

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 1, 2022

PRESENT:

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

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

ABSENT:

**Bob Lucey, Commissioner**  
**Kitty Jung, 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, Chief Deputy County Clerk Catherine Smith called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**10:02 a.m.**     **The Board recessed due to technical difficulties.**

**10:04 a.m.**     **The Board reconvened with Commissioners Lucey and Jung absent.**

**22-166F**        **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

Ms. Renee Rezendes spoke about the harassment she experienced from an unidentified security guard. She previously addressed the issue with staff and appreciated the email response she received, but asserted she wanted a verbal conversation about the situation. She stated media filming in the voter's observation room was not an issue, the fact that people were using their cell phones and videotaping her was the issue. She expressed concern that she was not allowed to have possession of her cell phone in that room. She addressed an issue with the Registrar of Voters Office about camera monitors not working in the observation room where the ballots were kept. When asked about the monitors she was told the equipment would not be fixed right away but she could observe the process on her cell phone. She stated cell phones were not allowed in the observation room and opined the monitors were there for the public to observe the process.

**22-167F**        **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated the December meeting would be moved from the first Tuesday to the second Tuesday due to the timing of the department audit. He noted there was a current wind event

happening and said there were plenty of things that could go wrong leading up to a precipitation event. He announced that Agenda Item 10 would be pulled from the agenda and mentioned Agenda Item 8B would be deferred until the December meeting.

**CONSENT ITEMS – 5A through 5E**

- 22-168F** **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the October 4, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.
- 22-169F** **5B** Acknowledge and approve a correction to the regular meeting minutes of January 4, 2022, to correct the date of the meeting from January 4, 2021, to January 4, 2022, and to reflect that Chief Deputy County Clerk Catherine Smith was the presiding clerk for the meeting.
- 22-170F** **5C** Recommendation to approve the addition of a voluntary pet insurance plan option under the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Benefits Program arranged and serviced by Pet Benefit Solutions for eligible employees effective January 1, 2022.
- 22-171F** **5D** Recommendation to approve a Notice of Cancellation for the regularly scheduled Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District’s Board of Fire Commissioners meeting scheduled for December 6, 2022, at 10 a.m. and to reschedule the meeting for December 13, 2022, at 9 a.m.
- 22-172F** **5E** Recommendation to modify the District’s 50th Anniversary special event at the Peppermill Resort Hotel on December 2, 2022 and authorize staff to solicit sponsorships.

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 through 5E be approved.

**22- 173F** **AGENDA ITEM 6** Awards and Recognition.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore shared a story about John Ferdinand Jr., who suffered a cardiac arrest event on September 4 while at home with his girlfriend Tracy Moore. He said Ms. Moore immediately called 911 and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). He noted Engine 42 had just cleared a previous medical incident only a few blocks away and responded quickly to the scene. Upon arrival, the crew from Engine 42 found Mr. Ferdinand Jr. in a shockable rhythm and worked with the crew from Medic 45. After three defibrillation attempts and various other treatments, Mr. Ferdinand Jr. was converted out of a lethal heart rhythm and transported by ambulance to Saint Mary’s Hospital. He said Mr. Ferdinand Jr. was discharged from

the hospital five days later with no deficits. He asserted such an incident was the reason each engine was staffed with paramedics and stressed the importance of CPR training. He expressed gratitude that the outcome was successful.

Chief Moore presented Ms. Moore with a Chief's Medal of Commendation for her lifesaving efforts.

Mr. Ferdinand Jr. said he had never been more thankful for a group of people and thanked the firefighters for their assistance in saving his life.

Chair Hartung said Ms. Moore did everything right and noted it was very difficult to stay focused in an emergency such as the one she experienced.

Ms. Moore stated she grew up in a rural area of Alaska and had advanced emergency medical technician (EMT) training and had been a volunteer in her hometown. She thanked the 911 operator and the crew that responded to the incident.

Chair Hartung reminded the community this was the reason there were paramedics in every unit.

Mr. Ferdinand Jr. believed Chair Hartung was responsible for each unit having a Lucas II CPR machine. Chair Hartung indicated when he saw the machine at a conference, he knew the TMFPD needed that equipment on each engine.

**10:17 a.m.**    **The Board recessed.**

**10:20 a.m.**    **The Board reconvened with Commissioners Lucey and Jung absent.**

Chair Hartung thanked Chief Moore for bringing this story to the Board and emphasized the importance of having trained firefighters on the scene as quickly as possible.

Chief Moore stated when CPR was administered quickly the chances of survival increased. He expressed pride in Ms. Moore and acknowledged the TMFPD paramedic training went above the required training. He explained that each staff member was trained for the entire process of an emergency medical call and was taught to remain calm while providing excellent care.

Chief Moore presented awards of Meritorious Conduct to the following individuals:

Captain Shawn Heywood  
Firefighter Paramedic Ryan Rutter  
Firefighter Nick Welsh  
Firefighter Paramedic Chris Perham  
Firefighter Paramedic Trent Soares

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

**22- 174F** **AGENDA ITEM 7** International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 Report.

Vice President of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 Jamie Rivera said he had nothing to report except that it was Movember and people would start seeing facial hair on firefighters.

**22- 175F** **AGENDA ITEM 8** Fire Chief Report.

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

1. Update on Fall Green Waste Collection and Remaining Dates.
2. Open Burning.
3. Capital Projects.
4. Evacuation Planning and Issues along the Mount Rose Corridor.

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

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated green waste collection sites were heavily used and crews had moved more than 850 loads. He noted additional events would be held in December.

Chief Moore said during the months of December and March, people on large rural lots were allowed to burn their excess waste and noted announcements would be made on the TMFPD website ([www.tmfpd.us](http://www.tmfpd.us)). He stated the requirements included that a parcel had to be one acre or greater, a permit was required, and no burning would be allowed during wind events. He explained that in the Hydrographic Basin the required parcel size was two acres or more. He mentioned an advantage to people burning in place. When green waste was transported, seeds could blow off and propagate which could spread invasive weeds. He said large tree stumps and materials that were not able to be masticated were destroyed in a burn box which was effective and produced little smoke.

Chief Moore mentioned the certificate of occupancy (C of O) had been issued for Station 46. The station consisted of six bedrooms and comfortable quarters for crews and medics to respond from. He noted there would be five firefighters on duty continuously, three on engine apparatus, and two on the medic unit. He indicated Station 46 would complement the Sun Valley station and would be assisted by Station 32 in East Lake. He stated the house remodel at Station 37 was underway and was expected to be completed by January 10. He noted something needed to be worked out with the modular that was currently on the property, and he hoped it could be put to good use. He asked the Board for suggestions.

Chair Hartung thought County Manager Eric Brown might be interested in placing the modular at the Cares Campus.

Chief Moore provided a handout to the Board related to Station 37, which was placed on file with the Clerk. He noted areas to the left of the yellow line indicated new construction and included apparatus bays, crew offices, tool servicing rooms, a public area, a fire sprinkler riser room, and the entrance to the fire station. He stated the parking lot would be developed to the left. The phasing of the project was complicated, but he stressed the housing portion would be able to accommodate a full-service fire station while the apparatus bays were being built.

Chief Moore spoke about being in contact with bond consultant John Peterson about interest rates. He said staff was informed by Mr. Peterson that bond prices were not predicted to go down. He said the delta between the financing for Barron Way and what could be financed for the new stations could be as low as 1 to 1.5 percent. He stated due diligence would need to be done on the financial forecasts and he expected Eugenia Laramore to present the information to the Board in January. He indicated the District would move forward with the Debt Management Commission and would have to speculate the amount it needed to finance but did not want to underestimate the amount. He stated the District could be approved for \$15 million in bonds, but there was a possibility the full amount would not be needed. He mentioned staff was moving forward on the Consolidated Station with architectural work. He said he had been in contact with Apple and the plan was that Station 37, the Consolidated Station, and the Apple Station would all happen in sequence within a few weeks of each other. He explained when the foundation was complete on one project, contractors would move to the next station to put in the foundation. He believed that process would allow construction to move quickly. He announced construction would start in June 2023 and be complete by the summer of 2024. He mentioned supply chain issues at Station 37, noting he had considered ordering materials ahead of time to keep moving forward.

Chief Moore said there were citizen concerns about evacuation routes on Mt. Rose Highway and he asked staff to investigate it. He stated people sought to go south out of the Callahan Ranch area. He indicated significant research had been done related to evacuations and Division Chief August Isernhagen would share a presentation with the Board. He thought starting community dialogue was important and meetings would occur after January. He mentioned he had conversations with the Emergency Manager about investing in new software to help the public identify where a fire was located and understand the best evacuation route to avoid getting close to dangerous areas.

Division Chief Isernhagen conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Evacuation Route Locations; Introduction; High Wind = Catastrophic Fire; Wind Patterns/Fire Behavior Simulation; Wind Patterns – Continued (4 slides); Conclusion.

Division Chief Isernhagen spoke about fires that occurred near the Mt. Rose Highway including near Joy Lake Road, Windy Hill, and Rock Farm, along with numerous

fires near White's and Thomas Creeks. He stated the area experienced higher-than-normal fire seasons in the past few years. He remarked extensive conversations had taken place about evacuation routes and feasible routes based on fire location and wind factors. He explained air rotated counterclockwise around a low-pressure system and always approached from the West. Cold front high winds came from the West/Southwest/South and would push fires toward the Northeast. He said the areas of concern were the communities against the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains due to the flame fronts that would burn toward neighboring homes. He indicated data was received from the National Weather Service (NWS) and staff worked with a fire behavior analyst to create computer-generated simulations related to how and where a fire would burn when wind direction and wind speeds fluctuated.

Chair Hartung asked about the District's intentions of putting out a formal evacuation plan for the residents in the areas outlined in the presentation. He wondered whether directions could be communicated to residents for the best possible route to prevent them from going toward a fire in an attempt to evacuate. Chief Moore stated staff was working on a plan, substantial communications, and meetings for the public. He mentioned evacuations were ordered for the Joy Lake fire and thought if it had happened prior to the rain a week before, it could have been a significant fire event for that community. He spoke about the need for people to be out of the evacuated area before fire response teams arrived. Once the fire hoses were deployed citizens could not drive over them as it would stop the suppression efforts. He stated there were many dynamics in place and conversations that would need to occur. He brought up the Rock fire that burned into ArrowCreek, stating firefighters had difficulties with citizens parking on evacuation routes and watching aircraft activity. He said that was not helpful for suppression efforts nor was it safe for evacuations. He stressed that law enforcement would have a heavy presence to safeguard homes.

Chief Moore commented he had been working with the Emergency Manager on new software to push out links to individuals' cell phones with fire updates, evacuation routes, where the fire started, and where it would potentially burn. Chair Hartung thought people would need to sign up to receive the link for their area.

Division Chief Isernhagen stated staff was working on a pilot program for the Mt. Rose Highway community, and noted discussions about gates, locks, and whom to contact to open them needed to occur. He said there were more than 40 gates on access and egress routes in that area. He indicated a document map would be created with all the gates labeled on one side and the back would list the lock on the gate and the contact person if a gate needed to be opened. He stated the project was still in its infancy stage although staff had been working on it since the summer.

Chair Hartung expressed concern about contacting a person during an emergency to open gates. He was not suggesting he knew the answers, but he was glad there was a project in the works and that staff was not waiting for a plan after the fact. He thanked Division Chief Isernhagen for the information.

Vice Chair Hill said she appreciated staff looking into the issue and noted there were significant concerns in Verdi about evacuations and possible pedestrian roads that could accommodate a vehicle. She stated the Verdi area had many homeowners' associations (HOAs) that could be utilized for communicating with residents.

Chair Hartung thought this could be a pilot project because there were so many communities to which the same process could be applied.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Tom Daly stated the areas discussed in the presentation were all in his neighborhood. He said the Washoe Drive and Rock Farm fires were both less than a half mile from his home. He believed Mt. Rose Highway eastbound was the preferred evacuation route but noted he had experienced the highway being blocked twice by wildfires and that was the only way out. He said there was a dirt road through Rock Farm to Saddlehorn, to Thomas Creek Road, then to ArrowCreek Parkway. He indicated those roads were County owned and were poorly marked and unlighted. He opined people could not find the roads in the dark unless they were familiar with them. He thought the County needed to mark the roads with evacuation and road signs.

Chair Hartung asked Chief Moore about ambulances in Spanish Springs, Washoe Valley, and Sun Valley and wondered whether one could be placed in the North Valleys. Chief Moore stated the possibility was being discussed with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) about adding new ambulances and said it was on his radar.

No action was taken on this item.

**22- 176F**      **AGENDA ITEM 9**      Recommendation to approve termination of the Restated and Amended Lease, dated May 24, 2016 between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the State of Nevada for property known as Station 30 (Bowers) located at 3905 South US 395 and authorize Staff to send notice of the termination and take action to vacate the structure.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore spoke about the bat infestation at the Bowers Station and the steps taken to remediate the issue, including cleaning up the guano and disinfecting the structure. He indicated the building would be put in the best condition possible before the State took it back. He indicated the State was aware of the condition of the building and that some rehabilitation of the exterior would be needed as there were many places where bats and rodents could get inside. He did not endorse the District spending money to make needed improvements to the building because it was leased property. He recommended the Board approve the termination of the lease and that the equipment be moved out. He noted if the State wanted the building back sooner than the six-month termination agreement, an amendment could be done to allow that. He thought it would take three months to move out all the fixtures and appliances and he would inform the State when the building was vacated.

There was no response to the call for public comment on this item.

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 9 be approved and authorized.

**22-177F**      **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve the purchase of twenty (20) Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and associated equipment from MES in the amount of \$176,950.00 using NRS 332.115 (1)(s) exemption from the competitive bidding process the purchase of personal safety equipment for use by a response agency which will be used in responding to emergencies.

Chair Hartung stated this item had been pulled from the agenda.

**22-178F**      **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve a Health Benefits Program for District employees, dependents and retirees for an estimated total cost to the District of \$2.7 million and authorize the Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners to execute all insurance contracts and service agreements pertinent to the approved Health Benefits Program for calendar year 2023.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated he was pleased to report the increase in health benefit costs was only 1.9 percent, which he believed was less than \$50,000. He thanked LP Insurance for doing a great job.

There was no response to the call for public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Herman, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Commissioners Lucey and Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved and authorized.

**22-179F**      **AGENDA ITEM 12** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or reports.

**22-180F**      **AGENDA ITEM 13** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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**11:01 a.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

  
VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair  
Truckee Meadows Fire  
Protection District

ATTEST:

*Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy*  
for JANIS GALASSINI, Washoe County Clerk  
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows  
Fire Protection District

*Minutes Prepared By:*  
*Doni Blackburn, Deputy County Clerk*

