

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

TUESDAY

8:30 A.M.

JANUARY 21, 2020

PRESENT:

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

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
Nathan Edwards, Deputy District Attorney

The Board convened at 8:32 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:

20-003F **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

20-004F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore requested Agenda Item 11 be taken out of order as it was time-sensitive and should not take long for the Board to consider. Chair Lucey said Agenda Item 11 would be heard prior to Agenda Item 9.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A through 5F

20-005F **5A** Recommendation to acknowledge and approve the re-drafted minutes for the regular meeting of November 19, 2019. (All Commission Districts)

20-006F **5B** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the December 17, 2019 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting. (All Commission Districts)

20-007F **5C** Recommendation to approve an equipment lease agreement for one Type I Structural fire engine from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to the City of Reno Fire Department, to assist in augmenting their current fleet for a base amount of \$3,000 a month. (All Commission Districts)

- 20-008F** **5D** Recommendation to approve a lease agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Verdi History Preservation Society, Inc., a Nevada non-profit corporation for the Districts continued use of the Verdi Fire Station Apparatus Facility, located at 165 Bridge Street for a term of sixty (60) months and a rent of \$100 per month beginning in Fiscal Year 2021 plus applicable utility use commencing January 21, 2020; and if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute the lease agreement. (Commission Districts 5)
- 20-009F** **5E** Recommendation to approve an Employment Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Loren D. Way including, but not limited to salary (\$170,1185.60) and benefits for the position of Fire Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention effective February 3, 2020 terminating on December 31, 2023. (All Commission Districts)
- 20-010F** **5F** Recommendation to approve and create two separate grant funded positions, provisional job classifications and salary ranges for a Squad Boss at \$52,603.20 - \$67,974.40 with Regular Nevada Public Employees' Retirement System (NV PERS) categorization and for a Crew Member with a range of \$40,768.00 - \$52,915.20 with Regular NV PERS categorization, and to authorize staff to submit to NV PERS for evaluation for possible approval of Police Fire NV PERS categorization, which would result in these employees accumulating retirement credit at a faster rate than under the Regular NV PERS category. A Squad Boss is the supervisor of a squad (a small crew of 3-5 members), and a Crew Member is an entry level person assigned to a crew that conducts the bulk of the work assigned to the crew and works underneath the squad boss, and if approved, hiring is contingent upon securing grant funding. (All Commission Districts)

There was no public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

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

20-011F

AGENDA ITEM 6 Awards, Recognition and Introduction of New Members of Truckee Meadows Fire Protection Personnel.

A. Golden Axe Award - A Fire District's award for a Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District employee who has performed a highly unusual act of distinction under adverse conditions in the performance of duty, performed a credible act in the line of duty which is commendable in nature or displays admirable initiative and accomplishment or has achieved a highly credible accomplishment bringing public acclaim to the Fire District or fire service as a result of devotion to duty or service to the public.

- Captain Shane Akerson
- Engineer Shad Vetrock
- Firefighter Paramedic Chase Perham

B. Medal of Commendation - An award to recognize those who render initial, spontaneous, and valuable aid or assistance at an incident to which the District is responding. Cardiac Save.

- NDF Battalion Chief Joe Fording
- NDF Fire Captain Anthony Seghieri
- NDF Training Coordinator Daniel Rangel
- NDF Seasonal Firefighter Damon Morelli
- NDF Seasonal Firefighter Tyler Huff

C. Heart Saver Award - A Fire District's award for a Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District employee who provided Advanced Life Support for successful resuscitation.

- Captain Noekeef Henry
- Engineer Nick Remington
- FF/PM Slade Romig

D. Letter of Commendation - The District's third highest award for a civilian. The letter may be awarded to any individual who provides services or takes actions that are beyond normal expectations.

- James Vang, AmeriPride Services

E. New Employees

- Simona Parton, Accountant, Payroll and Grants Specialist
- Loren D. Way (Dale), Fire Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore described events which occurred on the evening of January 27, 2019. The crew of Engine 46 responded to a medical emergency call in Spanish Springs where an individual was reported possibly unconscious behind the wheel of a vehicle. Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Sergeant John Hamilton was the first uniformed person to arrive on the scene, followed by the crew of Engine 46. Sergeant Hamilton performed a pat search of the subject and located a concealed firearm, which the sergeant removed so he could handcuff the subject for safety. The subject awakened, became uncooperative, and began

to fight the sergeant. Standing by, the crew members of Engine 46 made sure the firearm was out of the subject's reach and helped restrain him until WCSO deputies arrived on the scene.

Chief Moore thanked Captain Shane Akerson and Engineer Shad Vetrock for their quick actions and presented them with Golden Axe awards. Mr. Akerson and Mr. Vetrock also accepted an award on behalf of Firefighter Paramedic Chase Perham, who was not available to receive it.

Sergeant Hamilton thanked the employees and said the situation might have ended much differently were it not for the actions of the TMFPD staff. The sergeant explained the individual in question was a felon and was high on methamphetamine. Sergeant Hamilton expressed gratitude that the crew of Engine 46 was there to assist him and that the situation ended the way it did.

Chief Moore explained Nevada Department of Forestry (NDF) Fire Management Officer Mike Friend suffered a cardiac arrest on May 29, 2019 while on duty at Washoe State Park. NDF Battalion Chief Joe Fording, Fire Captain Anthony Seghieri, Training Coordinator Daniel Rangel, and Seasonal Firefighters Damon Morelli and Tyler Huff quickly worked together to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation, use a defibrillator, and contact dispatch to initiate an emergency medical service response. Chief Moore presented Medals of Commendation to each crew member and remarked that Mr. Friend might not have had a positive outcome if not for the crew's quick thinking and actions. Mr. Friend expressed appreciation and gratitude for the professionalism and actions of his team members.

Chief Moore also presented Heart Saver Awards to TMFPD Advanced Life Support crew members Captain/Paramedic Noekeef Henry and Engineer/Paramedic Nick Remington, who responded to Mr. Friend's medical emergency along with Firefighter/Paramedic Slade Romig. Chief Moore mentioned Mr. Romig was unable to attend the meeting but would also receive the award. He thanked the staff members for their service to the District and for helping save Mr. Friend's life.

Chief Moore introduced Mr. James Vang of AmeriPride Services, a vendor who provided rag and towel service for TMFPD stations throughout the area. Chief Moore indicated that, not only did Mr. Vang regularly provide excellent customer service to the TMFPD staff as an AmeriPride employee, but he made a considerable effort to bring much-appreciated supplies to TMFPD firefighters on his own personal time as they fought the 2019 Jasper Fire. The Chief thanked Mr. Vang for his kindness and presented Mr. Vang with the Letter of Commendation.

Chief Moore welcomed new employees Simona Parton and Loren Dale Way. Ms. Parton expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve at the TMFPD and stated she looked forward to learning and growing with the District. Mr. Way also thanked the Board and said he looked forward to helping Washoe County and the TMFPD grow.

Chief Moore invited Fire Captain Derek Reid, who had recommended including chaplains as a component of the TMFPD's peer support program, to introduce the next employees. Mr. Reid explained the chaplain positions focused on supporting employees' mental health, wellness, and spiritual needs. He introduced new Chaplains Misty Reid, Julie Vucurevich, and Steve Vucurevich.

Mr. Vucurevich thanked the Chief for allowing him the opportunity to serve. He said the chaplains visited all the TMFPD stations and met staff on all three shifts to establish relationships and provide peer support services. He noted the chaplains were impressed by the District's well-kept stations, excellent equipment, and most of all the crew members. He thanked the Chief and the Board of Fire Commissioners for their leadership and for taking care of staff members by providing peer support resources and hiring Peer Psychologist Steve Nichols.

Chair Lucey expressed appreciation for Washoe County's staff and supportive public, and thanked them for everything they did to help keep the region safe. He believed the TMFPD was starting off the new decade with an excellent staff.

There was no public comment on this item.

20-012F **AGENDA ITEM 7** International Association of Firefighters, Local 2487 Report. A. Annual Guns and Hoses Golf Tournament - April 27, 2020

International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 President Josh Kutz announced the Annual Guns and Hoses Golf Tournament would take place at Lakeridge Golf Course on April 27, 2020, with all proceeds benefitting the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation (NNCCF). He noted an average of 40 children were diagnosed with cancer each year in Northern Nevada, and the NNCCF was the only organization in the area dedicated to supporting these children and their families. He said he hoped to see some of the Commissioners at the event and thanked those who had participated in the past for their support of the cause.

Chair Lucey indicated the annual tournament resulted in a large donation, which provided a great deal of support for children in the region with cancer and their families. He thanked Mr. Kutz for the announcement.

There was no public comment on this item.

20-013F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Fire Chief Report:

A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of December 2019 and January 2020 to include the following items:

1. Open Burning Update
 2. Workers Comp Actuary Audit
 3. Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful Tree Recycling Program Summary
- B. Commissioner Dashboard: Status update on ongoing Commissioner request of the Fire Chief
- C. Review of recent critical calls and Response Statistics for November and December 2019 to include Mutual and Auto Aid between our regional partners.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore mentioned 585 open burning permits had been approved with approximately 55 rejected because of issues with either the size or location of the properties. The Chief said he hoped to allow open burning again in February for about nine days, which would give the public two full weekends to burn.

Chief Moore thanked the City of Reno for assisting with the workers' compensation actuary audit, and he noted CFO Cindy Vance had saved the District approximately \$400,000. He explained the TMFPD had assisted with organization and tree collection for the Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful Christmas tree recycling program, which collected just under 1,500 trees this season, about as many as the previous year.

Commissioners had no questions or comments regarding the dashboard report, so Chief Moore moved on to a review of the District's critical calls and response statistics for November and December 2019. He advised there had recently been four structure fires in three days. He noted structure fires occurred more frequently during the winter but crews had done a great job handling those calls.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be accepted.

20-014F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Authorization for the District to purchase five Type I structural fire engines through Superior Equipment for a total cost of \$3,495,000 in accordance with NRS 332.115, Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding. (All Commission Districts)

Deputy Chief Alex Kukulis explained that, for the past several years, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) adopted an apparatus replacement plan with ten years of front-line service for Type 1 engines and 15 years of service for Type 3 engines. He noted Agenda Item 11 proposed the purchase of five new Type 1 engines, which was a departure from the way things had been done in the past where an average of two new engines were purchased each year to remain on schedule with the replacement

plan. He said staff recommended changing to a bulk 5-year purchase in order to help the District avoid cost increases soon to be implemented by the vendor, and this would also allow the TMFPD to take advantage of a bulk purchase discount of one-half percent. He noted the new engines would be of the same specifications as the two most-recently purchased engines, with four being standard Type 1 engines and one having four-wheel drive for forested areas. Mr. Kukulis advised further purchases should not be needed for approximately five years; however, staff would return in February for approval to purchase the Type 3 apparatus.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Vice Chair Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be authorized.

- 20-015F** **AGENDA ITEM 9** Continuation of discussions from the September 17, 2019 presentation of the Deployment Plan and possible direction to staff regarding the deployment plan that includes new locations of existing and future district fire stations and firefighting personnel including:
1. Possible consolidation of stations 30 (Bowers) and Station 32 (Eastlake) in the Washoe Valley area of the County.
 2. Options for re-deployment of firefighting personnel.
 3. Cost analysis of deployment options and Timeline.
 4. Review of Ad-Valorem revenues.
 5. Review of REMSA response zones.
 6. Review of Wildfire Risk.
 7. Mutual and Automatic Aid improvements with Carson City.
- (All Commission Districts)

Chief Moore conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Deployment Plan; Optimal Deployment (2 slides); Deployment Plan; Current Deployment at Washoe Valley; Resources at Washoe Valley; and Proposed Deployment Plan.

Chief Moore said the purpose of the discussion was to answer questions posed by the Board at the September 17, 2019 Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) meeting: Vice Chair Berkbigler had questions about the financial implications of possible consolidation, and Commissioner Jung had inquired about wildfire risk and possible station locations. The Chief advised his goal was to provide factual and data-driven information for decision-making purposes, as the Board had previously requested staff suggestions on ways to address the imbalance of resources between different areas in Washoe County. Chief Moore pointed out there were six fire stations in the south where approximately 25 percent of calls originated, but only five stations in the north where about 75 percent of calls occurred.

Chief Moore reviewed a timeline illustrating how the District might look in the next several years. He said staff had heard the Regional Transportation Commission had plans to develop a connector between Spanish Springs and Lemmon Valley by 2028. The Chief referenced Lemmon Valley's high response times and indicated a fire station positioned in Lemmon Valley could utilize the connector to respond to Spanish Springs much more quickly than was currently possible from Stead. He suspected growth might continue into 2025, with more development planned by Lifestyle Homes in Silver Lake. He said he had also seen some development plans for Lemmon Valley, and staff might have a better idea in a year or so whether those plans would move forward. Chief Moore noted the only station to protect those two communities was in Stead, and it had no direct route to either area; this led to response times as long as 15 to 20 minutes, which was outside the standards of cover (SOC) approved by the Board in 2011. He explained the SOC was the document which gave fire chiefs guidance on where to locate fire stations based on population, land use, response times, gaps in coverage, and areas with an abundance of resources. The intent of the deployment plan was to distribute resources more evenly throughout the County.

Most of the growth in the future was expected to occur in the northern parts of the District, Chief Moore continued, as evidenced by the draft growth projection report prepared by Ekay Economic Consultants, Inc., which had been included in the Board's packets. He expressed concern that the disparity between call volumes in the north and the south would only worsen if not addressed, so the challenge was to even out response times for a majority of citizens and bring service levels into compliance with the SOC. He also noted SOC compliance was currently at 87 percent but could be increased to between 90 and 92.7 percent with the implementation of career stations at Silver Lake and Lemmon Valley.

Chief Moore stated Bowers Station 30 in Washoe Valley had been built in 1950 and was in very poor condition, and the modular building for Station 32 at Eastlake Boulevard was also beginning to show its age. The stations each had three shifts with three firefighters per shift, for a total deployment of 18 firefighters covering Washoe Valley at a combined cost of \$3.6 million per year. He noted these figures included salaries, benefits, overtime, vacations, services and supplies, and engine depreciation, but did not include capital. The Chief said revenue generated from that area including Pleasant Valley was only \$1.6 million, which was not enough to pay for one station, let alone two; Lemmon Valley and Silver Lake also did not generate enough assessed value to pay for their stations. He reiterated the response times to Lemmon Valley and Silver Lake were very long, and the goal was to even out those times.

If stations in Washoe Valley were consolidated, Chief Moore stated, staffing would change from 18 firefighters and three per shift at two different stations to 12 firefighters and four per shift at one station. He mentioned the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) had committed to establishing a paramedic ambulance at the proposed consolidated station. With REMSA currently based at Wedge Parkway, he estimated response times to Washoe Valley were between 12 and 15 minutes, provided REMSA was not already deployed to another area. He said the Washoe County

Sheriff's Office (WCSO) had also expressed interest in establishing a substation in Washoe Valley, and there had been discussion of possibly converting the Bowers fire station for use by the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), the United States Forest Service (USFS), or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He indicated resources would likely remain at the Bowers station if the building were used to house wildland fire crews. He continued that the Eastlake station could also be converted to house a fuels crew or an expanded volunteer station.

Chief Moore acknowledged the consolidation would eliminate one station in Washoe Valley, but at the same time many appropriate resources could be added to the area. Most importantly, he said, the consolidation would free up six firefighters who could be redeployed to other areas where they were greatly needed. In the three to five years between occupation of the new consolidated station in Washoe Valley and when it became necessary to staff Silver Lake and Lemmon valley, two firefighters could form a mobile squad that could move between Sun Valley and Spanish Springs, giving one of those stations a total of five firefighters when they were there. This would not cost the District anything. When Lemmon Valley was eventually staffed, he continued, the crew in Stead would move to Silver Lake, the mobile 2-person crew would move to Lemmon Valley, and the TMFPD would only need to hire three more firefighters.

Chief Moore stressed the District would save \$1.2 million per year, whereas maintaining the status quo and staffing a new station in Lemmon Valley would cost an additional \$1.8 million. He advised \$1.2 million would be a significant savings and could help the District purchase a new ladder truck every year if needed, or an engine, a tender, or additional employees. He opined the TMFPD would still be able to maintain a high level of service in Washoe Valley after consolidation, and it would enhance automatic and mutual aid relationships with the Carson City Fire Department (CCFD), as well as adding new software components to speed up the dispatch process. He explained the TMFPD would also assist the CCFD as needed. For example, when the CCFD experienced a large structure fire, they typically emptied out their stations and then needed assistance with coverage, which the TMFPD would provide. In such scenarios, the Chief noted, the TMFPD could still maintain coverage in Washoe Valley by bringing a crew down from the Galena station.

Chief Moore acknowledged wildfire risk was high both in the Silver Lake and Lemmon Valley areas as well as in Washoe Valley, but the District had seen many more wildland fires in the north. He understood the Little Valley Fire was likely on the minds of many residents, but he implored the audience to remember that fire was driven by 80 mile-per-hour winds. He reminded citizens of the Caughlin Ranch and Washoe Drive Fires, the Santa Rosa and Paradise Fires in California, and the wildfires in Australia. In cases where fires were driven continuously by strong winds, he said, it made little difference whether the area had one fire station or three, because these types of fires were so difficult to stop. Such events required a large regional effort with crews called in from every available area, such as Reno, Sparks, Carson City, the NDF, the USFS, and the BLM. Ultimately, Chief Moore concluded that day-to-day calls in Washoe Valley would be better served under the proposed consolidation, with the crew size at the fire station increasing

from three to four; the addition of REMSA would make it a crew of six. He noted WCSO staff would also be present in the area on occasion, and he reminded the Board that consolidation would provide some options for growth in the future.

Chair Lucey thanked Chief Moore for his presentation. The Chair noted he had received many emails from individuals throughout his district, specifically Washoe Valley, regarding the proposed consolidation. He said he had heard constituents' concerns and the Board would try to address them.

Commissioner Hartung wanted to know how Washoe Valley came to have two stations in the first place, explaining that Spanish Springs had only had one fire station despite experiencing huge growth and being home to elder-care facilities which were a huge driver of calls. He noted his own elderly parents had required the services of the Sparks Fire Department (SFD) and he felt blessed that the SFD had been there to help them.

Chief Moore explained that, prior to 2012, there were two fire districts, with the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) on the west side of Washoe Valley and the TMFPD on the east side. He said the Sierra station had arisen from what was formerly the NDF forest fire district, which became the SFPD after time. This did not really happen by design but was simply the political reality of having two different districts who each served half of the valley. The Chief continued by saying that the TMFPD absorbed both stations when it merged with the SFPD in 2014. He also indicated the Diamante Study had concluded two fire stations might no longer be necessary in Washoe Valley when Interstate 580 was completed.

Commissioner Hartung asked whether there were currently enough rescue vehicles in the region. He recalled Chief Moore had mentioned potentially moving one firefighter to Spanish Springs to make a five-person crew there, and Commissioner Hartung wanted to know if this meant there would be a rescue in Spanish Springs as well as possibly adding a rescue in Sun Valley. He reminded the audience these were the two busiest stations in the region.

Chief Moore responded affirmatively, but clarified rescues typically involved an ambulance while squads used different vehicles with rescue capabilities but no firefighting capability. A squad could be staffed with two crew members and was highly mobile, he continued, and a lot faster than fire engines. He noted it could respond quickly wherever it was needed and could both supplement during structure fires and handle emergency medical services (EMS) calls. This would also help the District avoid sending out larger, more expensive engines which cost \$5 per mile to operate. Commissioner Hartung indicated there was a definite need for more resources, especially in Spanish Springs with the Cascades of the Sierra elder care facility and a recently-approved Continuum of Care facility.

Commissioner Hartung inquired as to the role of the Galena fire station in responding to Washoe Valley. Chief Moore answered the Galena station would play a large role in Washoe Valley as crews could reach the area in just 4 or 5 minutes by traveling to

the valley through Saint James Village. He estimated both the CCFD and crews from Station 33 at Foothill Road would have response times of about 10 to 12 minutes each. He acknowledged Washoe Valley residents had always enjoyed faster response times than many other areas in the District, but the consolidation plan would still allow for an effective firefighting force to assemble in the area in very short order, with four engines and a full crew to combat a structure fire.

Commissioner Hartung asked about accommodations for REMSA crews. Chief Moore answered that would need to be discussed further, but he anticipated REMSA would complement TMFPD crews, interact with them in the consolidated station, and possibly have their own truck bay and fuel station. The Chief thought this would help increase the camaraderie between REMSA and TMFPD crews, which had developed over the past few years.

Commissioner Herman thanked staff for the thorough review, saying they provided a lot of detailed information in response to the Board's request for solutions to improve service in the North Valleys. Chief Moore thought it was important for the Board to consider how much consolidation would do for the other areas of the County that were in need; it was not about taking away a resource, but evening the service levels for all constituents in as fair and cost-neutral a manner as possible. The alternative, he said, would mean spending another \$3.6 to \$4 million on staffing costs, not including capital costs. He also mentioned a developer in Silver Lake had offered a capital contribution and Apple was expected to contribute a station on Interstate 80, so the only station left in need of improvement would be Lemmon Valley. He indicated there simply were not millions of dollars in capital available for the improvements needed in the north, and the Bowers station was overdue for replacement. The Chief said the cost would be about the same for the Bowers station to be replaced either on its own or with a consolidated station.

Chair Lucey agreed the monthly Chief's Reports clearly showed an imbalance of 20-30 percent of calls occurring in the south and 70-80 percent of calls in the north. He asked how often crews from Washoe Valley's Bowers or Eastlake stations were called to other parts of the County to assist the northern battalion or backfill other areas. Chief Moore stated fires in the north often involved extended operational periods lasting two or more hours, unlike EMS calls, which often concluded soon after a patient was loaded into an ambulance. Structure fires, for example, usually lasted about two to three hours, but a brushfire could last days, requiring most of the District's engines and resources and even mutual aid from the Reno or Sparks Fire Departments. In these scenarios, the Chief said, committing most engines to fires in the north left other parts of the County exposed, so crews from the south were called up to provide coverage.

Chair Lucey wanted to know how often this occurred. Chief Moore did not have exact figures available but estimated 80 percent of structure fires and 95 percent of wildland fires occurred in the north, if not more. He guessed there might be between 150 and 200 calls per year that required crews from the south to provide coverage in the north.

Chair Lucey indicated many constituent complaints in Washoe Valley involved concerns that the proposed consolidation would diminish services and increase response times in the area. He noted most calls, as many as 70 percent, were for EMS response, and he asked if the consolidation could result in dramatically increased response times or have an impact on lifesaving ability. Chief Moore expressed understanding of constituents' concerns. He knew help was needed as quickly as possible when responding to calls about chest pain or symptoms of a stroke. First responders dealt with matters of life and death every day and were sensitive to these issues, and he agreed every minute counted. Chief Moore opined responders would still be available to constituents in Washoe Valley within a reasonable time to assess, diagnose, and transport them, and having REMSA crews stationed in Washoe Valley would actually be a huge increase in the level of EMS response available to residents. He admitted there were some areas under the proposed consolidation plan which would see increased response times, but at the same time there were also areas which would see improvements in response times. He noted there should be no degradation of response times for individuals injured in car crashes on Interstate 580 in Washoe Valley, which constituted about half of the EMS calls received in the area.

Chair Lucey discussed coverage and response from the Eastlake station to Pleasant Valley and even to the Toll Road area. He asked whether the volunteer fire stations at Bellevue Road and Lakeshore Drive played a role in community EMS response. Chief Moore responded volunteers played a large role in wildland fires but admitted the challenges of structural firefighting required more training. Nonetheless, he said, volunteers could assist with water tenders, provide air and light support, and help with breathing apparatus during structure fires; volunteers were in no small way a supplement to the operations in Washoe Valley.

Chair Lucey asked REMSA President and Chief Executive Officer Dean Dow to come to the podium. He wanted to know if Mr. Dow agreed about the potential benefit of a partnership between the TMFPD and REMSA. Mr. Dow said REMSA had done analysis within their leadership group and determined such a partnership would enhance both organizations' abilities to serve the community. He believed coverage would be fine even if they moved their assets from Wedge Parkway and Mount Rose further south. He spoke about a prior strategic plan which accounted for three 24-hour stations as well as enhancing their system with single-resource paramedic units; they were currently in the test phase of that project. Additionally, they were focusing on their emergency medical dispatch process utilizing a special 24-hour support line for lower-priority calls.

Chair Lucey asked whether a helicopter pad located at the consolidated station in Washoe Valley might be a benefit to the community, and Mr. Dow replied a helipad would be a definite enhancement to care flight services in the region.

Chief Moore remarked the Board's decision would set the groundwork for how the District could respond to incidents in the future. He reiterated it was not simply closing or consolidating stations but providing a plan for the next 5 to 10 years. He opined the proposed consolidation plans would position the District to solve inequities in dispatch, provide Lemmon Valley and Silver Lake with better response times, and improve services

throughout the District. He requested the Board consider all of this during their deliberations.

County Clerk Nancy Parent advised the Board 31 emails opposing the proposed consolidation had been received and would be placed on the record.

On the call for public comment, the following individuals spoke in opposition to the proposed consolidation: Mr. Charlie Cockerill; Ms. Darci Fletcher; Mr. Russel Woolstenhulme; Mr. Ron Jahn; Mr. William Naylor; Ms. Karen Critor; Mr. Gary Houk; Ms. Shyrl Bailey; Ms. Debbie Sheltra; Mr. Greg Fleischer; Ms. Mandy McNitt; Mr. Tim Salyer; Ms. Kathryn Murders; and Ms. Tammy Holt-Still.

The above individuals expressed concerns including: a reduction in fire and emergency medical services for Washoe Valley residents; the higher average age of Franktown Estates residents; ostensible increases in incident response times; increased distance from some areas to the proposed consolidated station; misappropriation of taxpayer dollars; doubt as to the prudence of abandoning the existing fire stations rather than rehabilitating or remodeling them; lack of staff response to requests for cost estimates to repair or upgrade existing fire stations; questions as to why the stations would be suitable for NDF or BLM use when they were not acceptable for continued use by the TMFPD; denial of residents' requests to tour existing stations; fears that homeowners' insurance rates could increase; the age and medical needs of residents in Washoe Valley; fire frequency and risk in the area; the limited supply of water and hydrants in Washoe Valley; confusion regarding comments made by Chief Moore during a community meeting about a line drawn in the sand between the different municipalities' fire departments; the risk of fires spreading quickly and being more difficult to put out due to heavy fuels and high winds in the area; the need for emergency medical response to traffic accidents on Interstate 580; the distance from Washoe Valley to area hospitals; the reduction of infrastructure and resources in one area of the County to provide for improvements in another part of the County; fears that properties on one side of the valley could be without protection while equipment was deployed to incidents on the opposite side; a lack of accountability on the part of developers who built in the North Valleys but did not contribute to infrastructure; the perception that Washoe Valley residents were being shamed for their rural lifestyles or blamed for the lack of services in other areas of the County; the inability of residents to attend the public meeting due to work schedules; skepticism regarding Chief Moore's limited use of volunteer crews and the rules preventing volunteer firefighters from being able to assist with medical emergencies or structure fires; and fears that the CCFD could withdraw mutual aid support at any time.

The above individuals' suggestions included the following: upgrading or remodeling the existing fire stations rather than consolidating them; enhancing emergency medical response services to the Washoe Valley area; utilizing impact fees, tax increases, or other methods of raising revenue to pay for improvements to the existing fire stations as well as infrastructure in the North Valleys; evaluating the potential cost of improving the existing Washoe Valley fire stations before proceeding with any decisions regarding

consolidation; and reducing property taxes for Washoe Valley property owners if consolidation plans were approved.

Speaking in support of consolidation, Mr. Dean Dow expressed appreciation for the TMFPD's efforts to work cooperatively with REMSA and Care Flight, and pledged REMSA's support of the consolidation plans. He said a collaborative effort between the TMFPD and REMSA had been underway for the past three to four years in improved communications and day-to-day operations. He explained many TMFPD staff members either worked part-time for REMSA or had started out in REMSA's paramedic program, and it was beneficial for the organizations to work together to better support the communities they served.

Mr. Thomas Daly of The Estates at Mount Rose opined the action before the Board was no different than action taken in 2012. In that year, he recalled, the closest fire station to Montreux, Callahan Ranch, and The Estates at Mount Rose was moved two miles north. Mr. Daly said residents subsequently lobbied REMSA to establish a permanent EMS unit location on Mount Rose Highway at Wedge Parkway. Fire Station 38 on Mount Rose, which had been abandoned, was leased by the USFS, and began responding to wildfires in nearby communities through mutual aid agreements. Mr. Daly stated response times established under the SOC had been met and continued to be met; in fact, REMSA response times even improved. He believed Washoe Valley residents would benefit from the proposed consolidation plan as REMSA would establish a ninth operating unit at the new station, with much faster response and transport times to Carson Tahoe Hospital. He said Washoe Valley would enjoy faster fire response through automatic aid with the CCFD. He opined NDF, USFS, or BLM use of the former Bowers fire station could also lead to improved wildfire protection in Washoe Valley as it had for Mount Rose area residents. In all cases, Mr. Daly continued, Washoe Valley's response times would remain within the approved SOC response metrics. He urged the Board to approve the proposal.

Commissioner Berkbigler expressed concern regarding a public commenter who believed threats had been made to remove fire stations in Washoe Valley altogether. The Commissioner indicated these fears were unfounded as she had heard no statements made by Chief Moore, any District staff members, or any member of the Board. She stressed there was no intention to leave Washoe Valley without a fire station or take away services. Commissioner Berkbigler also took issue with commenters' speculation that services in Washoe Valley might be reduced by as much as 50 percent under the proposed consolidation. She indicated there were no plans to remove any water trucks; services would essentially remain the same and would even be improved in some areas. The Commissioner understood constituents' fears after the Little Valley Fire, recalling that the Caughlin Ranch fire had been frightening for residents in her district as well. She indicated the intent of the proposed consolidation was to utilize the limited tax dollars available to responsibly provide fair and equitable services to as many unincorporated Washoe County constituents as possible. She noted some commenters had even suggested raising taxes in order to raise the funds to maintain two stations in Washoe Valley, but she did not think this was a solution which unincorporated County residents in other areas would support.

Chair Lucey agreed with Commissioner Berkbigler's observations and said he had also taken note of commenters' insinuations that taxes might increase while constituents in Washoe Valley received decreased service. He emphasized there was no drive by the Board, nor had there ever been, to increase taxes for fire services for any residents in the County. In response to dialogue regarding fire service taxes, he indicated every citizen in unincorporated Washoe County paid taxes at the same rate, but the levels of service residents received were significantly out of balance in certain areas. He continued that the intent of the proposed consolidation was to even out those disparities.

Chair Lucey asked Chief Moore if there were any plans to move or remove water tenders or engines in Washoe Valley, and the Chief replied there would be no displacement of existing resources; there would still be two water tenders at the consolidated station and an extra engine could even serve as a reserve there. Chair Lucey pointed out Washoe Valley residents would benefit from mutual aid agreements with the Cities of Reno and Sparks as well as the CCFD, and he noted there were areas in the north which did not have access to any such services. He also expressed disagreement with speculation that homeowners' insurance rates could increase in Washoe Valley after the consolidation, saying he had heard nothing to indicate this might be the case.

Commissioner Jung thanked Chief Moore for taking the time to speak to citizens and workshop the proposed consolidation with the community. She was glad residents had taken time to review their property tax statements, but she thought many did not keep tax caps in mind. She noted taxes had not kept pace with the drastic fall in ad valorem. She wondered whether the argument regarding the average age of residents in Washoe Valley versus other parts of the County might be countered by the fact that there were likely more small children living in the north; they had a tendency to get hurt more frequently and they posed a fire risk. She said her district had just experienced two separate fires, both started by children playing in ditches.

Commissioner Jung thought the community, particularly Washoe Valley residents, might be experiencing post-traumatic stress after the Little Valley and Washoe Drive Fires. She pointed out residents wanted better EMS response and REMSA agreed to increase services to the area. She felt the Chief had done everything the Board had asked, and she indicated staff, who were the subject matter experts, proposed as fair a solution as possible to solve the inequities in service in different parts of the unincorporated County. She reminded the audience Washoe Valley residents had refused to allow a dispensary in their area and never supported any sort of density enhancements, but along with that they would also have fewer services just like any rural area with a low population density. Commissioner Jung discussed how reasonable tax rates were in Washoe County compared to California.

Commissioner Jung questioned how much residents paid for fire protection services annually versus how much they paid for fire insurance; she suspected most paid more for insurance. She sought to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people. She assumed Chief Moore would monitor response times and loss of life statistics and return to the Board if he determined more resources were needed. She said she wanted a

further discussion about annexation because she said the County needed fire money but revenue was lost whenever the City of Reno annexed areas. She added Reno was not required to build up or hire new people. She said she was prepared to move forward and expressed unease about further delaying the process. She acknowledged nobody wanted to lose services, but she affirmed the service in the area would be monitored and services would be shifted to areas of critical need.

Commissioner Jung asked about the difference between mutual and automatic aid. Chief Moore explained mutual aid was involved when it was determined more resources were needed once the TMFPD was on the scene; automatic aid was provided when partners responded at the same time as the TMFPD. Commissioner Jung pointed out the main argument was about the lack of coverage which occurred when entities left their normal post.

Commissioner Jung inquired about the advantages of a 4-person crew over a 3-person crew. Chief Moore answered Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines required two crew members to remain outside a structure when two went in. With 3-person crews, firefighters sometimes could not enter a structure, but that problem did not happen with 4-person crews. Commissioner Jung stated she thought firefighters who felt unsafe entering a structure had to wait for mutual or automatic aid to show up, a point confirmed by Chief Moore.

Commissioner Hartung asked whether the TMFPD currently sent services to Carson City and Chief Moore responded they did. When asked by Commissioner Hartung how often this happened, Chief Moore replied he did not have those statistics but Carson City often called the TMFPD because they only had three stations. The Chief assuring Commissioner Hartung that the TMFPD had both mutual and automatic aid agreements with Carson City. Commissioner Hartung inquired about inequities between how often the agencies responded to each other. Chief Moore answered calls for aid were pretty equal and there had been no discussions about inequity.

Commissioner Hartung asked who owned some of the stations. Chief Moore responded the State of Nevada owned Bowers and the TMFPD had a lease through 2028, at which point it would revert back to the State. The TMFPD owned the Eastlake station, while the Bellevue station was owned by the State and leased to South Valley volunteers.

Commissioner Hartung wondered what would happen if an agreement was made with the City of Reno to consolidate service throughout the region; he asked whether the new district would close stations and move resources throughout the system to suit needs. Chief Moore hypothesized a regional deployment would result and fire stations would be placed where there was need. Commissioner Hartung assumed resources would be shifted, like they had with Station 37 in Hidden Valley.

Chair Lucey sought a motion that would provide the Chief with direction to either move forward with the consolidation of the two stations, including redeployment of personnel, or different direction if it was the pleasure of the Board.

Vice Chair Berkbigler moved to accept the presentation and direct staff to prepare recommendations for the consolidation of Station 30 at Bowers and Station 32 at Eastlake, with the development of a new station. She specified neither station should be closed until the consolidated station was fully built and operational. She further directed that staff work to include a WCSO substation and a location for a REMSA helipad.

Commissioner Hartung seconded the motion. He asked about a timeframe for this process. Chief Moore responded a study would be performed to determine a suitable site, after which they would return to the Board with a recommendation for a purchase and sale agreement. He felt it would still take two years after they obtained the land so that bids, planning, and financial elements could be put into place. He did not anticipate the TMFPD occupying the consolidated station until January 2022.

Chair Lucey directed the Chief to continue discussions with Carson City to finalize automatic aid improvements to the south part of Washoe Valley, as well as to continue discussions with REMSA, the WCSO, the NDF, the USFS, and the BLM about wildfire risk in the west side of the valley.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Chief Moore's presentation be accepted and staff be directed to prepare recommendations for the consolidation of Station 30 at Bowers and Station 32 at Eastlake with the development of a new station. It was further ordered that neither station be closed until the consolidated station was fully built and operational, and staff continue to work to include a Washoe County Sheriff's Office substation and a location for a Regional Emergency Medical Services Association helipad.

20-016F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to adopt a resolution directing the Clerk to notify the Washoe County Debt Management Commission of the District's proposal to issue its Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's General Obligation (Limited Tax) Capital Improvement Bonds (additionally secured by pledged revenues) in the maximum principal amount of \$2,100,000 to finance the acquisition of properties for stations authorized by NRS 474.511, including fixtures, structures, stations, other buildings and sites therefor and appurtenances and incidentals necessary, useful or desirable for any such facilities, including all types of property therefor; and providing the effective date hereof. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Vice Chair Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be adopted. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

20-017F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Commissioners’/Fire Chief’s announcements, requests for information, topics for future agendas, and statements relating to items not on the Agenda.

There were no Board member comments.

20-018F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Public Comment.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still opined these issues were caused by building being done before the required infrastructure was put into place. In Spanish Springs, she said, a special assessment had provided for the infrastructure needed to develop there because the City of Sparks had looked ahead when it came to building and planning. She reiterated no more development should be approved until the necessary infrastructure improvements were in place. She felt it would cost less to do things right the first time than to fix problems later.

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10:45 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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:
LJ Burton, Deputy County Clerk*