

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JULY 6, 2021

PRESENT:

Bob Lucey, Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Vice Chair
Alexis Hill, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy 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:

21-133F **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

21-134F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated the Public Works Department would bring their recommendations for architectural services for the Hidden Valley Station to the Board at the September meeting.

Commissioner Herman said she was honored to receive a tour of the fire station on Barron Way, saying it was a spectacular facility.

Vice Chair Hartung thanked all the crews for an exceptional job they did over the 4th of July. He noted he attended Barks and Badges, a Sheriff's Office event, mentioning that TMFPD Station 37 was well represented there.

Chair Lucey expressed appreciation to staff for handling a difficult weekend that included inclement weather and storms. It was unfortunate that firefighters had to work and not spend the holidays with their family, but the community would not be as safe to enjoy holidays events without fire service staff.

Chair Lucey announced Agenda Item 13 would be pulled and brought back at a future meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A through 5F

- 21-135F** **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the June 1, 2021 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.
- 21-136F** **5B** Recommendation to approve an agreement between the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to provide assistance to UNR with entry into and maintenance in the IQS and IROC systems. (All Commission Districts.)
- 21-137F** **5C** Recommendation to authorize Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to prefund its Bi-Weekly Payroll in an amount of the estimated payroll amount and other payroll obligations up to 10 days before the execution of the final payroll. (All Commission Districts.)
- 21-138F** **5D** Authorization to sell a surplus 2008 Pierce Contender VIN # 4P1CC01A28A008660 (FD505) Reserve Engine with 30,156 miles, in “as is” condition from the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to the Reno Tahoe Airport Authority Fire Department in the amount of \$1. This apparatus has reached the end of its useful life pursuant to the district’s fire engine replacement schedule. (All Commission Districts.)
- 21-139F** **5E** Recommendation to approve an interlocal agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Washoe County for the provision of services during the fire season, to include training and coordination of resources during the fire season. The interlocal shall become effective upon approval of the authorized official of the governing body of each agency and shall remain in effect until April 1, 2025. (All Commission Districts.)
- 21-140F** **5F** Recommendation to approve a Notice of Cancellation for the regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting scheduled for August 3, 2021, at 10 a.m. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Vice Chair Hartung, 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.

21-141F **AGENDA ITEM 6** Promotional and New Hire Badge Pinning.

New Hires

Alexander Bizzack, Firefighter/EMT
Jeffrey Bode, Firefighter/EMT
Kason Clary, Firefighter/EMT
Ian Lopez, Firefighter/EMT
Blake Miller, Firefighter/EMT
Anthony Sacci, Firefighter/EMT
Bernard Trejo, Firefighter/EMT
Michael Visentin, Firefighter/EMT
Daniel Moriarty, Firefighter/Paramedic
Jaden Protain, Firefighter/Paramedic

Deputy Fire Chief Alex Kukulus announced there were several new hires and some exciting promotions.

Division Chief Joe Schum acknowledged that 10 of the 11 new recruits were present, having completed the 14-week Regional Academy. He introduced each recruit and provided a brief history of their backgrounds, as well as introducing their family in attendance.

Chair Lucey said nothing made him happier than seeing new recruits joining the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) with their families supporting them. He congratulated the recruits and wished them a long and wonderful career with the TMFPD.

Division Chief Schum brought up the help and dedication of Fire Captain Patrick Hughes, who led the TMFPD faculty at the Regional Academy along with Fire Engineer Casey Marvin and Firefighter Dillon Lowe. He asserted the recruits would not have received the training they did without their help.

Promotions

Shawn Goetz, Heavy Equipment Operator
Cameron Okuma, Crew Member
Tomas Soucek, Squad Boss

Division Chief August Isernhagen introduced Heavy Equipment Operator Shawn Goetz and Crew Member Cameron Okuma, providing a brief background on each. Mr. Goetz was pinned by his father, Michael Goetz; Mr. Okuma was pinned by his mother, Debbie Johnson. He noted Squad Boss Tomas Soucek was on fire assignment and unable to attend.

Promotions

Brian Harter, Firefighter/Paramedic
Leslie Parawan, Firefighter/Paramedic
Martin Rowson, Firefighter/Paramedic
Beau Retzer, Firefighter/Paramedic

Division Chief Joe Kammann introduced four promoting firefighter/paramedics: Brian Harter, pinned by Division Chief Chris Ketring; Leslie Parawan, pinned by her boyfriend Chris; Martin Rowson, pinned by his girlfriend Lacey; and Beau Retzer, pinned by his girlfriend Adrian.

Chair Lucey congratulated those who received promotions, knowing how difficult the exam was and how many challenges they had to overcome.

Promotions

Nikki Stowe, Fire Suppression Captain
Brittany Lemon, Fire Prevention Captain

Chief Charles Moore introduced Fire Prevention Captain Brittany Lemon, saying she had done a fantastic job with the TMFPD performing fire inspections and ongoing inspections for occupancies. He expressed pride that Captain Lemon was first fire prevention captain.

Chief Moore introduced Captain Nikki Stowe, saying she advanced quickly up the chain of command and was the first woman fire suppression captain, which made him very proud of her accomplishments.

Deputy Chief Kukulus stated it was his pleasure to speak about Captain Stowe, who had extensive experience when she joined the TMFPD in 2016, was promoted to fire engineer in 2019, and was now being promoted to fire suppression captain. He mentioned he worked with Captain Stowe since she started with the TMFPD when he was a battalion chief and admitted she was a great cook and took great care of the crew. He said her husband was also a part of the TMFPD as a firefighter/paramedic. He shared that the District protected \$4.8 billion in assessed valuation for 110,000 residents within the County; that was a lot of weight on Captain Stowe's shoulders. Captain Stowe was pinned by her husband Austin and daughter Mackenna.

Deputy Fire Chief Dale Way spoke about Captain Lemon's progress, saying she was working on obtaining her bachelor's degree and numerous certifications. He expressed pride about her promotion. Captain Lemon was pinned by her husband Shawn and son Max.

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

21-142F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Employee Awards and Recognition

Medal of Bravery

Fire Engineer Greg Jackson
Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Endres

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore spoke about an incident that occurred on October 12, 2020, when Fire Engineer Greg Jackson was at home and smelled smoke; Mr. Jackson realized the fire had a unique odor that could only be a structure fire. He spotted smoke coming from his neighbors' garage and rushed to extinguish the fire with sand from the back yard. He successfully extinguished the fire prior to Station 46's arrival. Chief Moore asserted the event demonstrated the care that fire personnel had for the community and neighbors. The quick action of Mr. Jackson earned him the distinction and a Medal of Bravery. Fire Engineer Jackson was not able to attend the meeting to accept this honor.

On April 11, 2021, Chief Moore stated, Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Endres and the crew on Engine 44 were dispatched to a mutual aid structure call on Mariner Cove Drive with the Reno Fire Department. Mr. Endres was assigned to assist with fire attack and primary life search. During the search, he located a female victim, removed her from the second story of the structure, and started life saving measures. The victim unfortunately succumbed to the effects of the fire, but the lifesaving attempt was nonetheless heroic and earned Mr. Endres a Medal of Bravery.

Meritorious Conduct Medal

Captain Shane Akerson
Captain Mark Thyer

Chief Moore spoke about the risks associated with fire-related jobs and asserted these employees never shied away from what needed to be done. He introduced Captains Shane Akerson and Mark Thyer, saying they did a phenomenal job coordinating the COVID-19 (C19) response, which included testing employee, developing protocols, and displaying high levels of selflessness, personal sacrifice, and accessibility to provide support to the district. The captains were highly involved with the Washoe County Health District C19 pods and had gone above their normal line of duty. He thanked them for a great job keeping the community safe.

Recognition for a cardiac event life save

Captain Ryan Whitlock
Engineer Brian Haley
Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Meredith
Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Bryan Harter

Chief Moore stated that, on August 18, 2020, Engine 44 was dispatched to an incident involving difficulty breathing, which was upgraded to a cardiac arrest call. Together the crew and the Regional Emergency Medical Services Agency were able to re-

establish a pulse for the patient, who was transported to the hospital and later released. The crew was also recognized by St. Mary's Regional Medical Center for making a significant difference in the outcome of the patient. Chief Moore asserted there was a reason the engine crew were staffed with highly trained paramedics; one citizen was still alive because of these actions.

Chief Moore recognized Captain Ryan Whitlock, Engineer Brian Haley, Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Meredith, and Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Bryan Harter and presented them with Life Saving pins for their actions.

Captain Whitlock asserted the District would not exist without the hard work of the crews on the front line of the community. He congratulated them for the lifesaving measures they put forth regularly.

Chair Lucey spoke about a family member that was saved by the team and asserted this was a well-deserved award.

Recognition of field baby deliveries

Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Beau Retzer
Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Leslie Parawan
Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Tyler Johnson

Chief Moore brought up that many events happened behind the scenes and were not recognized unless attention was focused on an event and employees. He asserted more lives were saved with advanced life support interventions than any type of event, but another type of event was the delivery of babies. He recognized Firefighter/Paramedic Beau Retzer, who delivered a baby girl on January 23, 2021, and Firefighter/Paramedics Leslie Parawan and Tyler Johnson, who delivered a baby boy on March 12, 2021.

Chair Lucey thanked the team for their work and commitment to performing lifesaving acts daily. He asserted the community was safe and citizens could sleep at night because of these teams.

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

10:38 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

10:45 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all Commissioners present.**

21-143F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Fire Chief Report

A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of June and July 2021 to include the following items:

1. Petrilla Fire Review
2. Wildland and Fuels Update
3. Draft Strategic Plan

4. Deployment of Type 1 Engines

B. Commissioner Dashboard: Status update on ongoing Commissioner requests of the Fire Chief.

C. Review of recent critical calls response statistics for May 2021 to include Mutual and Auto Aid for our regional partners.

Chief Moore provided an update on the activity from the weekend, saying two fires occurred at the Mount Rose Ski area, one in lower terrain and one in higher terrain. He noted the United States Forest Service took the lower fire along the highway and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) handled the higher one near the radio towers. He stated the Diamond Fire was more concerning as wildfire crews had to hike up for two hours to access the fire due to low fire resource availability; crews kept a line around the fire until air resources could assist. He explained that fire was significant because the type of wind occurring that day could have pushed the fire down to Little Valley or Galena. He mentioned the 4th of July holiday was tame and did not result in many firework-related fires, and crews were able to respond to those that did occur. He asserted it was a successful weekend and thanked crews for their hard work.

Division Chief Chris Ketring explained the Petrilla Fire started on the afternoon of June 16 and multiple agencies responded. The fire behavior was comparable to the fires seen in late August, and within 30 minutes Zephyr winds started and drove the fire toward homes along U.S. Route 395 Alternate and near the geothermal plant on Mount Rose Highway. He asserted evacuations and road closures were required and the fire encompassed land belonging to four jurisdictions: the City of Reno, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, and the TMFPD. He indicated the Reno Fire Department and the TMFPD unified its command, and no structures were lost; a total of 541 acres burned with the majority being in the TMFPD's jurisdiction. He mentioned a test of emergency evacuations was performed earlier in the season which led to this being a successful event and people returning to their homes within three to four hours, though NV Energy was unable to restore service until the following day. He believed that was the fastest they had been able to lift evacuations, which he credited to the testing. He stated resources stayed onsite for three days for monitoring and cleanup. He thanked the multiple responding agencies, including law enforcement, for help during the incident.

Chair Lucey wondered about challenges getting agency assets to and from the incident due to traffic. Division Chief Ketring replied some delays occurred getting resources from Sparks and Reno due to traffic closures, but agencies were able to get through from the south without issue.

Chair Lucey expressed frustration about the Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) not diverting traffic further north of Damonte Ranch Parkway. He opined traffic could have disbursed in more directions if it had been diverted at South Virginia, which would have prevented commuters from being stranded on the highway. He was disappointed with the

State about the event and wanted discussions to take place with the commander about emergency planning.

Vice Chair Hartung wondered whether responsibility should fall under Emergency Management, bringing up a prior acid spill near the Regional Transportation Commission building. He opined that incident was handled perfectly by blocking the freeway immediately and diverting commuters away from the affected area. Chair Lucey asserted the Emergency Management team was activated and they helped the Sheriff's Office with evacuations and closures; however, the response from the State was lacking.

Division Chief Ketring indicated a commander from the NHP was at the command post coordinating traffic, and the division chief recommended an after-action review related to the traffic report. He stated they had already completed their report for the incident. Chair Lucey replied he would appreciate the review.

Division Chief Ketring admitted getting resources the night of the Petrilla Fire was difficult as the only air resource in the area was the Regional Aviation Enforcement Unit (RAVEN), which put enough water down to keep the Mount Rose fires under control until hikers could reach the location the following morning. He added that RAVEN assisted them the following day and the fire could have spread significantly without that resource. All other aircraft resources were committed to higher priority fires in the south.

Chief Moore brought up the Prison Hill Fire, to which two engines were dispatched while other fires were burning, leaving the District stretched thin.

Deputy Fire Chief Dale Way indicated the Petrilla Fire was human caused but accidental, as were 90 percent of outdoor fires. The fire was started when individuals who were cutting block nicked a piece of rebar, sending sparks into dry brush.

Vice Chair Hartung asked about requirements for a water truck while cutting. Deputy Fire Chief Way stated cutting steel that could emit sparks would have requirements, but they were cutting block, an activity which did not usually cause sparks. He indicated it was an unfortunate accident and they would normally cut the blocks wet, but they were only cutting a small amount too close to an area with rebar storage.

Chair Lucey wondered about the defensible space at the construction yard and whether it should have been required to be cleaned. Deputy Chief Way replied the yard was clean and being used as a storage yard, but this occurred while installing a wall across the back end of the area. He asserted work did not normally occur in their yard.

Regarding the wildland fuels update, Chief Moore asserted the fields crew had been a game changer for the District since it began.

Division Chief August Isernhagen conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Timeline; Equipment; Accomplishments – 1 Year In (4 slides); Future Endeavors; and Thank You.

Division Chief Isernhagen showed drone footage of areas near old 395, Callahan Ranch, and Cold Springs where field crews had removed brush up to existing structures and thinned existing brush to 70 percent to allow fire behavior to die down before it reached houses.

Chair Lucey thanked Division Chief Isernhagen for the presentation and said the progress crews had made over the past year was tremendous. He asserted green waste days and defensible space initiatives would have significant impacts, and he thanked the division chief for his hard work.

County Clerk Jan Galassini distributed copies of the Strategic Plan with larger print than the staff report. Chief Moore said it summarized the first round of objectives for the Board to review in July or August, and it would be brought back for approval in September. Prior to that time, he would have one-on-one discussions with each Commissioner.

Chief Moore displayed a photo of all the new apparatus acquired over the past two years: one ladder truck, five new engines, type 3 refurbished engines, three type 5 engines, and water tenders. He said it was amazing to acquire the pieces over that time to create a modern fleet. He indicated the type 1 engines would go into service in 7 to 10 days and would be rotated to other stations after a year of service.

Commissioner Jung expressed excitement for the acquisitions and said it was important to remember how far the District had come since Chief Moore took over. She spoke about concerns people had that the District would fail, but it had succeeded because of the Chief and his staff.

Commissioner Jung spoke about the TMFPD being abandoned by other agencies whose land was burning and taking over responsibilities to ensure fires were being properly extinguished. She asserted the people in positions to deploy resources for the TMFPD knew the valley and issues around flareups occurring if fires were not correctly monitored. She indicated coverage was provided by the TMFPD not only for automatic aid, but for structure and land threats about which others were not as vigilant. She expressed pride toward Chief Moore and his staff for always taking responsibilities as needed. She stressed the importance of investing in the proper equipment to suppress any major incidents and eliminate gaps in service. She hoped staff would distribute the photo of engines to the press to showcase District and Board achievements.

When he came to the Board 7 years ago, Chair Lucey stated, Commissioner Jung was an advocate not only for Chief Moore, but for ensuring the best employees were promoted through the ranks with a succession path. He asserted firefighters making the transition and commitment to the TMFPD during tougher times made a difference in the

quality of staff. He noted the employees had the sense of pride with the new equipment and believed purchasing the equipment was a good allocation of funds. He thanked Chief Moore for his leadership.

Vice Chair Hartung said equipment was in a horrible state of disrepair and he remembered the processes and struggles to keep things working. He was proud of staff and the team for making it through and getting to a better place.

Chief Moore indicated Agenda Items 8B and 8C were covered in the staff report unless anyone had any questions.

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

BLOCK VOTE 10 through 12

21-144F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve a purchase and sale agreement for the acquisition of property located at 3663 Barron Way (APN 164-352-26) with an approximate close of escrow date sixty days upon the execution of the Purchase and Sale Agreement, and approval of documents in support thereof. The purchase is in an amount not to exceed \$6,290,000 plus closing costs, less \$50,000 in an earnest money deposit, and authorize the Chair to execute final documents after the sale of bonds. (Commission District 2.)

There was no public comment on this item.

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

21-145F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve the purchase of one hundred ten sets (110) of structural firefighting protective clothing for career employees from AllStar Fire Equipment Inc, 2552 Barrington Court, Hayward, California 94545 in the amount of \$276,540 pursuant to NRS 332.115 (b), Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no public comment on this item.

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

21-146F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation pursuant to NRS 332.195(1) to join in Nevada State Contract Bid #99SWC-S490 and approve the purchase of six (6) new light duty trucks and one (1) new light duty SUV for the purpose command and general staff use not to exceed the amount of

\$52,142 per vehicle for a total purchase price of \$365,000 (All Commission Districts.)

There was no public comment on this item.

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

21-147F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to approve a renewal of a three-year Cooperative Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and City of Reno for automatic and mutual aid. If approved the agreement would be retroactively effective July 1, 2021. (All Commission Districts.)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated the provisions that were different in this agreement included revised rates and an increase in the term by one year. He noted Reno Fire Chief Dave Cochran had not indicated there would be a change to the automatic aid boundaries.

Chair Lucey expressed interest in pushing forward an emergency medical services automatic aid agreement for a number of those situations.

Vice Chair Hartung expressed concern about the figures on page 2 of the staff report and that the amount of automatic aid received and given was disproportionate, but the TMFPD was about protecting citizens.

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 9 be approved.

21-148F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or comments.

21-149F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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11:24 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:
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk