

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JULY 5, 2022

PRESENT:

Vaughn Hartung, Chair
Alexis Hill, Vice Chair
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
Mary Kandaras, Chief Deputy District Attorney

ABSENT:

Bob Lucey, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner

The Board convened at 10:02 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, Chief Deputy County Clerk Catherine Smith called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

22-113F **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

22-114F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Chair Hartung noted the District had no major fire events during the 4th of July holiday. Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore said there were a few small incidents but nothing major. Chair Hartung observed there was a significant amount of popping in his neighborhood so he was glad there had been no major events.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A & 5B

22-115F **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the June 7, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

22-116F **5B** Recommendation to approve a Notice of Cancellation for the regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting scheduled for August 2, 2022, at 10 a.m. (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 Herman, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Commissioners Lucey and Jung absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A and 5B be approved.

22-117F **AGENDA ITEM 6** Recommendation to accept a donation of 500 feet of double jacket hose, three firefighting nozzles, one gated wye control valve, and one hydrant wrench with an estimated total value of \$2,763 from Washoe County Resident Craig Francis in support of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Wildfire & Fuels and Operational Divisions, and if accepted express sincere appreciation for the thoughtful contribution. (All Commission Districts)

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 3-0 vote with Commissioners Lucey and Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be accepted.

22-118F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to accept a donation retroactive to June 13, 2022, of a 1995 Freightliner Ambulance Vin # 1FV3GFBC5TL814784 with an estimated value of \$20,000 from Washoe County Resident Jeremy Renner in support of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District EMS and Operational Divisions, and if accepted express sincere appreciation for the thoughtful contribution. (All Commission Districts)

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 3-0 vote with Commissioners Lucey and Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be accepted.

22-119F **AGENDA ITEM 8** To Recognize and Express Appreciation for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Deputy Fire Chief Alex Kukulus.

Chair Hartung expressed gratitude for Deputy Chief Kukulus' service to the District. He observed Deputy Chief Kukulus had an amazing wealth of knowledge for any scenario and he would be sorely missed.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore read the resolution and presented it to Deputy Chief Kukulus.

Deputy Chief Kukulus thanked the Commissioners, Chief Moore, and the community for the opportunity to serve for the past several decades. He said doing the work he loved for so many years had been an honor and was rewarding and fulfilling. He expressed gratitude and recognition to his family for their support. He recalled his family

was not enthusiastic when he decided to become a firefighter in college. He said the decision had worked out well and he thanked his father for his encouragement. He thanked his wife Brianne and his children Mason and Madison for being supportive throughout his career. He observed that being a public servant often meant putting his family second when the community needed him. He spoke about the hardships of dividing his attention between his family and the community. He said his wife took over responsibilities and kept their family going. He appreciated that his family lent him to the community for the past years, noting it was now time to embark on the next adventure. He said he learned many lessons during his time working with various agencies: not to be afraid of making mistakes, noting there was a level of risk in everything; searching for decisions without consequences was an elusive journey; to make a decision and adjust as needed; always put the public first without asking about personal benefits. He said firefighters often deserved the term hero although they shied away from it. He had witnessed firefighters go beyond the call of duty in large and small ways. He encouraged firefighters to continue doing those things so they too could leave their careers feeling fulfilled.

Deputy Chief Kukulus said the region faced many challenges that were yet to be resolved and while he wished he could be a part of those solutions it was time for others to take on the responsibility. He asserted the closest unit must be sent when people needed help; residents did not care which jurisdiction they were in. He encouraged decision-makers to put the public first and not be afraid of making mistakes. He was confident the community would move in the right direction with the TMFPD being a model for success if it followed those two principles. He thanked the Board for the opportunity and said he would miss everyone and the job.

Vice Chair Hill thanked Deputy Chief Kukulus for his sentiments and for leading the District and doing an incredible job. She was aware of his self-sacrifice and observed Deputy Chief Kukulus had really helped live the values he wanted to see in the organization. She expressed appreciation for Deputy Chief Kukulus' service and sacrifice and hoped he would be excited about the policies the Board made in the future. She thanked Deputy Chief Kukulus and his family for his service and urged him to enjoy his family.

Commissioner Herman wished Deputy Chief Kukulus the best in his future, stating he would be missed. She said he had been a good example to all the up-and-coming employees.

Chair Hartung noted the Board had been working closely with TMFPD employees since the beginning. He reiterated his gratitude for everything Deputy Chief Kukulus had done and for his leadership and conduct. He considered Deputy Chief Kukulus and all TMFPD employees to be his brothers and sisters because fire protection concerned the entire community. He observed that firefighters performed the difficult work while the Board had to ensure the agency was funded correctly and the necessary policy decisions were made.

10:20 a.m. The Board recessed.

10:23 a.m. The Board reconvened with Commissioner Lucey and Commissioner Jung absent.

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 3-0 vote with Commissioners Lucey and Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be approved.

22-120F AGENDA ITEM 9 Introduction and Badge Pinning for New Employees and Promotions.

Promotions:

Deputy Chief of Operations

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore noted Division Chief Ketring had been a member of the TMFPD for a long time. He said he could not think of anyone more qualified for the Deputy Chief of Operations position. He knew Division Chief Ketring would do a fantastic job because of his wealth of institutional knowledge and great demeanor with staff. He congratulated Division Chief Ketring.

Deputy Chief Alex Kukulus said Division Chief Ketring was in his 24th year in the fire service. He provided a brief history of Division Chief Ketring's background from the start of his career in 1998. He said Division Chief Ketring had assisted with numerous incidents and participated in various programs. He thought Division Chief Ketring was the best person to put in the position of fourth Deputy Chief of Operations of the TMFPD. He thought the previous three Deputy Chiefs each met the need of the TMFPD at different times and he knew Division Chief Ketring would provide a new level of empathy and the kind of relationship building the organization would need in the future. Division Chief Ketring was accompanied by his wife Laurel, and son Graham, and pinned by his daughter Vivian.

Division Chief Ketring thanked the Commissioners, Chief Moore, Deputy Chief Kukulus, and all the TMFPD staff for having the confidence in him to serve as Deputy Chief of Operations for the TMFPD. He observed the TMFPD had grown significantly over the past three years including some of the largest increases in personnel, promotions, service delivery, and apparatus since the District was established in 2012. He said he was humbled, excited, and honored by the opportunity. He indicated the TMFPD would continue to be progressive and proactive to ensure the best service was provided to the community. He said he had been dedicated to the organization's personnel during his career to ensure they had the training tools and equipment to be successful and he would continue to do so as the next Deputy Chief of the TMFPD. He offered recognition to Division Chief Joe Schum who would be assuming the role of Operations Division Chief. Division Chief Schum would not be promoted at the meeting because he was already a Division Chief, but he started the transition approximately one month prior. He

congratulated Deputy Chief Kukulus on his retirement and thanked him for his support and friendship over the past 20 years.

Chief Moore introduced Battalion Chief Jay Cwiak who would be moving up to Division Chief. Deputy Chief Kukulus provided a brief history of Battalion Chief Cwiak's background saying he would be assigned to the District's training and logistics division tasked with supporting the needs of frontline personnel. Battalion Chief Cwiak was pinned by his wife Sandy.

New Hires:

Taber Kohlmoos, Crew Member
Liam Kindness, Crew Member
Tobin Schultz, Crew Member
Adam Smith, Crew Member
Ryan Hoffmann, Crew Member
Daniel Easley, Crew Member
Jacob Linney, Crew Member

Wildland Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen introduced newly hired employees and provided a brief history for each: Taber Kohlmoos, pinned by his father Michael; Liam Kindness, pinned by his grandfather Bob; Tobin Schultz, pinned by his Squad Boss Adam Crichton; Adam Smith, pinned by his wife Melissa; Ryan Hoffmann, pinned by his Squad Boss Colton Hughes; Daniel Easley, pinned by his Crew Boss John McInturff; Jacob Linney, pinned by his father Bill.

Division Chief Isernhagen introduced Colton Hughes who was promoted to Squad Boss and provided a brief history of his background. Mr. Hughes was pinned by his fiancée Jori.

New Hires:

Austin Fotinos, Firefighter Paramedic
Camron Longobardo, Firefighter Paramedic
Matthew Nuthall, Firefighter Paramedic
Garrett Schafer, Firefighter Paramedic

Training And Logistics Division Chief Joe Schum introduced firefighter paramedics who completed a six-week academy to join the suppression forces and were pinned at the graduation ceremony. He provided a brief history of their backgrounds.

Chief Moore introduced Administrative Support Specialist Lauren Walker, and Accountant and Payroll Specialist Maria Garcia.

10:44 a.m. The Board recessed.

10:47 a.m. The Board reconvened with Commissioner Lucey and Commissioner Jung absent.

22-121F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Presentation of Employee Awards.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said he wanted to table Item 10 because there were more people who needed to be honored, so he wanted them all together at the September meeting.

22-122F **AGENDA ITEM 11** International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 Report.

Fire Captain Josh Kutz, trustee for the Local 2487 Board, reported the 50/50 raffle had been successful and raised over \$8,000 for the foundation. He said the foundation helped Local 2487 support firefighters in the region and around the country. He thanked everyone who supported Local 2487 by participating in the raffle.

Captain Kutz thanked Deputy Chief Kukulus on behalf of Local 2487 for his years of service with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD). He said he learned much from Deputy Chief Kukulus and wished him a happy and healthy retirement. He stated the TMFPD staff looked forward to working with incoming Deputy Chief Ketring.

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

22-123F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Fire Chief Report

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

1. EMS Operations Update

A report on EMS operations, including statistics on ambulance transport volume, a status report on the delivery of new ambulances and current fleet condition, recent critical calls, and transport revenue. Staff will provide a report at the meeting. A brief statistical summary is attached.

2. Report to the Community

Distribution of the DRAFT document - "Report to the Community for 2022" and direction to staff regarding possible changes and additions to the draft report.

3. Response to High Priority EMS Incidents

Recommendation, discussion, and possible direction to staff regarding possible changes to TMFR responses across jurisdictions to high-priority EMS incidents.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore noted Division Chief Joe Kammann was unable to attend the meeting to review the item. Chief Moore indicated he would present part of the report, but Division Chief Kammann

would return the following month to complete the report. He reported the TMFPD had responded to an at-home birth and found the father performing CPR on the infant. He said the crew had gotten the infant's pulse back with the help of the father and the infant had been delivered to the emergency room. He spoke about a cardiac arrest call where the TMFPD delivered the adult male to the emergency room both breathing and with a heartbeat. He said the success stories demonstrated why paramedics rode on TMFPD engines and why they trained so diligently. He noted the District had received many complicated emergency medical service (EMS) calls recently, stating he was proud of the paramedic staff.

Chief Moore tabled the "Report to the Community for 2022" item. He said he would do more work on the report and present it to the Board in September.

Chief Moore understood the Board would hold a concurrent meeting with the Cities of Reno and Sparks later in the month to discuss regional EMS fire issues. He wanted to provide a solution that he believed would not require any technological solutions or a new commitment to equipment. He spoke about emergency incidents that occurred close to TMFPD stations for which the District was not dispatched. He thought a simple solution was available. He explained a 9-1-1 call would most likely be picked up by the City of Reno call processor and a dispatcher sent the call to the Reno Fire Department from there and set up the agency, the engines, and the equipment needed. The call would then be transferred to the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA). He said having a policy decision on behalf of all agencies to accept the responsibility for sending the closest unit would simplify the response process. He stated all that would be required was for REMSA to send units because it had the ability to see the closest units on its screens. He observed the City of Reno would already be sending an ambulance so the only thing that was needed was an agreement to also send the District to those critical medical calls so paramedics could provide care. He hoped the Board would discuss the issue with the Cities of Reno and Sparks. He thought that would be a good first step as the Board worked through some complicated issues with dispatch and regionalization of fire protection.

22-124F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to approve an amendment to the approval of the purchase of a Dispatch Fire Station Alerting system to include software and hardware in an amount not to exceed \$743,558.52. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore asked the Board to consider Items 13 and 14 together. He said one contract was being split into two because one of the vendors was not able to do business in Nevada, so a portion of the contract was transferred to another business to complete the work.

Outgoing Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulus said the item was the same item presented to the Board in January. He indicated a piece of the installation component of the contract work was separated due to contractual requirements, but the

value was essentially the same. He said there were some modifications to the work, but most of those costs would be covered by the Enhanced 911 fund.

Chair Hartung asked whether the new vendor was still part of the process although the original vendor was not able to complete the contract. Deputy Chief Kukulius replied the original vendor was still building the hardware and the software, but the installation had to be done through a separate organization because the original company was not a Nevada contractor.

Vice Chair Hill asked for confirmation that the additional cost, a little more than \$1,000, would be covered as a capital expense. Incoming Deputy Chief of Operations Chris Ketring said that was correct, the price of some equipment increased when the contract was split. He noted some of the stations needed a different type of racking to install the equipment and to keep the equipment cooler, which increased the price by approximately \$1,600. He said the TMFPD would pay the additional portion.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Herman, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey and Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be approved.

22-125F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to approve an agreement with PowerComm Solutions in the amount of \$288,267 using NRS 332.115 (1)(s) exemption for the installation of a station alerting system at Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District fire stations and Dispatch. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Herman, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey and Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be approved.

22-126F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Recommendation to approve a three-year Employment Agreement beginning July 18, 2022, and ending August 15, 2025, between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Chris Ketring, including but not limited to salary (\$203,673.60), Comp and Sick Leave buyout in each year of the term of the Agreement totaling approximately (\$36,436 in FY22/23) and benefits for the unclassified appointed position of Deputy Fire Chief. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated he was very proud to see incoming Deputy Chief Chris Ketring assume his new position.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Herman, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey and Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be approved.

22-127F **AGENDA ITEM 16** Discussion and direction to staff related to critical issues and possible improvements to dispatch, emergency medical services, and fire services, including recommendations for agenda items at a concurrent meeting between Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks. (All Commission Districts)

Outgoing Deputy Chief of Operations Alex Kukulus explained this item was subsequent to an item presented in June during which the Board provided feedback for staff. He reviewed the five tenets outlined in the staff report. He said staff believed one of the best outcomes for the upcoming concurrent meeting on July 22 would be the establishment of a committee or working group comprised of all the stakeholders. He mentioned he spoke with various stakeholders during recent months, and he thought the best path forward was a committee or working group in which all considerations would be included. He hoped a condition of the whole process was to start doing some things which were currently possible. He noted Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) staff had been very vocal about the boundary drop, particularly between the District and the City of Reno. He mentioned developing joint policies and training together as other items which could be started quickly. He said the staff report included a sample timeline.

Chair Hartung expressed appreciation for the timeline which he thought provided some basic parameters for the Board to contemplate. He understood there were many moving parts to consider.

Vice Chair Hill expressed appreciation for the staff report and timeline. She believed the information should be provided to the other jurisdictions. She thought providing written recommendations was important and would help make the District accountable.

Deputy Chief Kukulus noted staff would need to have some discussions with the District Attorney's Office about whether the Board would convene as the TMFPD Board as well as the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) during the concurrent meeting. He said staff would be glad to help craft some of the agenda items for the meeting as long as the Board agreed with the recommendations in the staff report.

Chair Hartung asked whether a motion was required for this agenda item. Chief Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras said the item appeared to be a report, so no immediate action was required.

Chair Hartung thought the Board could convene as both the TMFPD Board and the BCC during the concurrent meeting. Ms. Kandaras believed that was correct, but

she would confirm it. Chair Hartung thought the requirements for the Open Meeting Law would be met if the agenda items indicated the Board was convened as both boards. Ms. Kandaras thought that was correct.

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

22-128F **AGENDA ITEM 17** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor issues with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore indicated there was no need for a Closed Session.

22-129F **AGENDA ITEM 18** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore reminded the Board and the public that the August meeting was cancelled. He said the Board would meet again in September.



22-130F **AGENDA ITEM 19** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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11:09 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.


VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District


ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared By:
Carolina Stickley, Deputy County Clerk*