

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

PRESENT:

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

**Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy County Clerk**  
**Charles Moore, Fire Chief**  
**Wade Carner, Deputy District Attorney**

ABSENT:

**Bob Lucey, Chair**

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:

Vice Chair Hartung assumed the gavel in Chair Lucey's absence.

**21-159F**      **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

Mr. Thomas Daly mentioned the discontinuation of a Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) unit previously stationed on Mount Rose Highway, which had been stationed there in 2016 to improve response times in the area. He said the decision to terminate that REMSA unit was made without community outreach or noticing. He urged the Board to reinstate the Mount Rose Highway REMSA unit until the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District was able to provide ambulance service from Station 36.

**21-160F**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore requested a moment of silence for the passing of retired Battalion Chief Al Hyde, a long-time employee of the TMFPD. There followed a moment of silence.

Commissioner Hill thanked Chief Moore and Deputy Chief Alex Kukulus for keeping the commissioners informed of the Caldor Fire and TMFPD operations. She noted the TMFPD had done a significant amount of work on that fire even with resources stretched thin due to unsanctioned Burning Man events. She thanked Chief Moore for the daily updates which helped her relay pertinent information to constituents. She expressed

appreciation for the collaborative spirit demonstrated by the TMFPD even though the fire was not in the District's jurisdiction.

Vice Chair Hartung said he was aware of an emergency call within the District's jurisdiction that had been taken by the City of Reno. He asked whether the Board could obtain 911 records, radio traffic recordings, and other pertinent information. Chief Moore responded he would provide a brief overview during Agenda Item 8.

Vice Chair Hartung thanked the crews who had worked overtime to assist with the Dixie and Caldor Fires. He thanked the crew out of Station 46 in Spanish Springs for extinguishing a fire that morning and requested information about the cause of the fire. He requested information about the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) agreements, mentioning past agreements for units located at Mount Rose Highway, Wadsworth, and Spanish Springs. He asked whether other REMSA agreements were in place around the region or whether those units were part of the franchise agreement under REMSA's purview.

Vice Chair Hartung mentioned he received some inquiries from wineries about the requirement to install fire suppression equipment in a 1,000 square foot tasting room, although residential units of that size were not required to do so. He thought the requirement was not due to a state statute and inquired whether the requirement was due to a local statute.

Chief Moore asked whether Vice Chair Hartung inquired about a current proposal for a winery in the district. Vice Chair Hartung replied a proposal would be forthcoming. He believed the district needed to overcome some constraints because wineries faced hundreds of thousands of dollars in infrastructure costs. He believed wineries could enhance the region and wanted to understand whether the requirements were really necessary.

Commissioner Jung said the REMSA franchise agreement resided with the District Board of Health. Vice Chair Hartung acknowledged that was true, but he wanted clarification about the particulars of the agreement.

#### **CONSENT ITEMS – 5A through 5F**

**21-161F**      **5A** Recommendation to approve meeting minutes for the Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting of July 6, 2021. (All Commission Districts.)

**21-162F**      **5B** Recommendation to approve meeting minutes for the Board of Fire Commissioners' special meeting of July 27, 2021.

**21-163F**      **5C** Recommendation that the Board of Fire Commissioners ratify Fiscal Year 2020-21 reimbursements from the Washoe County, Nevada Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund to Truckee Meadows Fire

Protection District for the cost of retiree health insurance premiums in the amount of \$184,625. Monies transferred from this trust have been placed into the District's General Fund. (All Commission Districts)

**21-164F** **5D** Recommendation to accept a grant award from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation in the amount of \$30,640.00 for the purchase of two Unimac Gear Washer/Extractors, two Gear Dryers, bases, accessories for the purpose of upgrading existing equipment and increasing capacity to decontaminate firefighting personal protective equipment, and, if accepted, approve a resolution directing staff to make the necessary budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

**21-165F** **5E** Recommendation to authorize the sale of multiple surplus apparatus and utility vehicles that have reached end of useful life for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District by marketing to other agencies in the region and state, followed by use of broker or auction site should there be no interested agencies. (All Commission Districts)

**21-166F** **5F** Recommendation to authorize the sale of a surplus 2008 Pierce Arrow Reserve Engine with approximately 115,700 miles in "as is" condition from the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to the City of Reno in the amount of \$95,000.00. (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 Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Lucey absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5F be approved. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5F are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**21-167F** **AGENDA ITEM 6** Recommendation to accept and express thoughtful appreciation for a monetary donation for \$1,000.00 from Robert and Sheryl Fitzgerald in support of Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and, if accepted, direct the Finance Department to make appropriate budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated he received the check in a plain envelope, but he did not know what it was for, so he contacted Ms. Fitzgerald. He said Ms. Fitzgerald expressed gratitude for the TMFPD's firefighting efforts on the two fires above Little Valley caused by lightning. He said Ms. Fitzgerald was aware fire crews had to hike about two hours to access those fires.

Vice Chair Hartung asked whether a formal letter of thanks had been sent to Mr. and Ms. Fitzgerald. Chief Moore said he sent a letter of thanks, but he proposed

authoring a more formal letter signed by the Chair, which he would write once the Board approved this item.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be accepted, expressed, and directed.

**21-168F**     **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to approve a resolution to donate one (1) surplus 1994 Navistar/Central States Type I Structure Engine and various hose, ladders, and loose equipment in “as is” condition from Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to Indian Valley Fire & Rescue in Greenville, California and if approved, authorize the Chair execute Resolution for same. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore mentioned that the town of Greenville, California had been completely destroyed by the Dixie Fire. He said the fire station and other critical infrastructure had been lost in the fire. He stated the District had a surplus engine, which staff recommended donating to Indian Valley Fire & Rescue (IVFR).

IVFR Fire Chief Bob Orange stated the City of Greenville lost its infrastructure including the water plant, sewer treatment plant, sheriff’s substation, library, post office, and the fire station including one apparatus. He noted the fire station was composed of 14 volunteers, three of whom lost their homes; all Greenville Community Services District employees lost their homes as well. He expressed gratitude for the donated engine, noting no other fire protection districts had offered replacement equipment.

Vice Chair Hartung asked about the loose equipment valued at \$5,000 that was listed in the staff report. Chief Moore replied the loose equipment included some hose nozzles, axes, and other general tools found on a fire apparatus. Vice Chair Hartung asked whether that type of equipment could be periodically donated in the future. Chief Moore said yes, equipment that was at the end of life for the TMFPD could be donated and the IVFR could use it for years. Vice Chair Hartung offered condolences to Chief Orange for the losses.

Commissioner Jung said Chief Moore had always demonstrated complete cooperation throughout northern Nevada and northern California. She noted fire was a regional concern and it crossed many jurisdictions. She asserted cooperation would provide a better quality of life for constituents. She thought this was a generous donation and she wished the District could do more. She expressed her best wishes for Chief Orange and the IVFR. Commissioner Herman seconded Commissioner Jung’s sentiments.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be approved and authorized. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**21-169F**      **AGENDA ITEM 8** Fire Chief Report - For Discussion Only

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

1. Grant Awards
2. Fall Green Waste
3. Air Quality and Wildfire Smoke
4. Budget Update
5. Wildfire Update

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

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

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said the District had received a grant of about \$400,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant was for a volunteer coordinator, additional personal protective equipment, and program development to expand and develop the District's volunteer program. He noted the TMFPD received almost \$500,000 in equipment which the Board would not need to approve because it came under the master agreement with NV Energy and the State. He summarized the District had received almost \$1 million in grant awards over the past few weeks.

Chief Moore said the TMFPD started making plans for the fall green waste program. He noted staff wanted to consider new processes to minimize wait times for people offloading their green waste. He thought about using a horizontal grinder to masticate waste and hoped to find a way of transporting the waste to a green waste recycler rather than burning it.

Chief Moore recalled a conversation he had with a mom whose son's respiratory difficulties were exacerbated by smoke from the wildfires. He noted the smoke would infiltrate a home over time. He said an inexpensive alternative for an air purifier could be made at home from a box fan.

Fire Communications Manager Adam Mayberry recommended residents stay indoors when the air quality was unhealthy. He acknowledged that indoor air could be hazardous even in a home with central air, noting air purifiers could cost as much as \$800. He said an inexpensive alternative could be made with a simple box fan and a MERV 13 filter. He mentioned the University of Michigan Medical School was the source of the homemade filter tutorial. He noted some high-end air purification systems could capture 400,000 particles per cubic foot, and this homemade filter could reduce about 90 percent

of those particles. Chief Moore mentioned he had central air conditioning in his house, but the smoke smell still penetrated into it. He tried the homemade filter in his house and it virtually eliminated the smell in about two or three hours.

Chief Fiscal Officer Cindy Vance reviewed a document titled “General Fund Fiscal Year 2021 Year End Fiscal Review Through 6/30/2021”, a copy of which was distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. She said auditors were still performing the closing process for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. She indicated the change in fund balance exceeded the augmented budget amount by about \$3 million; revenues were higher than expected and expenses were lower than budgeted. She projected the ending fund balance would be approximately \$1.8 million higher than the budgeted amount. She stated the fiscal review had not included the consolidated tax (C-tax) for June, which had since been received. She noted the expected C-tax had been approximately \$800,000, but over \$1 million had been received. She said the projected C-tax for FY21 had been \$7.8 million but the total received was \$10,396,000, about 33 percent higher than projected and 15 percent over the prior year. She indicated the year-end accruals she used were mostly revenue accruals; revenues had to be collected within 60 days of year’s end for them to be recorded as revenue for that FY. Some of the accruals would include the NV Energy reconciliations billed and owed by June 30, and amounts received from the fuels programs by August 31. Ambulance billings from third-party vendors needed to be accrued; any services provided by June 30 and collected by August 31 would be accrued. She noted a reconciliation for salaries and benefits would be included in the expenses.

Vice Chair Hartung cautioned against using C-tax as a basis for future projections because it could vary significantly. Ms. Vance said the State provided projections for C-tax and those projections had been used for FY22.

Moving to a wildfire update, Chief Moore indicated there had been a five-acre fire in Cold Springs in the Bureau of Land Management’s jurisdiction which had been extinguished quickly thanks to aircraft. A burning mattress on Peavine Road, probably an act of arson, had been simultaneously extinguished. He noted the Donovan Pit Fire extinguished earlier that morning would likely produce a column of smoke for a few hours, so Mr. Mayberry texted the media to ask that people not call 911 about the smoke.

Chief Moore said there had been a structure fire on Saturday that presented some concerns. The fire was reported to 911 but the TMFPD did not receive the call. The residence was only 10 doors down from Station 33 and the station captain saw the smoke from the station kitchen window. He stated the Reno Fire Department had received some calls reporting smoke about six minutes before the TMFPD responded to the fire. Reno Fire arrived shortly after Station 33 responded and a fire was found in the attic of the residence. He said he would need to investigate what had happened because a notification delaying a response by six minutes was not acceptable. He noted the response would have been delayed longer than six minutes if the station captain had not gone into the kitchen. He thought the issue was an inefficient and inaccurate dispatch system. He said there would have been no delay had the fire been located in the City of Sparks because the TMFPD had agreements and processes in place, particularly within dispatch. Both the Sparks Fire

Department and the TMFPD would have been dispatched almost immediately, but unfortunately that did not happen with the current City of Reno agreements. He wanted to ensure that the Board understood what happened so progress could be made on the dispatch agreements if additional follow-up with the Reno City Council took place in the future. He acknowledged the structure fire was located in an automatic aid zone, but he thought the technology issues could be resolved with a simple policy decision.

Vice Chair Hartung requested the 911 records, radio traffic recordings, and any pertinent information for the Board meeting in October. He wanted to know where the call had come in and how it was routed. He asked whether the new system being set up with REMSA dispatch would provide a solution.

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

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Vice Chair Hartung moved to put Agenda Items 11, 13, 14, 15, and 16 into a block vote. Commissioner Hill asked whether Agenda Item 11 would be taken with Agenda Items 9 and 10. Vice Chair Hartung conceded that made sense. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion with the exclusion of Agenda Item 11.

**BLOCK VOTE – 13, 14, 15, 16**

**21-170F** **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to accept sub-grant funding from the Nevada Division of Forestry to create a defensible space fuel break around the Rolling Hills community in south Washoe County and if accepted, approve a resolution accepting the sub grant funding and direct staff to make the necessary budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be accepted, approved, and directed. The resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**21-171F** **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to award a Professional Services Agreement to TSK Architects for the Station #37 Remodel/Addition Project to complete design of a new apparatus bay, shop areas, office and residence remodel, in the amount of \$295,650; The funding for this project is from the District’s Capital Projects Fund. (Commission District 2)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be awarded.

**21-172F**      **AGENDA ITEM 15** Recommendation to approve a transfer of \$800,000 from the General Fund to the Emergency Fund for the purpose of funding emergency event costs pending receipt of state and local reimbursements and if approved, approve a resolution to augment the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Emergency Fund Budget and direct the District to make the appropriate budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be approved and directed. The resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**21-173F**      **AGENDA ITEM 16** Discussion and direction to staff regarding events for the District’s 50th Anniversary and authorize the Fire Chief to execute a contract and pay a \$10,000 deposit for facility rental at the Peppermill Resort Hotel for a Firemen’s Ball on December 2, 2022. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 16 be authorized.

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Vice Chair Hartung said he would open Agenda Items 9, 10, and 11 together. He stated the Board would take separate motions for each item, but they would be opened together. During the discussion on these items, however, it was determined they would be consolidated and only one vote be taken on all three items.

**21-174F**      **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to approve a five-year agreement between REMSA and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to allow Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to respond to and provide ambulance transport services within the REMSA Franchise Service area. (All Commission Districts)

**AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to create 12 additional Firefighter/Paramedic positions which can be permanently underfilled as a Firefighter/EMT, if necessary, to allow for ambulance staffing and to



approve a restructured Firefighter/Paramedic District Staffing Plan for 63 Firefighter/Paramedic positions, which includes 3 existing grant-funded positions, 48 existing Firefighter/Paramedic positions and 12 new “flexibly staffed” Firefighter/Paramedic/EMT positions. (All Commission Districts)

**AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve the purchase of two new ambulances from Braun NW Inc. to provide ambulance transport services, in an amount not to exceed \$195,000 each, or \$390,000 total, utilizing existing HGAC contract pricing. (All Commission Districts)

Chief Deputy County Clerk Cathy Smith said she had documents for the Board, copies of which were placed on the record.

Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulus mentioned REMSA Executive Director of EMS Operations Aaron Abbott was present in Chambers. He said the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) had been in the ambulance business for many years, starting with providing intermittent transport in Washoe Valley through Medic 30 out of the Bowers Mansion station. He said that service covered a small area in south Washoe Valley primarily when REMSA and Carson City were not available. He stated REMSA had asked the TMFPD to coordinate ambulance services towards the end of 2020 given the COVID-19 (C19) pandemic. The TMFPD started picking up a greater call volume in Washoe Valley and Sun Valley. He said those services started part-time, but the District took over a mutual aid agreement for primary transport in Sun Valley. The arrangement was originally planned to go through March 31, 2021. He stated the TMFPD started to see the arrangement was mutually advantageous, so they agreed to extend it.

Chief Kukulus mentioned TMFPD staff had many collaborative conversations with Mr. Abbott, Director of Ground Operations Paul Burton, TMFPD EMF Division Chief Joe Kammann, and TMFPD Operations Division Chief Chris Ketring. He asserted this had been under consideration for some time and staff had performed an in-depth analysis of whether it would be an appropriate venture to recommend to the Board. He said the benefits to the TMFPD included faster ambulance response times, ambulances that were cross staffed with fire personnel, and a more aggressive response when both ambulance and fire were dispatched to structure fires or vehicle accidents. The benefit for REMSA included relieving them of the responsibility of concentrating resources in outlying areas so they could focus on areas with greater call volume. He noted there was an arrangement for REMSA to provide fire standby and backup ambulance service when the TMFPD was handling multiple calls at the same time. The TMFPD would reciprocate by sending medic units when the City’s call volume became overwhelming for REMSA.

Chief Kukulus stated the analysis had been done internally, although a third-party consultant had been contracted. He said the internal analysis focused on the fiscal benefits of this agreement. The two billing mechanisms would be direct insurance billings and the ground emergency medical transport offset reimbursed by Medicaid. He summarized the internal analysis indicated the program would be cost neutral and might even provide additional revenue, offsetting other medical services provided through the

District. He stated increased taxes had not been suggested and the program would not be paid through the District's current tax revenues.

Chief Kukulus said Agenda Item 10 would be an extension of the ambulance program which would require six personnel per ambulance for a total of 12 new employees. He proposed Medic 30 out of Washoe Valley be cross staffed with engine personnel because of the lower call volume in that area. He explained Agenda Item 11 included the purchase of one ambulance for Spanish Springs and one to replace a 2005 model that needed to be surplus.

Chief Kukulus relayed the ambulance data from June 1 through September 1: Medic 45 responded to 604 calls and approximately 400 transports, and Medic 30 responded to 147 calls and 80 transports.

Commissioner Hill thought the proposal was a good one. She wondered why the District wanted to progress with the contract before the County received American Rescue Plan Act funds. She asked whether the Board could wait until October to approve the agreement. Chief Kukulus said the most pressing issue was the recruitment of staff. He stated the TMFPD participated in Carson City's Regional Fire Academy which was scheduled to start in mid-October. The next available opportunity for staff to go through an academy would be in spring of the upcoming year, which would conclude during the summer of 2022.

Commissioner Hill asked for confirmation that the TMFPD had not yet received reimbursement for services provided to fight fires. She asked about the ending budget if the program was funded by general funds which would eventually be reimbursed. Chief Fiscal Officer Cindy Vance replied those variables had been taken into consideration. She said the emergency fund had \$1.8 million out for receivables. She stated staff would work on accelerating those collection times, and they were exploring ideas for ensuring the bills were sent and collected quickly. She noted the fund could only have \$1.5 million in it, so those collections would go back to the general fund. She said staff met with the State to ensure those transfers would not count as budget violations if the program was funded by the cash balance in the general fund. She expected that a new fund would be started for the program. She summarized the \$1.8 million would be more than enough to cover the program; it was an available augmentation resulting from additional revenues and lower expenses than projected for the start of Fiscal Year 2022. She expected the ending fund balances after funding this program would be the same as those included in the budget.

Commissioner Hill mentioned Mr. Thomas Daly's public comment in which he expressed concern about the response time for ambulance calls in Washoe Valley. She asked for details about those response times. Chief Kukulus replied Medic 30 out of Bowers Station would respond to calls for the Mount Rose Highway corridor if REMSA's resources were unavailable or more distant. He said Medic 30's response area predominantly included Pleasant Valley, east and west Washoe Valley, and some edges of Galena Forest. He noted the Mount Rose Highway corridor would be on the far reaches of acceptable response times for Medic 30.

Mr. Abbott said REMSA had always posted units based on demand; they used fairly sophisticated software to perform predictive analytics to help determine where to place ambulances. He acknowledged a 24-hour station had been explicitly bid and staffed at Mount Rose Highway for the past five years, but that unit was removed because of a safety concern. He explained an ambulance was required to respond to a 911 call anywhere in the franchise area when they were the closest most appropriate resource. Ambulances had never been dedicated to a specific geographical area. He stated the 911 call volume had increased dramatically as the C19 pandemic progressed; REMSA responded to 800 more calls in July than in May. He said the ambulances experienced significant hospital delays and they were consistently drawn into the core because that was where hospitals were located. The hospital drop-off delays made it more difficult to respond to rural and semi-rural areas. He stated the 24-hour stations had been removed from REMSA's plan several months prior because of extreme fatigue which created a major safety concern. He noted the 12-hour shifts were reduced to 10 hours to help reduce staff fatigue as well. The hospital system and emergency medical services (EMS) across the nation were at a tipping point. He said the Mount Rose Highway posting was not out of REMSA's plan and a unit was posted there when there was call volume demand and available ambulances. He mentioned REMSA had been partnering with the TMFPD, splitting calls in many areas because they were working with finite resources.

Commissioner Hill thought the importance of the partnership for servicing remote areas of Washoe County was clear.

Chief Kukulus said this agreement was a starting point; it was what he thought could be accomplished with existing resources. He stated the agreement included contemplation for expanding TMFPD's service area with mutual agreement from REMSA. The Arrowcreek area provided a possible location for a future ambulance station, same with the Cold Springs area. Those areas were hard to reach so they would need to be phased in.

Commissioner Herman observed the TMFPD had been overtaxed and pushed in every direction for some time. She complimented Chief Moore and everyone involved in the planning for this item. She said she was proud to serve on the Board and for being able to understand everything the TMFPD went through.

Chief Moore emphasized this agreement was cost neutral for the District's budget; the tax-paying citizens would not subsidize REMSA. He complimented Chief Kukulus and Chief Kammann and staff who studied this agreement for the past four months.

Vice Chair Hartung asked whether the ambulance stationed in Washoe Valley would be staffed or whether it would just sit there with the three-person crew at the station. Chief Kukulus said the TMFPD had purchased two new ambulances in recent years, so a 2018 model was running out of the Washoe Valley station. The ambulance was cross staffed by the three-person engine crew, so at least two crew members from Engine 30 would take the ambulance when Medic 30 was requested and respond to the incident.

Vice Chair Hartung asked whether the Sun Valley unit would respond to calls in the City of Reno. Chief Kukulus replied the intent was for that unit to respond primarily to calls in Sun Valley, but it would occasionally need to respond to other calls. The TMFPD told REMSA they would handle all priority types within Sun Valley, but outside of Sun Valley they really only wanted to respond to life-threatening emergencies as part of the mutual aid agreement. Vice Chair Hartung noted a part of Sun Valley was in the City of Reno. Chief Kukulus said the majority of Sun Valley was within the district. Vice Chair Hartung stated people were not aware of those distinctions.

Vice Chair Hartung asked for a definition of Spanish Springs in terms of response area. Chief Kukulus indicated the staff report provided maps of TMFPD's jurisdiction. Vice Chair Hartung asked what would happen if a call came in when REMSA was not available. Mr. Abbott said his concern was addressing the idea of regionalization of emergency services. He stated REMSA was the one agency that was not limited to a specific jurisdiction. He said the majority of calls going to the TMFPD were located within the District's jurisdiction, but there were times when they were not. Under this agreement REMSA would request the TMFPD under the existing mutual aid agreement if they were the closest most appropriate ambulance. Vice Chair Hartung said he wanted response without jurisdictional boundaries getting in the way, and not just with REMSA. He recognized the City of Sparks had different response times than Washoe County. He believed agency boundaries were a long-standing issue.

Chief Kukulus indicated the TMFPD responded to emergencies whenever they were available and close. He said the response would be simplified when the District switched to REMSA dispatch because they would be on the same automatic vehicle locating system, instantly able to identify which unit was closer and whether it was in TMFPD's jurisdiction. The nearest resource would be sent if it was an automatic mutual aid request.

Vice Chair Hartung asked whether the TMFPD would respond to priority 2 or 3 calls. Chief Kukulus replied the TMFPD would respond to all priorities within the district, and priority 1 and 2 calls in the cities and outside the district. The response to priority 3 calls would be determined by the battalion chief.

Vice Chair Hartung asked about post-C19 response and whether the TMFPD would always transport patients or hand them off to REMSA. Chief Kukulus acknowledged call volume had spiked dramatically in the past 18 months, but it had been increasing year over year even before C19. He said staff had reviewed call volumes for the past three years as well as anticipated revenues. He stated patient transfer was always an option, but it could sometimes cause a delay in getting the patient definitive care at the hospitals. He noted transfers would change the financial assessment because only one agency could bill for an ambulance transfer.

Vice Chair Hartung asked whether REMSA would need those transport revenues if their call volumes started to decrease. Mr. Abbott replied the decision to transport would be the TMFPD's under this agreement. He said the community routinely

accessed 911 and, even though C19 caused an additional factor, the call volume continued to grow. The countrywide consensus among EMS providers was that the increase would not stop.

Vice Chair Hartung asked how ambulances would be restocked. Chief Kukulus replied the TMFPD had a resupply agreement with REMSA so engines could be resupplied on-site from ambulances. Mr. Abbott said the resupply would occur the same way it had been done before. He noted REMSA's home station was on Mill Street just a few miles from Renown Medical Center, so it was not uncommon for Medic 45 to restock from REMSA's logistics department.

Vice Chair Hartung expressed concern about the TMFPD asking Washoe County for recovery funds for one year. He noted Washoe County provided services throughout the County while the TMFPD did not.

Commissioner Hill asked whether the TMFPD would be part of the 988 implementation process once that program was initiated. Mr. Abbott said there were many components to implementing the 988 system. He stated the City of Reno started capturing initial 911 behavioral health calls, transferring them to a crisis call center so EMS resources would not respond to mental health issues. He noted paramedics and firefighters were not trained to respond to situations where patients needed a mental health professional. He indicated the implementation of 988 as the national crisis call line for mental and behavioral health emergencies would add an element and it would provide a significant resource for those patients. He hoped the public could be educated about 988 through an aggressive marketing effort like the one implemented for the 911 system in the 1980s.

Commissioner Hill asked whether local EMS providers and those in other jurisdictions expected to be busy even if mental health calls were rerouted. Mr. Abbott thought EMS would evolve to include specialty care to meet patient needs; mental health would be just one of those specialties. Some service calls did not necessarily include medical emergencies, so other resources would be more appropriate. EMS providers would continue to evolve to meet those needs. Chief Kukulus mentioned Washoe County had also started evaluating calls for transfer to other resources. He noted the TMFPD did not primarily go on non-medical calls unless they had a law enforcement component to secure the scene, but those types of calls comprised a small percentage of the overall call volume.

Vice Chair Hartung said he was supportive of transport service, but he expressed reservations about sending a large piece of apparatus for calls that did not require one. He mentioned the significant increase in calls from senior living facilities that required response for transfer only.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Thomas Daly noted not all hospital capacity was located downtown. Renown operated in South Meadows and a new acute care hospital on Longley Lane would open the following year. He agreed with Vice Chair Hartung's comment about an expected decrease in call volume after C19. He stated buying two ambulances would not significantly decrease the \$3 million surplus and hiring 12 or

24 employees would not matter if the manpower was cost neutral. He opined this item should be agendized for the October meeting to discuss expansion to Washoe Valley and the Mount Rose Highway corridor.

Vice Chair Hartung asked whether ambulance crews would include regular staff who would be rotated so they could have the opportunity to spend time on the flex crews. Chief Kukulus said staffing for that unit started with overtime personnel so there had been significant rotation, but they now had a somewhat regular staff. Staffing that unit had opened new opportunities for collaboration with paramedic programs in the region including Truckee Meadows Community College, Western Nevada Community College, and potentially REMSA's paramedic program. An intern was scheduled as a third rider on that ambulance for two of the three shifts in Sun Valley, so it was a recruitment tool as well. He said battalion chiefs were good at recognizing fatigue and they either took the unit down for a few hours or switched personnel.

On motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 9, 10, and 11 be approved and created.

**21-175F**      **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve an agreement between the United States Forest Service and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to perform federally funded fuels reduction projects with District staff and equipment. Federal funding utilized in this agreement is not to exceed \$150,000 annually. (All Commission Districts)

Vice Chair Hartung asked whether this item primarily involved electric energy corridors or whether they would extend onto private property. Wildfire and Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen replied this item was separate from the NV Energy agreement. He explained the NV Energy agreements treated both infrastructure corridors as well as private property within one thousand feet. He noted most federal employees who dealt with fuel and fire were laid off during the fall, winter, and spring when there was a need for fuels management work. He said Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) staff typically needed to stop at federal boundaries because there was no authorization or mechanism to perform work on the other side of the boundary. He stated the United States Forest Service saw the success of the TMFPD's fuels reduction program and asked to contract the TMFPD to do fuels management work on their side of the boundary.

Vice Chair Hartung asked for confirmation that the scope of this agreement would not include eliminating fuels from personal property. Chief Isernhagen confirmed it did not. He noted funding existed to help with things like the green waste program and some curbside pickup options. Vice Chair Hartung noted individuals still needed to remove material themselves. Chief Isernhagen said that was correct.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved.

**21-176F**      **AGENDA ITEM 17** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Jung acknowledged the difficulty of the current fire season. She expressed gratitude because Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore and his staff kept the Board apprised of everything that was happening as the most dangerous part of the fire season concluded.

Commissioner Herman thanked everyone in the TMFPD for their efforts, adding she believed they saved Lake Tahoe. Vice Chair Hartung seconded the sentiment.

**21-177F**      **AGENDA ITEM 18** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

\*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*      \*

**11:32 a.m.**      There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**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*