

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MARCH 7, 2023

PRESENT:

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

Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
Wade Carner, Deputy District Attorney

The Board convened at 10:01 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:

23-020F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Mr. Thomas Daly stated he was a resident of the Estates at Mt. Rose. He submitted a document that was provided to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He discussed evacuations during wildfires and declared there were seven at-risk communities in the Mt. Rose Highway corridor west of Thomas Creek Road including Galena Forest, Montreaux, Timberline, Callahan Ranch, the Estates at Mt. Rose, Monte Vista, and Saddlehorn. The communities had a combined population of about 10,000 residents. Washoe County informed the communities they were in a wildfire hazard zone. The Mt. Rose Highway corridor experienced recommended or mandated partial wildfire evacuations in the 2011 Washoe Drive Fire, the 2019 Rock Farm Fire, and the 2022 Joy Lake Fire. He recalled a computer simulation presented by Wildland Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen at the November 1, 2022, Board meeting. The simulation demonstrated a wind-driven wildfire burning down from Mt. Rose into the adjacent communities causing destruction and loss of life. He observed a large-scale evacuation of the area would be required for such a fire. He pointed out that Washoe County employed the Code Red notification system for evacuation notices, but the system was an opt-in and residents would not get the evacuation notice unless they had previously signed up to receive alerts. He opined the flaw of the system had tragic consequences elsewhere. He recalled that during the November 2018 Camp Fire in Butte County, which also used the Code Red alert system, only 11 percent of residents were signed up, resulting in the loss of 85 lives. He mentioned the alert was not sent until two and a half hours after the fire started, making it too late for residents to evacuate safely. He asked the Board to consider recommending an ordinance to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to mandate participation in the Code Red alert system for those who lived in wildfire hazard zones. He suggested the

precedent for doing so was the election system, noting people received mail-in ballots unless they opted out.

Chief Deputy County Clerk Cathy Smith advised the Board she received an emailed public comment from Ms. Laura Hill Temmerman, which she placed on the record.

23-021F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Commissioners’/Fire Chief’s announcements, requests for information, topics for future agendas, and statements relating to items, not on the Agenda.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated that in March open burning was allowed, but due to weather conditions, the TMFPD would try to extend the allowance into April if the Washoe County health district did not oppose it.

Chair Hartung mentioned the weather prediction of rain over the coming weekend. Chief Moore claimed the District was concerned about the forecasted rain due to flood hazards and informed snow on rooftops would absorb rain and make the weight on the roofs much heavier. The TMFPD recommended that the community take steps to remove the snow from roofs before the onset of the rain.

Commissioner Herman announced the Lemmon Valley community was grateful for the District’s work in 2017 and beyond and asserted that the community would need help again. Chief Moore thanked Commissioner Herman for her comments.

Chair Hartung expressed thanks to Chief Moore for the District’s interactions throughout the region during the busy winter season. He reported the roads were treacherous throughout the County and thanked the crews for their rapid responses. He indicated the District had been busy in the East Truckee Canyon with several incidents. He commented he was looking forward to getting the Apple Station up and running.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A THROUGH 5C

23-022F **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the February 7, 2023 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

23-023F **5B** Recommendation to approve a Cooperative Agreement between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and North Lyon County Fire Protection District to continue the practice of automatic and mutual aid between the Districts. (All Commission Districts)

23-024F **5C** Recommendation to approve an agreement to retain Eide Bailly LLP to perform independent audit services for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 in an amount of \$60,000 plus federal expenditure audit fee of \$8,000 per major program, if required. Audit Services are professional in nature and therefore exempt from competitive

bidding requirements pursuant to NRS 332.115. This audit is being done to satisfy NRS 354.624, which requires each local government to provide for an annual audit of financial statements by a certified public accountant registered in the State of Nevada and to notify the state of this engagement by March 31st of each fiscal year. (All Commission Districts)

Chair Hartung noted Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore was requesting to pull Item 5D for additional discussion.

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5C, with the exclusion of 5D, be approved.

23-025F **5D** Recommendation to approve the donation of one surplus 2012 Palm Harbor Manufactured Home, Serial Number NVPH2010590AB, in an “as is - where is” condition from the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to Washoe County and, if approved, authorize Chairman to execute a Resolution for same. (Commission District 4)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore reported the issue with the manufactured home on the Hidden Valley Station property was that it needed to be moved so the transite concrete pipe providing irrigation to the Hidden Valley golf course could be replaced. He informed the District only had the month of March to replace the pipe as irrigation of the golf course was predicted to begin in April. He noted that the transite pipe was brittle and was likely to break at the onset of the construction of the apparatus bay. The District had agreed to remove the pipe at its expense. After discussion with Washoe County, it was determined the manufactured home should be taken to Gerlach to be used as housing for the County’s Roads crew. The District was happy to donate it, but the County had also requested a contribution from the District in the amount of \$6,000 to dismantle the structure. He declared the value of the home was about \$62,000 and the District would also have expenses for road cut permits and the construction of the new irrigation pipe. He relayed that he told the County he would bring the issue to the Board to determine if it wanted to contribute the \$6,000 to the County. He imparted other options for the manufactured home that had surfaced including a request from the Pyramid Lake Fire Department to be considered for the donation. The Pyramid Lake Fire Department would move the structure to Wadsworth, which was owned by the District but operated by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. Pyramid Lake Fire Chief Donald Pelt relayed to Chief Moore he would seek a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant to staff the Wadsworth station, which Chief Moore believed would be an ideal place for a new fire crew. Chief Moore shared there was also an option to auction the structure off in the fall which would bring revenue to the District. He reiterated he was happy to help the County with its housing needs in Gerlach but wanted the Board’s consideration about whether to contribute the \$6,000. He added the Staff Report was

written as a donation “as is, where is” and the request from the Pyramid Lake Fire Department came after the Staff Report was authored and approved.

Chair Hartung agreed with Chief Moore and asked what the cost would be to move the structure to Wadsworth or if the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe would incur the cost. Chief Moore responded that had not been negotiated but he assumed the District would pay the expense to move the structure which would be about \$25,000. The District would benefit from the fact that the Tribe would staff the Wadsworth fire station which served about 300 homes in the County. There was a long-standing agreement with the Tribe that it would respond to those areas for the District. Chair Hartung inquired if the District had looked into moving the structure to any other location in the County, such as Lemmon Valley or one of the other North Valleys locations. Chief Moore stated the TMFPD had discussed Lemmon Valley, but the Lemmon Valley volunteers were not being used very often except for the fuels crew. He declared the sense of urgency was that if the irrigation pipe was going to be replaced it needed to happen quickly. If the Board wished to delay, it could wait until late November as construction of the apparatus bay at Hidden Valley was not anticipated to begin until the following spring. Chair Hartung did not think it was fair for the District to pay for the cost of moving the structure as it was already donating an asset of over \$60,000 to Washoe County.

Vice Chair Hill agreed with Chair Hartung and wanted to donate the structure to another government agency rather than auction it off. She mentioned she would be interested in helping the District’s partners at the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe because the District worked so closely with them. She asked for a determination from the District Attorney’s (DA) Office on giving direction because the Staff Report did not contain that option. Deputy District Attorney Wade Carner replied the Staff Report was written for the donation to the County and if the Board wanted to consider a different option, the item would have to come back before the Board. Chair Hartung asked if the Board could vote on whether to incur the cost the County had requested. Chief Moore responded that was not in the Staff Report. Attorney Carner affirmed that was correct.

Chair Hartung inquired what the Board was styled to do that day. Attorney Carner responded the Board was voting on whether or not to approve the donation to the County. Chair Hartung asked if the money portion of the agreement would be sorted out later. Chief Moore answered the Board’s direction to the TMFPD would be to donate the structure “as is, where is” and the County would pick up the cost of dismantling and moving the structure to Gerlach which would cost about \$25,000. Chair Hartung asked if the item would be brought back before the Board if the County decided it did not want to pay to move the structure. Chief Moore confirmed that was correct.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Vice Chair Hill did not know if she could vote on the item because the Board did not know if the County would be willing to incur the moving costs of the structure and asked if the item could be tabled. Chair Hartung countered instead of tabling the item, the

Board could vote on donating the structure “as is, where is.” If the County decided it did not want it, the item would come back to the Board.

On motion by Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Item 5D be approved and authorized.

23-026F **AGENDA ITEM 6** Presentation regarding Washoe County’s deployment of new evacuation software and the challenges faced with community-wide evacuation actions. This item will also include discussion about evacuations specific to wildfire incidents. (All Commission Districts)

Emergency Management Administrator Kelly Echeverria conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Regional Preparedness Priorities; 13 Hazards; Preparedness Priorities; Evacuations; Flow of Events; Alerts; CodeRED Alerting Tool; Challenges; Pilot Program; Partners.

Ms. Echeverria stated there was an opportunity to implement software that would help with evacuations. She outlined the 13 hazards identified in the hazard mitigation plan which the Emergency Management team continuously trained and planned for. She highlighted her team’s five preparedness priorities within their integrated preparedness plan. She noted these were evaluated annually to identify gaps in exercises and real-world responses and how to close the gaps with training, planning, equipment, or programs. Of the five priorities, the number one priority was communication. She hoped the program would address the top two priorities specifically.

Ms. Echeverria outlined the flow of events for evacuations and the information provided when sending out an evacuation alert including encouraging community members to check traditional and social media for more information. She indicated this was an issue because it took time to look up information. The County recently launched Emergency Washoe which allowed the community to access information in an emergency, but this also took time. She hoped the County would be able to overcome that with a solution provided by Perimeter.

Ms. Echeverria mentioned the Code Red alerting tool and informed it was not an opt-in tool. People could sign up in the system, and they would select the method they wanted to use for communication whether it be via email, text, social media, or voicemail so individuals would only receive the alert in the manner they requested. She stated emergency alerts were sent through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and wireless emergency alerts. This meant an area was selected on a map and messages were sent to every cell phone in that area. She compared Code Red to reverse 911 and declared that landline phones could still be signed up for Code Red. She noted if a landline was the only method of communication an individual had, they would have to sign up for their area. Code Red also allowed for communication with deaf and hard-of-hearing populations. She noted every box was selected when sending emergency alerts to reach as many people as possible.

Ms. Echeverria outlined emergency management challenges and cited the number one challenge was communication. She commended the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) on its communication with the Emergency Management team so real-time information could be relayed in the best way possible. She informed that TMFPD Communications Manager Adam Mayberry worked with Emergency Management annually to determine what methods were still working or needed to be altered. She remarked personal awareness was difficult for community members as it could be confusing for them to determine their location in relation to the threat.

Ms. Echeverria observed the opportunity to start a pilot program came about the year prior. The Emergency Management team was introduced to Perimeter and was able to identify a path forward for closing this gap. Funding from the United States (U.S.) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was identified as the best way to start a pilot program. The program would span between Washoe County, Carson City, and Douglas County, with the potential to include Storey County. She introduced Perimeter Technical Lead Noah Wu to discuss the Perimeter program.

Mr. Wu continued the PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Real-Time Communication Between Fire, Law, Emergency Management and the Public During Disasters; Pre-Planning Real-Time Collaboration and Alert the Public; Cross Channel Communication; Perimeter Platform is Designed For.

Mr. Wu informed Perimeter was an evacuation management software that enabled real-time communication between first responders and the public during disasters. He spoke about how the platform would be used by public safety in Washoe County. He stated there was pre-planning that could be done by public safety. Due to the dynamic nature of incidents in the County, Perimeter would support the real-time creation of evacuation polygons during an incident. Emergency Management could also input routes and closures, and mark other evacuation data and hazards on the platform. Chair Hartung interjected to inquire about evacuation polygons. He questioned if there would be pre-determined routes and how the routes would be determined. Ms. Echeverria stated the current plan had directional guidance. The County would not have pre-determined routes apart from regular roadways due to the consideration that danger could come from any direction. Chair Hartung reiterated there was no possible way to know where the danger was coming from and inquired if the software would work in real-time. Ms. Echeverria responded the system would work in real-time. First responders would be able to enter evacuation information into the system and drop in road closures to direct people away from danger and first responders in the safest way possible.

Mr. Wu reiterated the software would support any real-time coordination and creation of the polygons and evacuation routes. Different agencies would be able to communicate through the platform which allowed for the receipt and input of information in the field. All information updated by public safety partners would happen in real-time on the platform. Emergency Management could easily publish critical evacuation information for the public. The published information would be hosted on a separate public web map that did not require registration, signup, or download. He highlighted the benefits

of the software including the ability for residents to check their location in proximity to the danger as well as links embedding real-time updates regardless of when they were accessed.

Chair Hartung asked what would happen if he lived in the area being evacuated but was not home or if the electricity had been shut off and someone did not have access to a cell phone. Ms. Echeverria answered that a certain level of personal preparedness had to come into play. Emergency Management encouraged people to have a kit, plan for themselves and their families, and stay informed. Staying informed included knowing where to go for information. She reiterated Code Red was a great way to receive information, and individuals could choose how they would receive alerts.

Chair Hartung inquired about the amber alert system. Ms. Echeverria responded Perimeter software was very similar to amber, silver, and weather alerts; they were just sent by different entities. Chair Hartung declared other alerts were not area specific. Ms. Echeverria replied amber alerts were pushed out to traditional media and listed on highway signs. Chair Hartung informed he also received amber alerts through his phone. Ms. Echeverria stated it was possible to circle the entire region when sending out an alert and cited a situation the previous winter that required a regional alert to stay off U.S. Route 395. She affirmed evacuation alerts were always sent to an area larger than the specific area being evacuated. Chair Hartung articulated the County did not want people taking evacuation routes that would put them in more danger than they would have been in by staying in their homes. Ms. Echeverria confirmed the Perimeter platform would allow for real-time communication of roadblocks or issues for public awareness which was a capability that Emergency Management had not had in the past.

Vice Chair Hill disclosed she had attended the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) meeting for Incline Village/Crystal Bay and relayed the citizens were worried about evacuations. She wanted to ensure they were included in the software as they were part of Washoe County. Ms. Echeverria confirmed Incline Village and Crystal Bay were included and added that Emergency Management was looking into using the software for alerts regarding avalanches as well.

Vice Chair Hill inquired if the County would work with the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD). Ms. Echeverria informed Chief Ryan Sommers of the NLTFPD brought the Perimeter software to Washoe County's attention. Vice Chair Hill asked if the County was working with its partners at the Cities of Reno and Sparks. Ms. Echeverria confirmed the County was working with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and the Cities of Reno and Sparks.

Vice Chair Hill asked if tourism had been considered. Ms. Echeverria confirmed Emergency Management had taken tourism into account at every stage of the process. When people clicked the link provided in the alert, it would show their exact location in relation to the evacuation area and road conditions, making it easier to understand where to go. She asserted her team always tried to plan for the worst-case scenario and scale back from there. She informed the County was working on a multi-stage

update to its mass care and evacuation plan. The County was working with a vendor that the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) had been working with to identify where any choke points might be in an evacuation and what the County could do to overcome them.

Commissioner Garcia was interested in the accessibility components of the Perimeter software. She recounted there was accessibility to address the different geographical areas, deaf and hard-of-hearing community members, and areas with low connectivity. She mentioned the growing population of non-English speakers and asked if there were any considerations for those individuals. Ms. Echeverria informed that in the Code Red software people could select their preferred language which should automatically translate alerts to the selected language. She declared Emergency Management worked with The Language Bank when there was a known community with a high population that spoke a different language. The Language Bank provided both the language and the recorded messages in that language to minimize mistranslations.

TMFPD Chief Charles Moore mentioned most of the evacuation information would be accessible through graphic information as opposed to just text. He thought this would be helpful because it would give people a physical representation of where the danger was in proximity to their person or home. This would allow them to better understand the evacuation route and make the best decision to protect their life and the lives of their loved ones. He opined the ability to communicate with the Sheriff's Office (WCSO) and the Emergency Management team through the Perimeter software was invaluable.

Chair Hartung pointed out there was always a group of people who did not have access to cell phones. He asked if the software contemplated areas with senior living facilities where there were large groups of people dependent on others to help them evacuate. Ms. Echeverria affirmed staff at senior living facilities were equipped with alternate care and evacuation plans. Those plans were run through the health district. Chair Hartung mentioned there had been incidents in other locations where senior facilities had to shelter in place. Ms. Echeverria responded that Emergency Management planned and conducted exercises and testing of evacuation plans at different levels to find and address gaps. Chair Hartung compared emergency planning to a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) exercise and stressed the importance of identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Vice Chair Hill recounted she participated in tabletop exercises with the Emergency Management team from all over the region. She informed that senior services staff was included and understood where the gaps were.

Chair Hartung asked what action was required for this item. Chief Moore responded no action was needed and stated more information would be going out to the public in the spring or early summer. Ms. Echeverria hoped the system would be up and running in four to eight weeks for training and testing. She noted there was funding for an evacuation exercise in Incline Village.

Chair Hartung predicted there would be a region-wide disaster, such as an earthquake, in the future. He observed there was nowhere to evacuate to. Ms. Echeverria shared there would be an Earthquake Day in October at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Northridge Earthquake would be reviewed by looking at the challenges faced and how lessons learned could be brought back to Washoe County. Chair Hartung looked forward to it and stated it was an important conversation to have as many people did not think Washoe County was in an earthquake zone.

23-027F **AGENDA ITEM 7** International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 Report

International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 (IAFF) President Patrick Walsh offered congratulations to Commissioner Garcia and Commissioner Clark on their election to the Board and Commissioner Herman for her re-election. He said the IAFF looked forward to meeting with the members of the Board to discuss concerns and solve any potential issues.

Mr. Walsh stated IAFF Vice President Jamie Rivera was attending the IAFF Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., with a delegation from the Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada (PFFN). They would be meeting with various elected officials regarding issues in Northern Nevada.

Mr. Walsh reminded the Board about the annual Guns and Hoses Golf Tournament fundraiser on April 24, 2023, at Lakeridge Golf Course. He claimed that over the last 11 years, approximately \$200,000 had been raised for children's cancer research. He declared the golf tournament was sold out but invited the members of the Board to attend and make an appearance.

Mr. Walsh informed the PFFN dedication of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Carson City at the legislative building would be held on April 27, 2023. He noted former Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Captain Tim Lucich (Ret.) was listed on the memorial wall.

Chair Hartung asked whether any Commissioners were playing in the tournament and commended the efforts made to raise money for children's cancer research.

23-028F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Fire Chief Report

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of November 2022 and December 2022 to include the following items:
 - 1. Strategic Plan Update
 - 2. Red Fire-Retardant
 - 3. Fire Code Issues (Deputy Chief Way)
 - 4. Capital Projects Update and Service Level Discussion

- B. Review of recent critical calls response statistics for January 2023

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore informed the District was getting started on the next generation of its strategic plan. On Strategy, the company that worked on the strategic plan for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), would also facilitate for the District. On Strategy wanted to meet with each Commissioner one-on-one to understand what the strategic objectives might be. Chief Moore offered to meet with the members of the Board in advance of those meetings. He noted this would occur sometime in April, and the TMFPD anticipated being done in early summer or late fall.

Chief Moore acknowledged Commissioner Herman's previous questions regarding red fire retardant and affirmed there was no evidence to support its discontinuation. There were some different formulations being worked on, but the use of fire retardant would not be discontinued. Chair Hartung inquired if the new retardants would be free of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Chief Moore deferred the question to Wildland Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen. Division Chief Isernhagen asserted he had reached out to his counterparts at the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), the Carson City Bureau of Land Management (BLM) District, and the BLM Nevada Division of Fire and Aviation. His counterparts stated there was no intent to change the chemical formula used in the retardant. The two things up for consideration were the amount of dye included in the retardant and the renewal of the current vendor's contract.

Chief Moore introduced Deputy Fire Chief of Prevention Dale Way to address item three, fire code issues, and Commissioner Herman's concerns regarding multi-family construction and the appearance of a lack of firewalls.

Deputy Chief Way responded there had been a lot of advancement in building technology throughout the years. He declared fire code allowed for as little as a 30-minute separation with a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13-compliant sprinkler system which was required in a three-story building. If there were concealed combustible spaces in the building, they had to be taken up with non-combustible insulation. He asserted an NFPA 13 system would protect both life and property. He stated NFPA 13R sprinkler systems would be required for two-story buildings. He informed most contractors purchased Type X gypsum board to compartmentalize each apartment unit into a one-hour. They could do 30 minutes since the units were all required to have sprinklers as of 2009. This was pursuant to the International Fire Code (IFC). He recalled a past property that had open attics and when a call for a fire came in, the department knew the building would burn to the ground because the fire was already raging through the attic. He assured attics were protected by NFPA 13 sprinkler systems. He explained there were different ways to create separation between units, including using firewalls. He explained that a true firewall created technically separate buildings by the building code. By code, a firewall would remain standing in the event of a fire, even if parts of the structure on either side were to collapse. He asserted firewalls were not used frequently.

Chief Moore stated that in April or May he might bring a recommendation for the TMFPD to go to the Debt Management Commission (DMC) for funding of capital projects. He expressed concerns about the cost of construction and the District's ability to

service debt in the event of a recession. The District contracted an economist to look at revenues going forward to ensure the TMFPD went into any debt and bond sale with full information to avoid exceeding its capacity to pay that back. He opined the Apple Station would continue to move forward as Apple was covering most of the cost with the District funding additional program elements such as two additional bedrooms and an additional apparatus bay which would not be a huge expense. He added that the apparatus bay at Hidden Valley would also not be too expensive. He expressed concern about the expense of the station at Washoe Valley which could approach \$10 million for the 11,000-square-foot station. He mentioned there was an option to make the station smaller or to use a different construction type, but it was currently looking quite expensive. The decision to move forward on that construction would be coming in the next few months. He noted he was still committed to getting that station done.

Chief Moore let item B stand unless the Board had any questions.

Chair Hartung looked forward to Chief Moore bringing capital projects back in the future.

23-029F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Presentation, discussion, and direction to staff on the configuration of a new ladder truck for the district. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Battalion Chief James Solaro conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: History; Types of Aerial Apparatus; Comparisons; Why the Comparison is Important; Conclusion.

Battalion Chief Solaro provided information listed on the “History” slide about the previous aerial apparatus purchased in 2019, which helped the District begin its mission of expansion. Based on the 2019 Insurance Services Office (ISO) assessment rating, it was determined that the District could help lower the insurance costs of citizens by utilizing its own apparatus instead of mutual aid resources. The apparatus had been in use since 2019, had an odometer reading of 104,000 miles, and was a 15-year-old machine. He reminded that in 2021 the Board was given an apparatus replacement program that stated a front-line aerial apparatus would last for 15 years and then would be moved to reserve status. He pointed out that the current apparatus was 15 years old as of 2023 and the District was starting to see some wear and tear on it. Due to supply chain issues, if the TMFPD were to submit a purchase order now, a new apparatus would not arrive for 39-41 months.

Battalion Chief Solaro indicated the current apparatus was a Straight Truck Tandem Axle. The TMFPD looked at that same apparatus as well as a Tractor Drawn Aerial (TDA). He listed the comparisons of the two apparatuses on the “Comparisons” slide and observed both options were pretty even across the board. He declared the choice came down to access, citing areas in South Reno with long driveways, in the Foothills with short and narrow roadways, in Sun Valley with narrow roadways and tight turning radiuses, and

in the North Valleys where the industrial complexes were which had tight lots when they were full of semi-trucks and employee vehicles. The District looked at access issues and maneuverability as well as logistical needs for incidents. He spoke about the carrying capacity for extrication equipment, ventilation equipment, salvage covers, and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) cylinder storage. Currently, each of the District's Type 1 apparatuses was able to carry eight SCBA cylinders total which could be used up quickly in a long-term fire. He hoped the new apparatus would have the ability to carry more SCBA cylinders. He stated the TDA apparatus would require additional training which could be accomplished in the 39 months it would take for the apparatus to arrive. He concluded the TMFPD would recommend the TDA apparatus in its budget proposal due to the apparatus' ability to carry the additional logistical equipment, and the maneuverability and access issues in the County. The District would also be able to use the new apparatus when working as a regional partner with the Cities of Sparks and Reno.

Chair Hartung mentioned that historically the Straight Truck Tandem Axle apparatus was preferred and the TDA apparatus was better in urban areas due to a tighter turning radius. He cited the County had a lot of those same issues due to the nature of older suburban areas. Battalion Chief Solaro confirmed that was correct and added there had been a nationwide increase in the use of the TDA apparatuses for all departments. Chair Hartung said the key was to have someone who could drive the rear, noting there had been accidents in the region. Battalion Chief Solaro responded the District would use the 39-month build time to get ready for the apparatus.

Chair Hartung opined the apparatus would be a good addition to the fleet and asked Chief Moore what action was required for this item. TMFPD Chief Charles Moore stated this item was just informational and he would be bringing a recommendation in the following month to place the order for the apparatus. He declared no money would be required for a down payment and that the build time would be 39 months. The District would then have two ladder trucks.

Chair Hartung inquired if Pierce Manufacturing was the only manufacturer of the apparatus to which Battalion Chief Solaro responded no. Chair Hartung inquired if the District would be going with Pierce Manufacturing again. Battalion Chief Solaro deferred the question to Fire Equipment Operator (FEO) Chris McNaught. Mr. McNaught reiterated Pierce was not the only builder for aerial apparatuses. He stated Pierce had a service center within 50 miles of the County and most of the District's fleet was manufactured by Pierce so it made sense to go with Pierce to build the new apparatus. Chair Hartung noted potential issues of dealing with a single manufacturer. Mr. McNaught informed the District was able to go through a purchasing program and was a fleet customer through Pierce so the District was able to receive price breaks. He declared if the District went through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, there might be a small reduction in price, but it could take an additional 12 to 14 months.

Chair Hartung wanted to see an option for a used apparatus when the item was brought back to the Board. He asked the TMFPD to present why it was better to buy a new apparatus as opposed to a used one.

Vice Chair Hill asked if an RFP was not required because the apparatus was a specialty piece of equipment. Battalion Chief Solaro responded that was correct if the District used a purchasing agency. Vice Chair Hill requested confirmation that going through a purchasing agency was permitted under the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). Battalion Chief Solaro responded yes.

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

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Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore requested a block vote on Items 10 and 11.

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BLOCK VOTE – 10 AND 11

23-030F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve retroactive and continued purchases for needed supplies and services from various suppliers that have or will exceed in the aggregate \$100,000 during this fiscal year but will remain within available adopted budget funding. All such purchases will continue to be subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Purchasing Act. Vendors receiving these additional funds include the following: Flyers Energy, LLC, Interstate Oil Company, and Purcell Tire & Rubber. Amounts to be paid to Flyers Energy, LLC and Purcell Tire & Rubber shall not exceed \$150,000. Amounts to be paid to Interstate Oil Company, shall not exceed \$250,000. The supplies and services to be provided by each include, but are not limited to, equipment, equipment repairs, fuel, supplies, tires and installation. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Herman, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved.

23-031F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommend authorizing the payment of up-front expenses in a total amount not to exceed \$1,086,000 for the purchase of two (2) Type V wildland fire engines (\$275,000 each), one (1) wheeled chipper (\$100,000), one (1) tractor/transport with trailer (\$400,000), one (1) drone (\$30,000), and new herbicide application equipment (\$6,000) as outlined in the NV Energy contract for services approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners in December, 2022; vendors to be determined. These upfront costs will be reimbursed under the Hazardous Fuels Management and Standby Services Agreement with NV Energy for fire suppression and project work. (All Commission Districts)

Chair Hartung wondered why a drone would be so expensive. Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore asserted the drone would have more capabilities than a traditional one including infrared to see hot spots and locate missing people. Chair Hartung responded the price made more sense.

Chair Hartung inquired if it was okay to vote on the items as a block. Deputy District Attorney Wade Carner responded yes.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Herman, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be authorized.

23-032F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Discussion and possible approval of the annual evaluation process for Fire Chief, Charles A. Moore including questions and a proposed list of evaluators and a possible discussion of goals and objectives for next year's review. The results of the evaluation will be presented at the April 4, 2023, regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore informed the process was styled similar to what County Manager Eric Brown did. He declared he had provided a preliminary list of evaluators to Chair Hartung. If approved, Human Resource Manager Carla Arribillaga would send out the evaluations and the results would be brought back to the Board the following month. Chair Hartung disclosed he had discussed this with Chief Moore and opined the provided list of evaluators was complete. He inquired if Board members had questions about the list.

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved.

23-033F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Commissioners'/Fire Chief's announcements, requests for information, topics for future agendas, and statements relating to items, not on the Agenda.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore mentioned a memorial service that would take place the following day to honor the lives lost in the Care Flight incident. He informed that parking would be available at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. Doors would open at 1:00 p.m., and the service would begin at 2:00 p.m.

23-034F AGENDA ITEM 15 Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

23-035F AGENDA ITEM 13 Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor issues with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

Chair Hartung believed TMFPD Chief Charles Moore had requested a closed session and Chief Moore confirmed that was correct. Agenda Item 14 would be heard first and then the Board would adjourn and go into the closed session. Chair Hartung indicated he would open Agenda Item 15 while the Board was still in Chambers.

11:24 a.m. The Board recessed.

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11:43 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 Smoti, Chief Deputy
LENN GALASSINI, Washoe County Clerk
and Official Clerk, Truckee Meadows
Fire Protection District
Minutes Prepared by:
Taylor Chambers and Lauren Morris, Deputy County Clerks