

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MARCH 1, 2022

PRESENT:

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

Catherine 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 Clerk Catherine Smith called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

22-037F **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

22-038F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Chief Charles Moore said items 8 and 9 would be heard ahead of item 7.

Vice Chair Hill commended Chief Moore and the Board for their work helping the Black Springs Volunteer Fire Station become the Northern Nevada African American Fire Museum. She hoped the community took the time to visit the station because she thought it was an incredible part of Northern Nevada history. Chair Hartung noted the fire station was located at 218 Kennedy. He said the event at the fire station was well-attended, and he thanked Vice Chair Hill for her support of the fire station. He thought it was important for citizens to understand the region was rich with history. He encouraged the public to visit the fire station.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A through 5B

22-039F **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the February 1, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

22-040F **5B** Recommendation to approve an agreement to retain Eide Bailly LLP to perform independent audit services for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the Fiscal Year 21/22 in an amount of \$38,000 plus

federal expenditure audit fee of \$7,500 per major program, if required. Audit Services are professional in nature and therefore exempt from competitive bidding requirements pursuant to NRS 332.115. This audit is being done to satisfy NRS 354.624, which requires each local government to provide for an annual audit of financial statements by a certified public accountant registered in the State of Nevada and to notify the state of this engagement by March 31st of each fiscal year. (All Commission Districts)

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

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A and 5B be approved.

22-041F **AGENDA ITEM 6** International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 Report.

Captain Jamie Rivera thanked the staff of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) for working tirelessly to keep the stations open during the pandemic. He said negotiations were ongoing. He thanked Mr. Jon Sieben and Friends for setting up the annual charity golf tournament for Guns and Hoses. He mentioned the event would happen on April 25 and would benefit the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation.

Commissioner Lucey noted the Guns and Hoses event was always fun and included the TMFPD, the Reno Fire Department, the Reno Police Department, and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. He encouraged everyone to attend the event to support the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation.

21-042F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Promotional Announcements and Badge Pinning.

Brian Haley, Fire Captain
Miguel Orduna, Fire Captain
Kyle Endres, Fire Engineer
Austin Stowe, Fire Engineer

Chief Charles Moore introduced Rochelle Hagan who moved from a temporary position to a full-time position in the Human Resources division. Ms. Hagan said she was blessed to be with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD). Chair Hartung thanked her for being a County employee.

Operations Division Chief Chris Ketring recognized Engineer Gary Garrett who recently retired after 25 years of service with the TMFPD. He wished him luck in his future journeys. He introduced Captain Brian Haley, Captain Miguel Orduna, Engineer Austin Stowe, and Engineer Kyle Endres and provided brief histories of their backgrounds.

Captain Haley was pinned by his wife. Captain Orduna was pinned by his wife. Engineer Stowe was pinned by his wife and daughter. Engineer Endres was pinned by his wife.

22-043F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Employee Awards and Recognition.

Golden Axe Award
Chris Black
Ronald Harmon

Meritorious Conduct Award
Pat Daggitt
Nathan Harrison
Brian Haley

Chief Charles Moore stated the organization would not run as well as it did without dedicated employees who did good work. He noted Captain Chris Black was the heart and soul of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's (TMFPD) partnership with the Nevada Donor Network. He said Captain Black's dedication and commitment made the TMFPD the leading fire agency in facilitating tissue and cornea donations for the last seven years. He commented Captain Black understood the need for continuous improvement and recently brought the Echelon Front training opportunity to the TMFPD. Captain Black, he explained, served as the Operations Committee Chair in coordinating officer development school and off-duty training.

Chief Moore said Engineer Ronald Harmon dedicated a large amount of time last year to the COVID-19 vaccination operations and helped build relationships with outside agencies. He said Engineer Harmon routinely attended off-duty events to ensure additional assistance was not needed. He commented that Engineer Harmon showed a great attitude and a high level of professionalism.

Chair Hartung said the Board was deeply appreciative of the work the TMFPD did outside of the organization. He noted the donor network was dear to him and his family. He asked Chief Moore to let the Board know if there was anything they could do to support the TMFPD.

Chief Moore recognized retired Captain Pat Daggitt, Captain Nathan Harrison, and Captain Brian Haley for their work building and conducting the Engineer Development School. He said the individuals worked to ensure the program produced qualified personnel to drive and operate fire apparatus. Due to their dedication, the TMFPD's program for developing drivers was a first-class program and was viewed as an example by other fire service agencies.

Commissioner Lucey opined the TMFPD had come far in the last eight years. He said the TMFPD strived to build a family within an organization, and he felt they had achieved that. He saw a commitment to a better and safer community from the retired firefighters and those on the front lines who helped build programs. He thought it was

amazing to see that kind of dedication and commitment and thanked everyone for their work. He said the Board paled in comparison to what was being done within the organization in fighting fires and responding to emergency medical service calls.

22-044F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Wildfire Mitigation Presentation by Division Chief Isernhagen and NV Energy's Mark Regan and Alex Hoone.

Chief Isernhagen conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Timeline/Personnel TMFPD + NV Energy; Equipment; Funding Sources; Accomplishments-Numbers; and Accomplishments-Communities. He said the Board asked for a presentation regarding NV Energy's wildfire mitigation programs. He explained hand crew numbers across the state were low, which was part of the reason for the addition of personnel. He noted the additional five personnel requested would allow them to field a full 20-man crew. He said NV Energy was the bulk of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's (TMFPD) funding; that funding allowed the TMFPD to provide equipment and personnel to take on additional projects. He hoped the addition of five personnel would ensure the TMFPD's impact would continue to grow and add more positive changes to the community.

NV Energy Vice President Jesse Murray conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Natural Disaster Protection Plan; Natural Disaster Protection Plan Highlights; Natural Disaster Protection Plan Overview; Washoe County NDPP Efforts; Public Safety Outage Management; Original 2019 PSOM Zones; PSOM Zones Added in 2021; NV Energy Fire Technology Improvements; New and Existing Weather Stations; Expanding Fire Detection Cameras; Alchera FireScout; and Wildfire Risk Analysis Software.

Mr. Murray appreciated the partnership NV Energy was able to build with the TMFPD. He noted he was a resident of Washoe County and had been personally impacted by fires in the community. He said it was important to take the time, opportunity, and resources to address wildfires. Vegetation management, he explained, was a critical component of mitigating future wildfires. The weather stations and wildfire alert cameras helped NV Energy assess the continuing changes in climate and gave them the ability to react quickly during hazardous weather conditions.

Mr. Murray said the fuels mitigation program was one of seven programs NV Energy was working on within the Natural Disaster Protection Plan. NV Energy worked with 15 state and local fire agencies to remove brush, grass, and other potentially flammable materials around power lines. The fire mitigation specialists provided NV Energy with the technical expertise needed to address the emergent issues. He said NV Energy was using new systems and installing hardened equipment throughout their service territory.

Mr. Murray explained the Public Safety Outage Management (PSOM) program had the most visible impact on the lives of the citizens. He said NV Energy tried to communicate with the public as far in advance as seven days. The closer to the implementation of the PSOM program, the more active communications would be to prepare for the power outages. He said the outages would continue around 24 hours after the conclusion of the event, and he explained the delay allowed NV Energy to inspect equipment to make sure no damage had occurred.

Mr. Murray said the PSOM program expanded in 2021, with the approval of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, to include elevated risk areas. During that time, NV Energy increased its communications with the community to inform them of the changes. He said NV Energy understood the inconvenience of power outages, which was why there were so many different proactive de-energization zones. NV Energy was trying to target only the areas at the highest risk while preserving electricity for the other customers. He informed that NV Energy would continue to look for ways to minimize the zones; however, they did see the PSOM program as a critical tool to prevent wildfires.

Mr. Murray noted many of the local wildfire cameras on the internet and the local news stations were cameras through NV Energy's ALERT fire camera system. He said the ALERT fire camera system was an excellent resource to identify fires early and get resources to them. With the Wildfire Risk Analysis software, NV Energy was able to identify the most critical areas and prioritize where to invest their systems.

NV Energy Senior Meteorologist Alex Hoon conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: New and Existing Weather Stations, Expanding Fire Detection Cameras; Alchera FireScout; and Wildfire Risk Analysis Software.

NV Energy had 30 weather stations and 11 fire cameras installed across the state, Mr. Hoon said. He explained the weather stations monitored weather conditions and took fuel samples to measure the vegetation dryness. The fuel samples gave NV Energy an awareness of an area's fire danger before a fire happened. The weather stations improved NV Energy's situational awareness and the information was passed along to the local fire departments.

Mr. Hoon said there were 11 fire detection cameras across the state, with six of the cameras located in Washoe County. The fire detection cameras, he explained, had a view of many miles and was a good way to be able to detect new fires. NV Energy had control over the cameras, but they were available to view on a public website. He said the Alchera FireScout monitored the images from the fire cameras and could detect heat through infrared images. He noted the Alchera FireScout sent text messages to NV Energy and partner fire departments to alert them of new fires. He opined the Alchera FireScout had proven to be a valuable tool.

Mr. Hoon said the wildfire risk analysis software considered the power grids, weather, humidity, winds, and vegetation dryness to calculate 20,000 model runs of

potential wildfire starts. That information helped NV Energy make decisions for the PSOM program and minimize the areas they shut down power to. He said the information, although not public, would be shared with the local fire departments to help with the staging of fire resources. The wildfire risk analysis software came with a 30-year climate reanalysis tool that would input weather events from the past 30 years over the power grid. It then calculated what the average fire danger was for the fire grid, which gave NV Energy a way to prioritize certain areas over others. He opined the software was some of the most sophisticated software on the market and brought NV Energy and the fire agencies into the modern age. Another feature of the program, he explained, was the on-demand fire behavior runs to determine how a fire started and where the fire would spread.

Chair Hartung thanked NV Energy for its willingness to participate in a public-private partnership to protect the community. Vice Chair Hill asked when the power lines in Incline Village would be grounded. NV Energy Fire Chief Mark Regan said they were currently going through the review process and permitting for some of the areas in Incline Village. He said work would start this summer to prepare the undergrounding and the system hardening would start around May 15.

Vice Chair Hill asked if NV Energy used texting programs to inform citizens of outages. Chief Regan said NV Energy informed the public through social media sites, news media, NV Energy's website, and they used account information to text cell phones and send emails. Vice Chair Hill said she would let her constituents know that NV Energy would look at grounding soon. She thought grounding would be a game-changer for that area. Chief Regan said NV Energy was combining undergrounding, vegetation management, and system hardening of cover conductors to make it safer for the community.

Commissioner Lucey asked for more details regarding the Mt. Rose 210 system. Mr. Murray said the Mt. Rose 210 circuit originated at the Mt. Rose substation, which was located at the end of Pinehaven Drive in Southwest Reno, outside of Caughlin Ranch. The circuit then proceeded southeast along the Sierra Foothills towards the Huffaker Ranch and Holcomb Ranch area. He commented that the area served several thousand customers in Southwest Reno, Holcomb Ranch, and the Huffaker region. Commissioner Lucey noted there were a lot of pole lines around the Mt. Rose corridor. He mentioned the area got very high winds, which made firefighting difficult. He said the above-ground lines would arc and cause transformers to blow, which created a fire hazard. He wondered if there were plans in place to prioritize areas where power lines were above ground.

Mr. Murray said NV Energy evaluated their entire service territory by a description of the risk, and the areas with the highest risk were prioritized. He noted the highest risk area was Lake Tahoe where there were concerns with vegetation blowing into the lines and causing fires. He commented NV Energy would propose in the spring to the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada to put covered conductors into areas where arcing was a hazard. He opined that would mitigate a lot of the risk of lines touching and producing arcs. In thickly forested areas, NV Energy would consider undergrounding;

although, undergrounding could create a fair amount of environmental disturbance. He noted there was a team at NV Energy whose primary goal was to evaluate, prioritize, and select the best options while taking mitigation and cost into consideration.

Commissioner Lucey said the environmental impact of undergrounding some of the lines in critical areas, such as the Lake Tahoe basin and the foothills, was important but difficult. He mentioned there was a lot of vegetation in the foothill areas along Peavine Mountain that could catch fire and travel many miles due to the high-speed winds that area got. He noted the fire risk in those areas was of great concern to many constituents in Districts 1, 2, and 5. He said the covered conductors were a great addition but undergrounding along the Mt. Rose corridor may be easier, environmentally, than undergrounding in the Lake Tahoe basin. He asked for more research into the options.

Mr. Murray said NV Energy was evaluating options with the help of Mr. Hoon to understand the microclimates in the region. Commissioner Lucey asked if the public was able to view NV Energy's maps that showed prioritization and future plans. Mr. Murray explained the plans had to go through a rigorous review process at the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada. He mentioned NV Energy was working under a triennial plan that operated from 2020 to 2023, which was an initial \$250 million investment in natural disaster protection throughout the state. He said NV Energy planned to file an amendment to the plan to address projects along the Western Nevada foothills. In 2023, NV Energy would submit a new triennial plan showing their project prioritizations. Input for the prioritizations was received from stakeholders in the community and the highest priorities were handled first. He noted the public was welcome to participate in the process.

Commissioner Lucey asked how the public could access the information from NV Energy. Mr. Murray said the plan and the PSOM maps were on NV Energy's website. The public could communicate their questions or concerns with NV Energy through that website.

Commissioner Jung was pleased to hear that Mr. Murray lived in the area because she felt there was some disconnect between Southern Nevada and Northern Nevada. She applauded NV Energy for hiring Chief Regan and a meteorologist. She noted the western side of the Sierras got high winds too. She mentioned the programs Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) in California had to help customers buy generators and freezers for times when power had to be shut off.

Commissioner Jung thanked NV Energy for being partners with the County and was happy NV Energy had professionals to help the Board figure out how to combat the wildfire issue, as it was something that worried the Board. She agreed with Chair Hartung that it would take the entire community to learn to live with wildfires.

Mr. Murray said PG&E's risk was different than NV Energy's risk. He noted that during the season-changing cold front, NV Energy implemented customer resource centers that provided necessities to customers that could be impacted during power events. He stated NV Energy's goal was to keep the events as short as possible. For

those sensitive populations that were dependent on medically life-sustaining equipment, NV Energy had a Green Cross program. Those who qualified for the Green Cross program needed 24-hour life-sustaining equipment during outages. NV Energy would either deploy a generator on the customer's home to keep them powered or provide them with other powered accommodations.

Vice Chair Hill asked if NV Energy went to citizen groups to inform the public of the programs they offered. Mr. Murray said every spring NV Energy talked about wildfire awareness. Since the program began, NV Energy worked with the University of Nevada, Reno, and other fire agencies to communicate with the public about wildfire awareness. Every spring, NV Energy gathered some of the critical stakeholders in the community to get feedback and discuss what could be done differently that year. He said if Vice Chair Hill had a citizen group that was interested in having NV Energy talk to them, he would be available to speak with them. Vice Chair Hill expressed interest in having Mr. Murray speak with the Incline Village/Crystal Bay Community Advisory Board.

Chair Hartung said the Board was thankful for the public-private partnership with NV Energy. He appreciated the money NV Energy invested in the community and the support they gave the partner agencies in the region.

22-045F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Fire Chief Report.

Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of February 2022 and March 2022 to include the following items:

1. Dispatch Update
2. Mount Rose Highway Traffic Safety
3. Spring Green Waste Dates and Wildfire Season Update
4. Mental Health Support Program Update by Dr. Steven Nicholas

Chief Charles Moore said the items would be heard out of order. He noted Commissioner Lucey had asked for an update regarding dispatch.

Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulus thought good progress had been made since the transition. He said one of the big reasons for the transition was the strong alignment between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) and the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA). He noted that REMSA broadcasted over the TMFPD's existing channels and had added additional 911 phone line pathways due to the additional call volume and at the request of the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). He opined the TMFPD benefitted from the shared information coming out of the same dispatch center, whereas the Cities of Sparks and Reno were still jumping between two channels. He noted the PSAPs had concerns about the large influx of 911 calls that could overwhelm the system during wildfire season. He said the TMFPD was asked to find rollover capabilities.

REMSA Executive Director of EMS Operations Aaron Abbott thought the preparation done by the TMFPD and dispatch paid off and had resulted in a smooth

transition of services. He mentioned REMSA worked with different PSAPs outside of the region that could provide 911 rollover capabilities while providing the same level of service. REMSA, he said, was in direct discussions with an accredited center out of the region. He said there was one other accredited center in Northern Nevada, but they were too small to handle REMSA's volume. He believed a mutual aid agreement or memorandum of understanding would be in place before wildfire season. The center was in a very high wildfire danger area with a history of devastating fires, so their interest was the same as REMSA's. He noted the accreditation was important to ensure calls were handled the same whether the caller got REMSA or the other agency.

Commissioner Lucey said he had reservations about the transition at first, but he thought REMSA and the TMFPD had proven the transition to be efficient and one of the best choices the Board had made in quite some time. He thought the consolidation of services and showing the two agencies could work together as a unified region spoke to an advancement that had not been seen in the area. He mentioned he would like to see the matter brought to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and the city councils for the Cities of Sparks and Reno. He opined a discussion with the different entities regarding unification was overdue. He said it was not about where someone lived but about providing the closest apparatus to change the course of someone's life. He believed the transition showed unification could be done effectively and efficiently.

Commissioner Lucey expressed pleasure at the information that 2,500 incidents were handled while being \$700,000 under budget. He thought it showed money was being spent wisely and services were provided promptly. He opined the money could be better spent on more apparatus, services, or fire mitigation. Chair Hartung said the public did not care who showed up in an emergency, just that someone showed up quickly. He thanked Commissioner Lucey for pushing for the transition.

Vice Chair Hill was grateful Commissioner Lucey asked for the matter to be brought to the Board. She expressed excitement over the early statistics regarding the transition and mentioned she had doubted the partnership in the beginning. She opined the partnership ensured there were fewer vehicles on the roads creating hazards. She agreed with Commissioner Lucey that the matter should be brought to the BCC.

Commissioner Jung said she was proud of REMSA and the TMFPD for their work and noted innovation was not an easy task. She said the Board placed a lot of trust in the hands of others with their decision, and that doubters were needed to avoid groupthink. She commended Chief Moore and said the Board expected a lot of creativity from him when he was hired. She felt Chief Moore and his team demonstrated creativity. She opined he had created something that was working and would sustain the population. Constituents, she said, should have first-world medical services even in a downturn of the economy. She believed Chief Moore had found something that should be demonstrated across the nation.

Commissioner Herman thanked the experts who knew all along the project would work.

11:28 a.m. Commissioner Jung left.

Commissioner Lucey agreed with Commissioner Jung that innovation was difficult and risky. He commended Mr. Abbott, Chief Moore, and REMSA President and CEO Dean Dow for bringing the innovation to the Board. He opined that type of innovation and discussion was what the Board had always done, and that was why the TMFPD was the organization it was. He believed the TMFPD had been rudimentary in their procedures until Chief Moore was hired. He said the dispatch transition and the green waste program were innovations that had wonderful results and support from the community. He asked what the next steps were regarding the PSAPs and staffing.

Mr. Abbott said the initial next steps were to leverage resources and refine responses to continue to save where there was waste. He noted he would like to see the continuation of reducing unnecessary light and siren responses to certain things, as he thought they were dangerous. He said dispatch had gotten very good at determining what was a life-threatening emergency to keep resources available for those who had a time-sensitive emergency. He explained the dispatch center continued to move forward on getting video from the callers live-streamed into the dispatch center. He noted that infrastructure and technology were in place and REMSA was working towards policies so the responders could see what the hazard was while responding to it; this would enable them to make more informed decisions.

Mr. Abbott said REMSA was beginning to prepare for wildfire season. REMSA intentionally implemented the transition with the TMFPD in mid-December so staff could get as much experience as possible before larger, ongoing incidents occurred.

Chief Kukulius said focusing on wildland fires was the next phase for the TMFPD, and they intended on incorporating the dispatchers into the training the crews did over the next several months. He opined the TMFPD and REMSA were functioning seamlessly and had good boundary drop agreements with the Sparks Fire Department, but there were some technological restrictions to being on disparate computer-aided dispatches (CAD). He noted they had tried to work on CAD to CAD solutions while awaiting the future regional CAD but had run into some obstacles.

Chair Hartung noted that in the beginning, he had wanted empirical data as to why the integration should be done. He agreed dispatch was the first piece in the process. He said technology had improved the TMFPD's ability to serve the community. He thanked the TMFPD and REMSA for their hard work and thought the best was yet to come.

Chief Moore introduced the TMFPD's mental health supporter, Dr. Steven Nicholas, and said he was grateful for Dr. Nicholas' help in resolving the difficult things staff encountered daily. Chair Hartung said mental health issues were not acknowledged back when his father and uncle were in wars. He noted they had come back with issues that crept into their personalities. He was thankful for the work the TMFPD put into acknowledging mental health.

Dr. Nicholas conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: 2020 Breakdown; 2021 Breakdown; and 2020-2021 Actual Hours Comparison. Dr. Nicholas said the project began in June of 2019, shortly after the TMFPD lost a staff member to suicide. He explained that first responders typically did not trust outsiders, so his opportunity was to be present at critical events and start to create relationships.

In 2020, Dr. Nicholas was earning and creating relationships through one-on-one interactions and station rotations. He believed creating a relational model instead of a clinical model was the way to create relationships. He explained that ensured a relationship and comfort level with the clinician was already established when an event occurred. He noted that in 2020, he spent 96.5 hours building relationships with the staff of the TMFPD. In 2021, 98 percent of his time was spent interacting with the TMFPD. His interactions with the TMFPD included spending time at the stations, riding along on calls, and debriefing after unfortunate events. He noted the military mindset that first responders were not paid to think or feel was being changed quickly at the TMFPD.

Dr. Nicholas said he had already spent 179.5 hours in the field with the TMFPD in 2022. When critical incidents occurred, a phone call was immediately placed to him. Typically, he commented, those critical incidences were when a crew had to deal with a suicide. He explained not all suicides were created equal, and some suicides created a residue that staff would remember for the rest of their lives. He noted pediatric calls often left residues for staff. He also showed up for calls that hit what he called the yuck factor, which he explained only people in the field would understand.

Dr. Nicholas said the relationships he had built over the past two and a half years would continue to be created so that when incidents occurred, he could be the first responder to the responder. He said it was a cultural change for the men and women to decompress from their work so they could go home and be the versions of themselves they deserved to be outside of the TMFPD.

Chair Hartung thanked Chief Moore for recognizing the importance of mental health for the crews. Commissioner Lucey opined the front-line workers were hit the hardest with the devastating effects of the pandemic. He said there was a coinciding mental health pandemic that went along with the shutdowns, masks, vaccines, and uncertainties associated with COVID-19. He believed the mental trauma would not go away and felt it would get worse. He said the County needed to be reactive and treat it or be proactive and try to mitigate it. He asked what proactive measures the County could do to help recruits mentally prepare for and deal with critical incidences.

Dr. Nicholas said the reactionary piece would always exist and it needed to, but the pre-incident plan was cultural and took time because it was relationship-driven. He had to get to know the staff on a personal level before he could use his professional expertise. He opined the holistic approach of being a full-functioning human was lost on warrior-type servant cultures because they were expected to work without errors. He said

the men and women of the TMFPD had to be able to shut that mindset off or it would come out in their personal lives. He explained that pre-incident education involved connecting with recruits while they were in probationary status and continuing contact throughout their careers so they could be deeply steeped in whole humanness.

Chair Hartung thanked Dr. Nicholas for his work and the executive staff for recognizing the need for it. He said when the pandemic was at its height, first responders were stretched to their limits. He asked if Dr. Nicholas was working with other organizations, such as hospitals. Dr. Nicholas said he had talked with Chief Kukulus about expanding the program to be a community model. He opined culture changed slowly and it was appropriate to have community models that were relationship-driven. He noted the process needed to start before there was an accumulation of traumatic residue. He applied the model he used with the TMFPD to the Bureau of Land Management Wildland Fire Program.

Chair Hartung acknowledged the Washoe County Sheriff's Office had instituted a program regarding mental health. He thought the Board of County Commissioners needed to engage the community about mental health issues, and he thought Dr. Nicholas could work with Manager Eric Brown to start programs in the community. Dr. Nicholas said it would be an honor to do that work.

Chief Moore said he was going to skip number three in the Fire Chief Report because it was self-explanatory.

Chief Moore said Commissioner Lucey had asked the TMFPD to be a part of the traffic safety planning process with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for Mt. Rose Highway. He mentioned he met with a consultant and staff from NDOT, and he informed that traffic safety improvements would evolve slowly because infrastructure followed growth. He believed the best thing the TMFPD could do was to insert themselves into the discussions. He relayed to NDOT that on highways, the TMFPD saw some of the worst things that could happen to human beings. He opined the issue was not always road engineering problems, but problems associated with speed and alcohol impairment. He thought the TMFPD could contribute by talking about prevention.

Chief Moore said improvements were coming to the Mt. Rose corridor and opined traffic calming and speed reduction had to be part of those improvements. He relayed that roundabouts had been planned for some spots along Mt. Rose; however, he thought the predominant cause of accidents was driver attitude, but he was unsure how to correct that. He believed the Nevada Highway Patrol was inundated with issuing speeding tickets, as he witnessed several incidents of severe speeding. Since the TMFPD were not engineers and did not know the best solutions, he saw the TMFPD's involvement being a prevention aspect. He opined the TMFPD's involvement could be to speak about the horrific things the agency saw on the highways. He noted the TMFPD was engaged with NDOT's planning and would continue to advocate for safety improvement, but he wanted to push the prevention aspect.

Chair Hartung was thankful the TMFPD was engaged with NDOT, and he appreciated Commissioner Lucey's request that the TMFPD work with NDOT. He mentioned Pyramid Highway had similar issues and agreed speeding and impaired driving were at the center of those issues; however, he believed there were several roadways with capacity issues that had not been addressed. He noted the area had seen tremendous growth, and the growth needed to be addressed. He appreciated that the TMFPD was willing to have discussions with NDOT on ways to make the corridors safer. He mentioned he had conversations with crews in Spanish Springs about the proposed changes and his concerns about the right-of-ways. He looked forward to an update from Chief Moore in the future.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

BLOCK VOTE – 11, 12, AND 13

22-046F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve a fourth Wildland Squad comprising of five (5) positions including one (1) Squad Boss with a salary range of \$55,806.40-\$72,113.60 and four (4) Crew Members with a salary range of \$43,243.20-\$56,139.20, all with Regular NV PERS. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

22-047F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to award a bid and approve an Agreement with Sentinel Builders; LLC. for the Spanish Springs Station #46 Remodel/Addition Project to add a two bedroom, two bathroom addition for Paramedic Crew Quarters in the amount of \$385,666. (Commission District 4)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

Chair Hartung thanked the Board for supporting this item and thought there was a great need for it due to the growth in the community.

22-048F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to approve retroactively a four-year Interlocal contract between the State of Nevada Acting by and through its Department of Health and Human Services Division of Healthcare Financing and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to

allow for reimbursements from the Nevada Medicaid program effective July 1, 2020. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

22-049F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Discussion and possible approval of the annual evaluation process for the Fire Chief, including questions and a proposed list of evaluators and a possible discussion of goals and objectives for next year's review. The results of the evaluation will be presented at the April 5, 2022, regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners. (All Commission Districts)

Chief Charles Moore stated the process was the same as what was done the previous year, and similar to the evaluation process of the County Manager.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

22-050F **AGENDA ITEM 16** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Lucey requested agenda items to discuss possible budget changes and discretionary fund support for the Mental Health Response and Support Program that Dr. Steven Nicholas discussed, and for Chief August Isernhagen's work with fuel management and power line mitigation issues.

22-051F **AGENDA ITEM 17** Public Comment.

Mr. William Steward thought the regionalization of the 911 dispatch center was a great opportunity to bring the Cities of Sparks and Reno and the airport together. He explained the five tenets of the National Fire Protection Association's Outthink Wildfire Program, which called for an end to the destruction of communities by wildfire. He mentioned Nevada Division of Forestry Fire Programmer Manager Ron Bollier was on board with the program. He noted Washoe County had been a fire-adapted community for years but was transitioning to the national firewise model; he thought that was great because it allowed resources and communities to come together. He opined anything that could be done to make sure the communities were safe from wildfires was a step in the right direction. He hoped the Board would continue the conversation with the City of Reno.

Mr. Thomas Daly disclosed he was a Republican candidate for the Nevada Assembly District 26. He noted the multiple fatalities over the past six years on Mt. Rose Highway. He said the intersection of Callahan Road and Mt. Rose Highway had no traffic signal or roundabout, poor roadway lighting, and short deceleration lanes. He said Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) had studied the mountain roads highway safety issue for three years and no implementations had been made. NDOT's last briefing informed improvements would not start until April 2023. He opined if the deaths occurred in Clark County, the project would be fast-tracked. He asked Chair Hartung to call Governor Steve Sisolak to have the improvements start next month.

22-052F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor issues with Washoe County and/or Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

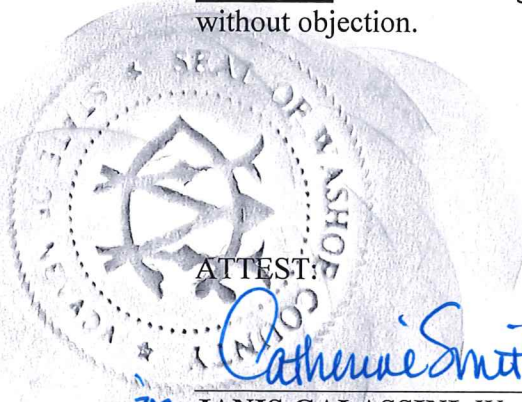
Chair Hartung asked Chief Charles Moore if there was a need for a closed session and Chief Moore responded yes. Chair Hartung asked for Deputy District Attorney Wade Carner to guide him through the process. Attorney Carner stated Agenda Item 15 should be moved to the end of the agenda, the remaining items on the agenda should be heard, and then the Board should adjourn to go into the closed session.

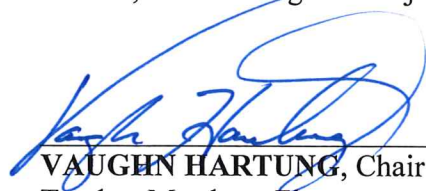
On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that the meeting recess to a closed session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.

12:08 p.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.





VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:


JANIS GALASSINI, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows
Fire Protection District

*Minutes Prepared By:
Evonne Strickland, Deputy County Clerk*