

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JUNE 7, 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:

22-092F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

22-093F AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Lucey noted that a District Board of Health (DBOH) meeting had been held and there was discussion regarding the rate increase for the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA). That increase, he stated, affected REMSA's ability to charge insurance companies more money. He said REMSA was frustrated by its ability to collect money due to the franchise agreement with the DBOH. He asked the Board to support the revitalization or modification of REMSA's franchise agreement. He informed that local hospitals could bill the County for indigent services, however, REMSA could not bill the County for indigent services due to the way the franchise agreement was drafted.

The contract, which was drafted 35 years ago, created challenges for REMSA to collect on indigent services. Commissioner Lucey noted that REMSA helped tremendously at the Cares Campus, in the unincorporated area of the County, and the Cities of Sparks and Reno. He opined the Board should discuss how the community could improve ground transport service and regionalization for emergency medical services, fire, and dispatch. He recalled the Board had approved a modest increase allowance for REMSA. He noted one challenge for REMSA was staffing, and he opined if REMSA could not bill enough to support staffing increases it would be a bad situation. He asked Chair

Hartung and Vice Chair Hill for discussion on the matter, and he thought the Board needed to move quickly because the issue affected service to the community.

Chair Hartung agreed with Commissioner Lucey and noted that it had been several years since REMSA had any increases. Although REMSA was a nonprofit, he explained it still needed to recover its costs in order to grow and serve the region. He opined it would be catastrophic for the region if REMSA failed. He asked for discussion regarding how the Board could assist and support REMSA, and how the Board could approach the DBOH regarding the matter. He asked staff to coordinate with Commissioner Lucey regarding the stylization of the agenda item.

22-094F **AGENDA ITEM 5** National Weather Service 2022 Summer Weather outlook Presented by Chris Smallcomb.

Chris Smallcomb, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service (NWS), conducted a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: NWS Reno Weather Outlook for Summer 2022; Red Flag Stats Update; The Story of Winter 2021-22; Has This Spring Been More Windy Than Normal; Weather Outlook; Summer 2022 Outlook; Thoughts on April-July Water Supply Outlook; Fire Season Outlook Variables; Official June 1st Predictive Services Fire Outlook; NWS Reno Support for Wildfire Smoke Days; Changing How We Think About Forecasts; Helping Partners Make More Informed Decisions; and NWS Fire Weather Alerts You Might See.

Mr. Smallcomb noted the 22 days the Sierra Front was under a red flag warning last year did not set a record, but it was above average, as the average was approximately 16 days each year. He said 2021 was a big year for windy days and dry lightning. The large storm at the end of October 2021 led to rain accumulations of three inches at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport and eight inches of rain in Verdi. That event was crucial for the region because it moistened the ground, which meant snowfall would melt off into the creeks and streams. November was one of the warmest Novembers on record, and he noted the winter was one of the stranger ones on record.

***10:12** **Commissioner Jung arrived.**

Mr. Smallcomb said the NWS had contemplated issuing a heat advisory for the coming Friday because temperatures would reach near 100 degrees. The map on the PowerPoint presentation slide titled “Thoughts on April-July Water Supply Outlook” showed the percent of normal water coming to the rivers and streams from the snowpack. He noted that very little water would make it to the Rye Patch Reservoir. The Stream Flow chart for Galena Creek State Park showed that the snowpack melted off earlier than normal due to a lack of storms, which equated to below-normal flows in April and May. He noted that was a trend the region was seeing over the years and long-term projections showed the snowpack would melt off sooner than it historically had.

Mr. Smallcomb said the drought impacts on rural water resources were a big concern going into the summer season because those areas depended on local water sources. He believed things were in good shape in the urban areas because of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's reservoir system. He opined the seasonal creeks and ponds that were typically used for wildfire response would be dried out by July or August. He noted the region was in a multi-year severe drought, with Northern parts of the County in an extreme drought. There was more cheatgrass in the region than in the past couple of years, and he wondered if it would create larger fires in the area.

Mr. Smallcomb noted fire activity was near normal locally, however, near to above normal fire season was still pretty significant. He opined the area was in for a busy fire season this year, especially in the mountain areas. Even if the fires were not local, there could be a significant impact on air quality in the County. The NWS had respectable tools to provide the best forecast it could to help the community prepare for big smoke days. He said any weather forecast could be wrong because the atmosphere had a predictability limit to it, but the goal was to make a forecast good enough to help citizens and public safety agencies make informed decisions. Weather alerts for particularly dangerous situations (PDS) indicated that if fires were to start, they would spread so rapidly that evacuations would have to take place in a matter of minutes. A PDS weather alert was only issued after coordination with other agencies and fire partners. Many of the PDS occurred during the overlap of the fire season and the beginning of winter storm and high winds season.

Chair Hartung noted the quote Mr. Smallcomb used in his presentation was originally from British statistician George Box. Mr. Smallcomb opined the quote was very compelling and often took people aback when used. He said the quote opened a conversation about how to make weather forecasts useful, even if they were not perfect. Chair Hartung stated he reminded the County engineers of that concept many times.

22-095F **AGENDA ITEM 6** Truckee Meadows Water Authority 2022 Summer Water outlook Presented by Bill Hauck.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Senior Hydrologist Bill Hauck conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Key Takeaways 2022; Historical April 1 Truckee River Basin Snowpack; Truckee Basin Snowpack; 2022 NRCS Streamflow Runoff Forecast Summary; Actual and Projected Lake Tahoe Elevation through 2022; Actual and Projected Truckee River Flow through 2022 at CA/NV State Line; Truckee River System; Truckee River System Storage; 2021 TMWA Actual Sources of Supply; 2020 TMWA Actual Sources of Supply; Photo; Under TMWA's Ongoing Water Conservation Initiatives; Standard Water Conservation Practices; and Wrap Up.

Mr. Hauck indicated the year had been very dry, but he opined it could have been worse. He projected Lake Tahoe might rise another inch or two in water elevation but would then drain again and leave Lake Tahoe below its natural rim by the end of October. The significant rainfall in the month of October caused some localized flooding of the

Truckee River in downtown Reno. Runoff of the Truckee River started happening around the third week of March and peaked over the past couple of weeks. He opined within the following two to three weeks the Truckee River would be at the baseline summertime flow. He predicted the Truckee River would have normal river flows through the third week of October into early November.

The Truckee River System map showed Lake Tahoe was the largest reservoir in the system. Mr. Hauck informed TMWA owned and operated the Donner and Independence Lakes. He explained that at any given point in the year, water was moved around in one of the federal reservoirs in Lake Tahoe. He opined TMWA drought storage was in the best shape he had seen in over 20 years. He noted there were over 67,000 acre-feet of storage in reserve between the Donner and Independence Lakes, plus the amount that was stored in the federal reservoirs under the terms of the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA).

Normal river flows were projected through October, and Mr. Hauck opined drought reserves would not be released that year. In 2021, river flows began to taper off the third week of August, so TMWA had to supplement natural river flows with releases from Lake Tahoe, Donner Lake, and Prosser Reservoirs to keep TMWA's surface water treatment plants online at the Chalk Bluff and Glendale Water Treatment Facilities. He thought 2022 would be very similar to 2020 when TMWA was able to divert water from the Truckee River and turn on production wells in the spring to get through the summertime peak demand season. This would allow TMWA to avoid using drought reserves.

Chair Hartung said he had many questions from constituents regarding water conservation, and he asked Mr. Hauck to clarify statements regarding the matter. Mr. Hauck said water conservation was an essential component of the overall water management strategy every year, regardless of if the year was a drought year. He noted that TMWA's year-round efforts included conservation programs and assigned day watering. He explained the assigned day watering was the cornerstone of TMWA's water conservation program and gallons of water per customer, per day, had declined 30 percent over the last 15 years due to that program. He said the implementation of TROA had allowed TMWA to double its upstream drought reserves.

Vice Chair Hill commented it was great for the community to learn how the region was doing on its water supply, what TMWA's plans were, and how to conserve water. She had presented some of Mr. Hauck's slides at a different meeting, and she thought it was great for people to hear all the planning that had gone into TROA because there was a lot of information the community did not know. She was excited about TMWA's Water Heroes Program and said it was a program where people could nominate others who were taking measures to save water. She asked Mr. Hauck to speak about how people could get involved in the program. Mr. Hauck believed TMWA was working with KOLO 8 News on the program. He thought KOLO 8 News would have a weekly or bi-weekly segment showcasing what people in the County were doing to conserve water and TMWA would give awards to those people. Vice Chair Hill asked if people could place nominations on the County's website, and Mr. Hauck believed that was correct.

Chair Hartung was proud of TMWA and mentioned he and Vice Chair Hill served on TMWA's Board of Directors. He said TMWA ranked very high, and he opined it was one of the best-managed water systems in the country. He explained that TMWA's system moved water around using conjunctive use. He asked Mr. Hauck about the aquifer storage and recovery on the Mt. Rose fan area.

Mr. Hauck explained when TMWA merged with the Washoe County Utilities Department in 2015, TMWA started working on a system intertie to join its infrastructure into the County's infrastructure. This was done so TMWA could send surface water to the Mt. Rose fan area, which was historically served from groundwater alone. The aquifers were on the decline and showed the result of over-pumping. Many of the production wells were able to be rested with the system interties that TMWA was able to install, and the production wells and water tables had improved noticeably over the years. The process of resting a well so it could get healthy again in dry years was called passive recharge. He noted that TMWA had been able to recharge over 3,000 acre-feet through aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), however, TMWA was only able to do 1,000 acre-feet in the current year. TMWA was actively recharging three wells in the Mt. Rose fan area by sending treated surface water back to the production well to recharge and improve the surface water and groundwater tables. He said ASR was typically done through a number of wells throughout the Truckee Meadows area for not only water supply purposes but also for water quality.

Chair Hartung asked about the Whites Creek Treatment Plant. Mr. Hauck said it was a 4 million gallon-a-day plant that took water from Whites Creek. The plant was currently running testing on a smaller scale. He opined that by fall the plant would be in full-scale operation and able to take water from Whites Creek to inject into production wells on the Mt. Rose fan area to meet customer demand. Chair Hartung noted the Whites Creek Treatment Plant was a 12 ¼ acre-foot-a-day plant. Mr. Hauck said that was correct and the engineering, designing, planning, and testing phases had taken a lot of work. He said TMWA looked forward to using the plant.

Commissioner Lucey asked how long the Whites Creek Surface Water Station had been online. Mr. Hauck responded that it came online in March of that year. Commissioner Lucey noted there had been challenges with the runoff and what could be collected on the creeks to help recharge and supplement. He said there were areas of Holcomb Ranch in the unincorporated County that had issues with the service pressure and supply of fire hydrants. The hydrants, he explained, did not have enough pressure due to the reach and access from the main supply. He was concerned that many of the hydrants would not have adequate pressure for a long-range fire. He noted that the County engineers had concerns about hydrants when considering projects in the areas. He asked for a discussion to determine if the supply or the pumping was the issue and how to get adequate pressure to the hydrants. Mr. Hauck said that was not his area of expertise, but he would take Commissioner Lucey's concerns to the proper person. Chair Hartung asked Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore for help with the Holcomb Ranch fire hydrant issue.

22-096F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Discussion and direction to staff to prepare a report analyzing critical issues and possible improvements to dispatch, emergency medical services, and fire services based on regional solutions, including centralized dispatch and utilization of closest responsive agency. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulus noted that Agenda Item 14 was in response to Commissioner Lucey's request that each agency provides recommendations on regional issues to focus on. The TMFPD staff put together a list of three primary recommended topics and would come back with further recommendations at the next meeting in July. He expected the other regional partners would have interests similar to the TMFPD.

Deputy Chief Kukulus understood that struggles existed for 911 callers because they were routinely passed through multiple public safety answering points (PSAPs). This was due to the high use of cell phones when calling 911. He explained emergency calls made by cell phone could be sent to the wrong jurisdiction by the PSAP. Those calls would then have to be answered and transferred to the correct jurisdiction. He noted the transfer could tie up valuable time when responding to an emergency.

Deputy Chief Kukulus mentioned that another challenge involved the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System. The CAD was disparate among some of the agencies. He believed the regional CAD, which was in its final phase of the request for proposal process, would be helpful but was at least 18 to 24 months away from being implemented. He opined there were opportunities to start planning and working towards solutions for the disparate CAD. He explained the primary PSAP was the agency the 911 call was first sent to. The secondary PSAP was the agency the primary PSAP transferred the call to for additional screening and resources.

Deputy Chief Kukulus said the TMFPD wanted to discuss opportunities regarding emergency medical services (EMS) from first responder agencies, transport agencies, and the hospitals. He believed many agencies had conversations recently about EMS changes that were needed. He noted the TMFPD's recent engagement with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) and how the TMFPD had entered into a primary role in the ambulance transport business. He believed the TMFPD had only started to research opportunities, and he thought there was more to be developed.

Deputy Chief Kukulus said the final recommendation involved boundary drops and the dispatch of the closest responding agency. He noted there were some cases where the TMFPD had agreements to send the closest resource on some incident types with certain agencies, but he opined that needed to be expanded further. He said the TMFPD did not have fully integrated services with the Reno Fire Department. He thought it could be something as simple as policy decisions to send the closest resource and boundary drops up to and including full regionalization of services. The TMFPD wanted to research the impacts of what it would take to initiate those things, and he hoped other agencies would want to participate in those conversations.

Commissioner Lucey noted he had asked for the agenda item because of his concerns. He said it was challenging when there were three major PSAPs and two secondary PSAPs because the back and forth caused delays in service. An example of the inefficiencies of the PSAPs that he and Chief Moore had discussed was a fire on Peavine Mountain during rush hour traffic. He opined multiple people would call 911 on their cell phones which would flood the dispatchers and make it challenging for them to address higher priority emergencies. He said the issue had never been about the front-line staff, but it was an issue with the elected officials and the executive officers in the community who were not willing to work together to identify the most efficient way to utilize tax dollars. He was frustrated that the County went to the Legislature to secure funding to build the Regional Emergency Operating Center, which had the ability to co-locate all of the dispatches, yet the County was still in a scenario where the entities did not want to work together. He opined it was a result of the entities not wanting to relinquish power, and he thought it was ultimately the general public that suffered due to added expenses and poor service. He said there were many different ways to address the issue and asked that the County consider a regional dispatch, EMS, and fire as a whole. He opined to address one issue was not addressing the entire global problem of the ability of the agencies to serve the community in the most effective manner. He thought the closest agency to an emergency should respond.

Commissioner Lucey stated that dispatch needed to be fixed and believed it was something that could be addressed immediately. He opined that to wait 18 to 24 months to ensure the CAD could all work together was just an excuse. He noted that the hospitals were overwhelmed and strained by long wait times, and he said the long wait times took fire engines and REMSA paramedics out of service until the patients could be transferred to the hospital. He asked the Board to direct staff to participate in meetings and work collaboratively with the other entities to find a solution that was fiscally responsible. He said there had been meetings between the city managers of the Cities of Sparks and Reno and County Manager Eric Brown, however, he was disheartened to hear that Chief Moore and the Chief Executive Officer of REMSA had not been involved in the conversations. He recalled that City of Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve expressed similar concerns as he had, and she requested the parties meet to come up with a solution as soon as possible. He opined action on the matter needed to happen quickly and noted that a concurrent meeting had been scheduled for July.

Commissioner Jung clarified that the Board was to give staff direction for the concurrent meeting to take place to allow the entities to publicly endorse the ideas or not. She expressed her frustration regarding the CAD, which had been an issue for 15 years. She opined either the County, the City of Sparks, or the City of Reno would need to lead the charge for regionalization and make decisions. She thought it was important to get the policymakers on record and encouraged the voters to request a boundary drop from government officials. She said data had proven that dropping boundaries saved lives. She asked Chair Hartung and Vice Chair Hill to set very clear agenda items for the concurrent meeting so Chief Moore knew what the Board's direction was, and the other agencies were aware of everyone else's direction. She thought it was important for everyone involved to understand what each entity considered to be a worthwhile pursuit. The only way the CAD

issue would be resolved was by a boundary drop and it had to happen fast, she commented. She believed the CAD issue had not been resolved because the policy boards involved had not provided clear direction. She noted that she was not trying to tell anyone how to do their job, but she felt the taxpayers deserved a boundary drop because it would save lives. She looked forward to the concurrent meeting and stated that she wanted clear answers from the meeting. She said the cities, counties, and states across the nation had more money available than they would ever have again, and she opined there was no reason the matter could not be resolved.

Chair Hartung informed that the City of Sparks had a boundary drop with Washoe County for many years. Vice Chair Hill opined that the agencies were so close to regionalization discussions because the Board had moved forward with its support for dispatch services with REMSA. She thought the County's action had changed the dialogue in the region, and she thanked the commissioners who pushed for it. She was optimistic about the concurrent meeting in July because there were a lot of resources available, and the region had never worked so well together as they had recently. She noted the Board would work with Manager Eric Brown to make sure there were very specific agenda items, as well as outlined options to consider in the staff report. She was aligned with the Board on the boundary drop issue, and she also thought there was an opportunity for dispatch to work regionally.

Commissioner Lucey agreed with Commissioner Jung that the agenda for the concurrent meeting needed to be clear and concise. He noted Commissioner Jung had worked tirelessly on the CAD issue for 14 years, and he believed the focus should be on the wellbeing of the people and not on the cost. For the concurrent meeting, he asked that Chair Hartung and Vice Chair Hill present tenets on what overall governance would look like for regionalization. Those tenets were: what would a potential funding structure look like; what would operations look like; and how to address legislative concerns such as annexation. He opined those tenets were paramount to moving the discussion forward, and he mentioned the tenets needed to be addressed collectively and not individually.

Commissioner Lucey stated that the TMFPD and other fire professionals should be at the concurrent meeting to help the officials understand what the challenges would be. The partnership would have to be a public/private partnership, he opined. He believed it was a waste of tax dollars to not provide service at its most optimal level. The Legislature got involved in the matter six years ago to allow automatic aid for fire, however, it only involved fire and he thought an entire collective conversation needed to be had. He hoped to see serious movement forward on the issue and said he would be happy to introduce bills on the matter.

Deputy Chief Kukulus stated that he agreed with everything the Board said, and he clarified that the three focuses the TMFPD recommended were different but interrelated. He noted the TMFPD had always been in a subcontractor relationship regarding dispatch, and it was the only public safety agency that did not own and operate its own dispatch center. He explained the TMFPD supported a boundary drop, but he said it would be dependent on the other agencies to work together to achieve that. He said the

vast majority of the calls that the TMFPD received were impacted by a lack of boundary drops, and he opined there was no reason that the closest dispatch could not be executed immediately. As soon as there was concurrence among the policymakers for a boundary drop, the TMFPD was prepared to implement it. He noted the TMFPD intended to present more detailed points regarding the recommended focuses at the July 5 TMFPD meeting.

Chair Hartung reminded some of the issues regarding boundary drops had to do with clauses and contracts with the exclusive right to serve. He informed the concurrent meeting would take place on July 22 at 1 p.m. in the County chambers.

There was no public comment or action on this item.

22-097F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding annexation issues, including its effect on District revenues, operations, fire station locations, and possible solutions including legislation, local regional planning remedies and regionalization of fire service and related public safety services. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said he had researched the annexation issues, as requested by Commissioner Lucey. He noted that the TMFPD was a 474 district, which was the only form of government that cities could take away revenue base and boundaries from. He believed the cities would have to annex the whole General Improvement District (GID) and that cities could not annex other cities. Due to the annexations, the TMFPD was losing revenue and service efficiencies.

Chief Moore explained that Station 44 used to be in a purely County area but was now completely surrounded by the City of Reno. He noted the TMFPD could not serve someone who needed help at the entrance of its fire station due to annexation. He informed that he was not optimistic about working through the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) and thought the Board could have a better outcome than he would. The annexations affected the TMFPD's decisions on where to place fire stations, serve constituents, and how to spend money through debt financing. He opined it was quite possible, as Commissioner Lucey mentioned, that the TMFPD was building more fire stations than were needed.

Chief Moore opined if the TMFPD were to fully regionalize and there was one fire district that covered the region, then the annexation issue would go away because decisions would be made based on service level and growth. He thought if the issue went to the Legislature that the Legislature could potentially be put in a situation where it had to look at the interests of the city and the interests of the fire district to make a balanced decision. He believed that the TMFPD had a legitimate reason to petition the Legislature because the TMFPD was being adversely affected. He noted that the City of Reno had eight fire stations inside the McCarran loop, however, there were many annexed territories outside of that area. He thought that perhaps there was a lack of planning on the Cities of Sparks and Reno's part regarding expansion and annexations. He said the TMFPD staff

was looking for direction from the Board regarding conversations with the RPC that would include a multi-pronged approach, and possibly going to the Legislature with a bill draft request (BDR).

Commissioner Lucey said annexation was a necessary evil for counties and cities, and counties needed to continue to allow cities to grow, however, the way that the laws were drafted in Nevada made it severely limiting for fire service. Sphere of influence, he opined, was one of the most detrimental pieces of legislation in the Nevada Revised Statutes. He noted that an annexation request was received for 120 acres from the County into the City of Reno for a multi-family development. He explained that the City of Reno had one station south in the McCarran loop off of Steamboat Parkway, and the TMFPD had four stations in the area with one station close enough to respond in the same amount of time as the City of Reno's station.

Commissioner Lucey opined the entities needed to have a full regionalization discussion about how to fund a regional fire service and a boundary drop. He noted that Reno had a population of 100,000 people 40 years ago and the population had grown to half a million people. He said the entities were constantly trying to keep up with infrastructure for fire, water, and sewer. He thought growth in the community was needed for diversification of the economy, however, the population could not be properly serviced from a public safety standpoint. He did not believe the County could provide a safe, secure, and healthy community when the entities were fighting about land and boundaries.

Commissioner Lucey noted that he would love to carry a bill to the Legislature and testify to why the current way things were done was not working. He opined that the RPC had been bullies and created challenges for things to change. He said one unified fire fund would be more cost-effective and provide better service for the citizens.

Chair Hartung said a unified fire district would reduce the pro-rata share of taxes that the fire service cost for the Cities of Sparks and Reno. He opined taxes would go down because there would not be a duplication of services. He noted that the citizens in the unincorporated County were informed of exactly how much they paid for fire services, but citizens under the fire services of the Cities of Sparks and Reno were not told how much they paid because it came out of the general fund. With a unified fire district, he said the general taxpayer would pay less for more service.

11:22 a.m. Commissioner Lucey left the meeting.

Commissioner Jung believed the Board needed to make a request of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, through the District Attorney, to research if the County had the ability to provide all fire service and enact a tax across the Cities of Sparks and Reno. She opined the city managers of the Cities of Sparks and Reno would be thrilled to pay less for fire services. She opined the County could put tax money from goods and services

towards fire services. She agreed with Chair Hartung that the Cities of Sparks and Reno were not transparent with the amount citizens paid for fire service.

Commissioner Jung opined if her idea did not work, then a BDR would be important because the County had no voice due to the RPC. She explained the RPC was the body that authorized annexations. She did not believe in regional planning and believed that the board should be abolished. She thought if the County provided fire services, then the Cities of Sparks and Reno would be able to focus on parks and recreation and creating a thriving downtown.

Vice Chair Hill agreed with Commissioner Jung, although she noted that she was a proponent of regional planning. She believed there could be work done at the RPC to resolve the annexation issue. She recalled that at the last RPC meeting, future agenda items were brought up regarding annexation issues. She opined the region was working well together, and she thought there could be a way for the County to better support the Cities of Sparks and Reno.

Chair Hartung asked for clarification on the amount that the TMFPD received from taxes. He thought it was important to discuss what a regional amount would look like, and he said it would have to be higher than the amount of the unincorporated area because the unincorporated area was less populated and did not have much industrial property. He opined the Cities of Sparks and Reno and the County could have a tax reduction because services would not be duplicated. He asked staff to research what a regional amount would be for services and how the tax for the TMFPD was created.

Chief Moore opined if regional fire and EMS services were contemplated, it would have to start with the determination of service level because once that was understood the fees could be priced correctly. The entities could then consider how to pay for the services and how the governing would work. Chair Hartung noted the differences in density around the County and opined the regionalization conversation would be interesting.

There was no response to the call for public comment, and there was no action on this item.

CONSENT ITEMS – 7A through 7C

- 22-098F** **7A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the May 3, 2022 and May 17, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.
- 22-099F** **7B** Recommendation to approve a revised benefit package effective July 1, 2022 for unclassified, non-represented confidential and administrative employees that follows the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Supervisory Collective Bargaining Agreement as outlined in Attachment One. (All Commission Districts)

22-100F **7C** Recommendation to approve the addition of 1 Battalion Chief position, to meet the needs a specialist position for radio, Mobile Data Terminal, data analysis and software management as approved in the FY 22/23 Budget. (All Commission Districts)

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

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 7A through 7C be approved.

22-101F **AGENDA ITEM 8** International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 Report.

Patrick Walsh, International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 President, noted the executive board had been busy the past few months due to the negotiations and changes that were occurring. There was overwhelming support from the members and the contract was ratified the prior week with a 92 percent rating on the supervisory and non-supervisory contracts. He thanked the administration for working with the association.

Mr. Walsh was happy to announce the Reno Rodeo had chosen the Truckee Meadows Firefighters Foundation (TMFF) to be the recipient of the 50/50 raffle at that year's rodeo. Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) firefighters would sell raffle tickets at the rodeo on June 16. He noted the fundraiser had dramatically helped the TMFF the previous year by raising \$10,000 in one night. He asked the community to attend the rodeo and support the foundation.

Chair Hartung asked what the TMFF did for the community. Mr. Walsh replied that the foundation started as a charity event to assist Captain Bill Winchester with medical expenses after his accident. Since then, the foundation mostly assisted current members and people in the community during their time of need. The TMFF also gave charitable donations to fallen or injured firefighters throughout the country. He recalled a recent story about the foundation buying groceries for a woman who had been in a car accident. He said the intent of the TMFF was to provide help to anyone in need in the community.

22-102F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Fire Chief Report

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Future Employee Development (Succession Planning)
2. Capital Projects Update

3. Big Box Fires
- INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (NO PRESENTATION)
4. USFS Controlled Burning
 5. NDF Wildfire Season Response
 6. TMFR 50th Anniversary
 7. Green Waste Collection

B. Review of recent critical calls response statistics for April 2022.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore relayed that he had met with TMFPD Division Chief Joseph Schum, the Washoe County School District (WCSD), and Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) regarding the challenge of finding new employees. He acknowledged that Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) President Dean Dow had challenges finding paramedics. He had the idea of the WCSD developing a fire science program to allow students to get college credit for TMCC. This would allow the region to develop its own employees. From his understanding, the WCSD would begin this program the following semester and would look to the TMFPD, REMSA, and other fire agencies to teach courses. He opined that the TMFPD should support this program because it would increase the number of good candidates for the TMFPD's hiring pool.

Chief Moore noted that TMCC wanted to construct a building for fire and emergency medical services training. The building would be located on the ten acres owned by the TMFPD in Spanish Springs. Chair Hartung asked if the training center would be similar to the one in Carson City where open burns were held. Chief Moore replied that it would be more of a classroom setting than the training center in Carson City.

Chief Moore said the architecture on Station 37 in Hidden Valley was completed. He informed there was an approval on the agenda for the construction of the residence at Station 37, however, Washoe County Capital Projects informed him that it did not have the capacity to do work for the County and the TMFPD. Dwayne Smith, Washoe County Community Services Department Director of Engineering and Capital Projects, urged Chief Moore to hire a capital projects manager from the private sector to assist the TMFPD. Chief Moore advised he would work on finding someone and would bring the matter to the Board in July. He opined someone needed to be hired to help guide him in making selections of the construction materials and determining the most efficient way to construct the buildings.

Commissioner Jung encouraged Chief Moore to use the services of the Human Resources Department to find staff for the TMFPD. She thought the collaboration with TMCC was a great idea, and she opined other industries would need to start using similar tactics to find employees because the younger generation valued a work-life balance. She believed many agencies would be in a position of trying to recruit with creativity. She noted that many of the TMFPD's firefighters worked for REMSA at some point in their career to get the experience for a job with the TMFPD. She opined the TMFPD was a great place to work and could attract people. She was happy to hear that the

TMFPD firefighters would not work overtime any longer because she thought it brought a work-life balance to the department.

Chief Moore said TMFPD Deputy Chief Dale Wade would give a presentation on some big structure fires that had happened nationwide. He noted the TMFPD was getting more large structure fires and Chief Wade would discuss the lack of correlation between the size of the fire department and the outcome of the fire. He opined that often the public erroneously thought the size of the fire department translated to successfully extinguishing fires.

Deputy Chief Dale Wade conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Significant Big Box Fires 2020-2022; Redlands, CA; Redlands, CA Photos; Plainfield, IN; Plainfield, IN Photos; San Jose, CA; San Jose, CA Photos; Spokane, WA; Spokane, WA Photos; Hazard/Risk; and Message.

Deputy Chief Wade informed that his presentation was tied to the TMFPD's inspection of existing buildings and the annual permitting that became effective June 1. He tried to contact the Redlands Fire Department for more information on the Amazon Distribution Center fire, but he had not heard back from them. He referenced the photos for the Redlands fires and noted the two ladder trucks injecting water into the fire where the roof had been. He explained once the fire was beyond a certain point of the built-in fire protection, it became pointless to try to save the building, and the firefighters focused on trying to protect the surrounding buildings from any ember cast or migration of the fire.

Deputy Chief Wade said the photos of the incident in Plainfield showed one ladder truck in the air that was not making an impact on the fire. He opined that 20 to 30 units would have had to be in the air to have an effective attack on that fire. In looking at the San Jose Home Depot fire, he noted there were a couple of ladders in the air but the whole store was in flames. The Home Depot Fire in Spokane had a fire protection system, he believed it was a suppression system, that controlled the fire until the fire department arrived. He noted there had not been total destruction of the building, although several million dollars of damage had been done to products.

Deputy Chief Wade said there was a certain inherent risk when handling a fire at facilities that were mercantile occupancies due to fuel loading, storage configurations, hazardous materials, and high pile combustible storage. He informed that the mercantile occupancy buildings were primarily dependent on built-in fire protection and conducting inspections. He noted that the message from the fires he had discussed was that no fire department, regardless of its size or if it received aid from other agencies, could effectively fight a heavily involved big-box warehouse fire and emerge with a significant save to the property. He opined active fire protection systems were imperative and mercantile occupancy buildings required built-in fire protection and regular annual fire inspections.

Chair Hartung asked how a person could turn a suppression system off without an alarm going off, and he wondered why a dual code requirement was not used for those systems. Deputy Chief Wade replied that he did not believe any system was that advanced and invincible. He said the TMFPD required the systems to be electronically monitored, which would send out a notification to the central monitoring system if the manual valve was turned off. He noted that the manual valve was generally locked and chained in the open position, and the lock and chain were only taken off when the system was being serviced, at which point the servicer would contact the central station monitoring to notify them of the system servicing. Chair Hartung thought there was an opportunity to learn more because the suppression systems had many fail-safes.

Commissioner Jung asked if the TMFPD inspected properties that had many pallets, tires, or other items that could cause raging infernos. Deputy Chief Wade responded that the TMFPD did inspections on industrial, commercial, and multi-family properties. Commissioner Jung wondered if the TMFPD responded to calls from concerned citizens about fire hazards. Deputy Chief Wade replied that after the previous year's fires in Sun Valley yards, the TMFPD went to every pallet yard to ensure it was in compliance. He said the TMFPD was still working with many of the pallet yards to become compliant.

Vice Chair Hill appreciated the presentation because she opined people did not understand how important fire prevention was. She said companies needed to invest in the buildings they owned and the TMFPD needed to be active to ensure the companies were not doing things that created hazards for the whole community. She hoped that all elected officials kept in mind that the codes and standards the TMFPD put into place were for the security and future of the business, its employees, and the community at large. Deputy Chief Wade commented the TMFPD often reminded people that it enforced codes and regulations to protect businesses and the community's interests.

Chief Moore said he did not have any further information items for the Board. He reminded the TMFPD Monthly Report was distributed to the Board that day.

Chair Hartung asked if he needed to have a conversation with the manager and mayor of the City of Sparks about the inequality of the fire responses between the County and the City of Sparks. Chief Moore opined the system worked well, and he explained that the City of Sparks provided the TMFPD with a lot of support on structure fires in Spanish Springs and Sun Valley. He believed the TMFPD and the City of Sparks were at a good level of trade-off for services. Chair Hartung recalled that a cumulative count was discussed when setting up the exchange of services. Chief Moore said he would get that count done.

BLOCK VOTE- 10, 11, 12, and 13

22-103F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve two Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 2487 Supervisory and Non-Supervisory Unit, each

for a two-year term effective July 1, 2022 with a combined approximate increase over the current Collective Bargaining Agreements of \$1,704,711 in FY22/23 and an additional \$1,297,980 in FY23/24, and if approved authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved and authorized.

22-104F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve retroactive and continued purchases for needed supplies, materials, equipment, and contractual services from various suppliers that have or will exceed in the aggregate \$100,000 during this fiscal year but will remain within available adopted budget funding. All such purchases will continue to be subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Purchasing Act. Vendors receiving these additional funds include the following: Allstar Fire Equipment, Interstate Oil Company, Stryker Sales Corporation, Spectrum, Arc Health and Wellness, Harris Corporation, LN Curtis, Regional Emergency Medical Services (REMSA) and Zoll Medical Corporation. Amounts to be paid shall not exceed \$300,000. The supplies, fuel, materials, equipment, and contractual services to be provided by each include but are not limited to equipment, equipment repairs, supplies, broadband services and personal protective gear.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

22-105F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve the Property and Liability Insurance and Workers' Compensation Insurance Proposal for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for one year beginning July 1, 2022 for a total estimated annual premium of \$1,552,697 and authorize purchase of insurance based upon the Proposal. The Proposal includes Property, Casualty, Professional and Excess Liability Insurance to be provided by VFIS/American Alternative and will include Crime/Employee Theft Insurance through Travelers Bond & Specialty, Network Security/Privacy, and Workers' Compensation through 7710 Insurance Company. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

22-106F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to award a bid and approve an Agreement with Houston Smith Construction, Inc. for the Hidden Valley Station #37 Remodel/Addition Project to remodel the residence location at 5355 Pelham Drive for a crew residence in the amount of \$493,000. (Commission District 4)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be awarded and approved.

22-107F **AGENDA ITEM 16** Recommendation to accept the 2022 annual performance evaluation of Fire Chief Charles Moore to include a discussion of results, goals, and objectives; and approve a merit increase of up to 5% to the Chief's current salary as provided in Section 3 of his employment contract and, if approved, authorize the Staff to make all necessary adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said he would let the TMFPD Human Resources Manager Carla Arribillaga present the findings and then the Board could discuss goals and objectives for Chief Moore. Ms. Arribillaga noted that the four areas covered in the surveys were leadership, work ethic, integrity, and communication. Chief Moore's overall evaluation scores were between exceeds expectations and meets expectations.

Chair Hartung noted that Chief Moore was the Board's direct-hire, however, there were external stakeholders grading him. He opined Chief Moore had done a great job of balancing the uncertainties of the job, and he said Chief Moore had exceeded his expectations. He asked what the Board gave as a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the firefighters. Ms. Arribillaga responded that the firefighters and Chief Moore would receive a three percent COLA in July and another three percent in January. Vice Chair Hill opined that Chief Moore had done great on the goals and objectives the Board had set forth, and she recommended moving forward with a five percent merit increase for Chief Moore. She thought the TMFPD was on a good path toward regional cooperation, and she looked forward to the continued effort. She thanked Chief Moore for his dedication and service to the TMFPD.

Commissioner Jung opined a five percent merit increase was fair, equitable, and reflective of a great performance evaluation. She encouraged Chief Moore to continue working on relationships and requested that he have more gender equality in meetings with the Cities of Sparks and Reno. She noted the difference between men and women and

thought it would be beneficial for the TMFPD if a woman from the Board was involved in conversations with other entities. She was proud of Chief Moore's work on the collective bargaining agreements and opined it had not been a pleasant environment for Chief Moore to enter into when he began with the TMFPD. She believed Chief Moore had brought the employees of the TMFPD up to equitable pay. She was proud of the TMFPD and thought it had the best equipment due to Chief Moore informing the Board on what a good fire service needed. She opined Chief Moore had the ability to run the TMFPD and make big changes that the constituents would be grateful for.

Commissioner Herman thanked Chief Moore for his work and thought the Board was fortunate to have him. She noted the regionalization of services would be a tough job and opined it would not be Chief Moore's fault if it did not work because he had been willing to try for it. She said Chief Moore's record was stellar and she thought he deserved more than the five percent merit increase.

Chair Hartung asked when Chief Moore's contract expired, and Chief Moore informed it would expire at the end of that year. Chair Hartung asked when the contract would be brought back to the Board. Ms. Arribillaga replied that Chief Moore's contract would come before the Board the following month.

Chief Moore thanked the Board for the kind words spoken about him and for the Board's confidence in him. He noted many of his accomplishments would not have been possible without his gifted staff of deputies, administration, and firefighters, and he informed there would be more talent coming through the TMFPD. He thanked his staff for their support and the great job they did.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 16 be accepted, approved, and authorized.

22-108F **AGENDA ITEM 17** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor issues with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

Chief Charles Moore indicated there was no need for a closed session.

There was no public comment or action on this item.

22-109F **AGENDA ITEM 18** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Jung said the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9211 honored Commissioner Lucey and herself for Commissioner Lucey's hard work to ensure the VFW did not have to pay a rental space or vendor fee for their annual poppy sales at the Reno Air Races. She noted the VFW provided assistance to veterans and over 100 local

families. She mentioned the VFW sent a letter of thanks that she would give to Commissioner Lucey. She opined Commissioner Lucey was one of the biggest champions for the veterans. She was grateful the Board addressed the needs of the veterans.

22-110F **AGENDA ITEM 19** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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12:15 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.



VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair

Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:



702  Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy

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

Minutes Prepared By:
Evonne Strickland, Deputy County Clerk