

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

PRESENT:

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

Janis Galassini, County Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
Wade Carner, Deputy District Attorney

ABSENT:

Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

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:

22-133F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Ms. Shyrl Bailey requested the Board do away with the bats at the Bowers fire station so the residents could once again have emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and fire service. She mentioned some animals found in that area, asserting the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) should have been able to deal with the bats with proper stewardship. She noted the station had been infested with bats seven years prior, but they were removed and the station was opened again. She mentioned many elderly people lived in that area who might require emergency medical care at any time. She observed the lease agreement with the Nevada Department of Forestry would not terminate until 2032, noting the lease required the building to be returned in a comparable condition as when first occupied so the bats would still need to be removed.

Ms. Janis Leclaire-Charbonneau expressed concern for the elderly population that lived on the west side of Washoe Valley. She thanked TMFPD staff and their families for their service. She noted the Carson City fire station was located 13.4 miles from her home, which would add minutes to response times. She believed the added minutes to those response times could be critical for some of the elderly residents. She understood the concern with the bats at the Bowers Station. She suggested the station be manned during daylight hours when bats slept or having trailers put on the property to serve as a residence for the firefighters.

Mr. Tim Salyer, resident of west Washoe Valley, indicated he was concerned about the closure of Station 30. He agreed with Ms. Leclaire-Charbonneau's suggestion about using mobile units as living quarters for firefighters or using Station 30 during the day. He mentioned the Washoe Valley Volunteer Fire Department station, which he believed had no sleeping quarters, could be used during the day. He said a house located next to Station 30 might be used to provide livable space for firefighters. He asked the Board to seek creative solutions to maintain the services in west Washoe Valley.

Mr. Cliff Low observed the future of Bowers Station 30 would be discussed later in the meeting. He asserted three minutes to make public comment was not enough time, but three minutes was a long time when waiting for fire or emergency medical services (EMS). He said EMS delayed would result in EMS denied. He stated the agenda item for Station 30 indicated that the options presented, with the exception of keeping the station closed, would be too expensive or time-consuming to consider. He noted only long-term solutions had been suggested. He mentioned a standards of cover report from 2011 which stated Washoe Valley was so rural that residents were only entitled to a 20-minute response time. He stated that residents typically received an eight-minute response time. He asked how the situation was allowed to deteriorate to its current condition, stating this was not the first time bats had infested Station 30. He noted the TMFPD would need to remediate the building to meet the terms of the lease. He asked why other options had not been suggested.

22-134F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore mentioned possible Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) for the District. He said annexation had been discussed during previous meetings and he pondered whether the Board wanted to propose any legislative changes.

Chair Hartung noted he needed to leave the meeting no later than 11:40 a.m.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A through 5F

22-135F **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the July 5, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

22-136F **5B** Recommendation to authorize staff to submit a request for reimbursement on a quarterly basis from the Washoe County, Nevada Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund for the cost of retiree health insurance premiums for Fiscal Year 2022-23 at an estimated amount of \$247,700. This Trust was established to provide a funding source for current and future retiree health costs. Monies transferred from this Trust will be placed into the District's General Fund. (All Commission Districts)

- 22-137F** **5C** Recommendation that the Board of Fire Commissioners ratify Fiscal Year 2021-22 reimbursements from the Washoe County, Nevada Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the cost of retiree health insurance premiums in the amount of \$163,648. Monies transferred from this trust have been placed into the District’s General Fund. (All Commission Districts)
- 22-138F** **5D** Recommendation to approve a policy in concept and adopt the district’s current procedure regarding emergency incidents including out of District assignments as outlined in Truckee Meadows Firefighters Association Local 2487 Supervisory Unit CBA Article 15 - Overtime Section D “Overtime and callback as a result of all emergency incidents including out of District assignments and mutual aid, shall be paid from the moment of notification until return to the station from which dispatched including rest periods, standby periods, meal breaks, etc.”. (All Commission Districts)
- 22-139F** **5E** Recommendation to retroactively approve effective August 22, 2022, a Personal Leave of Absence request from Crew Member Jose Gonzalez to allow him to attend the district sponsored Paramedic Program. (All Commission Districts)
- 22-140F** **5F** Recommendation to retroactively approve Joinder Provision of the one-year extension to the original Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 3086-19 for Medical Services-Washoe County Personnel, ARC Health and Wellness Centers, in the estimated annual amount of \$157,000, and authorize the Fire Chief to execute a one-year extension, July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, and if approved, approve a corresponding resolution authorizing the transfer of \$46,800 from the General Fund Contingency Account to the General Fund Medical Services and Supplies Account. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Herman absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5F be approved. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5F are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

- 22-141F** **AGENDA ITEM 6** New Hire Introductions and Promotional Announcements.

Promotional Announcements
 Battalion Chief Christopher Black
 Battalion Chief Shane Akerson
 Captain Ben Kleinbach
 Captain Edwin Martin

Captain Brad Steelman
Engineer Shane Parker
Engineer Nick Zuccarini

New Hire Introductions

Accountant AR and Grants Specialist Thelesa Montoya-Neves

Training and Logistics Division Chief Joseph Schum mentioned it took a significant amount of work to become a Battalion Chief with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD). He said Battalion Chiefs Black and Akerson put in a lot of work both on the educational and experience front to reach their positions. He provided brief histories of their backgrounds and accomplishments. Battalion Chief Black was pinned by his wife Jamie and Battalion Chief Akerson was pinned by his wife Katie and daughter Emily.

Division Chief Schum introduced Captains Martin, Kleinbach, and Steelman and provided brief histories of their backgrounds. Captain Martin was pinned by his wife Brandy, Captain Kleinbach was pinned by his wife Monica, and Captain Steelman was pinned by his wife Carissa.

Division Chief Schum said Engineer Shane Parker was not present because he was home with COVID-19. He introduced Engineer Nick Zuccarini and provided a brief history of his background. Engineer Zuccarini was pinned by his wife Tara, daughter Zyla, and son Zayden.

TMFPD Chief Charles Moore said Accountant AR and Grants Specialist Thelesa Montoya-Neves had been deployed on an out-of-district fire assignment so she was not present for her introduction.

22-142F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Presentation of Awards

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said there had been a number of critical calls where TMFPD staff saved lives. He wanted to acknowledge and honor the skilled staff who responded to those calls.

Life Saving Medal - November 7th, 2021

Captain Steve Walker
Engineer Tom Ames
Firefighter Paramedic Ryen Scannell
Firefighter Paramedic Ryan Arnaud

Chief Moore spoke about an incident that occurred on November 7, 2021, during which Engine 36 was dispatched to a pediatric choking call on Whites Creek Lane. The crew arrived on the scene to find a nine-month-old patient in respiratory arrest as a result of an inadvertent exposure to Fentanyl; the patient required several doses of

Naloxone. He said the outcome that day would have been different without the action of the crew of Engine 36.

Life Saving Medal - June 14th, 2022

Captain Jeffrey Knox
Engineer Vincent Murgolo
Firefighter Paramedic David Watson

Chief Moore stated that on June 14, 2022, the crew of Engine 42 was dispatched to a home of a newborn that had just been delivered and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was in progress. The crew arrived to find a 20-minute-old patient in cardiac arrest with the father performing CPR. The crew integrated with the father and was able to resuscitate the patient quickly and deliver a crying baby boy to the hospital.

Life Saving Medal - February 4th, 2022

Captain Scott Fenley
Engineer Vincent Murgolo
Fire Fighter Paramedic Ryan Rutter

Chief Moore spoke about a call on February 4, 2022, to which Engine 42 was dispatched. The crew arrived on the scene of a residence in Cold Springs and found a female patient pulseless and unresponsive. He noted the patient had just enough strength to call 9-1-1 before she fell unconscious. The crew administered CPR and used their training and skills to revive the patient and restore a pulse while still in her home and accompanied the patient to the hospital where she survived. He mentioned the patient later returned to the fire station to thank the crew.

Chair Hartung said the District would not be as successful without the highly trained individuals who worked for the TMFPD; he thanked them for their service and dedication to the County. He knew many residents realized how important TMFPD employees were, but they truly realized their importance during an emergency.

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

22-143F **AGENDA ITEM 8** International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 Report.

Patrick Walsh, International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 President, said he had T-shirts for each of the Commissioners. He indicated the T-shirts were the ones sold by Local 2487 through their foundation for professional firefighters in Nevada to support the building of the firefighters' monument in Carson City.

Mr. Walsh said Local 2487 was meeting with the District and other stakeholders every other week to address a regional approach for dispatch and fire services. He hoped to have news to report to the Board in the future.

Regarding the status of Bowers Fire Station 30, Mr. Walsh voiced Local 2487's agreement with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore's recommendations. He said the safety of the people working in that station was a priority, so Local 2487's members agreed with the closure until a more permanent solution was found.

22-144F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Fire Chief Report

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

1. Fall Green Waste Collection Days
2. Curbside Chipping
3. Ladder Truck Acquisition
4. Capital Projects Update
5. EMS Program Update
6. DRAFT 2022 Report to the Community
7. Review of Current Wildfire Conditions

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

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore announced the fall green waste collection dates were available. He said the program was very popular with approximately 15,000 cubic yards of green waste collected every time the TMFPD ran the program. He observed the one piece of feedback he received from citizens was a wish for the program to run monthly. He said he would consider a monthly program during the next budget development. He expressed approval of how well people were taking care of the defensible space around their homes.

Chief Moore reported Wildland Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen was pursuing a grant to provide funds for the curbside chipping program. The extra funding would allow the District to serve the elderly community and individuals who were unable to physically move green waste to a dump site where it would be chipped. He said the TMFPD would review the budget the upcoming year if it did not receive the grant.

Chair Hartung asked for clarification on who would qualify for the curbside chipping program. Chief Moore thought staff would likely confer with the Human Services Agency to determine who would be eligible for the service. Chair Hartung observed some individuals who qualified for senior services could be physically capable of transporting their green waste. Chief Moore said the District was primarily looking at the urban core in and around Sun Valley, Spanish Springs, and wherever people were physically unable to move their green waste.

Commissioner Jung thought the TMFPD should offer the green waste service monthly. She suggested Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) as a partner

for that program because it was involved in cleaning up waste that was dumped in the desert. She conjectured KTMB would be interested in keeping waste out of the desert, which was where green waste ended up. She suggested the program could be offered quarterly to start. She supported efforts to provide services to taxpayers who paid property taxes for those services. She appreciated Chief Moore's approach to keeping customers happy. She noted the TMFPD would benefit from waste removal as well because it was more difficult to fight a fire when there was a lot of waste at the location.

Vice Chair Hill agreed with the idea of providing monthly service as well as curbside pickup. She mentioned Code Enforcement received calls about issues with a neighbor's defensible space. She inquired whether the TMFPD could work with Code Enforcement to determine whom to contact for curbside service.

Chief Moore noted some residents were unable to drop off their green waste because they did not have an appropriate vehicle such as a pickup truck or trailer.

Chair Hartung asked about the disposition of the chipped green waste. Chief Moore replied that most of the material would be recycled but there was a chipping location at the Nevada Department of Forestry Eastlake station where the material was used for various agricultural projects.

With regards to the ladder truck acquisition, Chief Moore indicated he would not recommend the purchase. He acknowledged the District would lose the ability to avoid a cost increase, but with upcoming growth, he anticipated some significant expenditures and wanted to wait. He noted the ladder truck acquisition would not be inexpensive and he would address the acquisition in the next budget. Chair Hartung asked whether the new ladder truck would be purchased new or used. Chief Moore replied he would propose the purchase of a new truck.

Chief Moore said he expected an update from the architects for the design of the Washoe Valley Station within the following two weeks. He noted the proposal would be a sister proposal to the Apple Station because both stations would be similar in design. He said the crew quarters for Station 46's medic unit was underway, and he hoped it would be completed in approximately one month. He reported the work for the residence portion of Station 37 would commence within a couple of weeks. The crews would move into the residence once the work was completed and the modular would be moved off the property. He said the apparatus bay would be considered at the same time as funding for the Washoe Valley Station; he hoped both projects would begin shortly.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator Zeb Nomura conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He reviewed slides with the following titles: EMS Division Updates; Objectives; Fiscal Year 20/21; Fiscal Year 21/22; Growth Percentage; EMS Division Training; Paramedic School Collaboration; Assessment Center; EMS Highlights; Transport Revenue; Questions.

Mr. Nomura reported a significant increase in EMS incidents and patient transports. The numbers reported reflected one year of service from Medic 30 in Washoe Valley, one year of Medic 45 in Sun Valley, and six months of Medic 46 in Spanish Springs. He displayed images demonstrating EMS Division training incidents, noting the patients used in training were real patients which allowed the providers to get more one-on-one experience. He said the training scenarios were arranged by EMS Coordinator Rob Harper who was hired in July. He noted Mr. Harper had approximately ten years of paramedic school experience and was very creative with the development of training scenarios. He mentioned that the TMFPD supported Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) interns who accompanied District ambulances. He noted TMCC interns were potential new hires for the TMFPD. He said the TMFPD started a collaborative paramedic school with TMCC on August 22. He mentioned the TMFPD had experienced difficulties with hiring and finding fully qualified staff members at the firefighter/paramedic rank, so the collaborative program would allow the District to hire employees and put them through paramedic school to meet required standards. The employees would complete the program in 12 or 13 months with the knowledge base that was taught in division-level training. He mentioned that EMS calls included general public service such as picking patients up off the floor and offering them dignity by changing their incontinence undergarments. He displayed a graph of transport revenue since the District ambulance service started in November 2020. He noted the transport revenue went to support extra staff consisting of roughly 12 extra firefighter/paramedics. He said the transport program allowed the TMFPD to provide better service to the community.

Chair Hartung referred to the 14 percent increase in EMS incidents and asked about the priority of those calls. Mr. Nomura indicated the calls ranged from priority one to priority three as well as calls for patients needing a lift assist off the ground. Chair Hartung expressed interest in a report on call priorities.

With regards to transport revenues, Vice Chair Hill asked how quickly the TMFPD received reimbursement. Mr. Nomura replied that the transport revenue took approximately 90 days but could take up to 6 months. Vice Chair Hill observed the reported revenue had not necessarily been received yet.

Chief Moore noted the revenue for the medic transport program was nearly self-sustaining, so there was no cost increase to taxpayers. Chair Hartung asked whether the program revenue covered everything including equipment costs. Chief Moore replied the revenue mostly covered personnel and combined with the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) revenue, it would pay for the program.

Chief Moore said Item 6 was the draft Report to the Community for 2022. He asked the Commissioners to review the report and let him know of any additions or clarifications. He stated the TMFPD had done some amazing work; staff continued to impress him with the types of calls they responded to. He observed the call volume had increased slightly which he attributed to COVID-19, although the increase was not what he would expect with the growth of population. He highlighted the improvements to service; the District was transporting patients from Spanish Springs, Sun Valley, and

Washoe Valley in partnership with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA). He expressed pride for the added dimension of firefighting and EMS care to those three communities. He commended staff who established the innovative program. He requested feedback on the report from the Board in the next week or two. Chair Hartung observed he remembered when an ambulance could take up to 45 minutes to reach Spanish Springs.

County Clerk Jan Galassini indicated a draft report was distributed to the Board and would be placed online after the meeting.

With regards to the wildfire update, Wildfire and Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen said the trend was moving in the wrong direction. He stated the three biggest dynamic inputs that drove fire were dead fuel moisture, live fuel moisture, and weather. He said the dead fuel moisture was at about twice the critical thresholds as a result of the rain in August. He reported the dead fuels in the forests reached the upper thresholds on Sunday, and the lowlands in the valleys was at 1 percent above upper thresholds so teetering on catastrophic potential. He said the live fuel moisture was on par with what it had been all summer; timber was somewhat drought stressed because of decreased snowpack over the winter but not as bad as the prior year. He stated the live fuel moisture in the valley bottom, the sagebrush, was on par with what it should be for this time of year; it was part of its normal life cycle. He said the current weather conditions were La Niña and were projected to stay in a weak La Niña state through November. La Niña weather conditions resulted in warmer and drier conditions compared to a normal fall. He reported the national preparedness level reached level four out of five the prior day. Level four meant that more than half of all resources across the Country were currently committed to a fire. He cautioned the public that most fire starts were caused by humans and that most catastrophic fires happened in the fall.

Moving to Item B, Chief Moore noted the heading for mutual aid to other jurisdictions was changed on the report because of medic transports. Sometimes the District answered calls for REMSA outside of the area when REMSA was busy, so the tabulations that accounted for the location of the responses were not necessarily mutual aid requests from other agencies.

22-145F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to retroactively approve Amendment NO. 2 to an Employment Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Loren D. Way, Deputy Chief, to extend the current contract term from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2025, reflecting a new annual Salary of \$217,672.00 and clarify vacation accrual rates and time frames effective July 1, 2022, and if approved, approve a corresponding resolution authorizing the transfer of \$30,201 from the General Fund Contingency Account to the General Fund Employee Benefits account in the amount of \$7,064 and to the Salary and Wages Account in the amount of \$23,137. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore said Deputy Chief Loren “Dale” Way was the finest code administrator the District had throughout his 42-year tenure. He stated Deputy Chief Way was consummately skilled in fire codes and he made fair and reasonable decisions with respect to code administration. He recommended a salary adjustment that would be commensurate with the Deputy Chief of Fire Operations that was approved the prior month.

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 Herman absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved and authorized. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Item 10 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

22-146F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve Amendment No. 5 to the Employment Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief to extend the current contract term to December 6, 2024, and to outline payment of sick leave accrual upon termination or death of the employee according to Washoe County Code 5.225 and NRS 281.155. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief (TMFPD) Charles Moore said he and his staff had done an amazing job building the TMFPD into a department the Board and staff could be proud of over the last ten years. He requested the Board not consider any more merit increases for him in the next two years; he believed his salary was fine at the current rate. He said there were a number of projects he wanted to complete: the Hidden Valley Station, the consolidated station in Washoe Valley, and determining who would be good candidates for successorship. He indicated a number of good candidates were available and ready to step into the position if the Board wanted to hire internally. He wanted to work with candidates to prepare them to assume leadership of the District.

Chair Hartung asked whether Chief Moore would be eligible for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) even if he received no merit increases. He inquired whether the employment agreement needed to articulate that Chief Moore would receive COLAs. Deputy District Attorney Wade Carner believed the COLAs would apply to Chief Moore.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Thomas Daly expressed his support for this item with the exception of the merit issue. He noted that 70 percent of the TMFPD’s calls were for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the life-saving medals awarded on Agenda Item 6 were also EMS-related. He said that for the past 8 years, under Chief Moore’s direction, the TMFPD had paramedics in every station 24 hours a day 7 days per week. He mentioned the Chief developed an innovative cost-neutral program when the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) was unable to staff ambulances in the South and North Valleys. He believed Chief Moore should be rewarded for his achievements and suggested a bonus.

Commissioner Lucey believed Chief Moore had done exactly what Mr. Daly described. He said, under Chief Moore's leadership, the District had gone from well-served areas to areas that met standards of cover and expanded a number of capital assets. He mentioned the consolidation of services at the Barron Way headquarters was more efficient and cost-effective. He thought Chief Moore deserved some sort of a merit based on his leadership, but he would take direction from the Chief. He said Chief Moore had done everything the Board asked: succession, efficiency, and responsiveness. He stated Chief Moore had done a great job and he would like to see him rewarded for his efforts.

Chair Hartung asked about the fiscal impact of this amendment when the payout was anticipated. Chief Fiscal Officer Cindy Vance replied that part of the amendment of the contract was to receive additional payouts for the accrued sick time, which was not in the original contract. She said Chief Moore would receive those payouts when he retired. She noted Chief Moore had received a merit increase two months prior for the current fiscal year (FY).

Commissioner Jung expressed appreciation for Chief Moore's humility in not asking for a merit increase. She believed this was not the year to decline merit increases because local governments across the Country had money. She noted the funds might not be available in future years. She wanted to ensure Chief Moore was kept competitive, so he was not hired away. She suggested the Board think carefully about merit and cost of living increases. She recommended the Board task Chief Moore to find his replacement as soon as possible so he could either train up his replacement or participate in a national search.

Commissioner Lucey noted Chief Moore's contract indicated he was entitled to up to a 5 percent merit increase. He asked how much Chief Moore received in merit increases. Ms. Vance replied 5 percent was awarded in June. Commissioner Lucey asked whether that increase was retroactive. Ms. Vance said the increase was for FY23 and it was awarded in June because that was when Chief Moore's evaluation was due. She noted Chief Moore received the COLA on July 1, 2022, and would receive the COLA on January 1, 2023. She said the merit increases would apply to the future under the two-year extension of the contract. Commissioner Lucey asked for confirmation that Chief Moore would be eligible for a 5 percent merit increase the following year under the contract extension. Ms. Vance said yes.

Chair Hartung asked for clarification of the increases that firefighters received in the last contract negotiation. Ms. Vance replied that firefighters received 3 percent on July 1, 2022, and would receive 3 percent on January 1, 2023, 2.75 on July 1, 2023, and 2.75 on January 1, 2024.

Commissioner Lucey asked for confirmation that this item was strictly amending the sick leave payout at the end of the contract. Chair Hartung said yes; the payout amount was \$81,106.

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

22-147F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding the status of Bowers Fire Station 30 and options for re-deployment of personnel and equipment, repair of Bowers Station 30 and associated costs, and to direct the Fire Chief and Deputy District Attorney to discuss the terms of the lease and possible termination of the lease with the State of Nevada. Staff will provide a status report on the development of the consolidated Washoe Valley Fire Station and Apple Fire Station and also review the 2019 Deployment Plan. (Commission District 2)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said his intent was to take immediate action for the health and safety of employees while seeking Board direction. He noted the station was 70 years old, it had multiple holes, and the exterior walls were constructed of plywood t-111 siding over corrugated metal siding. He observed the bats got into the attic and in through the walls, including the interior walls. He noted bats were either endangered or protected so by law they could not simply be removed, they had to be allowed to leave in the fall. He stated bats could spread viruses, bacterial infections, and fungal infections. He expressed concern for employees because 1 percent to 3 percent of bats carried rabies which could be fatal if a person was scratched or bitten without being aware of it. The symptoms of rabies started to manifest when it was too late to begin treatment. He indicated the bat guano was a concern as well because it was coming out of the attic from the vents. He noted the station was last remediated in 2015 when thousands of dollars were spent to seal the building. The contractor at that time said the station would require a major renovation or a complete rebuild to prevent the bats from returning, stating there was no way to keep the bats out of the station unless the building was torn apart and rebuilt to a modern code. He noted the TMFPD had plans to abandon the station in approximately 18 months to 2 years. He said a temporary replacement station would result in a significant expense, so he reviewed a number of other possibilities which were outlined in the staff report.

Chief Moore reiterated the health and safety of employees were paramount. He requested the Board consider the service level issues surrounding the closure of the station along with possible solutions. He acknowledged the response time to west Washoe Valley would be extended as a result of the closure. He noted Washoe Valley had a good response time for the past ten years. He observed the Carson City Fire Department (CCFD), and TMFPD Station 32 in Eastlake, Station 30 in Bowers, Station 39 in Galena, and Station 33 were all resources for incidents within Washoe Valley. He stated the TMFPD was able to take more apparatus to Washoe Valley faster than anywhere else in the District. He mentioned Station 32 in Eastlake had an engine and an ambulance staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week; the ambulance was cross staffed at the Bowers Station. He had to consider whether to spend the money to accelerate the new station or to try to fix the Bowers Station. His recommendation was to retain the current service level, authorize him to talk to the State of Nevada about terminating the lease to determine the TMFPD's obligations for

returning the building, and then he would return to present the issue to the Board for further action.

Chair Hartung asked whether the State was aware that firefighters would be living in the building. Chief Moore said yes. Chair Hartung inquired whether Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 118A.290(g) would apply to this lease. Deputy District Attorney Wade Carner said the lease was considered a commercial lease and not a dwelling although firefighters stayed there while they worked. He clarified that NRS 118A would not apply but NRS 118C would and the lease agreement would basically control the relationship between the parties.

Commissioner Jung understood the impact of bat guano on employees which could cost millions for future heart and lung issues. She said the liability to the District was a concern but the welfare of employees was most important. She assumed Chief Moore would include a Commissioner in the discussion with the State, specifically the Commissioner for that district who would know about the special issues in that area. She wanted to ensure the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) was aware of the station closure. She acknowledged Chief Moore would not make the recommendation without adequate coverage but wanted REMSA, as a TMFPD partner, to be notified of the change so it would be more alert for the next 18 months.

Commissioner Jung thought the TMFPD and the County needed a presentation of the census tract data which should be used for planning police, fire, and curbside wood chipping. She thought data should drive development, even where new stations were located. She noted available resources based on statistical expectations were more important than station location. She suggested staff include census data-driven planning as part of the regionalization discussion.

With regards to Commissioner Jung's statements, Commissioner Lucey agreed about the importance of focusing on the standards of cover rather than the location of stations. He observed that Medic 30 transported only 16 percent of the 2,373 total ambulance transports for fiscal year 21/22. He noted Medic 30 would be staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week in Station 32. He observed most of the stations in the southern battalion were in his district. He noted only 23 percent of the prior month's call volume was from the southern battalion while 70 percent was in the northern battalion, but there were more resources in the south than in the north. He understood the concerns of the residents in the south, but the data did not show a lack of coverage. He asked for confirmation that resources would be redistributed to ensure adequate coverage if crews from one station were out on a call. Chief Moore said that was correct. Resources would be redistributed, from north to south or vice versa, to ensure adequate coverage.

Commissioner Lucey questioned the soundness of expending significant funds for a temporary solution. He observed that obtaining a trailer might not be possible and that installing it would take one to two months. He noted the union would also need to approve the temporary living arrangement for the firefighters, so there were a number of challenges to overcome and adequate resources were already in place. He would rather

Chief Moore meet with the State to discuss terminating the lease. He observed that under Section 8 of the lease agreement, which addressed maintenance and repair, the associated repairs for capital assets were not clearly defined. Based on his understanding of commercial leases he opined the lack of clarity in that section of the lease provided a basis to discuss termination of the lease until the situation was remedied. He asked that the TMFPD proceed as quickly as possible and expend the funds towards getting the new station online. He expressed disappointment because the new station was not moving faster, noting the community meetings took place almost five years prior. He acknowledged COVID-19 caused delays, but he adamantly urged moving more quickly on the new station. He observed the run times on the staff report showed that most response times were under seven minutes with a few exceptions. He requested that resources be moved to the south when those stations were out on calls to ensure a ten-minute or under response time, which was the standard of cover for a suburban area.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Tim Salyer referred to Commissioner Jung's comments earlier in the meeting about available revenue and Chief Moore's mention of the costs associated with a modular unit. He acknowledged that it would take two or three months to install services in a modular unit, but he noted it would take years for the new station to be built and occupied. He urged the Board to consider spending money to install a modular unit to continue services out of Station 30 because waiting for the new station would put a significant amount of stress on the area.

Ms. Janis Leclaire-Charbonneau stated her concern and disappointment about this item. She said she understood how government worked and that Chief Moore's statements indicated the decision had already been made. She recognized the reason for the closure of Station 30 and acknowledged that bats were difficult to manage. She acknowledged bats were an endangered species, but she expressed concern for the residents of west Washoe Valley as a result of the closure. She said any extra minutes of response time for an emergency were critical. She appreciated the efforts of firefighters and the Commissioners but urged the Board consider other options.

Mr. Cliff Low referred to Commissioner Jung's comment about the local government having an increase in funds and suggested the TMFPD spend some of those funds to remedy this situation which he opined should not have occurred. He acknowledged it would cost thousands of dollars to move a modular, noting water and sewer were available at Station 30. He mentioned a two-bedroom one-bathroom house on the same parcel as Station 30. He asked why the house had not been presented as an option. He noted the staff report indicated the station was remediated for bats in 2015 without a significant remodel and asked about the cost, the time it took, and whether the station had been closed for the project. He inquired whether similar remediation could be done in lieu of closure. He spoke about the Little Valley Fire which destroyed 23 homes. He observed the response time for the CCFD was said to be 11 minutes, but it was on a different system which led to longer call processing times. He displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He noted that the CCFD Station 52 had more incidents than the two busiest stations in the TMFPD and questioned its availability for calls in Washoe Valley.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised the Board she received emailed public comments from Mr. Ron Jahn and Ms. Denise Jahn, which she placed on the record.

Commissioner Lucey mentioned the property itself was one of the challenges to a temporary station for a number of reasons including the lot shape and inadequate driveway space. He noted a temporary structure would require some sort of temporary foundation and utilities. He said the property belonged to the State so the District would not be able to disturb the land; the lease would not allow a temporary structure. He stated the Bellevue Station was also on State land so the TMFPD would need to have a discussion with the State about putting a structure on those two properties. He said the Pelican Way site was owned by the TMFPD, but it would take months of preparation at a significant cost for a temporary structure which he opined would not add any benefit to services based on response times.

Commissioner Lucey reiterated the need to proceed with the new station as quickly as possible. He observed that Station 32 was an old sheet metal building with tight engine bays that were not conducive to operations. He knew the District was slowly working through the Capital Improvement Project Plan to improve all stations. He expressed urgency to complete the combined station and supported Chief Moore's recommendations at this time.

Chair Hartung asked for information about the house on the Station 30 lot mentioned by Mr. Low. Chief Moore said the issues with bats also applied to the apparatus bay, so any use of the old station would require remediation.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Herman absent, it was ordered that the completion of Station 31 be completed as quickly as possible and that Chief Moore's recommendations as outlined in the staff report be approved.

22-148F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Jung asked for consideration of a new model for search and rescue in western mountainous regions. She thought the Kylie Rodney case brought some concerns to light. She pondered whether fire services should be tasked with search and rescue instead of law enforcement. She thought search and rescue needed to be performed by people who were in the field and trained to perform that service. She had not asked the union whether those duties would be allowable, but she suggested an auxiliary team could be designated for those cases. She thought specialized training would be advisable considering the region had many deep lakes. She noted many people had disparaged law enforcement for their efforts in the Rodney case. She suggested a closer look at best practices for this type of region.

Commissioner Lucey mentioned a roll-over accident that occurred two weeks prior on Mt. Rose Highway when a vehicle turned right at Edmonton Drive. He said both cars had been totaled and the airbags had been deployed. He stated Station 36

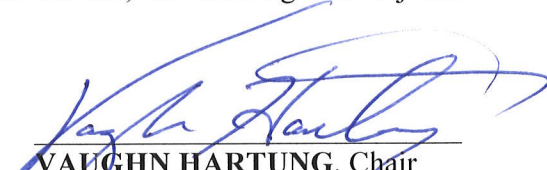
responded to the accident, but the road had been closed down for some time. He asked for additional information about the District's response to that call. He observed that speeding on Mt. Rose Highway was getting worse; it was costing the District more time and taking resources out of the valley. He stated that safety improvements were necessary and needed to be addressed by the Nevada Department of Transportation and he wanted more information because those discussions seemed to be stalling. He requested speeding and accident information on Nevada State Routes 341 and 431 because the District was the only responder to those two Highways.


22-149F AGENDA ITEM 14 Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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11:48 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.


VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

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

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