

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JANUARY 4, 2022

PRESENT:

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

Cathy Smith, Chief Deputy 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, Chief Deputy County Clerk Catherine Smith called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

22-003F **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

22-004F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore mentioned this year was the District's 50th birthday. He said the TMFPD would celebrate throughout the year.

Commissioner Jung thanked Chief Moore for keeping the Board informed about the Colorado fire. She asked for an overview of the County's risk of a similar situation. She expressed appreciation for the updates about Interstate 580 the previous day.

Commissioner Herman said she was keeping an eye on the situation in Lemmon Valley. She thought the County could face a predicament like the one that occurred in 2017 unless precautions were taken. She noted many residents expressed concern about possible flooding and she requested sandbags for the area to help prepare.

Vice Chair Hartung said Chief Moore previously discussed his thoughts about creating a regional plan for resource placement if an event like the Colorado fire occurred in the District. He wanted to see some work on that plan during the coming year. He noted high wind events occurred in the District and fires caused by embers were possible.

Chair Lucey noted the weather in the Sierra Nevadas during the past two weeks had been eventful and several districts in the County had been impacted. He wanted to discuss a strategy plan for the unincorporated areas without dedicated roads. He suggested creating an emergency plan along with the Roads Department or with outside contractors to clear snow ensuring residents had emergency access. The plan should ensure that emergency vehicles had access to fire hydrants. He asked that a discussion about an emergency plan for storms be agendaized for a future meeting. He referred to his comments during the last meeting about a regional plan including funding structure, service structure, and emergency medical service dispatch. He wanted to utilize the two-hour rule for this request.

Vice Chair Hartung observed the Board had a self-imposed two-hour rule and asked whether Chair Lucey's request would be permissible. Deputy District Attorney Wade Carner said the Board could suspend the rule for a specific item because they put the rule in place. Vice Chair Hartung asked whether the Board would need to return with a re-write. Mr. Carner agreed to speak with Vice Chair Hartung about the issue outside of the meeting.

Commissioner Jung noted the Colorado fires involved sparking power lines, so she thought NV Energy should be part of the conversation. She believed it was once again time to discuss moving transmission lines underground. The move would provide significant mitigation for a predictable risk.

Chair Lucey agreed with Commissioner Jung's comments about NV Energy's participation, noting the utility spent a significant amount of money performing fuels mitigation. He agreed that moving transmission lines underground for wind-prone areas would be prudent.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A through 5F

- 22-005F** **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the December 14, 2021 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.
- 22-006F** **5B** Recommendation to approve a four-year Right-of-Entry Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the State of Nevada acting through the Division of State Lands and the State Land Registrars to authorize Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to enter Washoe Lake State Park for the purpose of wildland fire and hazardous fuels mitigation. (Commission District 2)
- 22-007F** **5C** Recommendation to approve a Cooperative Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority. If approved the agreement would be retroactively effective January 1, 2022. (All Commission Districts)

- 22-008F** **5D** Recommendation to approve an updated Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District salary matrix for non-represented staff to include two salary change recommendations for the Logistics Coordinator from \$45,073 - \$58,344, pay grade 703 to \$51,147 - \$66,414, new pay grade 706 and salary range recommendation for the Human Resources Support Specialist of \$58,156 - \$75,691, pay grade 715, and one reclassification/salary change recommendations from Administrative Assistant I to Executive Assistant to include an increase in the salary range from \$58,156 - \$75,691, pay grade 715 to \$62,254 - \$80,891, pay grade 725 as evaluated by Korn Ferry retroactively to January 1, 2022. (All Commission Districts.)
- 22-009F** **5E** Discussion and possible direction to staff to approve a modified logo for use during the District’s Golden Anniversary. (All Commission Districts)
- 22-010F** **5F** Recommendation to accept a donation of a “Poulan PRO 50cc/PP5020AV” chainsaw from Washoe County Resident William Cummings in support of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Fuels Program, and if accepted express sincere appreciation for the thoughtful contribution. (All Commission Districts)

Vice Chair Hartung thanked Mr. Cummings for supporting the District by donating a chainsaw.

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 Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5F be approved.

- 22-011F** **AGENDA ITEM 6** International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 Report - Introduction of new Board President.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 President Patrick Walsh introduced himself to the Board noting he looked forward to growing the department and making things better.

Chair Lucey asked for an update of the IAFF Local 2487 board members. Mr. Walsh said Mr. Aaron Reynolds was Treasurer; Captain Jamie Rivera was Vice President; Captain Ryan Whitlock was Secretary; and the trustees were past president Josh Kutz, Mr. Brian Haley, and Mr. Travis Johnson.

Chair Lucey welcomed Mr. Walsh saying he looked forward to having him present at Board meetings.

22-012F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Promotional and new hire introductions, badge pinning and swearing in.

- A. Promotional Badge Pinning
 - Chad Perkins, Squad Boss
 - Juan Saldana, Squad Boss
 - Gregory Jackson, Fire Management Officer

- B. New hire introduction and/or badge pinning
 - De'Mel Bullock, Crew Member
 - John Dryden, Crew Member
 - Cody Hoag, Crew Member
 - Logan Nordyke, Crew Member
 - Kody Weil, Crew Member
 - Thomas Witzmann, Crew Member
 - Chanse Hunwardsen, Heavy Equipment Operator
 - Robert Harper, EMS Coordinator
 - Marissa Giampaoli, Volunteer Program Assistant

EMS Division Chief Joe Kammann introduced Robert Harper, a second EMS Coordinator and provided a brief history of his background. Mr. Harper was pinned by EMS Coordinator Zeb Nomura.

Wildland Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen introduced Volunteer Program Assistant Marissa Giampaoli and provided a brief history of his background. He introduced four new fuels crew members and provided a brief history for each: Cody Hoag, pinned by Chief Isernhagen; John Dryden, pinned by his father Tom; Thomas Witzmann, pinned by his father Robert; and Kody Weil, pinned by his mother Keiko.

Chief Isernhagen introduced three newly promoted District employees: Squad Boss Juan Saldana, pinned by his wife Karen; Squad Boss Chad Perkins, pinned by his father Steve; and Fire Management Officer Gregory Jackson, pinned by his daughter Ellie.

Chair Lucey noted this item was his favorite part of each meeting. He said that growing the organization through new hires was gratifying but it was also great to see current employees promoting from within. He congratulated all employees for their dedication to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

22-013F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Fire Chief Report:

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of December 2021 and January 2022 to include the following items:
 - 1. TMFR 50th Anniversary

2. Discussion and possible direction on the September 4, 2021
Broken Hill Fire and Regional Response.

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

Fire Communications Manager Adam Mayberry presented the new ash can branded with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) 50th anniversary logo. He said the TMFPD had 200 ash cans, noting that announcements would begin as early as the following week for distribution of free ash cans to Washoe County citizens. He noted instructions for the correct disposal of ashes would be included with the ash cans to help raise awareness. He said Chief Moore would present an ash can to each commissioner.

Chief Moore displayed a map of the District with an overlay of Colorado's Broomfield Fire to demonstrate the potential for structure fires. He noted the District had wind-driven fires in the past. He said wind-driven fires were very difficult to combat; the strategy would be to put resources well ahead of the fire rather than trying to suppress structures that were already on fire. He stated the TMFPD was doing the right thing by having the Wildfire and Fuels Division remove fuels to break the continuity of fuel from the wildlands to structures. Another strategy involved hardening construction and consideration of wildland urban interface codes. Educating the public was the third strategy that would give the District the best chance in the event a fire like the Broomfield Fire occurred in this jurisdiction.

Chief Moore reiterated this year was TMFPD's 50th anniversary and District staff was happy to celebrate with citizens who supported the TMFPD. He observed the growth in the past 10 years was significant; the number of staff had almost doubled since 2012, the Wildland Division was new, the District had the most modern fleet of fire apparatus in northern Nevada, and a paramedic program had been started. He said the TMFPD would host a number of public events throughout the year to celebrate this anniversary. The capstone event would be a firefighter's ball on December 2 to benefit the Truckee Meadows Firefighter's Foundation. A decision about holding the ball would need to be made by June 3, so TMFPD staff would be monitoring the COVID-19 (C19) transmission status. He said staff was excited to exhibit the new TMFPD headquarters, so he hoped to host an event there during the summer. He mentioned the District might have a sponsor for a large barbecue. He noted the new logo was approved by the Board in the consent agenda. The new logo would be used for official communications throughout the year.

Commissioner Jung inquired whether the Board could use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the firefighter's ball. She noted the District had not done anything to thank essential workers and first responders for their efforts during the C19 pandemic. She expressed enthusiasm for the celebration, saying she would speak with Chief Moore outside of the meeting.

Chief Moore read an excerpt from the Reno Gazette Journal circa 1997/1998 regarding a mobile home fire for which the closest resource was not dispatched

because the City of Reno did not call TMFPD. He said he had gone as far as possible with the City of Reno on this issue. He noted a letter from Reno Fire Chief David Cochran stated it would have been easy to start automatic aid if the TMFPD had accepted a proposal from the City of Reno for dispatch. He believed Chief Cochran's statement was incorrect because the proposal from the City of Reno was only for dispatch and did not include automatic aid. He said he attended a meeting the week before the proposal was received during which the Reno union and Chief Cochran indicated they would not agree to automatic closest unit response until there was a single agency. He displayed a map that illustrated the potential automatic aid for the past year. He noted the TMFPD could have responded to approximately 3,000 Reno Fire calls and Reno Fire could have responded to approximately 1,000 calls for TMFPD. He said the graph showed only priority one and two emergency medical services (EMS) calls. Call data was provided by TMFPD and the City of Reno to the Washoe County Health District and it was plotted on a map by using the County's geographic information system. He noted the 10-year total would be 40,000 calls, based on 4,000 calls per year, for which citizens were not given the closest resource. He said the District was on the verge of having an eloquent solution once common computer-aided design (CAD) was available throughout the jurisdictions, but a workaround was available and all that would be required was for the Board and the City of Reno to reach an agreement.

Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulius mentioned Chief Cochran's letter indicated TMFPD and Reno Fire were on a different radio system, but both agencies were on the same 800-megahertz radio system. It would only require a click to the left to get onto the same channel, so he believed the radio system was not a significant factor. He said the map only plotted EMS calls, which were the vast majority of emergency calls and it was where responders had the most impact on people's welfare. He noted all EMS calls, including those from the City of Reno, went to the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) dispatch for prioritization and they dispatched a REMSA ambulance. He said working with the same CAD as REMSA would make it easier to dispatch a TMFPD fire engine if it happened to be the closest. He noted that prior to 2012, the Sierra Fire Protection District co-responded with Reno. He summarized the technology was already in place and it would only require a policy decision.

Chief Moore believed TMFPD could have responded more quickly to the Broken Hill structure fire and the homeowner would have experienced much less damage. He thought the community deserved better. He suggested the Board hold a joint meeting, perhaps with the Reno City Council. He noted the system was made operational with the City of Sparks and it worked well so he knew it could be established with the City of Reno as well.

Chair Lucey observed the fire chief's monthly report established the TMFPD both gave and received automatic aid. He noted the report also demonstrated incidents for which boundary lines created challenges for EMS and fire response. He believed the Board allowed enough time for staff and operations to work on the issue for which they had reached an impasse. He thought it was time for the Board and the City of Reno to come together. He noted Commissioner Jung previously worked on this issue

during her tenure as Chair, but he thought TMFPD now had a strong plan. He said there were 28 stations between the Cities of Reno and Sparks and the TMFPD, without including some of the stations in Washoe Valley and Mount Rose Highway, which was a significant amount of force. He indicated he would make this issue a priority during the coming year; he thought there was a functionally and fiscally responsible way of working with the City of Reno to provide a better response for residents.

Vice Chair Hartung ask for an explanation off 911 call routing. Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulus explained that a 911 call originated into one of three public safety answering points (PSAP), the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County. He said the call-taker would ask for three primary pieces of information, and in the case of TMFPD the call would be transferred to REMSA dispatch if it was determined to be a medical call. A second dispatcher would dispatch a TMFPD fire engine and ambulance while the caller answered questions and received instructions.

Vice Chair Hartung asked about the process for calls located on the boundary of two jurisdictions. Chief Kukulus explained the process, noting that dispatch would be based on the PSAP in which the call originated and the location of the caller. He said issues arose when the closest resource concept and automatic aid were not in place. Vice Chair Hartung asked whether Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) mapping would resolve dispatch issues. Chief Kukulus replied TMFPD had AVL, but both AVL in combination with the policy to send the closest resource were needed to resolve the issue.

Vice Chair Hartung asked about the percentage of EMS calls. Chief Kukulus indicated approximately 80 percent of calls were purely medical and another 10 percent of motor vehicle accident calls were of a medical nature, so up to 90 percent of calls had a medical component. Vice Chair Hartung asked about the level of response to calls from a senior living facility such as Cascades of the Sierra; in particular he inquired whether an engine needed to respond to those calls. Chief Kukulus replied the Cascades of the Sierra had no medical staff and some incidents required more than the two personnel on an ambulance, so there were instances when a fire engine was needed as well as the ambulance. He said TMFPD had only been on REMSA dispatch for three weeks, but they wanted to start cutting back on some of the priority three calls although it might still be prudent for TMFPD to respond depending on REMSA's response time.

Vice Chair Hartung said he wanted to see more rescues in the system and believed the issue was both dispatch and responding with the right level of service. He recalled the City of Reno expressed concern because TMFPD responded with a three-person crew while they responded with a four-person crew, but he believed the concern about the level of service was erroneous. Chief Moore believed the best option was to present data about the number of citizens who were not being served in a timely manner and let the policy issues be debated. He said TMFPD added a fourth person to engines in Verdi and Foothill, but the City of Reno still said no to reaching an agreement.

Vice Chair Hartung referred to the map of the Colorado fire overlay noting the wind direction would be westerly, so resource positioning could be anticipated. He

asked Chief Moore whether he thought putting together a regional response plan would be prudent. Chief Moore agreed a regional plan was needed. He said he would meet with the Northern Nevada Fire Chief's Association the following day and he had put the issue on the agenda. He stated a fire like the one in Colorado could occur in any northern Nevada community.

Vice Chair Hartung suggested another 2-hour rule request for Chief Moore to develop a regional plan that would work collectively with all regional partners.

Commissioner Herman commended Chief Moore and all of TMFPD's firefighters for their work on fires in the District. She opined having a basic plan was a good thing, but the situations could be varied and complicated. She noted staff was hired because they were knowledgeable and capable. He thought the Board sometimes focused too much on telling staff what to do. She expressed confidence in TMFPD's staff, noting the District had improved significantly in just a few years.

In response to Commissioner Herman's comment, Vice Chair Hartung assured Chief Moore he was asking about the wisdom of developing a regional plan, but he was not trying to direct the writing of the plan.

Chair Lucey agreed with both Commissioner Herman and Vice Chair Hartung, noting the Board's position had always been to provide policy and direction. He thought balance and having the right staff was essential. He said a regional plan would be monumental for the community but it would require a significant amount of work and collaboration.

Chief Moore referred to a request Vice Chair Hartung made during the prior meeting about including a year-to-date summary of mutual aid and automatic and enhanced responses on each monthly report. He asked whether the new report fulfilled the request. Vice Chair Hartung said it was exactly what he wanted to see.

On the call for public comment Mr. Thomas Daly provided a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. Mr. Daly asserted TMFPD's efforts to solve the automatic aid issue between the District and the City of Reno failed. He said Chief Cochran acknowledged Reno Fire had closed fire stations on 64 occasions in the third quarter of 2021. He stated that TMFPD provided aid to Reno Fire more often than the reciprocal. He urged to Board to perform an audit to determine the negative financial impact on taxpayers. He suggested the Board return to the Legislature for a bill to resolve this public safety issue.

22-014F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding recommendations for future service level improvements, including additions to existing fire stations, development of new fire stations in Washoe Valley and along the Interstate 80 corridor (Apple), hiring of firefighting staff, and acquisition of an additional ladder truck - and

timelines and related costs and funding for implementing the improvements.
(All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore wanted to ensure the Board had no substantial concerns or questions before staff provided solid recommendations for expanding the district in the next two years. He reviewed plans outlined in the staff report for new fire stations, fire station additions, additional staff, Barron Way facility improvements, a new ladder truck, and the Hidden Valley fire station. He said all of the plans tied into a well-orchestrated timeline which would require a debt issuance of approximately \$15 million to \$18 million. The debt service cost would be about \$450,000 with a 2.5 percent coupon rate. He believed the District had the financial capacity to undertake the plan and the target date for completion was January 1, 2024. He said staff would present recommendations to the Board in the next month or two. He indicated the recommendations in the plan would put the District in a great position to serve the community in the next 10 years.

Vice Chair Hartung expressed approval of using a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) process for construction. He asked whether the County's Community Services Department (CSD) would oversee the CMAR process. Chief Moore replied that a CMAR contractor had already been selected and the process had been facilitated by the CSD. He mentioned Mr. Keith McAninch, a civil engineer formerly employed by Washoe County CSD, had been engaged to help and would be the primary contact. Project Manager Bill Wardell would be peripherally involved with the project.

With regard to the new Apple station, Vice Chair Hartung asked whether any reimbursements would be received from the State or the federal government for servicing accidents on the federal highway. EMS Division Chief Joe Kammann explained the District used two different types of billing. Initially medical insurance was billed for transports, then the District was able to obtain reimbursement from Fire Recovery USA for motor vehicle accidents requiring extrication. He said the reimbursement rate had increased three-fold since the District switched to the new company. Vice Chair Hartung believed 98 percent of calls from the Apple station would be motor vehicle accidents given the growth potential out east.

Commissioner Hill thanked Chief Moore for providing a roadmap.

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 staff be directed to develop recommendations as listed in the staff report.

22-015F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve retroactive and continued purchases for needed supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services from various suppliers that have or will exceed in the aggregate \$100,000 during this fiscal year but will remain within available

adopted budget funding. All such purchases will continue to be subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Purchasing Act. Vendors receiving these additional funds include the following: Allstar Fire Equipment, Sierra Electronics Inc., Interstate Oil Company, Stryker Sales Corporation, and Purcell Tire & Rubber. Amounts to be paid Sierra Electronics Inc., Stryker Sales Corporation, and Purcell Tire & Rubber, respectively, shall not exceed \$150,000. Amounts to be paid to Allstar Fire Equipment and Interstate Oil Company, respectively, shall not exceed \$200,000. The supplies, fuel, materials, equipment and contractual services to be provided by each include but are not limited to equipment, equipment repairs, supplies, tires and installation. (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 approved.

22-016F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve the purchase of a Dispatch Fire Station Alerting system to include software, hardware and installation costs in an amount not to exceed 1,030,000. (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 11 be approved.

22-017F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Possible Closed Session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore indicated there was a need for a Closed Session. Vice Chair Hartung moved to recess the meeting after the final items, which was seconded by Commissioner Herman.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that the meeting recess to a closed session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.

22-018F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Announcements/Reports.

There were no Board member comments.

22-019F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Public Comment.

Mr. William Steward wished the Board a happy new year. He noted 30 years was a long time for an issue to persist. He said he would attend the Reno City Council meeting the following week to make public comment. He thought the comments made by Chief Moore about the wind-driven fire in Colorado were a perfect example of what could happen in this region. He noted the City of Reno followed the County's lead in the past and hoped that would be the case in the future. He opined developing relationships was the key to resolving issues, noting that lives were at stake.


10:55 a.m. **The Board recessed**

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12:32 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.


BOB LUCEY, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:


Catherni Smith, Chief Deputy
for **JANIS GALASSINI**, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows
Fire Protection District
Minutes Prepared By:
Carolina Stickley, Deputy County Clerk