

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

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

PRESENT:

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

Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
Wade Carner, 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, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

Chair Lucey requested a moment of silence for the passing of Norman Dianda, founder of Q&D Construction. There followed a moment of silence.

21-192F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

10:02 a.m. Commissioner Jung left the meeting.

21-193F AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore highlighted agenda item 5D, which would reschedule the regular December meeting to be held prior to the Board of County Commissioners meeting. He said the meeting agenda would include only one item so he thought a separate meeting would not be necessary.

Vice Chair Hartung mentioned the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) had decided to change the Advanced Warning System on both Pyramid Highway and Mount Rose Highway to make them flash constantly. He said NDOT claimed the change was due to a safety issue even though no major accidents had occurred at those intersections. He indicated NDOT stated they followed the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and those changes had been made throughout the country. He thought the change was not right for the County and hoped that NDOT would reconsider the issue. He noted NDOT made changes, such as the speed limit on Pyramid Highway, without consulting the community or discussing it with Washoe County. He suggested the Board

meet with Chief Moore and Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulus to discuss the Board's position on the issue. Chair Lucey said he would discuss the issue and possibly agendize it at a future meeting.

Chair Lucey mentioned the Washoe County School District (WCSD) was considering a change in school schedules. He noted some schools were very close to some of the District's fire stations and they could be impacted by traffic resulting from the change in school hours. He wanted more information from the WCSD to help clarify the effect of a change in schedule. He was unsure of whether the changes would apply to all schools or only to some. He suggested a review of stations near schools throughout the WCSD. Chief Moore acknowledged the request.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A through 5D

- 21-194F** **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the October 5, 2021 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.
- 21-195F** **5B** Recommendation to create and approve a Truckee Meadows Fire & Rescue Education Program fee schedule for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District when teaching American Heart Association Certificate Programs and Continuing Education classes for EMT and Paramedic Certifications to Non-District employees. (All Commission Districts)
- 21-196F** **5C** Recommendation to accept the 2021-2024 Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's 2021-2024 Strategic Plan which includes the following goals: (1) Develop an effective organization responsive to the needs of its members and the community it serves; (2) Effectively manage the organization's financial and capital resources to ensure its long-term financial stability; (3) Deliver effective and efficient services to the community; (4) Develop a safe community through proactive fire prevention, public safety education, and hazard mitigation; (5) Maintain close and effective communications with the public and policymakers; and (6) Develop a highly trained and proficient workforce. (All Commission Districts)
- 21-197F** **5D** Recommendation to approve a Notice of Cancellation for the regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting scheduled for December 7, 2021 at 10 a.m. and to reschedule the meeting for December 14, 2021 at 9 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 Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that consent agenda items 5A through 5D be approved.

21-198F **AGENDA ITEM 6** Promotional and new hire introductions, badge pinning and swearing in.

- A. New hire badge pinning and swearing in:
 - ~Kyle Brazil, Firefighter Paramedic
 - ~Ryan Arnaud, Firefighter Paramedic
 - ~Daniel Taylor, Firefighter Paramedic
 - ~Juris Vaskovkis, Firefighter Paramedic
- B. Promotional badge pinning:
 - ~Matt Womack, Fire Inspector II
 - ~Nikolas Raw, Fire Engineer
 - ~Anthony Schiro, Fire Engineer

Training and Logistics Division Chief Joe Schum introduced four new lateral hires and provided a brief history of their backgrounds. He noted lateral hires saved approximately 12 weeks of academy time versus entry level firefighters. He said lateral hires completed a four-week program and they met the same exit standards as full academy recruits. Chief Moore administered their oaths and congratulated them. Chair Lucey congratulated the new hires and welcomed them to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD).

Operations Division Chief Chris Ketring introduced Fire Engineers Anthony Schiro and Nikolas Raw, providing a brief background on each. Mr. Schiro was pinned by his wife and his daughter; Mr. Raw was pinned by his wife. Chief Schum presented their new helmet shields.

Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention Dale Way introduced Fire Inspector Matt Womack and provided a brief history of his background. Mr. Womack was pinned by his wife.

Chair Lucey said this item was his favorite part of each meeting because the TMFPD Board felt that growth from within made the organization stronger. He stated the frontline staff made the difference in the community because they represented the TMFPD every day. He said the dedication of frontline staff made the TMFPD an amazing organization.

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

21-199F **AGENDA ITEM 7** National Weather Service 2021/2022 Winter outlook Presented by Chris Smallcomb.

Mr. Smallcomb conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with County Clerk Jan Galassini. He reviewed slides with the following titles: Pre-Winter 2021; It Was Certainly Hot; Also Known as “Smoke Season”; Does Smoke Affect the Weather; Super Mega Atmospheric River; Hitting the Environmental Reset; Does this help the drought; So How About the Next 2 Weeks; Week One; Week

Two; November Outlook; ENSO; Winter Outlook; Some Random Winter Thoughts; La Niña's & Floods; and Hazard Risks.

Mr. Smallcomb reported the average temperatures for June, July, and August set a new record summer high dating back to 1893. He said record high summer temperatures affected the entire western U.S. He mentioned Portland, Oregon reached a high of 117 degrees Fahrenheit, which matched the all-time record high in Las Vegas, Nevada. He displayed a satellite photo which depicted smoke from the Dixie and Caldor Fires, noting there appeared to be a new fifth season with smoke starting in mid-July the past two years. He reviewed the air quality index (AQI) statistics for the summer months, noting the top three worst AQI days occurred this year. He noted the smoke had an effect on the weather by reducing high temperatures by up to five degrees while overnight lows remained the same. He said the smoke resulted in a smaller spread between high and low temperatures, which helped to limit the strength of afternoon Zephyr winds.

Mr. Smallcomb spoke about the storm the prior week while displaying pictures of flooding at Paradise Park and in Carson Valley, saying it switched the environment quite rapidly. He displayed satellite video of the storm which showed a bomb cyclone. He said this was one of the most intense atmospheric rivers he had witnessed since taking this job in 2007, particularly because it occurred so early in the season. He compared this atmospheric river to those that occurred during the January and February 2017 floods. He pointed out the water level of Lake Tahoe, which was a 191 square mile lake, increased by approximately half a foot. The storm helped increase soil moisture, which tended to prime the soil for flooding if heavy rain events followed. Increased soil moisture would also promote snow melt to run into bodies of water more efficiently next spring, he said, rather than being absorbed into the dry ground.

Mr. Smallcomb noted the snowfall from the prior week's storm was at a very high elevation, but it was three to four times the norm for this time of year. He said the forecast showed a weak La Niña state, which exhibited some of the highest variability of any kind of winter. He mentioned some of the higher flow rates on the Truckee River happened during weak to moderate La Niña states. He observed the atmosphere was behaving differently since the prior week's storm reached this area. He opined there was potential for some storms to make it through the high-pressure ridge off the west coast. He expressed optimism for higher-than-normal winter precipitation.

Chair Lucey said it was a pleasure to have Mr. Smallcomb in Chambers presenting the weather forecast. He noted a wet winter would potentially result in a large amount of vegetation the following spring, which would present a challenge for the District. He asked Mr. Smallcomb whether he intuited a wet winter and the same type of heat the following summer. Mr. Smallcomb replied that wet winters tended to produce more grass crops in western Nevada, and the Sierras were inclined to stay quiet with regard to fire, while they increased in the lower elevations. He thought average to above average temperatures were a safe forecast for the upcoming summer.

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

21-200F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Fire Chief Report:

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of October and November 2021 to include the following items:
 - 1. Operational Update
 - 2. Green Waste Update
 - 3. Capital Projects Update
- B. Review of recent critical calls response statistics for September 2021 to include Mutual and Auto Aid for our regional partners.

Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulus reported the dispatch transition to the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) was on track. The original estimate for the transition was between October 1 and January 1. He said Fire Captain Shane Ackerson had been doing a yeoman's job making the transition happen as well as had all REMSA staff. He stated the equipment was almost completely installed; they were waiting for the installation of one more piece of software before reaching the testing phase. He said all staff needed to be on hand to provide support for the transition, so January 1 would not make a good transition day given that was a holiday weekend. He anticipated the transition would take place mid-December. He said Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) staff would meet with Washoe County dispatch staff within 10 days and the transition date would be announced to all TMFPD partners once it was decided. He noted the transition process looked to be on budget.

Chief Kukulus mentioned Medic 30 had been operating in Washoe Valley and Medic 45 was operating in Sun Valley for almost a year. The agreement the Board entered into in September expanded operations to Spanish Springs. He noted some additions needed to be made to the station in Spanish Springs to accommodate the added staff, and staff needed to be hired and trained. He said some of that staff had completed training as mentioned in agenda item 6, and the remaining 15 staff members were currently in the academy. He said the possibility of putting Medic 46 into service in the following two to four weeks had been discussed. He noted the unit would not be operated in Spanish Springs 24 hours a day given that renovations to that station had not been completed. One option being considered would be to operate Medic 45 and Medic 46 out of the Sun Valley station. He said Medic 46 might operate in Spanish Springs during daytime hours. He noted REMSA had been using Medic 45 to increase coverage to the west into Golden Valley and in Spanish Springs, so adding a second unit would allow them to reduce response and transport times. He said the unit would be moved to Spanish Springs permanently once the renovations to the station were completed.

Wildfire and Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen said six green waste collection events had been completed to date. A total of just under 350 loads had been collected, which translated to about 2,500 cubic yards and 85 tons of material. He said crews would be at both the Lemmon Valley and Silver Lake stations during the upcoming weekend, at the equestrian center in Palomino Valley the following weekend, and in Washoe Valley for two days after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Chair Lucey mentioned that Waste Management (WM) allowed all County residents to put extra waste out for pickup during the month of November. He said WM would collect six extra bags of waste at every pickup, and he encouraged residents to use the extra capacity.

TMFPD Chief Charles Moore said an initial meeting to discuss the Apple station was scheduled for November 8. He projected staffing the station in fiscal year 2024, so that allowed the TMFPD two years to plan and build the station. Work continued on the Hidden Valley residence; the station would be phased out, so all operations of Station 37 would move into the residence when it was done. The existing apparatus bay would be torn down and rebuilt in phase 2. He anticipated completion of that project in fall of the upcoming year.

Chair Lucey asked for an update on the combined station. Chief Moore said Washoe County Capital Projects (WCCP) completed a selection process and an architect was chosen. He was waiting for WCCP to have the capacity to initiate the project. He said the project would begin as soon as the TMFPD received a proposal, which he estimated to happen in December or January.

Chair Lucey asked for confirmation that the escrow for the property in Sparks had closed. Chief Moore said the Board authorized the purchase of 10 acres two miles north of the existing fire station during the prior meeting. He mentioned the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) agreed to work with the TMFPD on an exclusive egress point from the lot on Pyramid Highway. He was discussing traffic control or acceleration/deceleration lanes for that station when NDOT made improvements to Pyramid Highway. He noted there had been concerns about getting in and out of that station, but NDOT believed it would not be a problem for the TMFPD to have exclusive access. Chair Lucey noted he and Vice Chair Hartung shared some concerns about Mount Rose Highway and Pyramid Highway, so Pyramid Highway would be one issue he would continue to monitor.

Vice Chair Hartung observed that Apple Inc. agreed to build a two-bay station. He asked whether the TMFPD had the budget to increase the size of that station to potentially include four bays. He noted there would be a significant amount of growth in the east Truckee Canyon in future years so it would be wise to be able to house an ambulance at that station. Chief Moore said that was not in the budget because construction of the station would be 12 to 18 months away, but he was aware of it. He would budget for the additional bay and possibly additional crew quarters for the ambulance once the project was initiated.

Vice Chair Hartung observed traffic through the east Truckee Canyon was increasing and NDOT was aware the corridor would need to be widened or another form of transit would be needed. He thought the TMFPD was at the forefront of this, and he commended Chief Moore for keeping the District on track with the Apple station. Chief Moore noted Apple had responded very positively to his request to meet so he thought they were also excited to get the project going.

Chair Lucey mentioned the improperly dispatched 911 call for a structure fire near Station 33 which occurred in September. He asked whether those issues had been rectified with the City of Reno. Chief Moore replied he was waiting for a response from Reno Fire Chief Dave Cochran. He planned to have a meeting with Reno City Manager Doug Thornley and County Manager Eric Brown. He thought the automatic aid areas needed to be expanded and dispatch processes needed to be changed so all information was shared more promptly. He noted the automatic aid areas were the same as in 2016 although the station had moved; what used to be the old Station 14 was now Station 33 yet the automatic aid areas had not been revised. He said there was great potential around the Stead fire station for the TMFPD to respond to City of Reno calls and for the city to respond to TMFPD calls in upper Lemmon Valley. He said he would wait for the City of Reno's response.

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

21-201F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to accept sub-grant funding from the Nevada Division of Forestry to create a defensible space fuel break around the Pebble Creek community off of Pyramid Highway and if accepted, approve a resolution accepting the sub grant funding and direct staff to make the necessary budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

Vice Chair Hartung asked for clarification because this item said it was for all commission districts, but it also mentioned Pebble Creek, which was in District 4. Wildfire and Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen said the District had accepted several subgrant awards through the Nevada Department of Forestry, but this grant was specifically for Pebble Creek. Vice Chair Hartung noted the need in that area was significant, so he looked forward to working with those homeowners.

Commissioner Hill commended Chief Isernhagen on using matching funds from NV Energy.

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 Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that agenda item 9 be accepted, approved, and directed. The resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

21-202F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve a Health Benefits Program for District employees, dependents and retirees and authorize the Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners to execute all insurance contracts and service agreements pertinent to the approved Health Benefits Program for calendar year 2022. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore noted the health benefits for District employees would remain the same but at a cost savings of

\$170,000 from the previous year. He said the prior year's usage of the plan had decreased significantly which was why the District was able to see a discount. He commended LP Insurance Services for brokering the health benefits program for the District.

Chair Lucey expressed appreciation for the partnership with LP Insurance Services and congratulated District employees who had not used health benefits.

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 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that agenda item 10 be approved and authorized.

21-203F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Announcements/Reports.

There were no Board member comments.

21-204F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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10:54 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*