

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

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m.

JULY 16, 2019

PRESENT:

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

Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
Nathan Edwards, Deputy District Attorney

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:

19-111F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Mr. Ken Prentice spoke about shooting range hours of operation in Washoe County. He expressed concern about fire dangers and the lack of safe places to shoot. He thought range fees could be imposed to offset costs to keep them open during high fire season and said costs would be significantly less than fighting fires caused by unsafe shooting.

19-112F AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated a representative from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was present and would speak about fires during the Chief's report. He indicated fire restrictions were in place on BLM land.

Chair Hartung thanked Chief Moore and firefighters from both the TMFPD and neighboring agencies for the constant communication during recent fire events. He requested an agenda item to discuss a countywide evacuation plan. He mentioned people were using drones to capture fire footage and wanted them to be fined if videos were uploaded online. He expressed concern about drones endangering the lives of aerial firefighting equipment operators.

Commissioner Herman spoke about a fire that was started from unsafe shooting. She expressed concern about the lack of safe places to shoot and noted signs were still not installed on Peavine Mountain for shooting areas. She said Palomino Valley

had a shooting range but it was not open regularly. She hoped something could be done to resolve this issue because people had the right to use their guns. She mentioned enforcement professionals needed safe places to practice shooting.

Chair Hartung said he realized the Fire Board did not have purview over shooting ranges and said it should be addressed at a Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Jung expressed concern about the lack of access to shooting ranges. She wondered about the County's responsibility to allow shooting on red flag warning days and thought all activities that could contribute to potential fires should be restricted. She mentioned fire dangers were not just seasonal. She suggested shooting range issues needed to be addressed with the Regional Parks and Open Spaces department, but wondered where the money to operate the ranges would come from since their budget had been reduced.

Speaking about flood evacuation, Commissioner Jung thought the Reno Fire Department had a plan in place for city residents and wanted the County to create a plan for its residents. She said signage needed to be placed where residents could easily access the evacuation plan.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 5A THROUGH 5C

19-113F **5A** Recommendation to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2019 Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's Board of Fire Commissioners meeting. (All Commissioners Districts.)

19-114F **5B** Recommendation to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Washoe County---on behalf of the Washoe County Planning & Building Division---and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) to clarify the authority, roles, procedures, timelines and approval protocols, as well as remove any unnecessary overlap in services between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Washoe County Building Program, specifically related to Washoe County's Building Permits that are issued through the Washoe County Building Program, within the Planning and Building Division of the Community Services Department; This MOU does not include TMFPD's Fire Permits which are submitted directly to and managed by TMFPD, and if approved will be effective upon approval and continuing until terminated. (All Commission Districts.)

19-115F **5C** Recommendation to approve a Notice of Cancellation for the regularly scheduled meeting on August 20, 2019 of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Vice Chair Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5C be approved.

19-116F **AGENDA ITEM 6** International Association of Firefighters, Local 2487 Report.

International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 2487 President Ian Satterfield provided an overview of the accomplishments of the peer support team. He stated more than a month had passed since the District lost Firefighter Tyler Ewald. He explained the peer support team was in its infancy stage and faced many challenges along with successes during this difficult time. He said a local liaison was with Firefighter Ewald's family for support at the hospital at all times. In addition, the Reno Fire Department Local 731 peer support team was stationed at the hospital to assist District staff members. He stated the new Fire Chaplain Misty Reid was incredibly impactful to the families and staff involved. As the process went on, it was realized the impact was bigger than the local group could handle and the IAFF brought in a team to help. He said a member from Los Angeles County and a member from the IAFF evaluated the situation and were surprised how impactful this was to the region, not just to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD). From the evaluation, the IAFF determined additional peer supporters were needed and brought in four more who developed a local plan. Over the four days the peer support teams were in town, they visited each TMFPD station on every shift, reached out to the Sparks Fire Department, the Carson City Fire Department, the Reno Airport Authority, and the Reno Fire Department, touching 136 people's lives. He thanked the Local 731 and Local 2487 peer support teams for their help. The Airport Authority allowed them to use an area at the airport as a command post. He said many people in the community came together and the local team learned a significant amount in a short time. He thought they would be stronger in the future.

Fire Captain Derek Reid explained losing Firefighter Ewald was a huge experience that no one anticipated or knew how much work would be involved. He said plans were in place for an incident such as this, but much of it was reactionary. The team adjusted to situations that arose and many things needed special attention. He stated the follow-up was the most important part of this situation. He said this incident would change the TMFPD forever. A strategic behavioral action plan was needed for the District for current and future members and their families. The action plan would include a behavioral health wellness program which would integrate with the current wellness program. He highlighted some of the items needed to accomplish the new program, including but not limited to: a peer support team; additional chaplains; a clinician to oversee the program; a restructuring of the employee assistance program; and worker's compensation and risk management plans. He stated the peer support team was already in place but needed improvement, two chaplains were onboard but not yet certified, and the introduction of an Apple app, TMFPD Mobile, would be released soon to provide tips

and resources. He said the TMFPD Facebook peer support page brought continuing awareness and had amazing interaction and engagement.

Captain Reid said his future vision was to lead a regionalized peer support team. The TMFPD and the Reno Fire Department were the only peer support teams in the area and he thought all agencies needed access to peer support resources. In legislation, Assembly Bill 429 passed, which required that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) training be administered by agencies; he said the District was already working on that. He indicated classes were scheduled for July 24 and 26 in which a clinician would teach suicide awareness and resiliency training within the fire service. He mentioned he saw the training before the loss of Firefighter Ewald and it was remarkable. He noted a resilience training would be taught for firefighters' wives on August 3 by a well-known clinician. A crisis response training was scheduled for August and emotional resilience training would be held in October. He stated Ben Vernon was scheduled to be the keynote speaker at a local conference, but he cancelled the conference due to the death of Firefighter Ewald. He noted Mr. Vernon had been stabbed on duty, which resulted in him having PTSD, and he had attempted suicide. Mr. Vernon stayed in Reno and was a peer supporter for the members. Captain Reid stated one of the largest wellness conferences was scheduled for November and the District had money in the budget to send some of the peer support team members.

Commissioner Jung thanked Captain Reid for the job he did with the peer support team and thought it was critical for the region. She strongly recommended he reach out not only to fire agencies but also to law enforcement and dispatch agencies. She thought dispatch had a difficult time providing comfort and care over the phone without having a resolution to any incident. She expressed condolences for the loss of their firefighter brother and said it left a huge impact on all that knew him. She looked forward to seeing a presentation about what they learned at the upcoming training. She indicated PTSD was not taught at any conference she attended as a community leader and no one knew what triggered an individual into a downward spiral. She wanted more preventative measures taken.

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

19-117F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Fire Chief Report.

A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of June and July 2019 to include the following items:

1. Gerlach Fire update
2. Recent large incident response summary
3. Retirement Announcement - Maureen O'Brien
4. Deputy Chief position status
5. Discussion on proposed Open Burning regulation changes

B. Review of Response Statistics for June 2019 to include Mutual and Auto aid for our regional partners.

Chief Deputy County Clerk Jan Galassini distributed documents to the Board and placed them on file.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said the District had taken over direct management of Gerlach fire department from the County as of July 1, though the financial responsibility and budget would still be managed by the County. He noted the strategy was to get through the Burning Man event and said more intermittent firefighters needed to be hired. He explained 50 percent of Gerlach's calls happened the week before and the week after Burning Man.

Chief Moore stated the District responded to 28 fires in the 48 hours following the July 4th holiday, which was an extraordinary amount. He thanked the regional partners, the Reno Fire Department, the Sparks Fire Department, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Carson City Fire Department, who all helped manage the heavy call load.

Interim Deputy Chief Alex Kukulus stated multiple fires occurred in the area recently and he thought the Jasper Fire would be fully contained before the end of the day. He mentioned fires located in the Wadsworth and Lemmon Valley areas resulted in the loss of structures. He indicated large fire events required many firefighters so the District relied on the help of other agencies. He conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Jasper Fire; Location; Current Fire Statistics; Perimeter Map; Structures Saved & Lost (3 slides); Chimney Rd. Hazards; Shooting Areas; BLM Fire Restrictions; and Questions.

Interim Deputy Chief Kukulus indicated 500 homes and multiple schools were threatened and said it was fortunate that only three structures were lost during the 1,165-acre Jasper Fire. The property owner was grateful the buildings that burned were not the primary residence. Interim Deputy Chief Kukulus stated two individuals had been arrested for gross negligence related to starting the fire. He said the District applied for fire management assistance grants through the federal government, which would cover a large portion of firefighting costs. He said the costs as of the previous night were \$740,000 but would be higher once full containment was reached. He explained the fire was fought by air and ground support, and he asserted the team did a great job stopping the fire before it reached homes in the Dolores Drive area. He stated Chimney Road was a concern because approximately 50 vehicles were parked on the open land. He said some vehicles were used as encampments but the majority of the vehicles were abandoned. He noted the District was working to identify vehicles that were occupied and tag the abandoned vehicles for removal. He stated a map would be created to identify occupied vehicles to protect those people if future fires occurred in the area. He mentioned cheatgrass was a danger they referred to as "grassoline" because it burned quickly like gasoline. Shooting in an area that contained any rocks or cheatgrass could easily create a fire like the Jasper Fire.

Jonathan Palma, Acting Fire Management Officer for the Carson City branch of the BLM, continued the PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the slide titled BLM Fire Restrictions. He said he was often asked questions related to fire restriction enforcement. He mentioned scientific calculations were considered when imposing restrictions and noted the peak summer season began when there were multiple days at 80 degrees or above; this was when fires started to get bigger. He stated the previous week started the peak summer trend and explained that fuel moistures in sagebrush played an important role in fire dangers and restrictions. He indicated restrictions were put into place on July 13, the same day the Jasper and Black Mountain 2 Fires were started. He said they did not want to restrict people from shooting but restrictions about what and where they could shoot needed to be placed to help prevent fires.

Chair Hartung wondered how people knew about the restrictions. Mr. Palma stated the BLM provided a press release and made social media posts. He stated the District helped get the information out to the public. He explained a prevention program included posting signs at the entrances of public areas. He thought information about shooting and the proper type of ammunition could be presented to the public to reduce fire risk.

Chair Hartung questioned what type of ammunition the shooters used that sparked the Jasper Fire. Mr. Palma indicated he did not know yet what was used. Interim Deputy Chief Kukulus stated it was still an active investigation though the shooters were charged for gross negligence for starting the fire. Mr. Palma said they needed the public's help because enforcement of such a large area was difficult.

Citing the PowerPoint slide titled Chimney Rd. Hazards, Mr. Palma said abandoned vehicles were an issue in that area. He explained the BLM did not have a vast law enforcement group and Chimney Road was a hard place to enforce. He noted multiple spots like Chimney Road existed and were challenging.

Vice Chair Lucey thanked Interim Deputy Chief Kukulus and Mr. Palma for the presentation. He thought enforcement of large open areas was a huge challenge. He suggested providing information about restrictions to retailers that sold guns and ammunition, such as Scheels, Cabela's, and Sportsman's Warehouse. Mr. Palma stated a BLM team had special targets imprinted with guidelines and restrictions; these targets were available in the stores Vice Chair Lucey mentioned to raise awareness.

Vice Chair Lucey spoke about encampments that were appearing off the highway in remote areas, and said people were smoking, cooking, and making campfires on BLM land. He thought encampments were more of a fire danger than people shooting. He expressed concern about only having one ranger to enforce laws for 5 million acres of open land. He wondered what would happen if people in encampments were negligent and started fires where they were living. He thought other agencies could help to control encampments because they could be more than just a fire issue.

Commissioner Jung questioned whether encampments were permitted on BLM land and, if so, what the maximum length of stay was. Mr. Palma indicated people could camp on BLM land for 14 days, then were required to disperse.

Commissioner Jung said there were not enough sheriffs or BLM enforcement staff for the amount of open land. She thought educating people was a good idea but was not sure how to educate everyone. She expressed concern about the potential for people in encampments to start wildland fires by accident. She wondered whether it was the responsibility of the shooters to pick up their casings. Mr. Palma stated the shooters should be removing the casings from the area when done shooting. Commissioner Jung thought more enforcement was needed in many different areas. She wanted to see fines imposed for people not picking up after themselves. She asked for a report regarding enforcement of encampments overstaying the 14 day maximum and how the District dealt with these situations on red flag warning days.

Chief Moore stated he could provide a tour of the areas of concern to any interested Board members. He referred to a perimeter map, a copy of which was provided and placed on file with the Clerk, and said the continuity of fuels could have carried the fire much further but fire crews were able to contain it to a smaller area.

Deputy District Attorney Nathan Edwards cautioned Chief Moore about taking the Board on a tour as it could assemble them in a quorum, for which an agenda would need to be created and posted according to Open Meeting Law.

Commissioner Berkbigler wondered about people being held accountable for cleaning up a shooting area before leaving. She said people that purchased ammunition should be provided with a target that included shooting information and a map, and she wondered whether those targets had instructions to pick up casings after shooting. She did not know how that would be enforced unless there was more law enforcement personnel to patrol the areas. Mr. Palma did not have all the information printed on the target memorized, but recalled there was information about a trick or trash campaign on the target when it was developed three years ago. He explained public outreach was helpful in the community and volunteers gathered to clean littered areas.

Chair Hartung wondered about the value of the brass in shell casings and if it was worth it for the County to collect them.

Chief Moore announced that Maureen O'Brien was retiring after seven years with the District. He wished her a happy retirement and invited the Board and staff to a small gathering on July 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the District's office.

Chief Moore mentioned that Commissioner Berkbigler had asked about the status of the Deputy Chief position; a proposal for Alex Kukulus to be appointed would be heard in the next item. Chief Moore stated the Fire Marshal and Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention positions were frozen for 6 months due to budgetary reasons. He said the Deputy Chief for Fire Prevention position could be filled later in the year.

Chief Moore stated the Washoe County Health District held open burning regulation meetings at District stations and said the public provided good input regarding the regulations. He explained open burning would be allowed on 2-acre parcels without a permit and parcels less than 2 acres would require a permit. He was focused on the regulations being released in November or December.

Chief Moore stated the statistics were in the staff report and he would answer any related questions.

Commissioner Jung asked about the difference between automatic aid and enhanced automatic aid. Chief Moore explained automatic aid consisted of predefined schedules for when the District would automatically respond to other agencies' calls and when other agencies would respond to District calls. An enhanced automatic aid agreement was in place with the City of Sparks. He explained the protocol for that enhanced automatic aid agreement was different because the report was written by the responding agency and they would own the documentation. Automatic aid involved multiple resources dispatched to a call and the report would come from the originating agency. Commissioner Jung inquired about other enhanced automatic aid agreements. Chief Moore stated the City of Sparks was currently the only agency with the enhanced agreement but he was working with the City of Reno to consider the option.

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

19-118F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to un-freeze and reclassify the position of Deputy Chief of Operations to an unclassified appointed position titled Deputy Fire Chief and retroactively approve a 2 year Employment Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Alex Kukulus including, but not limited to salary (\$170,144), Comp and Sick Leave buyout totaling approximately (\$51,497.20) and benefits for the unclassified appointed position of Fire Deputy Chief effective July 1, 2019. (All Commission Districts.)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore summarized the item and stated he was confident in the appointment of Alex Kukulus to the position of Deputy Fire Chief.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Alex Kukulus be appointed to Deputy Fire Chief.

19-119F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation that the Board of Fire Commissioners ratify Fiscal Year 19/20 reimbursements from the Washoe County, Nevada Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the cost of retiree health insurance premiums in the amount of \$216,388. This Trust was established to provide a funding source for current and future retiree health costs; Monies transferred from this trust will be placed into the District's General Fund. (All Commission Districts.)

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

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be ratified.

19-120F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve the purchase of one former demo ambulance for enhanced surge capacity and medical standby needs from Braun NW Inc. in the amount of \$137,659 using the purchasing provision under NRS 332.146 (4) (5) allowing the District to purchase supplies, materials or equipment left after an exhibition, or other similar sale, at a reasonable savings (of approximately \$11,000) over the cost of like merchandise and below the market cost in the community, and if approved, approve and execute a resolution augmenting the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Capital Fund Capital Outlay Account from the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Capital Fund Beginning Fund Balance in the amount of \$200,000. (All Commission Districts.)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore said one ambulance was staged at Bowers Mansion and he wanted another standby ambulance for the north, possibly in Sun Valley. He said he spoke with Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) President Dean Dow about the desires of the District and he believed they were supportive. He said REMSA was occasionally busy and the standby ambulance could respond when REMSA was not able.

Chair Hartung said he had no issue purchasing an ambulance but wondered whether the District would be reimbursed for the calls. Deputy Fire Chief Alex Kukulius stated the District was not currently collecting money from insurance, but as it had been identified as possible revenue, they were pursuing the process.

Chair Hartung wondered whether REMSA was participating in the purchase of the ambulance. Chief Moore stated they were not assisting.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a vote of 3-2 with Chair Hartung and Commissioner Jung voting “no”, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved. The Resolution pertinent to Agenda Item 10 is attached hereto and made part of the minutes thereof.

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Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore stated Agenda Items 11 and 12 would be continued to a future meeting.

19-121F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Presentation on District and Union proposals offered during labor negotiations. This item is intended only to introduce proposals and costs associated with those proposals, seek clarification (if needed) and take public comment on new proposals received from the Non-Supervisory Unit of IAFF Local 2487 proposals for:
-Changes to the medical plan by requiring a High Deductible Plan with an HSA and a PPO Option with defined deductibles for the PPO, an HSA deposit of 75% of deductible at beginning of plan year, and defining the process for assigning Training Captain
-District counter offer for a .5% COLA July 1, 2019 (pursuant to the CBA, the District absorbs full increase of 2% to PERS); 2% July 1, 2020; Re-opener salary only 2021; \$1,000 per year for employees with a bachelor’s degree in fire science or management; Wet Team incentive pay of 3% for 24 employees total; cap number of employees receiving HazMat incentive pay at 24; for a total estimated additional cost of \$171,377.

AND

A package proposal received by the Supervisory Unit of IAFF Local 2487 for:
-A 5% COLA July 1, 2019; 3% July 1, 2020; 3% July 1, 2021
-Additional incentive pays:
3% Division Supervisor Pay
3% Type III IC Fire
1.5% Fire Officer III
1.5% Associate’s Degree
3% Bachelor’s Degree
Cap on all Incentive Pays of 12%
-Longevity Increase to .5% of base per year of District Seniority, cap of \$15,000
-Sick leave payout to PEHP (Post Employment Health Plan) at retirement:
25 years - 100%
24 years - 95%
23 years - 90%
22 years - 85%
21 years - 80%

20 years - 75%
-\$2500 per employee to a PEHP
For a total Estimated cost of all Supervisory Unit increases - \$654,465
There will be no discussion on this item. (All Commission Districts.)

Director of Human Resources/Labor Relations Patricia Hurley indicated meetings occurred between union representatives and Human Resources and she thought progress was being made related to the collective bargaining agreement. Areas of progress included cost of living adjustments (COLAs), supervisory incentives matching non-supervisory staff, and retirement health. She said education incentives, sick time payout, specialty pays, and minimum constant staffing of non-supervisory employees were still being discussed. She noted a meeting to continue negotiations was scheduled for July 22.

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

19-122F **AGENDA ITEM 14** 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 Chief Charles Moore stated a closed session was needed.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that the meeting recess to a closed session after Agenda Items 15 and 16 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations pursuant to the language of Agenda Item 14.

19-123F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Announcements/Reports.

Chair Hartung wondered whether a process was in place to relay information about disaster and evacuation planning to the public. He mentioned the importance of creating a homebound resident registry to ensure those residents were personally notified in an emergency.

19-124F **AGENDA ITEM 16** Public Comment.

Mr. Sam Dehne spoke about the media, the Tesla Gigafactory, road rage, the Burning Man event, the Wild Creek High School, and the Washoe County School District.

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

10:19 a.m. **The Board recessed to closed session.**

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12:04 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:
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk*