

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

PRESENT:

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

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

ABSENT:

**Michael Clark, Commissioner**

The Board convened at 10:14 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 Cathy Smith called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**23-004F**      **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

**23-005F**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore informed the Board he would provide discussion topics regarding evacuation at the next meeting. He indicated the TMFPD was receiving a lot of communication about evacuations from community partners in the south, Verdi, and other areas. He stated the District would try to work with the Emergency Manager to bring forth a strategy to reengage the community. He opined evacuation was a complicated issue as it was sometimes difficult to determine when to evacuate versus shelter in place and where to send evacuees. He said there were a lot of dynamics involved when an evacuation order was called. He announced the District wanted to start the discussions back up in an effort to reengage the community before the upcoming wildland fire season in May.

Commissioner Herman expressed concerns regarding construction projects, such as apartment houses, and the lack of fire breaks between buildings. She noted the buildings were also close together. She requested Chief Moore's opinion about the County's level of preparedness to protect citizens. Chief Moore responded that Chief Fire Officer Dale Way would be available the following month to give the Commission a presentation responding to Commissioner Herman's concerns.

Commissioner Garcia shared a story that was told during the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) meeting the previous Saturday. During the CAB meeting, a woman spoke about how she had been preparing for the storm by collecting sandbags and setting them up on her property. The sandbags went missing overnight, causing her property to flood. She went to the Sun Valley fire station and explained what happened and requested new sandbags. Commissioner Garcia informed the Commission that staff from the Sun Valley fire station not only helped the citizen fill up new sandbags, but they also went to her property to help her reset them. Commissioner Garcia observed the story was an example of employees going above and beyond their regular duties.

Chair Hartung informed the Commission that the Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitor's Authority (RSCVA) had experienced a fatality. He stated Chief Moore and the regional peer support team sent out a group to assist the employees through the process. He expressed appreciation for the TMFPD and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). He extended gratitude to Chief Moore and the peer support group on behalf of the employees of the RSCVA. He stated the RSCVA was a regional partner and part of the Washoe County family. He expressed pride in the work and response time of the TMFPD, the WCSO, and the peer support team.

#### **CONSENT ITEMS – 5A through 5F**

- 23-006F**      **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the December 13, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.
- 23-007F**      **5B** Recommendation to approve a Right-of-Entry Agreement between Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) to establish a temporary access easement on property (APN 354-571-06) owned by Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the purpose of TMWA constructing a water well adjacent to TMFPD-owned property, and if approved, authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement. (Commission District 4.)
- 23-008F**      **5C** Discussion and possible approval of a recommendation to provide financial assistance to the Nevada Peer Support Network in the amount of \$2500 to support the operation of its Incident Response Team. (All Commission Districts.)
- 23-009F**      **5D** Recommendation to accept and express thoughtful appreciation of several anonymous monetary donations totaling \$95 in support of Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Green Waste Program. (All Commission Districts.)
- 23-010F**      **5E** Recommendation to authorize District staff to provide testimony to the Public Utilities Commission for the State of Nevada regarding the NV Energy Natural Disaster Preparedness Plan (NDPP) and to offer such testimony and written communication in support of the NV Energy NDPP

through direct testimony, correspondence, and other means of providing input. (All Commission Districts.)

**23-011F** **5F** Recommendation to authorize staff to allow an exemption of the annual facility and fire suppression system inspection fees specific to childcare facilities within Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's (TMFPD) jurisdiction for two years, beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2024. (All Commission Districts.)

Chief Charles Moore requested to provide a brief description of Item 5C to the Commission.

Chair Hartung disclosed that both he and Vice Chair Hill actively served on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Board. He did not believe there was a conflict of interest under the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) but wanted the opinion of Chief Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras.

Ms. Kandaras thanked Chair Hartung for notifying the members of the Board. She affirmed his disclosure was adequate, noting Chair Hartung and Vice Chair Hill served on the TMWA board due to their positions with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). She determined it was appropriate for both of them to vote on the matter before the Commission and there was no conflict. Chair Hartung pointed out Item 5B was a benefit to the community. He thought it was important for people to know there was no conflict.

Chief Moore highlighted Item 5C and the work of the Nevada Peer Support Network (NPSN). He expressed well wishes and a speedy recovery to Jeremy Renner and mentioned that Mr. Renner donated a vehicle to the NPSN. He observed that retired firefighters and public safety employees created a mobile canteen to be used for extended operational periods. The canteen would allow for food preparation, shade, and shelter from the elements. He recommended that the County financially support this program as there would be ongoing costs for fuel and maintenance of the vehicles and equipment. He thought it was a great addition to fire, emergency medical services (EMS), and law enforcement, noting it could be deployed quickly with just a phone call.

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 Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5F be approved.

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Chair Hartung reopened Agenda Item 4. He informed he would make a \$10,000 donation to the Nevada Peer Support Network (NPSN) and recommended the

donation be agendized for a Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meeting as soon as possible. He declared that the NPSN was a much-needed group and expressed gratitude to Chief Charles Moore for bringing Item 5C to his attention.

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**23-012F**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 Report.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Captain Jamie Rivera announced the 11th annual Guns and Hoses Golf Tournament. He observed this event was held every year and was hosted by Mr. Jon Sieben and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). He informed that last year the event raised \$30,000 for the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation (NNCCF). He stated the event was scheduled for April 24, 2023, and invited the members of the Board to register. He remarked the event was for a good cause and was supported by the TMFPD and the WCSO.

Captain Rivera reported that he and other leaders from the State of Nevada and throughout the Country attended the Affiliate Leadership Training Summit (ALTS). At the conference, attendees learned new information concerning the fire service as it related to cancer and leadership topics.

Captain Rivera informed that in the next month, he would be sending emails to the members of the Board on behalf of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) to schedule individual meetings to discuss the IAFF's agenda and its expectations for the Board.

**23-013F**      **AGENDA ITEM 7** Fire Chief Report

A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of January and February 2023 to include the following items:

1. Summary of the Emergency Green Waste Collection Effort: Pre-Storm
2. EMS Program Update
3. Old Hug High School Training Evolutions
4. Capital Project Update and Service Level

B. Review of recent critical calls response statistics

1. November 2022
2. December 2022

Chief Charles Moore updated the Commission about the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's (TMFPD) efforts to assist the County in cleaning up broken tree branches from the recent storm. He mentioned a photo in the report that depicted the amount of debris cleaned up and stated it took three days to chip all the branches that were collected. He noted collection sites were set up at Bowers Station (Station 30), Barron Way

(headquarters), and the Lemmon Valley volunteer station. He affirmed the project was successful and needed by the community.

Chief Moore provided a program update about emergency medical services (EMS). He stated the EMS division was always looking for new opportunities to serve. He informed that the EMS division recently started working with the Washoe County School District (WCSD) to teach clinical staff about emergency medicine. He observed this program would be ongoing. He pointed out the TMFPD did not just keep its firefighters trained, staff also used their skills to teach members of the community what to do in an emergency.

Chief Moore spoke about Item 3 of the Chief's Monthly Report and expressed gratitude to the WCSD for allowing the TMFPD to use the old Hug High School building to practice ventilation and rescue skills. He mentioned fire crews did not often have the ability to practice on a real building. He said the District engaged in training evolutions in conjunction with the Reno Fire Department (RFD), noting they made good use of the building. He thanked the WCSD for this opportunity.

Regarding capital projects, Chief Moore informed the Commission the TMFPD hired Wood Rogers to submit the application for the Special Use Permit (SUP) for the consolidated station in Washoe Valley. He said the project was in progress and the architect was working on the schematic design of the building. He mentioned the TMFPD was thinking of going from the schematic design to the construction document phase and skipping the design development phase to speed up the process. This would allow the District to break ground on the building in February or March 2024 with the anticipation of completing the project in December 2024. He reported that the plans for the apparatus bay at Station 37 were complete and were being cost-estimated. He indicated the TMFPD was working with Apple to implement the same design for the Washoe Valley station at the Apple Station. He said the TMFPD was working in tandem with the Apple development team and he thought once the plans were complete the District would have two stations starting up at the same time. He directed the members of the Board to their packet materials to view an outline of the prototype station. He asserted the prototype could be used for the building of future stations which would save time and money. He opined the District would not need to build another station for five to seven years. He noted the next station might be located in Spanish Springs. He reiterated that the creation of the prototype station would save time and money in the construction of future stations.

Chief Moore declared that the November and December 2022 reports would stand unless there were questions from the Board about any particular calls the TMFPD responded to.

Chair Hartung compared the TMFPD's prototype station to the methodology used by the WCSD when building schools. He asserted the process worked and saved money on the design of the structures. He observed the TMFPD's model allowed all the fire stations to be the same regardless of location, which created familiarity. He

explained that all the County would end up paying for was the configuration of how the building would fit into the site.

Chair Hartung thanked Chief Moore for the fast response regarding the green waste collection effort and the familial, regional focus. He declared the TMFPD did not care who showed up with green waste, the main objective was to prevent that waste from getting into waterways and clogging up storm drains. He affirmed it was a great effort and noted the TMFPD had partnered with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB). He expressed appreciation for Chief Moore's leadership and the work of the District stating these were the kinds of things the County did to be a good community partner.

Commissioner Garcia appended that Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers also helped with the green waste collection. Chief Moore confirmed that was correct, stating they played a big role in directing traffic and helping people bring in waste. Chair Hartung thanked CERT volunteers for their assistance and participation. Commissioner Garcia added that the communications for the green waste collection event were great, particularly on social media. She affirmed people knew when and where to go for the event.

Vice Chair Hill recognized that Chair Hartung was the one who sprung to action and asked the team to pull together because he saw there was a need in the community and that the County had the resources to help. She thanked Chair Hartung for his leadership in the green waste collection effort.

**23-014F**      **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to approve 7 additional Wildland Fuels Reduction Program positions to include one (1) Crew Boss (\$70,886.40 - \$92,227.20), one (1) Heavy Equipment Operator (\$59,196.80 - \$76,502.40), two (2) Squad Bosses (\$59,196.80 - \$76,502.40), two (2) Crew Members (\$45,884.80 - \$59,550.40) and one (1) Fire Mechanic (68,203.20 - 88,691.20) all with Regular NV PERS. (All Commission Districts.)

Wildland Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen informed the Commission that the proposed Wildland Fuels Reduction Program positions were tied to the collaborative relationship between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) and NV Energy. He stated the initial contract with NV Energy was for three years and would be expiring in the spring. He reminded that at the December 13 meeting, the TMFPD brought the draft version of the next three-year contract to the Board. It was signed by the Board but was awaiting signatures from NV Energy. He recommended that the Board amend the motion language to make the approval contingent on receiving the signed contract back from NV Energy as that was the primary funding source.

Chair Hartung stated the recommendation from Division Chief Isernhagen was a great amendment and that he had previously spoken with Chief Moore about it. He declared the Board needed to act, but the contract was contingent on the partnership with NV Energy.

Vice Chair Hill inquired if there were any additional costs that the organization would be picking up to which Division Chief Isernhagen responded no. He outlined that roughly 80 percent of the program would be covered by NV Energy, and about 13 percent by other contracts. He shared that the TMFPD had contracts with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), subgrants through the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), and grants with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He informed that historically 7 percent of the program was funded by the TMFPD for things like green waste and fire response. He declared this proposal did not come with a needed increase in expenditures and that the District could manage with its current budgets. Vice Chair Hill clarified that the positions were fully funded by NV Energy but there were offsets in the program, and Division Chief Isernhagen affirmed her statement.

Chair Hartung requested that Chief Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras provide the Board with amended motion language in order to satisfy the needs of the District Attorney's (DA) Office. Ms. Kandaras responded the amendment could read "the recommendation to approve the positions listed contingent on the approval of funding by NV Energy."

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that the positions recommended in the staff report be approved contingent on NV Energy signing the agreement that went to the Board in December.

**23-015F**      **AGENDA ITEM 9** Presentation, discussion, and possible direction to staff on the status of the current Fiscal Year Budget, and discussion on current revenues and expenditures, funding priorities, and projects anticipated for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (FY 23/24) budget. This item will include discussion on, new initiatives, capital projects including fire stations and fire trucks and equipment, service levels, and debt financing. (All Commission Districts.)

Chief Charles Moore stated Chief Fiscal Officer Cynthia Vance would provide a lot of the information for this item. He pointed out this was an important topic for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) for the next three years, noting the District was shaping what the service level would look like during that time frame. He indicated there were some big-ticket items that would allow the TMFPD to meet future demands.

Chief Moore reported the District hired 43 fuels and wildland firefighters over the past couple of years, noting the positions were funded largely by NV Energy. Those firefighters could assist with wildland fires at the TMFPD's expense. He asserted the fuels and wildland firefighters were a great force multiplier for the District. Additionally, the TMFPD hired approximately 15 firefighter/paramedics over the past couple of years. He observed that was a self-sustaining program and the District was now

transporting patients through ambulances and collecting transportation fees. Those 15 positions were largely funded through Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) revenue. He informed the fuels and wildland firefighters and the firefighter/paramedics were included in the budget but did not place a burden on the taxpayers. He expressed pride for the hard work of his staff and said the TMFPD wanted to continue those programs going forward. He thought it was important to point out that the expansion of the District over the past couple of years was huge and he was proud to share that many of the financial resources that contributed to that expansion came from sources other than the TMFPD.

Ms. Vance conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Preliminary Budget; Revenues; Expenditures; Current Debt; Capital – Rolling Stock; Capital – Facilities; Capital – Facilities Longer Term; February 7, 2023 (2 slides); Questions.

Ms. Vance shared that the TMFPD's budget season had started; the preliminary budget was due in April and the final budget would come to the Board in May. She informed that for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) staff had projected the ending fund balance for the general fund would be about 20.6 percent of the FY22 expenditures, which was approximately \$8.7 million. Therefore, that was the balance staff used to start the FY23 budget. She reported the FY22 general fund ending fund balance was actually about \$11 million, or 27.7 percent. She spoke about encumbrances, or purchase orders that were not received, noting these were rolled annually. After the encumbrances were taken into account, the District had approximately \$1.9 million in additional resources that were not contemplated in the original FY23 budget for the general fund. She opined most of those funds would be used for the FY24 capital projects. She indicated the TMFPD might come back to the Board in April or May with an augmentation so some of the funds could be encumbered depending on the capital process and when contracts needed to be issued. She shared that the construction fund had approximately \$600,000 over the projected ending fund balance. The District had just over \$2 million available for augmentation or to be considered in the FY24 budget for capital projects.

The current property tax-related revenues for FY23, Ms. Vance reported, were approximately 3.2 percent over budget at \$13.6 million as of December 31, 2022. She informed the consolidated tax (CTX) revenues were approximately 3.7 percent under budget, noting \$3.8 million had been collected as of December 31. She noted CTX revenues were about two months behind. She remarked the general revenues were still at budget because the property tax revenues were twice the size of the CTX revenues. She mentioned the District was working with an economist to make projections five years out. Staff wanted to ensure the TMFPD was sustainable for multiple years, not just one year at a time.

Ms. Vance observed that for the FY24 budget, the District's obligations to fund the elements in the labor agreements would come first, and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) agreements ran through FY24. She said there was a Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) contribution rate increase that would take



effect on July 1. For police and fire employees, it would increase from 44 to 50 percent, which she asserted was a significant increase. The government employee contribution rate would increase from 29.75 to 33.5 percent. She noted the majority of the TMFPD's employees were in the police and fire employee group. She commented the District would keep service and supply types of initiatives at a modest increase. Staff estimated this increase to be around 2 percent.

Ms. Vance shared the TMFPD was looking into debt financing for capital projects including the new stations, as well as the rolling stock. She reported rolling stock had a two-to-three-year lead time, so staff had to place the orders in advance but the District would not have to pay for or finance the items for two to three years. She said the TMFPD wanted to ensure new rolling stock was included in the five-year projections. As of June 2022 when the fiscal year closed, the TMFPD's had a \$4.4 million equipment bond, and capital improvement bonds in the amounts of \$2 million and \$7 million. The annual debt service payment was approximately \$1 million. She stated the \$4.4 million bond would mature in 2030, the \$2 million bond in 2035, and the \$7 million bond in 2046. She noted all the bonds had very low interest rates around 1 to 2 percent, and unfortunately, interest rates were no longer that low.

Chief Moore spoke about rolling stock. He said the TMFPD used to expect to receive a fire truck about ten months to one year after placing the order, but due to supply chain issues, it now took up to three years. This required the District to be forward-thinking. He stated the TMFPD wanted to order a new ladder truck, noting its current ladder truck was purchased used, and then refurbished. He asserted the current ladder truck would be at the end of its life by the time a new truck arrived. He observed the TMFPD needed to anticipate its needs three years ahead for all its rolling stock, including structural engines, wildland engines, water tenders, and ambulances. He indicated it created a bit of a dilemma that the District needed to order now. He noted the District could place an order with the authority of the Board. He wanted the Board to know the TMFPD would have these future costs. He observed staff was very careful in planning for the District's future expenditures. He wanted the Board to be aware that big expenditures would be recommended in the budget.

Chief Moore highlighted what the service level would look like in three years. He mentioned there were two stations in the Washoe Valley area that were de minimis in terms of their total call volume. The southern battalion historically had 25 percent of the total call volume with the remaining 75 percent being in the north, but there were more stations in the south. He reminded that in 2009 the TMFPD recommended to the Board that two of the stations in Washoe Valley be consolidated, a new modern station be built in Washoe Valley, and the crew be moved to the north. He indicated that crew would likely go to the Apple Station which was being funded by Apple except for some additional bay space and bedrooms the TMFPD wanted to add. He said the District anticipated putting a fire crew at that station along with an ambulance to be able to run medical calls along the Interstate-80 (I-80) corridor. He shared that Tesla's plan to add additional square footage to its gigafactory caught his attention. Though Tesla was not in Washoe County, he believed the people who traveled from Washoe County to Storey

County would need the TMFPD's services at some point. He opined Washoe County and Storey County could be good partners up and down the wildland corridor of I-80 which frequently had robust fires. He thought it was a service-level gap that needed to be filled considering the District went all the way down to the County line at Wadsworth. Even though the TMFPD had tribal assistance in Wadsworth proper, the District held responsibility for a long stretch of the interstate.

Once the stations opened, Chief Moore observed the TMFPD would be prepared to staff them immediately. He noted the District planned to have the rolling stock to go into those stations. As soon as a certificate of occupancy (C of O) was received the stations would become operational. He spoke about the Hidden Valley station (Station 37) noting it currently served the I-80 corridor. He indicated he briefly looked at the statistics for Station 37 and it was serving just under 60 calls per year down the I-80 corridor. He remarked the travel distances for those calls were long, resulting in increased response times. He pointed out that when Station 37 served calls down the I-80 corridor it was unable to protect Hidden Valley. He informed that Hidden Valley was an essential station for the District due to its ability to serve and supplement responses to critical calls in both the north and south battalions. He thought it was a good idea to keep Hidden Valley crews in Hidden Valley as much as possible.

Chief Moore reported the TMFPD was days away from receiving the C of O on the residential portion of the Hidden Valley station. He addressed Commissioner Garcia, explaining the District purchased a house next to the Hidden Valley station and chose to make that the crew quarters and connect it with a future apparatus bay. He said the TMFPD was ready to move into the crew quarters and noted the building had a recreational vehicle (RV) garage which was where the engine would be stored while the new apparatus bay was being built. He observed Hidden Valley would have a modern station once the updates were completed. The TMFPD would be removing the modular building on the property because there was an issue with the irrigation line that ran right underneath the construction site. He stated the irrigation line was made of transite concrete which was very brittle. If equipment were placed on top of it, there was a risk of fracturing the concrete line which was the sole source of water irrigating the Hidden Valley golf course. He informed the plans for the station were completed and the bid process had begun. The District would know how much the apparatus bay portion of the station would cost in the near future.

Chief Moore shared the District was contemplating expanding the Cold Springs station with the possibility of adding an additional ambulance. He observed the TMFPD was in discussions with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) about many things. He addressed Chair Hartung, stating he understood Chair Hartung did not want the TMFPD to continue to send a fire engine and an ambulance to every single call. He informed the District was speaking with REMSA about downsizing the response so both a fire engine and an ambulance were not sent for a low-level emergency. For high-level incidents, the District had five people it was able to send. He said the TMFPD was looking at a complement of five firefighters at Cold Springs, Sun Valley, Washoe Valley, and Spanish Springs. Some of the slower stations, such as Galena,

would remain a complement of three firefighters, and there were four firefighters on duty at Station 33 with the ladder truck. He said that described the service level the TMFPD was working on; it was what the District would be able to provide to the citizens going forward. He noted the service level had increased over the past ten years.

Chief Moore remarked that building capital assets would cost money. He said TMFPD staff wanted authorization to go to the Debt Management Commission (DMC), which was the first step in obtaining bond financing. He mentioned staff was being very diligent with revenue forecasts to ensure that if the District incurred debt it was able to pay for it. The TMFPD was being very careful about expenditures going forward and was looking at modest increases in the expenditure level for the next year; it was trying to hold that increase around 2 percent. He spoke about curbside chipping for senior citizens. The District wanted to take members of its fuels crew around to do curbside chipping for individuals who were unable to drop off green waste at one of the TMFPD's sites.

Regarding consolidated dispatch, Chief Moore complimented County Manager Eric Brown for his efforts in the process. He opined when the County, the Cities of Reno and Sparks, REMSA, and law enforcement all used a common computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system and were on the same page about dispatch, they would be in a better position to share information during an emergency and would be better prepared to respond. He expressed hope this would also allow dispatch to send the closest unit, regardless of jurisdiction, to critical emergencies such as cardiac arrest. He remarked this might not be necessary for low-level calls, but asserted when a person's life was at risk the closest unit must be sent.

Chief Moore stated there would be some cost increases with regard to the new Project 25 (P25) radio system. He did not think the costs would be significant. He reminded that the TMFPD wanted to keep its expenditures low in anticipation of diverting some financial resources to capital projects and putting money in the bank to pay for debt service without putting much pressure on any other component of the budget.

Chair Hartung requested information about Silver Knolls and Lemmon Valley and how the TMFPD would handle the emerging growth in that area. He commented the entire region was growing. He thanked Chief Moore for his leadership, especially in the East Truckee Canyon. He believed the Apple Station was an essential station. He opined that as time went on, the Apple Station would become a centrally located station due to future growth in the East Truckee Canyon. He spoke about future growth in Wadsworth, noting there was still a lot of privately owned land there. He commented about problems needing to be solved which he believed would occur within the next 20 years. He asserted that when that happened, the Apple Station would be uniquely and centrally located. Chief Moore pointed out Apple had shared its development plans and he believed those plans were reason enough to justify the station. Chair Hartung agreed and thanked Chief Moore again for his leadership and for keeping the progress of the Apple Station on track. Chief Moore wanted to give Chair Hartung credit for keeping him on track.

Chief Moore mentioned ten acres the TMFPD purchased in Spanish Springs. He said the District was looking to the future with regard to employment and was partnering with Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and the Washoe County School District (WCSD). He informed the TMFPD spoke with the WCSD about getting young men and women involved in fire science in high school to complete some prerequisites so they could go on to get a fire science degree at TMCC. He noted there was a possibility of those students progressing to the level of a paramedic. Once they were finished with school, the students could work for the District. He informed the TMFPD wanted to build a campus on the ten acres in partnership with TMCC. He believed it would be a unique collaboration that allowed the TMFPD to hire its employees from within Washoe County, rather than recruiting from other states. He expressed excitement about developing employees locally who would be able to live and have careers in the same community they grew up in. Chair Hartung observed that partnering with the educational system played into the larger picture of workforce development. He said this allowed for the growth of a much-needed workforce in Nevada and applauded the efforts of Chief Moore.

Commissioner Garcia pointed out the solar emergency power backup mentioned on slide 7. She shared she recently spoke with Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro about capital projects and saw the TMFPD's design plans. She asked if the TMFPD had any other sustainability-related aspects to its design plans. Chief Moore responded yes, stating staff had been working on a solar grant. He invited Wildland Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen to speak about the grant. He noted staff was working on the grant to add solar to stations. Division Chief Isernhagen indicated he and Training and Logistics Division Chief Jay Cwiak were working on grant applications to install solar panels and backup battery storage at headquarters and Stations 33, 36, and 45. He said the District hoped to have these at all the stations eventually but would address additional stations as funding opportunities arose. Chief Moore opined electric fire trucks were coming and Chair Hartung said he would not be surprised. Chair Hartung stated he previously spoke with Chief Moore about fire trucks driving quickly for a few minutes to arrive at a call and then sitting idle for the next several hours. He thought there was a better solution.

Ms. Vance continued her presentation, stating the District was not looking to hire any additional personnel unless there were other grant opportunities, contracts, or revenue sources to offset those new positions. She reminded that the wildland and fuels program grew from one employee to 43 and was 83 percent funded by other sources. She expected the ratio to decline with the new positions. The expenses would remain about the same with a small increase internally. There would be a bigger offset with NV Energy and federal and State grants. She observed the goal of the budget was the sustainability of the District's finances, noting this was the strategic standard. She remarked the TMFPD would be targeting an ending fund balance between 16 and 25 percent. She asserted the District would be happy to include any programs or initiatives in its budget process that the Board wanted to recommend.

Chair Hartung wanted to ensure the TMFPD had plans for a station to serve Lemmon Valley, Golden Valley, and Silver Knolls, noting it was a spread-out area. He

asked for a potential timeframe to be brought to the Board. He suggested potentially upgrading the Lemmon Valley station and using the current structure, possibly before building a new station in Spanish Springs. He asserted Station 46 in Spanish Springs was aging but was still viable and in good condition. He noted an apparatus bay was just added to that station. He understood it was not just about building a station, it was about staffing. He said as the County continued to grow, it needed to make sure it was covering all of its territory effectively. Chief Moore thought the Board should be involved in the TMFPD's Master Plan and Strategic Plan process over the next 6 to 12 months. A timeline would be established so the Board understood when specific resources would be needed and implemented.

Chair Hartung spoke about senior citizens who were unable to take their green waste to the TMFPD's drop-off sites. He stated Spanish Springs had transitional housing where individuals went from living independently to living in managed care. He asserted the County would see more of this in the coming years. He observed Cascade of the Sierras in Spanish Springs had high call rates to the District. He thought the County needed to consider senior living facilities when identifying locations to build new stations. He commended Chief Moore for adding a smaller crew to the Spanish Springs area so the TMFPD did not have to respond to Cascade every time with a full complement; a two-person crew could respond to those calls. He thought the Board might want to identify the locations where those types of services and points of contact were needed.

Vice Chair Hill thought the status of the budget for the next fiscal year looked reasonable. She observed the capital projects in Washoe Valley were overdue and that the County needed to invest in them. She believed the citizens were excited about those projects. She wanted the Board to think about regional dispatch and whether there would be more opportunities for the County to work with its regional partners, such as sharing buildings. She wondered if the County would be more cooperative in the future. She agreed with the investments that needed to be made in Stead but noted the County had partners there. She wanted the County to be open-minded to new cooperation and discussion with its regional partners. She spoke about the comments made by Commissioner Garcia regarding conservation and using less energy at the facilities. She understood the County was working on this and thought Mr. Solaro would be a great contact for the TMFPD during the Master Plan process. With regard to diversity in the workforce, she indicated it was a tough landscape for women and people of color. She wondered if there was an opportunity for the District to include training in its budget. She looked forward to seeing detailed budget information for the next fiscal year.

Chair Hartung asked Chief Moore about action for this item. He inquired if Chief Moore was comfortable with the Board just accepting the report. Chief Moore responded that accepting the report would be fine. He said staff wanted to present their strategy on how they would approach the budget recommendations and noted more information would be provided to the Board in the months ahead. Chair Hartung thought accepting the report was an appropriate action.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be accepted.

**23-016F      AGENDA ITEM 10 Announcements/Reports.**

Commissioner Herman asserted that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) no longer liked to use fire retardants and wondered if Chief Charles Moore had heard anything about that. Chief Moore responded no. Commissioner Herman mentioned the National Association of Counties (NACo) would hold several meetings about this issue while she was in Washington, D.C. Chief Moore indicated that was good information to have. Commissioner Herman opined the County depended on the fire retardants and there was not enough water to compensate if the retardants were not used. Chief Moore agreed.

Chair Hartung believed the concerns about the fire retardants were related to the per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), noting the chemicals were getting into the water supply. He asserted the conversations surrounding the discontinuation of fire retardants were becoming more robust. He wanted to monitor the issue and be aware of any emerging technologies that may replace the fire retardants. He addressed Commissioner Herman, stating he looked forward to hearing about legislative issues.

**23-017F      AGENDA ITEM 11 Public Comment.**

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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**11:15 a.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

  
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**VAUGHN HARTUNG**, Chair  
Truckee Meadows Fire  
Protection District

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared By:*  
*Taylor Chambers and Lauren Morris, Deputy County Clerks*

