

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MARCH 2, 2021

PRESENT:

Bob Lucey, Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Vice Chair
Alexis Hill, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner (via telephone)
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Janis Galassini, County Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
Mary Kandaras, Deputy District Attorney

The Board convened at 10:00 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:

21-035F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Mr. Cliff Low provided a handout in which he clarified his public comments from the February 2 Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting. Copies of the document were distributed to the Commissioners and placed on file with the Clerk. He reminded the Board of the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority's commitment to stage a unit at the Washoe Valley station. He requested an update on the status of the commitments made for the consolidated Washoe Valley station as construction planning and building began.

21-036F AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore noted it was an open burn day so anyone who wanted to burn their green waste could do so. He said open burn information was posted on the TMFPD website. He mentioned budget presentations would be presented to the Board in April and staff recommendations would be made to obtain the Board's feedback.

Vice Chair Hartung thanked the crew at Station 46 for quickly responding to a drunk driver accident on a residential street in the Sky Ranch neighborhood of Spanish Springs the prior night. The Commissioner was comforted by having that station so close to his home. He stressed the importance of Station 46 to the residents of Spanish Springs.

Commissioner Hill thanked TMFPD crews for their work to contain a structure fire on Highway 431. She expressed appreciation for the effective communication that allowed her and the *Reno Gazette-Journal* (RGJ) to distribute information about the

road closure and traffic delays to residents. She inquired about the policies for TMFPD's fleet schedule, including when vehicles were bought and sold. She requested an agenda item for the next Board meeting to provide that information to her and the taxpayers.

Commissioner Jung expressed appreciation for first responders. She spoke about a mobile home fire under the Vine Street bridge the prior day. She noted the Reno Fire and Police Departments responded to the fire along with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). The fire was significant enough to require NDOT's inspection of the bridge structure, but fortunately no one was injured. She agreed with Vice Chair Hartung's statement about the peace of mind provided by having first responders close by and thanked everyone who chose first responder professions. She commended Commissioner Hill for an opinion piece she wrote for the RGJ in which she explained some misinformation and expressed her thoughts on some big issues. Commissioner Jung thought it was important to take the time to explain things and address misinformation. She stated her approval of the March 1 Proclamation for COVID-19 Memorial Day, which would address the deep loss felt by the community and the world.

Chair Lucey requested a report about the burn piles at the Silver Lake Station which were part of the green waste program. He asked whether they would be chipped and hauled off. He referred to Commissioner Hill's statement about the structure fire, noting he also represented portions of the Sierras which presented challenges and fire danger concerns. He said fire safety and education were challenges, particularly when discussing short-term rentals. He recounted an episode in which a short-term renter used a tire to make a fire pit in the driveway of a home. He said ensuring that short-term renters were aware of burn codes, restrictions, and fire safety was very important. He joined Commissioner Hill in applauding the TMFPD's response to the fire on Mount Rose Highway the prior week. He was gratified to see the effectiveness of the response in mobilizing water trucks quickly to contain the structure fire. He requested a report about the details of the fire including whether the house had been vacant. He asked for a future item to discuss the plans and intentions for the consolidated station.

In regard to the fire on Mount Rose Highway, Vice Chair Hartung said he received a comment questioning the ownership of the property. He opined the ownership was inconsequential and the TMFPD would respond to any fire within the jurisdiction of unincorporated Washoe County. He believed any of the other agencies would feel the same about fires within their jurisdictions.

Chair Lucey mentioned the confusion about jurisdictional lines and the location of properties and stations owned by the TMFPD and the City of Reno. He expressed concern about improving fire service in the north along with the consolidation of stations in the south. He requested a report about response times in Commissioner Herman and Vice Chair Hartung's districts as well as information about the most appropriate station to respond to those districts. He said the effectiveness of stations everywhere in the County needed to be ensured, particularly in light of wildfire danger and the growth in those communities. He thought having discussions about capital improvements in the north would be prudent.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A through 5H

- 21-037F** **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the February 2, 2021 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.
- 21-038F** **5B** 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 20/21 in an amount not to exceed \$36,000. Audit Services are professional in nature and therefore exempt from competitive bidding requirements pursuant to NRS 332.115. This audit is being done to satisfy NRS 354.624, which requires each local government to provide for an annual audit of financial statements by a certified public accountant registered in the State of Nevada and to notify the state of this engagement by March 31st of each fiscal year. (All Commission Districts)
- 21-039F** **5C** Recommendation to authorize the sale of a surplus 1997 International Type III Brush Truck with 32,146 miles in “as is” condition from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to the City of Loyalton in the amount of \$20,000; and to authorize the sale of a surplus 1996 International Type III Brush Truck with 37,553 miles in “as is” condition from the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to Beckwourth Fire Department in the amount of \$20,000. (All Commission Districts)
- 21-040F** **5D** Recommendation to approve a resolution to donate one (1) surplus 1997 International Type III Brush Engine in “as is” condition from the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to Truckee Meadows Community College and if approved, authorize the Chair execute Resolution for same.(All Commission Districts)
- 21-041F** **5E** Recommendation to authorize the District the purchase and installation of a Diesel Exhaust Extraction Equipment from Air Exchange Inc. to retrofit existing systems to standardize fire apparatus and fire stations. Retrofitting of existing equipment is approximately \$135,000 and shall be procured in accordance with NRS 332.115, Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding. (All Commission Districts)
- 21-042F** **5F** Recommendation to approve the reclassification of a vacant Fire Prevention Specialist position to a new position titled Fire Captain-Prevention. (All Commission District)
- 21-043F** **5G** Recommendation to approve amending the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Truckee Meadows Firefighters Association IAFF Local 2487 Non-Supervisory Unit “Article 2 -Recognition, Article 13 - Salaries, Appendix A -Salary and Article 14 - Promotions” to include interim promotional exam requirements, addition of the Fire Prevention Captain

Position salary schedule and recognize the positions of Fire Crew Boss and Heavy Equipment Operator within the bargaining unit represented by I.A.F.F. Local 2487 retroactively to October 12, 2020. (All Commission Districts)

- 21-044F** **5H** Recommendation to approve of an amendment to “Section 3 - Compensation, Lease and In-Kind Services” to the Cooperative Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for Provision of Emergency Response to the Wadsworth Area, originally dated June 1, 2018. (All Commission Districts)

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

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

- 21-045F** **AGENDA ITEM 6** Recommendation to adopt a Resolution of Intent, proposing the issuance of, and authorizing the publication of notices relating to General obligation (limited tax) Capital Improvement Bonds (Additionally Secured by Pledged Revenues) in the maximum principal amount of \$7,000,000 to finance the acquisition of properties for stations and administration 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. The proposal to issue these bonds was approved by the Washoe County Debt Management Commission per NRS 350.014 et. seq. on February 19, 2021. (All Commission Districts)

John Peterson from JNA Consulting Group LLC said this item was the next step in the bond authorization process. He noted the Debt Management Commission (DMC) unanimously approved the proposal in February. He said the DMC meeting included ample discussion about the proposed debt. He stated the next step, if the Board approved the Resolution, would be to publish the Resolution in the newspaper to begin the 90-day waiting period required by Nevada Revised Statutes. The other bond authorization steps would be completed during the 90-day period, including a public hearing which was anticipated to take place in May. He said the proposal would be brought back before the Board in June when the 90-day waiting period elapsed.

Mr. Peterson noted interest rates had increased since the proposal was presented to the Board in February, but he expected them to remain within the estimated interest rate of 3.35 percent. He said the anticipated annual debt service on this bond would be approximately \$416,000 per year, to be repaid over a 25-year period. He noted the

detailed information presented to the DMC was included in the staff report and it encapsulated the necessary criteria the DMC used to evaluate the request.

Chair Lucey noted interest rates were increasing from day to day. He asked how soon the interest rate could be locked in. Mr. Peterson replied the 90-day period would need to be completed and the bond Resolution needed to be approved by the Board before the rate could be locked. The bond resolution was scheduled for the June meeting at the end of the 90-day period. He noted many of the rate increases observed during the prior two weeks were simply tax-exempt bonds catching up to U.S. treasuries. There were questions about the federal stimulus and the Federal Reserve's ability to control inflation. He did not think anyone anticipated inflation would become a problem in the next three months.

Vice Chair Hartung asked about how often payments would be made. Mr. Peterson said bond payments were generally made semi-annually; interest payments were made in December and June, and the principal would be due in June.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be adopted and authorized.

21-046F **AGENDA ITEM 7** International Association of Firefighters, Local 2487 Report.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore indicated Local 2487 representatives were not available to provide a report.

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

21-047F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Promotional Announcements and introduction of New Employees.

Introduction of New Employees

Firefighter Paramedic: Andy Mann

Promotional Announcement

Captains: David Curns
 Scott Fenley
 Erik Olsen

Engineers: Gary Garrett
 Jake Jakob
 Travis Johnson
 Ed Martin

Operations Division Chief Chris Ketring announced new employee firefighter Andy Mann who recently completed the lateral promotional academy. Firefighter Mann started his career in 2012 as a paramedic with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority. He was pinned by his wife Christina.

Chief Ketring announced the promotion of Captains David Curns, Scott Fenley, and Erik Olsen. Chief Ketring stated Captain Curns had been in the fire service for about 20 years; he was part of the Regional Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Response Team and had assisted in developing and implementing the District's inventory program. Captain Curns was pinned by his wife Lynn.

Chief Ketring presented Captain Fenley, who had 16 years' experience in the fire service. Captain Finley was one of the leads for the Self-contained Breathing Apparatus Program and a member of the Wet Team. Captain Finley was pinned by his wife Natalie.

Chief Ketring stated Captain Olsen had been in the fire service for 12 years and he was part of the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Quality Assurance Committee. Captain Olsen was pinned by his wife Lauren.

Chief Ketring announced newly promoted Engineers Gary Garrett, Jake Jakob, Travis Johnson, and Ed Martin. Engineer Garrett, pinned by daughter McKenzie, had 28 years of fire service experience, was a tech and a Tox-Medic with the HazMat Team, and used his photography skills to take pictures of stations and personnel. Engineer Jakob, pinned by his fiancée Megan, had 12 years fire service experience and was a member of the Regional HazMat Team, the Wet Team, the EMS Committee, and the Best Practices Committee. Engineer Johnson, pinned by his son Ethan and his father Greg, had been in the fire service for nine years, was a member of the Regional HazMat Team, the Personal Protective Equipment Committee, and the Apparatus Committee, and also assisted with the implementation of the District's first ladder truck. Engineer Martin, pinned by his wife Brandy, had 16 years of fire service experience and assisted with providing EMS and fire mentoring to newly hired firefighter paramedics.

Chair Lucey thanked all staff members who continued to grow within the organization. He praised the families of TMFPD staff, recognizing the commitment they made by allowing their spouses and partners to provide a much-needed service to the community.

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

21-048F

AGENDA ITEM 9 Fire Chief Report:

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of February and March 2021 to include the following items:
 - 1. Renewal of the Cooperative Agreement Between TMFR and the City of Reno for Automatic and Mutual Aid.
 - 2. Status of Fuel Projects and an Update on the Fuels Division.
 - 3. Update on Capital Projects.
- B. Commissioner Dashboard: Status update on ongoing Commissioner requests of the Fire Chief.
- C. Review of recent critical calls response statistics for January 2021 to include Mutual and Auto Aid for our regional partners.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore mentioned the structure fire which occurred the prior week continued to steam and smolder. He said there was no cause for alarm, it was the nature of buildings that collapsed on themselves. TMFPD staff would continue to monitor the site daily but there was a large amount of snow surrounding it and there was no reason to be concerned. He mentioned 11 members would soon start the new member academy and they were expected to be onboard in late July. He said the crew members would be introduced to the Board as soon as they graduated from the academy.

Chief Moore spoke about the renewal of the Cooperative Agreement for Automatic and Mutual Aid between the District and the City of Reno. He explained the differences between automatic aid and mutual aid. He noted the agreement between the TMFPD and the City of Sparks was called enhanced automatic aid because it was nuanced; each jurisdiction responded to calls they were closest to as if it was their own, and they did not send two resources where only one was needed. He said the agreement with the City of Reno worked differently because dual dispatch was utilized. The current automatic aid agreement was limited to structure fires and brush fires. He spoke with Reno Fire Chief Dave Cochran about considering the addition of high-level medical emergencies to the automatic aid protocol. Chief Moore said TMFPD staff would start developing plans with the City of Reno if the Board endorsed the change. Under this arrangement, both the City of Reno and the TMFPD would be dispatched to a call for a heart attack located near a District station, as an example. This response would get an emergency responder to the scene in the fastest possible way. He indicated the current protocol was not set up for this type of aid.

He said the District's computer aided dispatch (CAD) program was at the end of its life and a new CAD program would be put into operation over the next two years. Decisions needed to be made about the automatic aid protocols so the new CAD system could be programmed accordingly. He believed the next step would be to implement automatic vehicle location (AVL), which would allow the computer to identify and recommend the closest unit to an emergency. Implementing AVL was still a few years in the future but he thought the District needed to start working towards that system. He said a review of call volume needed to take place before implementing full emergency medical

service (EMS) automatic aid. To that end, he requested CAD data from the Reno Fire Department and planned to share the TMFPD's CAD data with the Board's permission. He thought Stations 40, 44, and 33 would be the most likely to be affected by the automatic aid protocol. He noted the staff report included maps of the automatic aid changes. He said staff would present the revised agreement to the Board before the expiration of the current agreement in June.

Commissioner Jung asked what the best practice was while still holding staffing and financial impacts constant. Chief Moore replied he believed AVL was the best practice and noted it was used by four agencies in southern Nevada. Commissioner Jung agreed AVL was the best option as long as it could be accomplished fairly without having one agency subsidizing another too much. She encouraged Chief Moore to contact the Commissioners for insight or strategy if necessary. She thought the Commissioners could assist with ensuring the focus was on the greater good rather than on boundary and annexation issues. She expressed her support because this was the best practice.

Vice Chair Hartung agreed automatic aid was extremely important. He asserted nobody cared who responded to an emergency as long as there was a response. He thought AVL was the best path forward because it would track every piece of apparatus and their capabilities at all times. He supported the automatic aid agreements, noting they were agreements between jurisdictions and should be treated as such. He concurred with Commissioner Jung's statement about ensuring the response was fairly equal. He realized there would be fluctuations in each jurisdiction's response throughout the year and suggested reviewing the agreement every two years.

Chair Lucey said this was the first step to growing the County. He asserted AVL was the way to move forward and he supported signing an agreement to introduce automatic aid and increase EMS response. He was aware of accidents that occurred near a different jurisdiction's station; in those situations, the closest station could not respond. As an example, he asked for confirmation that half of the Raley's shopping center on Mount Rose Highway was in the City of Reno's jurisdiction, so calls would be dispatched from Station 12 or Station 3 even though TMFPD's Station 36 could arrive more quickly. Chief Moore said that was correct.

Chair Lucey expressed consternation that fire service and life-saving initiatives continued to be based on map boundaries. He asserted the focus needed to be on life safety. He acknowledged the discussions about this topic were difficult and they were further complicated because of unions and differing tax structures for each jurisdiction, but having those discussions was necessary. He said it was the Commissioners' responsibility to talk with colleagues in the other jurisdictions because signing agreements every two years was not an improvement.

Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras cautioned there was a fine line between discussing announcements and moving toward consensus on an issue. She suggested agendaing the discussion for a future meeting if the Commissioners wished to

discuss the issue in more detail. Chair Lucey said he would make the request for a future item during the Commissioner announcements item.

In response to Commissioner Jung's comment about how the Board could help, Chief Moore said the next logical step after implementation of AVL would be to discuss a regional system. He knew that was a complicated issue, but a regional system would only be achieved one step at a time. He thought these steps would eventually lead to an effective regional system, although he was unsure how it would be organized. He thanked the Board for the encouragement to proceed.

Chair Lucey suggested the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority needed to take part in this discussion because they were a major component of the regional emergency response, with 85 to 90 percent of calls being EMS calls.

Chief Moore mentioned the TMFPD provided assistance to the Nevada Division of Forestry's Galena burn project. He said between 140 and 160 piles were burned safely and approximately 20 piles were left at Marilyn's Pond. Those piles would be burned once the snow level started to drop and the project would then be completed. He thanked NV Energy for financing a track chipper. He noted the TMFPD was undertaking many fuels projects for NV Energy and that piece of equipment would improve efficiency. The chipper could be driven along the pathway being cleared rather than requiring that fuels be dragged to the truck and then chipped on the road, making the process quicker.

Chief Moore recognized he had moved too quickly for the Board's comfort on capital projects. He intended to work with Washoe County Capital Projects and then present comprehensive recommendations and options to the Board in April. District staff intended to recommend three capital projects for planning if not construction during the next fiscal year: Station 37, improvements at Barron Way, and the consolidated station in Washoe Valley. He said staff would review the options for design team selection during the April meeting as well. The options included construction management at-risk, selecting an architect and employing a design-bid-build process, or selecting a contractor to design and build. He stated all three options had implications for cost and quality. He thought the Board needed to understand the options. He expressed concern about construction costs because everyone in the industry told him costs were high and the District was bound to pay prevailing wages, which would increase the cost of labor. He reiterated staff would make a comprehensive presentation with recommendations in April, which would be timely as discussions about next fiscal year's budget would begin then.

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

21-049F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to authorize the District to purchase Extrication Equipment needed to provide standardized equipment for the newest Type I structure engines from LN Curtis in the amount of \$210,084 pursuant to NRS 332.115 (b), Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be authorized.

21-050F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation pursuant to NRS 332.195(1) to join in Nevada State Contract Bid #99SWC-S490 and approve the purchase of four (4) new command vehicles from Capital Ford of Carson City in the amount of \$48,748.80 per vehicle for a total purchase price of \$194,995.20. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said staff had yet to determine vehicle allocation, but the District had a definite shortage of vehicles; that would be addressed by this purchase.

Commissioner Hill asked why trucks were needed and whether cars could be used as command vehicles. She noted cars were less expensive and required less gas than trucks. Chief Moore replied trucks were needed, particularly three-quarter ton and four-wheel drive trucks, because some of the response areas were off-road and battalion chiefs needed to carry a significant amount of equipment. The vehicles also needed to have high clearance for off-road driving. He asserted sedan vehicles would not be adequate.

Commissioner Hill conjectured she would understand the rationale better once she reviewed the fleet schedule. She asked whether all four vehicles would be needed off-road at all times and whether shared truck use would be logistically possible. Chief Moore responded not all vehicles would be needed off-road at all times but the weight the vehicles would carry was significant. He said these vehicles were standard command vehicles for all regional departments including the Cities of Reno and Sparks and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District. The vehicles needed to be rugged and have diesel engines because they were typically driven for more than 200,000 miles.

Vice Chair Hartung noted this purchase involved a joiner contract with the State; the State was buying a dozen vehicles or more so the TMFPD would get a fleet price, saving thousands of dollars per vehicle. Chief Moore confirmed that was the case. Commissioner Hill pointed out the savings would be \$3,400 per unit.

Commissioner Jung indicated she would approve this item, but she echoed Commissioner Hill's concern. She said following the standard procedure was not always the best option. She wanted to review standards and practices for the future.

Chair Lucey said he supported the Board's decisions, noting the District often followed others but was also a source of innovation. He agreed with the need to evolve and reevaluate practices.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Hill voting "no", it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved.

21-051F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Discussion and possible approval of the annual evaluation process for the Fire Chief, including questions and a proposed list of evaluators and a possible discussion of goals and objectives for next year's review. The results of the evaluation will be presented at the April 6 regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore said staff recommended that the annual evaluation follow the process used for County Manager Eric Brown's evaluation. Four groups of evaluators were identified: the five Commissioners, his direct reports, internal stakeholders, and external stakeholders. He noted questions similar to those used for Manager Brown were developed and would be sent out within a week. He said the Commissioners could amend the questions and the list of evaluators if they wished.

Chair Lucey said he worked with Chief Moore and staff to develop the evaluation. He thought Manager Brown's evaluation had been very successful and provided clear and concise direction to Manager Brown about his performance. He believed this was the best suited evaluation process. He noted the questions and evaluators were listed in the staff report. He expressed confidence about the robustness of the groups of evaluators.

Vice Chair Hartung supported a consistent evaluation process for Manager Brown and Chief Moore, who were essentially the Commissioners' only two employees. He thought Chair Lucey developed the evaluation process well and there was no reason to use a different process than the one used for Manager Brown.

Commissioner Hill expressed approval for the different groups of stakeholders. She asked whether different external stakeholders were used for Manager Brown. Chair Lucey replied different external stakeholders were used for Chief Moore. The stakeholders who were identified coincided with Chief Moore's contract, and they interacted with him on a daily basis. Commissioner Hill observed many of the external stakeholders were Washoe County staff. She inquired whether there were people in the wider community who interacted with Chief Moore. Chair Lucey responded the selected evaluators were ones would truly know his scope of work. He mentioned other potential evaluators might include North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District Chief Ryan Sommers

or past fire chiefs, but the individuals selected interacted with Chief Moore on a day-to-day basis. Commissioner Hill said she appreciated the inclusion of the different groups which would ensure the Board received a clear evaluation of Chief Moore's performance. Chair Lucey said Commissioner Jung recommended a 360-degree performance evaluation that would encompass Chief Moore's contract and scope of work. He thought this evaluation process accomplished that by obtaining feedback from the different stakeholders.

Commissioner Jung asked when the questions would be distributed. Chief Moore replied they would go out within one week. Commissioner Jung thought adding an evaluator would not be an issue if Commissioner Hill had a particular person in mind. She stated the Board needed to ensure that evaluators could be truly objective. She noted she previously did not evaluate a chief executive due to a conflict since the Board wanted truly objective feedback. She thought Commissioner Hill should speak with Chief Moore if she believed someone else needed to be on the list of evaluators. She said the performance evaluation was contractual, but she believed it was an opportunity to help Chief Moore be more successful.

Chair Lucey agreed with Commissioner Jung's comments about ensuring the Board obtained constructive feedback. He noted not all responses were received in a timely manner because evaluators often had very busy schedules and doing a thorough review took time. The Board tried to be as efficient as possible while still providing Chief Moore with the best information for his growth. He said he would meet with Commissioner Hill and Chief Moore to discuss additions to the evaluator list if she wished. Commissioner Hill replied she did not have a particular person in mind, she simply wanted clarification.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved.

21-052F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding 2021 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, including a discussion and possible approval of staff recommendations to support SB-113, AB100, AB-96, and AB 86. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said there were two bills he thought were very important: Senate Bill (SB) 113 and Assembly Bill (AB) 100. With regard to SB 113, he mentioned the suspect in the Perry Fire who was charged for shooting off fireworks was acquitted because of how the word malicious was defined. The State could not prove the action had been malicious, so the

suspect was not penalized under the law. All fire chiefs in the region believed there needed to be an amendment to the way malicious was defined.

Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention Dale Way explained the Nevada Supreme Court defined malicious as proving evil intent and SB 113 would define malicious in a way that would lessen the burden of proof. He said the TMFPD supported this bill and had commented in committee that the smallest penalty should be a gross misdemeanor rather than a misdemeanor. He stated AB 86 was another bill for which staff recommended Board support. It would remove the clause "...which threatens human life..." from several Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), lowering the burden of proof. This bill pertained to fee recovery for incidents involving gross negligence.

Chief Moore mentioned AB 100 embedded the Wildfire Protection Plan (WPP) into NRS. He thought the District and probably the County would be bankrupt if not for the WPP because of the number of fires which occurred the prior year. He said the District and the County paid a fee for the WPP each year and the plan then paid for a large portion of firefighting costs from the State's fund; it was essentially an insurance policy. The WPP had always been a program not embedded in NRS. The Northern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association supported AB 100 and staff recommended its approval.

Chief Moore said AB 96 established a commission for emergency response employee mental health. He noted that, although the District had a robust peer support service, this commission would help create awareness and support. He conjectured the commission would support local peer support agencies for law enforcement and fire, so there would be an umbrella at the State level. Chair Lucey mentioned Captain Derek Reid had been an advocate for this program and would likely testify in support of AB 96.

Vice Chair Hartung indicated his support for AB 96, noting this was a very important issue that had not received much recognition or support in the past.

Chair Lucey noted the agenda item asked for Board support for four bills, but there were many other bills related to fire service which staff would monitor.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Vice Chair Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that staff support SB 113, AB 100, AB 96, and AB 86 on behalf of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

21-053F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor issues with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore indicated there was no need for a closed session.

21-054F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Announcements/Reports.

With regard to a future agenda item about auto and mutual aid, Vice Chair Hartung asked for a brief history of how the District was funded as a line item on unincorporated residents' tax bills and how that was implemented. Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore agreed. Chair Lucey felt the item needed to be robust in providing a history and potential implications for the future. He said he, Commissioner Jung, and other Commissioners had repeatedly expressed concern about the impact of annexation on these types of services. He thought the future agenda item would be a good way to continue discussions about this issue.

Commissioner Jung asked Chief Moore to include information about how citizens of the unincorporated County asked the Board to raise their fire tax rate. She mentioned citizens convinced the Board to go to a higher level of tax rather than a moderate level. She noted the Board had a set budget that the taxpayers asked to raise; it was not part of the general fund so it was not dependent on the economy or the Board's priorities. She thought it would be helpful to the community to include this type of information in the discussion.

21-055F **AGENDA ITEM 16** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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11:33 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

BOB LUCEY, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

JANIS GALASSINI, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows
Fire Protection District

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