks. She stated they had people with REMSA experience in the past that could operate the ambulance but the community was denied volunteers. She expressed frustration about the Board's treatment of Palomino Valley residents. She spoke about the average response times for emergency services in her area. She disagreed with not utilizing volunteers.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be accepted.

19-037F **AGENDA ITEM 6** I.A.F.F. Local 2487 Report.

Captain Mark Thyer, Treasurer for International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487, stated the IAFF and several universities had identified Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) as one of the major causes of reduced job performance in the fire service, which led to suicide in the worst cases. He said firefighters faced risks to their mental health on a regular basis, such as incidents with multiple casualties, exposure to violence, injuries to children, and the normal stress of their day-to-day activities. He stated a 2015 Florida State University study indicated nearly 50 percent of career firefighters thought of suicide at some point. He said a person suffering from PTS was six times more likely to attempt suicide and firefighters were known to suffer from PTS. He noted PTS had been treated as a hidden and often forgotten issue in the past. It had since been discovered that early recognition and treatment could rehabilitate a person who was potentially heading toward a violent end and make them effective firefighters again.

Captain Thyer said IAFF Local 2487 had hosted two peer support courses with support from International IAFF and the District. The peer support courses were fairly new and were attended by firefighters from Nevada and the United States. The courses were very well received and they attracted news coverage. He informed the Board that IAFF Local 2487 was addressing the PTS issue at the local level. He noted the peer support program did not replace counselors. The program was intended to provide early recognition and a pathway to treatment so firefighters who faced a crisis could receive treatment and return to work at 100 percent relatively quickly. He requested Commissioners' support of any statewide legislation which would acknowledge PTS as a condition eligible for workers' compensation for firefighters as it did for law enforcement.

Captain Thyer announced IAFF Local 2487 would be hosting the 7th Annual Guns and Hoses Golf Tournament with the Washoe County Sheriff. He said the tournament had raised nearly \$130,000 for the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation. He noted there were hole sponsorships and seats available for golfers. He indicated a copy of the event flyer was provided to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Administrative Assistant Sandy Francis, but a copy was not provided to the Clerk. He asked the Commissioners to consider supporting the event.

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

19-038F

AGENDA ITEM 7 Lifesaving Medal presentation to four TMFPD personnel who responded to an incident at Washoe Lake on June 23, 2018 involving a small capsized boat with 5 occupants.

- Captain Michael J. Trevino
- Engineer Vincent Murgolo
- Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Meredith
- Firefighter/Paramedic Roger J. Sohle

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated that, as a culture shift, the TMFPD would recognize personnel who saved lives moving forward. He said it happened more often than people would think. He stated the TMFPD Station 32 fire and rescue crew responded to Washoe Lake on June 23, 2018 at approximately 10 p.m. after receiving a call from a reporting party who was walking his dog and heard calls for help. Captain Mike Trevino, Engineer Vincent Murgolo, Firefighter/Paramedic Roger Sohle, and Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Meredith arrived on the scene with the objective of locating a vessel and any victims. The crew deployed the new rescue boat Marine 32 immediately upon arrival. He noted Captain Trevino's decision to take a rescue boat to the scene likely saved the lives of five people. Marine 32 located five victims clinging to an overturned vessel through the use of lights and radio directions, shore based responders, and thermal imaging cameras. The crew successfully retrieved and transported the five individuals safely back to shore in two trips. On a third trip the crew overturned the vessel and towed it back to shore. The final rescue occurred at 11 p.m.

Chief Moore said the victims estimated they had been in the water for almost three hours and were close to the end of their ability to cling to the boat. The rescue operation presented challenges including complete darkness and the fact that, though the crew had completed a water rescue class the previous month, they had not practiced at night. Chief Moore expressed pleasure in presenting the lifesaving award to the firefighters for their swift action. He recognized it was part of their jobs but it was important for the Board and the community to know they often saved lives. He presented medals to the firefighters.

Chair Hartung thanked the medal recipients. He said he could not express the debt owed to them and he knew the people they saved and their families would always be indebted to them for their actions.

Chief Moore mentioned the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority were also present and helped with the rescue. He thanked them for their assistance.

19-039F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Fire Chief Report.

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of January and February 2019 to include the following items:
 - 1. Hidden Valley Fire Station Development Update
- B. Fire Prevention Update (Deputy Chief Beaver)
 - 1. Community Outreach Update
 - 2. Fire Preventon Statistics
- C. Operational Update (Deputy Chief Gorgon)
 - 1. Significant Incidents for February 2019
 - 2. Review of Career Statistics for January and February 2019

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated the TMFPD had, in consultation with the County's planning department, decided to go through a special use permit process for the Hidden Valley Fire Station project before beginning renovations on the house. He said consultants had been hired and work would begin on the planning process within a few days.

TMFPD Deputy Fire Chief Lisa Beaver said the homeowners association (HOA) efforts discussed at a previous meeting had begun. The District met with Cross Creek HOA the previous Tuesday. She mentioned it was a good meeting though it was not well attended. There were about 10 to 12 people in attendance, only six of whom were not part of the HOA board. They discussed some defensible space items, fire adaptive communities, driving, fuel reduction, and some grant information. She noted the meeting was well received. The HOA was given some handouts that would be distributed to the community at a later meeting. She stated the District left the possibility of attending the next meeting open and the HOA projected more people would attend.

Deputy Chief Beaver mentioned the District would be at the Builders' Association of Northern Nevada meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. She would be their guest speaker and would review draft copies of the fire code adoption paperwork and proposed future fees as a means of getting community feedback. She noted the District would be at the Verdi-Mogul Fire Adapted Community chapter meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. On Wednesday, March 27, 2019, the District would meet with Caughlin Ranch HOA and would be discussing defensible space, fuels management, and what the District could do to help them. On Thursday, March 28, 2019, the District would meet with the Hidden Valley HOA. She stated the District had contacted the Sun Valley General Improvement District and they strategized about doing community outreach in Sun Valley; she hoped that would happen in the following month. She said the District had done three community outreaches at schools since January 2019. She mentioned Girl Scouts toured Station 33 the previous week and they had a fun time with firefighters and prevention staff who were present.

Deputy Chief Beaver indicated the District had issued 894 burn permits since March 1, 2019 and there was still a 1.5 inch thick stack of applications that needed to be issued. She said the District was working closely with the Air Quality Management

Division regarding permits in the hydro basin. The District also met with North Lake Tahoe and the City of Sparks. She stated those other agencies were conducting 100 percent inspection on their permits. She informed the Board that the District would require 1 or 1.5 full time positions to perform a 100 percent inspection on the 894 burn permits that were issued. She said it was also an issue of education and she wanted to do more outreach and education about burning.

Deputy Chief Beaver reviewed the report of ash cans issued since January 1, 2019. She said she wanted incorporate the topic of ash cans in HOA meetings to help increase the number of cans distributed. In response to a question previously posed by Commissioner Jung regarding the cost of ash cans given to the Cities of Sparks and Reno, Deputy Chief Beaver said each can cost about \$15 and the emblem cost \$2, for a total of \$17 per can. The total cost for the 22 cans issued to date was \$374.

Commissioner Lucey expressed approval of the community outreach. He said some schools in his district had expressed interest in meeting with District staff and having firefighters talk to kids about fire prevention, fire alarms, and similar topics. He asked whether Deputy Chief Beaver would be the point of contact for arranging those meetings. Deputy Chief Beaver replied that she was. Commissioner Lucey requested Deputy Chief Beaver work with County staff to arrange for the District to attend Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meetings. He thought discussions about home protection were important for development and they were relevant for CAB meetings. Deputy Chief Beaver agreed and said any opportunity to appear before the public was important.

TMFPD Deputy Chief Scott Gorgon informed the Board the new water tenders the District had would go into service at the end of the month. He said the two Type 1 engines from Wisconsin were expected to be received by the middle of April and go into service by the end of April. He indicated the staff report included the January 2019 and February 2019 statistics on service calls and there was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

Commissioner Herman asked where the new engines would be placed. Deputy Chief Gorgon replied one water tender would go to Station 32, which was on East Lake Boulevard, and the other to the Mogul Station in Verdi. He said those water tenders would be moved to other locations in the community.

19-040F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Discussion and possible Direction regarding an update the District's Standards of Cover (Deployment Plan). (All Commission Districts).

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore noted the time and asked whether the Board wanted to postpone Agenda Item 9. In the interest of time, Chair Hartung agreed.

19-041F **AGENDA ITEM 11** 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. (All Commission Districts).

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore postponed this item in the interest of time.

19-042F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Possible Closed Session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.

Chair Hartung asked Deputy District Attorney David Watts-Vial whether the Board would go into recess and reconvene in the Caucus Room for the closed session. Mr. Watts-Vial responded that was correct but it needed to be done by motion.

10:00 a.m. On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that the meeting recess to a closed session for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.

19-043F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Jung indicated she needed to meet with Fire Chief Charles Moore to review the budget. She requested information about what Chief Moore planned to do with the fuels management position which had not been filled. She wanted a history of how the money had been used. She asked whether the health insurance provided for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District employees included treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and to what extent it was covered.

19-044F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Public Comment.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar gave the Board formal notice she would be burning year round in a pit. She said the pit was approximately 10 to 15 feet wide, 5 feet deep, and there were water hydrants on two sides of it. She had no vegetation growing around the pit. She stated she was doing it for her fire protection. She offered to put the notice in writing and provided her address.

Mr. Sam Dehne spoke about Reno media, his flight experience, Burning Man, the local Air National Guard, and the Tesla Gigafactory.

10:06 a.m. **The Board recessed**

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12:45 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared By:
Carolina Stickle, Deputy County Clerk*