

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 3, 2022

PRESENT:

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

**Janis Galassini, County Clerk**  
**Charles Moore, Fire Chief**  
**Mary Kandaras, Chief 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:

**22-069F      AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.**

There was no response to the call for public comment.

County Clerk Jan Galassini stated an email was received from Mr. Tom Daly, which was placed on file.

**22-070F      AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.**

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore mentioned Commissioner Lucey had asked for a condition assessment of the TMFPD's facilities and noted it would be provided next month.

Commissioner Lucey thanked the TMFPD, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), stating controlled burns had been conducted in the Galena Creek area over the last few days to dispose of underpiles and undergrowth. He expressed appreciation for the TMFPD, the BLM, and the NDF for the controlled response and for ensuring the public was aware of what was going on.

Commissioner Jung reminded Chair Hartung that she would like an invitation to be extended to the National Weather Service (NWS) to present to the Board and provide a forecast for the summer. She thanked Commissioner Lucey and Chief Moore for keeping the members of the Board apprised of the events of the past weekend and for ensuring the necessary and proper resources were available.

Chair Hartung thanked Chief Moore for his hard work trying to keep the fuels reduction program moving forward. He agreed with Commissioner Jung about having the NWS present and asked Chief Moore to reach out and extend the invitation. He noted he would also like to invite the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) to provide a water outlook to the Board. He wondered if the NWS and TMWA should present to both this Board and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). He believed a presentation on the water outlook for Washoe County was important as it had a lot to do with how the fuels were growing.

**22-071F**      **AGENDA ITEM 5** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the April 5, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

**22-072F**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** Proclaim the period of May - October 2022 as the Nevada Wildfire Awareness Campaign.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore read the proclamation.

Chief Moore introduced Jamie Royce-Gomes, manager of the Living With Fire Program at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). She explained the program was an inter-agency effort that worked with local, state, and federal firefighting agencies; the program was managed at the UNR Extension.

Chief Moore believed the proclamation was timely because more firefighters and resources were always needed to respond to the wildfires. He thanked Ms. Royce-Gomes for the partnership and for helping lead community discussions and programs.

Ms. Royce-Gomes agreed with Chief Moore that there were not enough resources and firefighters to save every single home. She spoke about the importance of the wildfire awareness campaign, stating the goal was to implore residents to prepare now and reduce wildfire risk. She highlighted a few of the program’s collaborations, noting it had worked with the Washoe County Regional Animal Services and the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) to update a wildfire evacuation checklist. The checklist now included input from the WCSO, the TMFPD, and statewide agencies, as well as information about how people with pets could prepare for wildfires. Ms. Royce-Gomes remarked that the program had also worked with the Washoe County Emergency Management Office to develop a fact sheet to inform the community about the local emergency communication system. The goal was to educate the public and explain what Code Red was, why it was important, and how to sign up. She informed that the program had also worked with the Washoe County Health District, particularly the Air Quality

Division, to develop a publication on living with wildfire smoke. She urged residents to visit the program’s website, livingwithfire.com, so they could prepare for wildfire.

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be adopted.

**22-073F** **AGENDA ITEM 7** International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 Report.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 Treasurer Aaron Reynolds reported that negotiations with the District were complete and he anticipated ratification from the membership soon. Mr. Reynolds shared that the 10th annual Guns and Hoses golf fundraiser event raised \$34,440 for the Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation. He noted over the last ten years of the event, \$207,000 had been raised.

Chair Hartung wondered if the \$34,440 raised was a record for the event. Mr. Reynolds responded he was unsure.

**22-074F** **AGENDA ITEM 8** Fire Chief Report

A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of April and May 2022 to include the following Items:

- 1. Wildfire Season Update
- 2. Green Waste Program
- 3. Ash Can Distribution

B. Review of Critical Calls Response Statistics for March 2022.

TMFPD Chief Charles Moore informed that staff had met with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) regarding the Wildfire Protection Plan (WPP). The WPP, he explained, was a statewide plan that each local agency contributed towards to help pay for the costs of fighting wildfires. He said the TMFPD paid approximately \$130,000 to the fund and that amount covered all the costs of firefighting in the district. He opined the WPP was beneficial to the TMFPD and thanked the State of Nevada for implementing it.

Chief Moore noted the State of Nevada would have a contract for two scooper airplanes this wildfire season. In past years, the State relied on federal resources and the planes could be sent to another state if they were needed. With the planes being under a State of Nevada contract, the planes would stay in the State.

The State, Chief Moore explained, contracted a single-engine aircraft tanker and helicopter resources. He noted the availability of hand crews would be lacking this year because the State inmate crews would only have about half the people they normally had, however, the TMFPD would add another squad to deployments to increase resources.

He believed other local agencies were taking similar measures to compensate for the decrease in inmate crews.

The weather briefings and preliminary indications from the Great Basin Coordinating Center showed a normal year for the region. Chief Moore indicated he would post a forecast video from the Great Basin Coordinating Center on the TMFPD website. The early precipitation in the fall and winter started the growth of the cheatgrass, but the dry spring made the growth patchy. The recent moisture had caused more robust growth of the patchy cheatgrass. He noted a normal wildfire season was expected, which meant the same number of fires started that the area typically saw. The Great Basin Coordinating Center predicted a slight increase from last year in the risk of fires in tall timbers. He opined there would be an increase in risk in tall timbers, as well as grass.

Chief Moore informed that the TMFPD would add 14 volunteers to respond with water tenders and other wildland resources. He mentioned he would bring information to the Board in a future meeting, regarding a shift in focus of the volunteers to strictly wildland fires because wildland fires required more manpower and were equipment intensive. He opined wildland fires, as opposed to structure fires, were a great way for volunteers to serve because structure fires were too onerous and time-consuming.

The TMFPD would return the tractor-trailer transport vehicle that was on loan from the NDF. Chief Moore said the TMFPD planned to hire a contractor on a standby basis for when a transport vehicle was needed. As the budget progressed, he explained, the TMFPD might find a federal resource surplus or buy its own tractor-trailer transport vehicle. He said the TMFPD staff had completed preseason training and was prepared for the fire activity to increase over the Memorial Day holiday.

Chief Moore provided a document from TSK Architects, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. TSK Architects was the architect for the new Station 30, which was a combination of the East Lake and the Bowers Station. Station 30 would be the same design as the station near Apple. The design was modeled off of Station 33, but it would be a bit smaller. He explained the plan was to have an engine, a brush engine, a structural engine, two water tenders, and a Medic Unit. The Medic Unit would be staffed with TMFPD resources and personnel. The station would have six bedrooms, a full-time engine, and a full-time ambulance. The station was designed to accommodate growth with the potential to add additional bays or bedrooms. He noted the station would be completed at the same time as the station near Apple.

Chair Hartung asked if a helipad was planned for the station near Apple. Chief Moore commented a helipad had not been discussed with Apple, but he did not see a reason why the station could not have one. Chair Hartung opined it was a good idea to have a helipad there due to its proximity to the freeway. He asked if the helipad would be paved or a dirt pad. Chief Moore said it would likely be paved because it was safer to land on concrete. Chair Hartung thought the helipad was a wise design and was preferable to landing helicopters in the streets.

Chair Hartung appreciated the support for the Ash Can Project and opined a reduction had been seen in ash and oily rag fires since the start of the program. Chief Moore could not recall any oily rag or ash fires in the years when the TMFPD distributed ashcans. He noted the program was very popular and the TMFPD ran through its stock of ashcans within the first couple of days of the program's start. Chair Hartung asked if the ashcans were out of stock, and Chief Moore responded a few pallets were remaining that the TMFPD wanted to keep until fall for another distribution. Chair Hartung said if there was a need for additional ashcans, he would make sure there was funding to cover it.

Vice Chair Hill asked for an update on the 50th anniversary and asked if there were any activities the Board could support.

Chair Hartung requested Chief Moore use a different style of graph for the Call Volume by Station chart in the TMFPD Monthly Report. He said the graph was difficult to read because numbers did not line up. He requested station numbers be placed next to the names of the stations on the Call Volume by Station graph. Chief Moore said he would make those changes.

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

**22-075F**     **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to acknowledge status report regarding the tentative Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget and discussion regarding the priorities and projects anticipated in the budget. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore asked to take a minute to get the TMFPD's bond consultant on the phone. Chief Moore distributed a document to the Board, a copy of which was placed on file by the Clerk.

Chief Fiscal Officer Cynthia Vance conducted a PowerPoint Presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Truckee Meadows Fire & Rescue; Current Staffing Levels – 193; Staffing; Revenue; General Fund Overview; Special Programs (two slides); General Fund Summary; Existing Debt Service Schedule; Capital Projects (two slides); Other Funds; Questions?

Ms. Vance informed the presentation regarded the tentative TMFPD budget that was filed on April 15 and noted the tentative budget with final recommendations would be brought back to the Board for approval in two weeks.

The current staffing levels for the TMFPD were 193 employees, and Ms. Vance provided a breakdown by category. She mentioned the TMFPD would like to add two new positions for fiscal year (FY) 2023, which would include a fiscal position and a specialist for radios. She reported the TMFPD had 142 positions filled as of July 1, 2020, and had seen a growth of 37 percent in just two years. She spoke about the proposed staff additions included in the budget and commented that there were 12 firefighter/paramedic positions that were currently vacant and would be frozen. She said the TMFPD would be

looking into Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants. Chief Moore informed that the 12 firefighter/paramedic positions were originally in the budget, but he was hesitant about the national economy and decided to freeze the positions for a few months. He reiterated that the TMFPD would investigate SAFER grant funding.

Ms. Vance highlighted the revenue projections for the FY 2023 budget. She observed the two highest revenue sources were property taxes and consolidated taxes (C-TAX). Other intergovernmental revenues, she explained, were supplemental city-county relief tax and federal grants, including the SAFER grants. She noted the miscellaneous revenues were comprised of some of the TMFPD's charges for services or reimbursements related to NV Energy, moving vehicle accidents, and permits. Ms. Vance shared that property tax revenues were up about 6 percent over the FY 2022 budget of just over \$22 million, and the TMFPD expected it to be very close to the planned budget revenues and actual expenditures for the current FY. She commented that the C-TAX was a 20 percent increase over the FY 2022 budget, with the actual expected to be about \$500,000 over budget. The TMFPD kept a close watch on it because it was an indicator of the economy.

Chair Hartung asked Ms. Vance to discuss who paid the property taxes. Ms. Vance responded it was the residents in the unincorporated areas only. Chair Hartung requested confirmation that they were not paid for by the Cities of Reno or Sparks. Ms. Vance said that was correct.

Ms. Vance gave an overview of the TMFPD General Fund, noting there was a slight decrease in total expenditures because three full-time positions were moved to the new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) proprietary fund, along with anyone staffing the ambulance. She shared that with the inclusion of the EMS Fund the total expenditures were approximately \$44 million. She observed that salaries and wages made up 84 percent of the TMFPD's budget, services and supplies were just over 15 percent, and capital outlay was 0.4 percent. Capital outlay, she remarked, came out of the General Fund, and was related to NV Energy programs and what NV Energy purchased for the TMFPD for vehicles.

Special Programs, Ms. Vance informed, were presented as individual line items in the budget and included the following: Peer Support Program at \$95,000; WET Team at \$30,000; SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) Repair and Replacement at \$137,000; Radio Repair and Replacement at \$248,000; Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Team at \$25,000; Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Repair and Replacement at \$10,000; Assessment Program at \$80,000; Officer Development School at \$40,000; New Recruit Academy at \$200,000; Green Waste at \$86,000; Computer Refresh at \$175,000.

Chair Hartung asked for an overview of the Water Entry Team (WET) and the SCBA Repair and Replacement. He wondered about the need for WET.

TMFPD Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulus explained that WET was the water entry team which had approximately 32 members. He shared that WET was responsible mostly for the Truckee River out in the Verdi area, everything east of Vista

through the canyon, and Washoe Lake. He said the costs reflected in the PowerPoint presentation for WET paid for the training of its members and recertification each year.

Chief Kukulus stated the SCBA cylinders had a shelf life and had to go through hydro and large compressors to be refilled. The costs indicated in the presentation pertained to all the elements of the repair, maintenance, and replacement of the cylinders.

Chair Hartung inquired where WET was housed. Chief Kukulus responded that all the members were located at Station 40 in Verdi and WET was mostly seasonal with river rescues occurring in mid to late summer. He noted the TMFPD ensured there were always two to four members who were WET-qualified staffed at Station 40 and the East Lake Station. Chair Hartung said he thought everything else was self-explanatory and he wanted to ensure people understood those two items.

Ms. Vance summarized that the estimated beginning fund balance for the TMFPD's General Fund was just over \$8.7 million for FY 2022, and she expected an ending fund balance of \$6.3 million which would become the beginning fund balance for FY 2023. She noted this was approximately \$2 million above the TMFPD's projection from last year. She spoke about other financing uses which were comprised of contingencies and transfers. This included a \$400,000 contingency that Ms. Vance stated was consistent with prior years. She said \$2.2 million would go to capital projects, \$250,000 would be transferred to the sick and comp liability fund, \$370,000 to debt service for the Barron Way purchase, and \$663,000 to the EMS Fund which would only be transferred as needed. She explained that the transfer depended on the timing of the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) funding, noting the GEMT funds may arrive before July 1 and the transfer to the EMS Fund would not be needed.

Chief Moore asked Ms. Vance to discuss the EMS Fund in more detail, particularly why it was being established and how the TMFPD would track the costs. Ms. Vance informed that the EMS Fund would be set up as a Proprietary Fund because it was for services that would be provided, and either be reimbursed by residents directly through insurance billings or by the GEMT funds. She said the TMFPD was expecting about \$2.1 million in GEMT funding. She shared the application for those funds was already submitted and the TMFPD was going through the desk audit process to obtain final approval. She observed there was a possibility a budget augmentation would be needed; if the GEMT funds were received before June 30 they would have to go into the General Fund and then be transferred to the EMS Fund which would not be started until July 1. Ms. Vance stated the EMS was a cost center within the General Fund which was now being moved to the EMS Fund. It included the salaries for division chiefs and two coordinators who assisted with ambulance staffing, education for EMS medical personnel, and supplies. She opined it would be a better way to match those expenses with the revenues and the TMFPD hoped it would be 100 percent funded. She noted ambulance staff would have a log-in code when they were assigned to the ambulance. Chief Moore observed that the costs of running the ambulances would be charged to that fund so the Board would know the full costs of providing medic services to constituents in support of the TMFPD's agreement with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA).

Ms. Vance shared that the TMFPD was projecting an ending fund balance for the General Fund of \$5.6 million. She said the budget was always set conservatively and she hoped the revenues would be higher and the expenses would be lower, but it was a 14.3 percent ending fund balance which was consistent with what was recommended within the State. Chair Hartung inquired about what the State recommended, and Ms. Vance responded it was between 10 and 16 percent.

Regarding the Existing Debt Service Schedule, Ms. Vance informed that the TMFPD would pay \$370,000 from the General Fund to the debt service, and the Capital Fund also made payments. She said there were three current debt issuances and the TMFPD's annual debt service was just over \$1 million. The debt service included a \$4.4 million equipment fund that would mature in 2030, a \$2.1 million building bond that would mature in 2035, and a \$7 million building bond that would mature in 2046.

Chief Moore spoke about the capital projects, stating the TMFPD had pared down its ambitions due to uncertainty regarding the future of interest rates. He observed that the Consolidated Station was recommended in the budget and the TMFPD would continue with that project. He shared that the Hidden Valley project had been scaled back, and the TMFPD would complete the residential portion, but crews would rely on the existing apparatus bay for a bit longer. The modular building would be removed from the site and it would still be a functional station with improved crew quarters. Chief Moore discussed Barron Way, noting the TMFPD needed to add some security, improvements to the fleet maintenance, efficiencies, and a training component. He said the TMFPD would try to make the necessary improvements with \$1.5 million. He observed that the largest piece of debt issuance was for the Consolidated Station and reminded the Board that construction prices had gone through the roof. He anticipated the cost could be around \$7.5 million or higher.

Chief Moore announced Mr. John Peterson from JNA Consulting was on the phone and invited him to speak to the Board about the expected future of interest rates and the bonding process.

Mr. Peterson stated that interest rates had been increasing over the last four or five months since the beginning of 2022, which he did not think was a surprise. He spoke about the last bond issue for the TMFPD in July 2021 in the amount of \$7 million for the acquisition of the Barron Way property. He informed it was a 25-year bond with a 1.97 percent interest rate and had been issued at essentially the lowest point in terms of interest rates. He explained that tax-exempt municipal bonds were priced off an index called the MMD (municipal market data), and at the time the 10-year benchmark rate was 0.88 percent; now that same benchmark rate was 2.76 percent which was an increase of 1.88 percent. The increase had primarily occurred since January 2022, Mr. Peterson observed, noting it was driven by inflation. He said the most recent number that was published in March 2022 was an annualized inflation rate of 8.5 percent, and over the last decade, inflation was much closer to 1 or 2 percent. He stated that supply issues had become apparent because of COVID-19 (C19), and it was uncertain when those issues would be resolved. He spoke about the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which was the



federal agency responsible for keeping inflation under control. The target inflation was 2 percent, and Mr. Peterson reiterated that the current rate was significantly higher. He expected the FOMC to take action to bring the rates down by increasing overnight lending rates, which were currently 0.25 percent. He expected that the FOMC would announce tomorrow during a press conference that the overnight rate would be increased to 0.75 percent. He believed there would be another .5 percent increase at the FOMC's meeting in a couple of months, and the purpose of these increases was to bring down inflation rates. He opined there would be a market reaction tomorrow after the press release.

Mr. Peterson spoke about the potential bond financing for \$10 million. He shared that he reached out to Chief Moore and Ms. Vance and suggested that an interest rate of 4.5 percent be considered, acknowledging that it was a significant increase over the 1.97 percent interest rate from July 2021. He stated that last week the Clark County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) sold 20-year bonds at a 3.7 percent interest rate and had sold a 20-year bond in April 2021 at a rate of 1.67 percent. He anticipated that the annual debt service on the \$10 million bond at 4.5 percent would be approximately \$700,000 per year and noted payments on the bond would begin in FY 2024. He informed that the TMFPD was exploring what options were available to reduce the interest costs, including the potential to apply for funding through the State's Infrastructure Bank, a reduced-cost loan or grant from the State, or the State Revolving Fund. He noted that the State Revolving Fund had not typically been available to the TMFPD as it was federally funded through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and was used primarily for drinking water and clean water projects. Mr. Peterson observed that if there were an option available to reduce the interest costs, the TMFPD would bring it to the Board for consideration.

Chief Moore described what the service level would look like at the beginning of 2024 if the Board approved the capital projects. He said when the Consolidated Station was finished the TMFPD proposed to use the East Lake Station for one of the fuels crews. He believed the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) wanted to occupy the old Bowers Station and put a hand crew there. Between the Consolidated Station and the Bowers Station, there would be more fire resources in Washoe Valley than there were currently. He noted the TMFPD hand crew had four to five members and the NDF's hand crew would be about the same. The station near Apple, he informed, would be able to start responding to calls up and down the I-80 corridor. He opined that with the \$7.5 million there were really two new stations, but one was being funded by Apple because of a development agreement. He stated both stations needed to be completed at the same time and would be staffed at the same time.

Chair Hartung expressed disappointment that the Hidden Valley Station was not complete yet but did not think it had hindered emergency response. Chief Moore responded that the drawings were fairly well done, but he wanted to be conservative in his recommendations for bonding. Chair Hartung questioned some of the improvements at Barron Way and hoped the Hidden Valley Station would be completed soon. He wondered about its funding if it was not part of the bonding. Ms. Vance informed she expected a

recommendation in June for it to be funded by part of the bond proceeds from the \$2.1 million and the extra from the premium that was issued on the \$7 million debt.

Chair Hartung inquired about the plan for the North Valleys once Station 30 was completed. Chief Moore reminded the Board that the TMFPD had considered splitting Stead between Silver Lake and Lemmon Valley. He stated no action had been taken yet but it was still under consideration. He shared that he was waiting to see if things would work out better with respect to boundary drops with the Cities, noting County Manager Eric Brown was discussing it with his counterparts at the Cities of Reno and Sparks. Chair Hartung wondered what would happen with the extra crew in Washoe Valley, and Chief Moore responded it would go to the station near Apple. Chief Moore observed if the deployment of Silver Lake and Lemmon Valley were to occur then the TMFPD would need an additional 12 firefighters, which could be provided by the SAFER grant.

Vice Chair Hill thought it was great that the TMFPD was looking into State Infrastructure bonds. She believed the key to success would be to look at the project labor agreement for one of the capital projects, and the TMFPD would save by going into that type of agreement. She opined that was what the State was really looking for. She thought it was the smart way to go and the bond liability would not be as high during this difficult time of interest rates. She wanted to see the TMFPD move forward, especially with the Consolidated Station, and believed it was a project the State would be excited about partnering on.

Commissioner Lucey spoke about the expected market changes as presented by Mr. Peterson. He expressed concern that small, short-term loan changes would occur but was unsure that there would be any direct impact on long-term financing and that inflation would continue. He mentioned the issue of annexation which had a direct impact on the Board's ability to fund the TMFPD. He reiterated that conversations were ongoing with the Cities of Reno and Sparks regarding boundary drops and believed the discussion of annexation needed to occur at the same time. He opined that the County could drop boundaries but if not funded properly there could be negative implications. He urged Chief Moore and the TMFPD staff to take part in those conversations with Manager Brown. He stated that Manager Brown did not necessarily oversee the TMFPD and its budget so it was important for Chief Moore to be part of the conversations to discuss that type of financing and bonding large projects. He noted the TMFPD and the Cities of Reno and Sparks already had established stations in Spanish Springs and the North Valleys, and there was a large amount of capital and assets that needed to be addressed. He anticipated the next 24 months would be challenging with increased interest rates and adjustments to the bond markets. He opined conversations were happening regarding financing projects without any real solutions about how to financially support them. He believed that with the current way the Cities of Reno and Sparks were annexing, capital was being taken away from the County as well as the ability to fund projects. He stated he was an advocate for the closest engine, but the TMFPD could not build station on top of station without discussing how they would be paid for. He noted he would also like the labor union staff to participate in the conversations. He remarked that last season the TMFPD paid a lot of

overtime and it was challenging. He said the Board could not go blindly into a budget and needed to receive answers to some of these questions and the boundary discussion needed to continue.

Chief Moore thought the Cities of Reno and Sparks had similar challenges with annexation. He did not believe the cities could provide services to certain areas such as Stonegate. He felt that a discussion about a regional department should be added to the overall conversation. He expressed uncertainty about how to stop a municipality from annexing short of a legislative fix. Commissioner Lucey said he understood and wanted to discuss this because Bill Draft Requests (BDR) would be due in September. He thought the conversation should begin now to make sure the Cities of Reno and Sparks were on board and aware of the timing.

Commissioner Jung shared that the average economic cycle of Northern Nevada circa 1980 was 14 years, noting it was in its 14th year now. She said when the municipalities did not talk to each other and did things parallel, the Board received questions. For example, the Board had to explain why the TMFPD was building another fire station when the Reno Fire Department had one located nearby. She opined that the Board was right for giving direction to the fire chiefs and the temporary chief with the City of Sparks. She thought that until a conversation was held it would be difficult to hold staff accountable without clear direction voted on by the Board. She commented that the TMFPD and the Board needed to be sensitive to those who had to explain this difficult issue. Commissioner Jung remarked the Board had been worried about annexation, noting that 60 percent of the funding came from real estate. She expressed concerns about the municipalities working parallel and thought it was a waste of money and unsustainable. She said growth did not pay for growth, noting the County did not want to subsidize growth in other municipalities anymore. She informed the County had a discrete fund to pay for fire services and thought the Cities of Reno and Sparks should do the same. She felt this was the best fire board to serve on because the budget was given directly to the Chief, and he was asked to tell the Board what should be done with it. She said the Board needed to be ready to present a BDR to the Legislature if it could not find a solution by itself. She shared that she loved when the State gave the County unfunded mandates because it gave the Board local control. She agreed with Commissioner Lucey that there must be a way to work together and present a unified voice. She reiterated that Washoe County should not be subsidizing growth. She believed the Board should come from the position of “what’s fair and square” but in the matter of an emergency the Board would figure that out later. She opined that the citizens thought the County had its act together, and she did too based on the data, but she also believed the County should try to be better. She thanked Ms. Vance for her presentation and her work on the budget.

Chair Hartung asked the members of the Board to look at page seven of the monthly report, noting the TMFPD’s mutual aid received and given. He shared that there was a significant amount of growth in Spanish Springs right on the edge of the boundary between the incorporated City of Sparks and unincorporated Washoe County on La Posada. He remarked that the TMFPD was the closest station to all those developments. He indicated the Board funded and robustly assisted Pyramid Lake. He informed that the

TMFPD was the only fire service in the region that was included as a line item on a tax bill so citizens could see how much they were paying for fire services; this could not be done for the Cities of Reno and Sparks because they drew directly from the general funds. He opined that if the Board were ever to fix public safety it would be by including it as a line item on a tax bill, so the agencies had to live within the boundary of the amount that was granted.

Chief Moore shared that Station 44 in Stead used to be entirely in the County but was now completely surrounded by the City of Reno, which is what the TMFPD and the Board should avoid going forward. He did not want to have a station built only to have all the property around it annexed and no longer have any citizens to serve in that area. He said five of the TMFPD's stations were right on the border of the City of Reno, such as Verdi Station 40, which could easily serve the annexed portions of the City. He argued that if there were unnecessary stations then there were a couple in the City of Reno that did not need to be built. He believed Cold Springs could service Stonegate for a while until there were enough units built to drive demand for another station. He remarked there was no need for another station in Verdi because Station 40 was within the reasonable response time to service that area. He opined there were no annexation threats in Washoe Valley or near the Apple Station. He commented that Hidden Valley was in its location because of the City Council mutual aid and the Verdi station had to be moved a bit closer so it could service Caughlin Ranch. He believed there were opportunities to move things forward and be smart about the location of future stations. He suggested he might schedule something for the next meeting to talk about this issue and make some recommendations but noted it would be complicated to come to an agreement among the municipalities. However, he reiterated that the TMFPD did not want to develop a \$7 million station only to have it annexed in a decade.

Commissioner Lucey agreed with Chief Moore and stated the meeting needed to happen sooner rather than later. He said the Board did not like having to go to the Legislature because many of the legislators had never been involved in municipal or local government and did not understand the day-to-day operational needs. He would prefer the municipalities have a discussion and come to an agreement together, but he did think Carson City needed to be involved in the discussion because the Legislature was where the law would have to change. He spoke about the TMFPD's call volume and mutual aid. Commissioner Lucey thought there was a possibility of annexation for the station near Apple because, through the lands bill that the County was working on, the City of Sparks had talked about building a road off Vista to access the Waltham and Tahoe-Reno Industrial (TRI) Center so it could continue to grow its industrial properties. He opined the Board needed to look 20 years into the future because if a lands bill were to be passed and the City of Sparks was able to obtain certain property then there were opportunities for it to expand into those areas and annex. He requested this item be placed on an agenda as soon as possible and urged Chief Moore to sit down with Manager Brown and the City Managers and staff to work things out. He believed the longer the Board waited the more the issues would continue. He spoke about wildfires, noting the County had seen more of them along the East Truckee River Canyon than it had in the past 40 years because of increased traffic and people moving down through there; there had also been massive

wildfires in the North Valleys. He said the Board needed to be more efficient with the way it spent money and avoid redundancy and duplicating services.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras thought the discussions of annexation and the use of resources with respect to the budget and capital projects were well-placed. She asked to clarify that the Board would like to bring this back for future discussion. Chair Hartung responded yes. He believed these conversations were relevant to the budget; when a municipality obtained a property that could have been developed in the County then that revenue was lost to the fire service. He opined that no one wanted to give up control, but everyone would have to at some point.

Ms. Vance provided a brief overview of the other funds, noting she had already spoken about the EMS Fund which would have a budget of about \$2.1 million in the GEMT revenues and about \$600,000 in direct bill revenues for ambulance transfers. It would cover three full-time positions plus anyone on the ambulance staff. She stated the Emergency Fire Fund was self-replenishing and the TMFPD had changed some of its procedures so it would replenish quicker. She commented the TMFPD was presenting a high budget of \$1.8 million in revenues which would equal reimbursements and \$2.1 million in expenditures. The expenditures included the Wildlife Fire Protection Fund and the TMFPD's portion of that was just under \$200,000 for FY 2023. The Sick, Annual and Comp Benefits Fund, she stated, included the transfer of \$250,000 to cover any estimated retirements or payouts. The TMFPD had about \$4.5 million in compensated absences that were comp time or vacation which were 100 percent payable on termination whether it was a retirement or leaving of service. She shared there was approximately \$3.9 million in sick balances which were payable under certain qualifications of time and the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or time with the TMFPD. The Debt Service Fund, she said, would pay the principal and interest of just over \$1 million. She remarked the TMFPD's Stabilization Fund could only be used if there was a significant decrease in revenues. She noted there had not been any additional transfers, but the Stabilization Fund had interest earnings and was sitting around \$642,000. She informed the Workers Compensation Fund still paid for the City of Reno Heart and Lung claims, noting they were any new claims after 2012 that were related to heart and lung because they could come at any time, even after service. The TMFPD paid for about 37 City of Reno retirees that had been employees of the District. She noted the TMFPD paid a portion of the heart and lung claims for any employee who transferred to the City of Reno. She observed there would be some expected changes for the funds when the budget was brought back to the Board in two weeks because the union agreements had just been finalized and there would be adjustments for salary and benefits.

Vice Chair Hill said she had concerns about bond financing and would like to see staff pursue other funding sources for the Washoe Valley Consolidated Station. She hoped there would be carryover for Barron Way at the station near Apple and for the design and development fees. She worried about proceeding with bond financing at this point and during this year.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be acknowledged and brought back with any amended changes prior to the finalized budget at the end of the month.

**22-076F**      **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Resolution TM04-2022 to augment the district’s Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$681,982 and direct the District to make the appropriate budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

Chief Financial Officer Cynthia Vance reported the issuance of debt for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) was above the \$7 million that was budgeted. She explained that it was \$7.4 million because there was a premium of \$441,000 on the debt issued. She shared the TMFPD sold some of its surplus vehicles and apparatus, which resulted in unbudgeted proceeds of \$190,000. Ms. Vance remarked the TMFPD would need an additional \$50,000 transfer from the General Fund to cover capital projects such as the remodel of Station 37. The total amount for the expenditures and other uses available for augmentation was \$681,982.

**11:37 a.m.**      **Chief Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras left the meeting.**

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved and directed. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**22-077F**      **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Resolution TM05-2022 to augment the district’s Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Emergency Fund in the amount of \$500,000 and direct the District to make the appropriate budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

TMFPD Fire Chief Charles Moore stated this item was regarding the Emergency Fund which covered the costs of expenses for combating wildland fires throughout the year.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved and directed. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**22-078F**      **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Resolution TM06-2022 to augment the district’s Fiscal Year 2021-2022 General Fund in the amount of \$2,733,016 and direct the District to make the appropriate budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

Chair Hartung opened the public hearing by calling on anyone wishing to speak for or against this item. There being no response, the hearing was closed.

Chief Fiscal Officer Cynthia Vance stated that much of the resolution was related to items that were previously presented.

Vice Chair Hill asked if there could be another budget augmentation if the County were to approve a grant to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. Ms. Vance responded yes, but it would have to occur before June 3. Vice Chair Hill noted the last tranche of funding would not be allocated until deeper into the fiscal year.

**11:41 a.m.**      **Chief Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras returned.**

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved and directed. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**22-079F**      **AGENDA ITEM 14** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Lucey requested to bring the discussion back to the Board regarding any legislative processes pertaining to annexation, budgetary restraints, boundary drops, and any changes of service within the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

Chair Hartung reminded that he would like to invite the National Weather Service and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority to present to the Board the summer forecast and the water outlook.

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

Chair Hartung requested Item 14 be reopened to discuss the removal of the Advanced Signal Warning Systems (ASWS) by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). He stated he and Commissioner Lucey had fought for the safety of the Mt. Rose and Pyramid Highways, but the ASWS would not return under the current administration. He commented that he and Commissioner Lucey would continue to discuss this issue with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC).

Commissioner Jung expressed frustration with the sound walls on I-80 and I-580 and requested Chair Hartung and Commissioner Lucey discuss this with the RTC. She opined that NDOT had little experience with Northern Nevada. She did not want the

view of the mountains to be obstructed and asked Chair Hartung and Commissioner Lucey to advocate for sound mitigation that did not include walls.

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**22-080F** AGENDA ITEM 15 Public Comment.

Mr. Tom Daly disclosed he was a candidate for Nevada State Assembly District 26. He shared that on April 23, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Engine 36 responded to a head-on collision on Mt. Rose Highway at Thomas Creek Road. He noted the Advanced Signal Warning System (ASWS) had been removed from that location by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) days before. He said the speed limit in that location was 55 miles per hour and believed the timing of the traffic signal from green to red was only 4 seconds. He opined an accident was bound to happen and NDOT had done a poor job of educating the public about the removal of the ASWS. He urged the Board to issue one or more public service announcements and a press release to warn residents about the changes at this intersection and others.

**22-081F** AGENDA ITEM 13 Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor issues with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

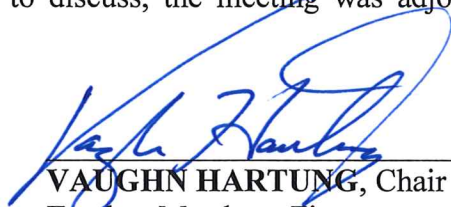
Chair Hartung asked Chief Charles Moore if there was a need for a closed session and Chief Moore responded yes. Chair Hartung noted Agenda Items 14 and 15 would be heard first and then the Board would adjourn and go into the closed session.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried 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.

**11:51 a.m.** **The Board recessed.**

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

  
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VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair  
Truckee Meadows Fire  
Protection District



ATTEST:

*Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy*  
for

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

*Minutes Prepared By:*  
*Lauren Morris & Evonne Strickland, Deputy County Clerks*

