

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

PRESENT:

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

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

The Board convened at 10:00 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**22-022F**      **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

**22-023F**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore wanted to move Agenda Item 9 to directly follow Agenda Item 4, which would allow the firefighters present in Chambers to return to work sooner.

Commissioner Lucey mentioned a fatal accident that occurred on Mount Rose Highway the prior weekend. He wanted to ensure the Board was involved in conversations with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) regarding safety on that road because the District was responsible for responding to any incident calls. He believed having data about the TMFPD's response to emergency calls would be beneficial to discussions about improved safety on that road.

Commissioner Jung concurred with Commissioner Lucey's concerns about safety improvements on Mount Rose Highway considering it was the only direct route from Washoe County to Lake Tahoe. She said Mount Rose Highway was also a major emergency route for numerous residents, many of whom were elderly. She noted NDOT was funded through County residents' federal income taxes, so everyone should be part of any decisions made about the highways.

Chair Hartung mentioned NDOT planned to remove the advanced signal warning system on Pyramid Highway. He said he previously argued unsuccessfully that NDOT had not performed improvements on Pyramid Highway in approximately 30 years. More traffic signals had been installed and Pyramid Highway and McCarran Boulevard had been widened, but no substantive safety improvements had been made. He asserted the removal of the advanced warning system would make Pyramid Highway more dangerous. He agreed with Commissioner Jung's suggestions.

\* **10:09 a.m.** **Commissioner Herman joined the meeting via telephone.**

**22-024F**      **AGENDA ITEM 9** New Hire Badge Pinning and Academy Graduates Introductions.

New Hires:

De'Mel Bullock, Crew Member  
Logan Nordyke, Crew Member  
Chanse Hunwardsen, Heavy Equipment Operator  
Carrie Johnson, Fire Inspector II

Academy Graduates:

Kyle Colombini  
Patrick Davis  
Joseph Eguen  
Anthony Ferreira  
Sebastian Hickey  
Greig Jameson  
Austin Moore  
Cameron Okuma  
Austin Rauh  
Daniel Rowe  
Federico Areco Ruiz  
Trent Soares  
Tom Soucek  
David Watson  
Nick Welsh

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore mentioned the District was fully staffed with the addition of the 15 new graduates who would be introduced. He said many of the new employees would head to their stations immediately after this agenda item.

Training and Logistics Division Chief Joe Schum said Captains Ryan Whitlock and Jamie Rivera, Firefighter Dillon Lowe, and Fire Engineer Casey Marvin served as TMFPD's cadre for the Capital City Fire Academy (CCFA). He stated the CCFA lasted 14 weeks, enrolled 35 total recruits, and graduated participants on Saturday January

22. He said the CCFA included seven fire departments: Carson City, East Fork, Central Lyon, North Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Douglas, and Truckee Meadows.

Chief Schum introduced Tom Soucek who missed graduation because he had COVID-19 and provided a brief history of his background. Mr. Soucek was pinned by his wife Erica and his son Tristan.

Chief Schum introduced Sebastian Hickey, Kyle Colombini, Cameron Okuma, Patrick Davis, Greig Jameson, Austin Rauh, Joseph Eguen, Trent Soares, Austin Moore, Nick Welsh, David Watson, Daniel Rowe, Anthony Ferreira, and Federico Areco Ruiz.

Wildfire and Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen introduced two newly hired employees and provided a brief history for each: Crew Member Logan Nordyke, pinned by his mother Cheryl; and Heavy Equipment Operator Chanse Hunwardsen, pinned by his wife Vanessa.

Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention Dale Way Fire Inspector introduced Carrie Johnson and provided a brief history of her background. Ms. Johnson was pinned by her husband Ryan.

Chair Hartung congratulated the new employees noting this cohort underscored TMFPD's diverse crews of which he was very proud. He commended Chief Moore and his staff for seeking out these new employees to deal with the various types of issues encountered in the District.

**22-025F**      **AGENDA ITEM 5** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the January 4, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

**22-026F**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** Recommendation to accept and express thoughtful appreciation for two monetary donations: \$500 from Amy Heintz and a \$200 anonymous donation, both in support of Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. (All Commission Districts)

Vice Chair Hartung said the District would not be able to operate without donations.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Chair Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be accepted.

**22-027F**      **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to accept a Commission District 4 Special Fund Grant in the amount \$5,000 sponsored by Washoe County Commissioner Vaughn Hartung to support Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's Fire Safety Can Program and if approved, approve a resolution augmenting the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District General Fund Budget. (All Commission Districts)

Commissioner Lucey observed Chair Hartung worked on this program for many years. He expressed appreciation for Chair Hartung's support of the program and his donation which would keep the program running for some time.

Chair Hartung thanked the Board for their support of the fire safety can program. He asserted countless homes and lives had been saved by the ash can program.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Chair Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be accepted and approved. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**22-028F**      **AGENDA ITEM 8** International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 Report.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 President Patrick Walsh said he did not have much to report. He noted the negotiation season began the prior day and he hoped to arbitrate a fair and equitable contract.

Commissioner Lucey approved of having IAFF Local 2487 participating in the meetings once again because the Board wanted to hear how front-line staff was doing.

**22-029F**      **AGENDA ITEM 10** Fire Chief Report

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of January 2022 and February 2022 to include the following items:
  - 1. Capital Projects Updates
  - 2. Budget Calendar
  - 3. Bond Financing Timeline
- B. Review of recent critical calls response statistics for December 2021 to include Mutual and Auto Aid for our regional partners.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said the construction documents for the residential portion of Station 37 would be ready to go out for bid in a couple of weeks. He noted the project would be phased so the crew would move to the new house when the renovations were complete, then the old building

would be demolished and the existing modular would be moved. Phase three would be the building of the new apparatus bay, so the fire station would not close throughout the construction process. He said the addition to Station 46 for the ambulance crew was out for bid and he hoped to bring those bids to the Board for consideration and possible approval the following month. He indicated architects for the rest of the capital projects were ready so the various projects would be well choreographed. He said he would meet with Apple Inc. the upcoming Friday to coordinate the design of the Apple station along with the Washoe Valley fire station. He thought the project would save both organizations money. He anticipated all projects would be completed and staff would move into the new facilities by the end of 2023 or the beginning of 2024.

Commissioner Lucey requested an audit of the condition of all TMFPD stations. He asked whether the work on Station 32 and Station 39 had been completed. Chief Moore said they were. Commissioner Lucey asked about a leak in Station 30. Chief Moore replied he was unaware of any issues at that station. Commissioner Lucey observed that some of the District's stations were relatively old and would need periodic repairs.

Chief Moore mentioned an issue that arose at the Stead station which was not included in the report. He said the bay slab was severely cracked and staff was trying to decide how long the station would be in use, but he thought it prudent to replace the slab so that item was added to the list of capital improvements.

Commissioner Lucey asked whether staff had performed an assessment of capital assets in recent months. He inquired how often such an assessment was performed. Chief Moore said a cursory analysis of stations had been performed, but some of the repairs had recently manifested. He noted half of the District stations were new and the other half were relatively old. He said he would provide an assessment during the upcoming month. Commissioner Lucey wanted to know what a full assessment schedule for all stations would encompass, how stations were serviced, and how often they were serviced.

Chair Hartung asked for an update on the living situation at Station 46. Chief Moore replied the station previously had three crew members and recently added two more for the medic crew. He said the medic crew was sleeping in a quick space in the rear of the station. He indicated the station was being fast-tracked so the crews could be more comfortable. He commended staff for enduring less than optimal sleeping quarters. Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulus confirmed Station 46 had four bedrooms. The standard crew consisted of three firefighters, but they sometimes had a fourth for training purposes, so with the addition of the medic crew the station needed capacity for six crew members.

With regards to the budget calendar Chief Moore noted he was gathering recommendations from staff. Those recommendations would be consolidated and sorted in terms of priority and a high-level overview would be brought back to the Board for Commissioners' input before the tentative budget was developed in April with the final budget expected in May.

Chief Moore mentioned the District expected to finance some major projects through bond financing. Staff wanted to move on this quickly before interest rates increased. He expected to have a very accurate estimate of the cost for the new stations using the Construction Manager at Risk process so the request for bond financing would also be very accurate.

Chair Hartung asked whether the TMFPD would use the State revolving fund for those bonds. Chief Moore replied no, the District used J&A consultants as bond consultants and Sherman and Howard as counsel. He said those consultants had been used by the District previously. Chief Fiscal Officer Cindy Vance replied no, the District would not use the State revolving fund.

**10:44 a.m. Commissioner Jung left the meeting.**

Chair Hartung thanked staff for the cumulative totals on the monthly reports. He said it showed how important the TMFPD was to the region.

**22-030F** **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to create 12 additional flexibly staffed Firefighter/Paramedic positions which can be underfilled as a Firefighter/EMT, if necessary, to allow for ambulance staffing and to approve a restructured Firefighter/Paramedic District Staffing Plan for 75 Firefighter/Paramedic positions, which includes 3 existing grant-funded positions, 48 existing Firefighter/Paramedic positions, 24 flexibly staffed Firefighter Paramedic/EMT positions, including these new requested positions. (All Commission Districts)

Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulus explained the District was requesting approval of 12 additional positions although he did not anticipate hiring all positions right away. He said Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) was having conversations with Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) regarding the continuation of the ambulance program which had been expanding over the past year. The positions were requested as flexible because it had not yet been determined whether they would be paramedics or Emergency Medical Technicians. He said the positions would be determined when recruitment took place, but he anticipated hiring six to eight positions in the spring and the rest of them at a later time. He mentioned one concept being discussed was adding an additional medic unit in Cold Springs at some point in the future. He noted Medic 30 in Washoe Valley was currently cross staffed by the engine crew so some of the new employees could be assigned to that ambulance. He said six people were required to staff an ambulance on all three shifts.

Chief Kukulus explained training new employees took approximately nine months, so getting some employees into the spring academy would have them ready in August. He noted the new employee positions would eventually be fiscally self-sustaining. Employees who were assigned to an ambulance paid for themselves between direct transport revenues and Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program

funds. He noted the District had an ongoing request for some American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the County.

Chair Hartung asked whether the District intended to pay those ARPA funds back. Chief Kukulus replied the discussion was the funds would be a sub-grant and not paid back. He explained those monies would always be in arrears, so if they were paid back, they would double up in one year.

Chair Hartung asked about the carrying costs. Chief Kukulus indicated the funds would come from a mix of direct revenues. He said transport bills were usually received within a couple of months. He noted the GEMT funds came from Nevada Medicaid and the funds were received in approximately six months once the application was completed. Chief Fiscal Officer Cindy Vance explained each additional employee would require approximately \$100,000 so the 24 employees would total \$2.4 million plus the cost of some additional supplies. She said the District hoped to receive approximately \$3 million a year in GEMT money.

Chair Hartung asked whether the District could receive more GEMT funds than what was expended. Chief Kukulus replied the GEMT program considered the operating costs of the department including engines not just the cost of additional positions.

Chair Hartung believed the program would be beneficial to the region because this model did not assume every call required an engine. He asked whether possible cost savings on large rolling stock had been calculated. Chief Kukulus thought there would be an opportunity to start calculating some of those efficiencies and cost savings in the future. He noted the integration with REMSA dispatch was only seven weeks along so the District was just starting to leverage some of that ability to reduce duplicate response. He observed the concern was not only the direct costs of rolling stock it was also the time availability of a unit. Chair Hartung expressed support for this type of response.

Vice Chair Hill expressed excitement to see innovation, saving, and better service for the community. She looked forward to learning whether the funding strategy would be in the form of a grant or as reimbursement through carryover.

Commissioner Herman thought the program sounded wonderful.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore complimented staff for the innovative approach of this program. He noted all TMFPD employees on both the medic side and the wildland fire team had been cost neutral to taxpayers because of contributions the District received from GEMT, NV Energy, and the Nevada Division of Forestry. He said the District expanded the number of firefighters significantly with very little increase in expenditures out of the general fund budget from property taxes. Chair Hartung reiterated his support for this item.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved.

**22-031F**      **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve the purchase and installation of supplies and equipment for ten new light duty trucks and one light duty SUV from Sierra Electronics in an amount not to exceed \$194,000 in accordance with NRS 332.115, Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

**22-032F**      **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to accept a Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act grant from the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management in an amount up to \$786,435 to treat hazardous fuels on Sky Tavern and private property along Mount Rose Highway, and if accepted, approve a resolution accepting the grant funding and direct staff to make the necessary budget adjustments. (Commission District 2)

Wildfire and Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen noted the Wildland Fuels Division started in May 2020 and Sky Tavern contacted him within a few weeks for help with some fuels management projects. He said the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) grant application closed shortly thereafter so the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District submitted an application to treat a minimum of 100 acres on 15 different properties from Sky Tavern down the Mount Rose corridor. The grant was a six-year proposal to remove some of the firs in the understory, aspen stand restoration, and provide three community outreach and education days. He noted the \$15,000 cost listed on the staff report was for projected administrative oversight.

Chair Hartung observed this item was an example of how the sale of lands in Southern Nevada was funding projects in the region, noting Commissioner Lucey was very knowledgeable about SNPLMA.

Commissioner Lucey expressed appreciation for Chief Isernhagen's efforts. He said this item exemplified how legislation initiated by the state was providing benefits across Nevada. He noted \$786,435 would go a very long way toward addressing fuels management issues along the Mount Rose corridor. He said fuels management played a major role in addressing soil erosion, promoting new growth, and preserving the beauty of the area. He thanked Chief Isernhagen and his staff, stating he wanted to contact the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of the Interior to thank them for their continued support.



Chief Isernhagen mentioned North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District received a SNPLMA award to work the summit along Mount Rose Highway, the Forest Service received an award to treat from the summit down to Davis Creek Park on their property, and NV Energy spent approximately \$700,000 to treat their infrastructure in the area. He said the goal was to create a larger impact on the landscape with all entities working together.

Commissioner Lucey summarized over \$2 million had been expended towards fuels management along the summit and the Sierra Nevadas.

Commissioner Herman asked whether those funds could be used for other highways in need of fuel reduction. Commissioner Lucey said the SNPLMA funds were identified for fuels management and the District could seek grants for any area within the state. Commissioner Herman requested the District consider future fuels management projects in District 5.

Vice Chair Hill mentioned the District was mourning the loss of Senator Harry Reid who created this opportunity for Northern Nevada. She said she looked forward to seeing how the next lands bill would be shaped with Senators Jacky Rosen and Catherine Cortez Masto.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung 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.

**22-033F**      **AGENDA ITEM 14** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore noted Commissioner Jung asked him to contact Senator Catherine Cortez Masto's office to discuss California's fires burning into Nevada. He said Senator Masto had been very active in providing grant funds. He mentioned Commissioner Lucey asked for a wildfire response plan and Chair Hartung requested a report on the advanced signal warning devices on Pyramid Highway. He said he would address those three requests with the Board in April.

Commissioner Herman thanked Chief Moore for the success stories he created around the TMFPD and commended him for his management skills. She expressed appreciation for the employees added to the District's crews.

Commissioner Lucey requested an update from staff regarding the dispatch system transfer. He noted Chief Moore spent some time with the regional chiefs during the prior month to discuss the fuels management plan. He thanked Chief Moore for making that a priority, which he knew was a big issue for many constituents. He asked for an update

about developing a regional approach and then possibly holding some workshops or discussions. Chief Moore said the process had been initiated.

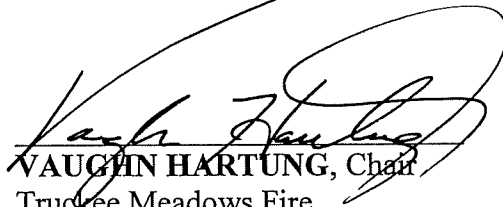
Chair Hartung asked whether the District was having discussions about developing a regional resource management plan. Chief Moore said yes.

**22-034F**      **AGENDA ITEM 15** Public Comment.

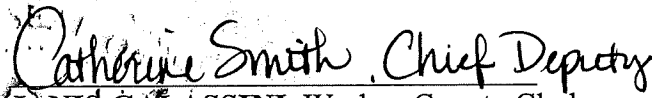
There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

  
VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair  
Truckee Meadows Fire  
Protection District

ATTEST:

  
Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy  
JANIS GALASSINI, Washoe County Clerk  
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows  
Fire Protection District

Minutes Prepared By:  
Carolina Stickley, Deputy County Clerk