

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

APRIL 4, 2023

PRESENT:

Alexis Hill, Chair
Michael Clark, Commissioner
Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner
District 4, Vacant

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

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 Cathy Smith called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

23-038F **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

23-039F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore mentioned the TMFPD would meet twice in May. The first meeting would take place on the first Tuesday of the month and the second meeting, for the final budget adoption, would be held on May 16.

Chair Hill commended Chief Moore for stopping to help a motorist the prior day and for attending the meeting although he had been inadvertently hit by another vehicle. She thanked Chief Moore for his dedication to the community and thanked him again for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Clark said he was happy Chief Moore had not been seriously injured. He noted that assisting others during icy or snowy days could be precarious and could result in additional accidents.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A AND 5B

23-040F **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the March 7, 2023 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

23-041F **5B** Discussion and possible approval of a Data Sharing Agreement between Washoe County Health District (WCHD), the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, REMSA Health, and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A and 5B be approved.

23-042F **AGENDA ITEM 6** Resolution to Recognize and Express Appreciation for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioner Vaughn Hartung.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore read the Resolution.

Chair Hill mentioned she had learned much from former Board Chair Vaughn Hartung. She spoke about his dedication to the Board and his admiration for TMFPD staff, noting he truly felt part of the team and appreciated the efforts of staff. She thanked Chief Moore for the Resolution and his leadership.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be recognized.

23-043F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Promotional announcement and New Hire Introduction

Promotional Announcements
Kolt Clore – Engineer

New Hire Introduction
Krystal Deger - Administrative Support Specialist

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Emergency Operations Division Chief Joe Schum introduced Kolt Clore and provided a brief history of his background. Mr. Clore was pinned by his wife Elaine and his children Easton and Kinsley.

TMFPD Chief Charles Moore introduced Administrative Support Specialist Krystal Deger, noting that her positive attitude every morning set a great tone for the day. He was happy to have Ms. Deger working for the TMFPD and looked forward to having her on staff for a long time.

Commissioner Garcia congratulated the new and promoted staff members. Addressing Mr. Clore’s children, she observed that Mr. Clore was a hard worker which he demonstrated through his volunteer work, work experience, and college attendance. She noted Mr. Clore had set and achieved his goals and his children should be proud of their father.

Chair Hill welcomed the new TMFPD employees.

23-044F **AGENDA ITEM 8** International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 Report.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore observed that a representative from Local 2487 was not present in Chambers.

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Chair Hill requested Agenda Item 8 be reopened.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 President Patrick Walsh thanked the Commissioners for taking the time to meet with IAFF members individually to hear about concerns and suggestions for improving the District and community relationships. He reminded the Board about the annual Guns and Hoses Golf Tournament fundraiser on April 24, 2023, at Lakeridge Golf Course. He mentioned the tournament had raised approximately \$200,000 for children’s cancer research over the last 11 years. He invited the Commissioners to stop by and say hello or tee off with one of the foursomes at the tournament.

Mr. Walsh said the IAFF would send formal invitations to the Commissioners for the dedication of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Carson City at the legislative building which would be held on April 27, 2023. He noted former Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Captain Tim Lucich (Ret.), who passed away from occupational cancer, was listed on the memorial wall. He indicated the IAFF would appreciate the Commissioners’ support at the dedication.

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23-045F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Fire Chief Report

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of March 2023 and April 2023 to include the following items:
 - 1. Apple Fire Station Update
 - 2. Additional Capital Projects
 - 3. Earth Day, Green Waste Events, and Open Burning
 - 4. Curb Side Chipping
 - 5. Sun Valley Fire Station Additional Ambulance
- B. Review of recent critical calls response statistics for February 2023.

With regard to the Apple Fire Station, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore indicated he would present a series of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to the Board which would provide additional clarification and agreements with Apple about the construction and management of the station. Apple wanted the District to manage the entire design process and he would present certain benchmarks to Apple for approval. He noted Apple wanted the TMFPD to pay for the design fees and would then reimburse the District. He said construction documents and cost estimation would follow once an agreement was reached for the schematic design. The agreement for building the station would follow.

Chair Hill asked whether the District previously had a formal agreement with Apple about who would pay for what. Chief Moore replied there was an original development agreement with Reno Technology Park. Apple purchased the Technology Park and the development agreement was transferred as well. He noted that Apple was committed to building a two-bay station and four bedrooms. The Board previously heard presentations about the TMFPD wanting to build up to seven bedrooms and an additional bay at the District's expense.

Regarding additional capital projects, Chief Moore said he had performed some preliminary calculations of the budget and observed that building many of the District's facilities would be challenging. He stated the TMFPD had a 10 percent starting fund balance and everything in the budget indicated the debt financing would be insufficient. He noted the District would have some grant opportunities, so he planned to do all the preliminary architectural work and entitlements before presenting a recommendation for debt financing to the Board. He would wait until the economy stabilized and the turbulence over interest rates and inflation started to subside and he could have more confidence in future revenues. He thought it was important for employees to know that he would not want debts to interfere with the District's ability to employ firefighters. He mentioned the TMFPD would present a recommendation to order two new Type-1 fire engines which would take between 24 to 30 months to build, a ladder truck which would take approximately 40 months to build, and some additional staff vehicles for Battalion Chiefs which would need to be acquired. He felt confident about those orders because they were far enough in the future and would not need to be paid until the District took delivery, although there were some payment benchmarks that could save money. He thought the District had the financial capacity to have the rolling stock and it was mission-critical to ensure the TMFPD had a fleet ready at all times.

Chair Hill requested a five-year forecast like the one recently provided by County Manager Eric Brown. She said reviewing the County forecast had been helpful and the same type of report from the District would help the Board feel more comfortable. Chief Moore stated he would provide a copy of the financial analysis performed by Ekay Economic Consultants President Eugenia Larmore prior to the first meeting in May. The report was approximately 100 pages, so he would forward it before the meeting to allow the Commissioners time to read it. He observed the forecast was not dire, but the TMFPD needed to be careful before committing to approximately \$10 to \$15 million of debt which would need to be paid back.

Wildland Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen reminded the Board and the public about green waste weekends. The first two would be held on April 8 and 9 at the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) Station off East Lake Boulevard in Washoe Valley and on April 22 and 23 at the TMFPD station off Nectar Street in Lemmon Valley. He mentioned the District had historically allowed open burning for all of December and all of March, weather depending. Burning in December allowed clean up after the fall and in March it allowed for clean up before the next fire season. He said open burning in March had not been very successful because of the weather, so the District was extending open burning through April, weather permitting.

Division Chief Isernhagen was excited to institute the new pilot program for curbside chipping. The main objective of the green waste and open burning programs was to help citizens mitigate hazardous fuels around their homes. He noted citizens needed to be physically fit and financially comfortable to participate in the green waste program, and open burning had a lot size requirement. The requirements for those programs excluded many disabled, elderly, and low-income residents, so the curbside chipping pilot program would be offered from April 11 through April 21. The TMFPD would go to the homeowner and chip their materials on-site. He said approximately 70 people had signed up for the program so far.

Commissioner Clark inquired whether it would be possible to increase participation in the curbside chipping program through the use of social media. He observed the recent weather patterns contributed to broken branches and yard debris, so he wanted to ensure people were aware of the program. Division Chief Isernhagen said he would work on that with Fire Communications Manager Adam Mayberry.

Commissioner Garcia thanked staff for thinking about the County's population and considering individuals who could not get to the green waste program locations. She expressed approval of the pilot program which would go to seniors and low-income families to provide services.

Chief Moore said the TMFPD had started a 90-day implementation of a second ambulance at Sun Valley. He noted the station had bedrooms to house staff who came from the Bowers Station which was closed due to pest infestation. He said the program was going well; he reviewed the progress with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), and REMSA had reviewed it with the District Board of Health (DBH). One of the things staff was trying to measure was the number of simultaneous calls for service. He said the engine and the primary ambulance responded to the call when there was a fire, so a reserve ambulance would be available in Sun Valley which was the busiest area in the District's boundary. The reserve ambulance would prevent the TMFPD from losing the ability to respond to critical calls during heavy operational periods. He would report the progress back to the Board in approximately 60 days, but the expense was very de minimis for the TMFPD.

Chair Hill requested a report of dispatch numbers because she knew REMSA asserted it could handle calls and she thought it would be helpful to understand how the reserve ambulance was working.

Chief Moore said he would let Item B of the report stand. He mentioned the motor vehicle accident which occurred the prior day, noting he witnessed firsthand how wonderful the TMFPD crews were as Engine 36 and Medic 32 out of East Lake took very good care of him after the accident. He noted the citizen he was trying to assist had saved his life by alerting him and pulling him towards the Jersey barrier, so he received a glancing blow from the truck rather than taking an impact from the truck grill at about 45 miles per hour. He was grateful for the TMFPD crews who assisted him and the staff at the Renown emergency room (ER). He said the incident would be used as a learning moment to teach the public about driving on icy roads. He was glad to be present although he was very sore and thanked everyone who sent him well wishes via text and emails.

Chair Hill was glad Chief Moore was at the meeting and expressed gratitude for the TMFPD team that could support the community every day.

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

23-046F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve the ordering of two new ambulances, to enhance our ambulance transport service and to replace “end of life” ambulances, from Braun Northwest Inc. utilizing existing HGAC contract AM10-20 pricing at \$262,488.00 each for a total estimated cost of \$524,976.00. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Deputy Fire Chief Chris Ketring indicated the District was requesting approval to purchase two new ambulances to continue and enhance services as well as to replace ambulances that were reaching their end-of-life. He said the purchase of these ambulances was mission-critical due to their long build times of approximately 18 months or greater. In that time, two of the District’s existing ambulances would reach their recommended mileage to move to reserve status. The replacement plan indicated the TMFPD needed to purchase four ambulances to maintain the first response and reserve fleet. He said the TMFPD determined the District needed to purchase two ambulances after being turned down for the first round of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. He mentioned County staff had assisted the District with applying for federal appropriations funding for the other two ambulances, and it was possible that the District could be awarded funds in the second round of ARPA disbursements. He explained the District’s current reserve fleet consisted of a 1995 Freightliner and a 2018 leased ambulance from the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA). He noted that REMSA requested the leased ambulance be returned as soon as possible because REMSA was also experiencing issues with long build times for new apparatus. He reported the funding for the apparatus would come from the Emergency Medical Services Fund.

Commissioner Garcia asked for confirmation about the TMFPD having one ambulance at East Lake, one at Sun Valley, one at Spanish Springs, and two in reserve status. Deputy Chief Ketring said two ambulances were at Sun Valley, one at Washoe Valley, and one at Spanish Springs. Commissioner Garcia asked whether the reserve units were used for mechanical training, times of increased call volume, wildland fires, and if they were available for mutual aid. She asked where the reserve ambulances were housed. Deputy Chief Ketring said that was correct and stated the ambulances were housed in the TMFPD's warehouse on Barron Way. Commissioner Garcia asked whether the reserve units were always ready when needed. Deputy Chief Ketring said the units would not be immediately ready, but they could be put into service by moving some supplies over so they could meet state certifications. He indicated the District was purchasing equipment as the new ambulances were purchased so the reserve units would be ready for immediate response in the future.

Chair Hill observed the District had many different sources of revenue so having a report and a budget breakdown for the next five years would be helpful for the upcoming budget discussion.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Herman, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved.

23-047F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve six additional crew member (\$45,884.80 - \$59,550.40) positions with the Wildland Fuels Reduction Program positions (all with Regular NV PERS) for a total of 24 crew member positions. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved.

23-048F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Discussion and possible direction to staff, including authorizing staff to author written communications to the Legislature in opposition or support on behalf of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners regarding legislative issues proposed by legislators or by other entities permitted by the Nevada State Legislature to submit bill draft requests or such legislative issues as may be deemed by the Chair or the Board to be of critical significance to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, including a discussion and possible approval of staff recommendations to oppose SB 268 SB 304, AB 213, and support AB 178 and AB 358. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention Dale Way explained Senate Bill (SB) 268 was an advisory concerning

regulations from the State Fire Marshal (SFM) for the sale and use of fireworks. He opined the bill appeared to be the impetus for the legalization of fireworks throughout the State. There was currently no mention of taking away the County's authority to regulate fireworks. He thought any legislation which allowed the sale of products to expand would lead to legislation during the next legislative session which would limit the County's ability to regulate fireworks. He noted that fireworks would not fit well with the region's environment. Chair Hill asked whether Deputy Chief Way had spoken with Nevada Senator James Ohrenschall. Deputy Chief Way said he emailed Senator Ohrenschall approximately a week and a half previously and had not yet received a response.

Commissioner Clark observed that in different places throughout the State, there were billboards and advertisements for fireworks sales. He asked how those fireworks sales were regulated. Deputy Chief Way replied that much of that took place on tribal land which the State had no control over. He believed the only two counties that currently allowed fireworks sales were Nye and Humboldt. He believed Nye County always appeared to be skirting the law because fireworks sales were allowed, but customers were required to sign a document stating they would take the fireworks out of the County. He noted Nye County had then set up a place where fireworks could be used.

Commissioner Clark asked for confirmation that SB 268 would open the gates to fireworks sales throughout the State. Deputy Chief Way believed that was the case because having the SFM create regulations for the sale and use of fireworks was intended for the control of fireworks, not the ban of fireworks. Commissioner Clark opined that having fireworks would lead to trouble in a region with many dry fuels and high winds. Deputy Chief Way agreed, noting he was astounded by the State of Utah allowing aerial fireworks over a decade previously because it could lead to widespread fires. He said enforcement was one of the concerns because it would be easier for law enforcement to know that all fireworks were illegal rather than having some fireworks be legal. He mentioned the "Safe and Sane" fireworks program in Southern Nevada which involved the testing of all fireworks by a committee on a regular rotation. He stated one of the many issues with fireworks was that people who used them were usually impaired by the consumption of drugs and alcohol. Another issue involved imported fireworks that were not subject to quality control. Commissioner Clark expressed concern about fire safety and loss of life and property, as well as concern for first responders who would have to put their lives at risk to extinguish fires.

Chair Hill mentioned that Incline Village and Crystal Bay had fully made the move to a drone show with no more fireworks. She thought that was the wave of the future and it was very fun to watch.

With regard to Assembly Bill (AB) 213, Deputy Chief Way said the bill mostly revolved around planning regulations and timelines. The TMFPD opposed the bill because some of those timelines would depend on staff availability. He indicated section 11 of AB 213, in which the definition of a high-rise was discussed, would involve Washoe County in some of Clark County's issues. He noted that Clark County formed Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 477.030 section 12, which exempted it from the SFM regulations.

The high-rise debate was whether the height for a high-rise was 55 feet or 75 feet. He said that for the past 42 years in Nevada, a high-rise was 55 feet as a result of the Blue Ribbon Commission that was formed after the MGM and Hilton fires. The commission determined ladder effectiveness and lowered the high-rise height which made Nevada's high-rises some of the safest in the world. He stated alterations were made for some developments in both the cities of Henderson and Las Vegas by working with the SFM. He understood that other interested parties had already proposed an amendment to delete section 11 of AB 213. He reiterated that some portions of the bill could be troublesome with regard to planning development timelines which could be imposed on all government agencies.

Chair Hill asked whether Deputy Chief Way had spoken with Nevada Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui. Deputy Chief Way replied he spoke with the Professional Fire Fighters of Nevada (PFFN) and the SFM. Chair Hill knew Assemblywoman Jauregui had been putting a package of bills together, but she was not aware of whether this bill was part of the bigger package. She asked if Deputy Chief Way knew when the bill hearing would be. Deputy Chief Way was not aware of when the next hearing would take place; he believed this bill had been heard and did not know if anything else had been agendized. Chair Hill asked for confirmation that the Board would not testify if there were substantial changes but the District was not affected. Deputy Chief Way replied that was correct. He said section 11 was likely the largest piece of the bill and he thought the TMFPD would be in support of Washoe County Planning if it opposed the bill. Chair Hill applauded Deputy Chief Way's knowledge of the history of Nevada including Las Vegas.

TMFPD Chief Charles Moore spoke about SB 304 which was a proposal to make the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards legislatively required. The NFPA was a consensus standard for the industry that developed standards for fire protection via committees. He stated his most fundamental concern with this bill was that it took away the Board's ability to determine local codes and best practices, particularly the level of service with respect to how fire protection was delivered. He highlighted NFPA 1710 which was the standard of how apparatus were staffed. Apparatus staffing had been debated locally but the standard would require four-person engine companies and two-person water tenders. Based on his calculations, the TMFPD would need about 50 additional staff. The District did not have the financial capacity to staff apparatus according to that standard with firefighters being paid approximately \$200,000 for salary and benefits not including the cost of protective clothing and equipment. He thought the TMFPD had devised a very good response system with three-person engine crews and two-person ambulance crews who could cross-staff a water tender. To comply with that one standard the District would need to find a funding source of millions of dollars to hire the additional personnel. A second solution would be to consolidate fire stations and crews which would force the TMFPD to close fire stations. He said consolidation would diminish the level of service to the community because the District was largely rural and suburban. Fire stations and resources for the Cities of Reno and Sparks were concentrated because they dealt with a concentration of risk while the TMFPD was spread out. Closing any TMFPD stations would have a significant impact on the District's ability to respond to calls in a timely manner. He thought it was bad practice for the Legislature to tell a local fire district board

how it had to staff, and the legislative mandate was not funded by any means. He noted the District was constrained by the taxpayers' ability to pay and limited by tax law. He mentioned there would likely be legal implications for the TMFPD if it was unable to meet all 300 standards.

Chair Hill asked whether Chief Moore had spoken with Nevada Senator Nicole Cannizzaro about this bill. Chief Moore said he had not; he wanted to have the Board's support if the vote was to oppose this bill. Chair Hill thought that developing some language would be helpful if the Board opposed the bill. She thought the bill had the potential to move forward and she did not want the TMFPD to appear uncooperative. She requested feedback from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Clark asked for confirmation about whether the State would fund this mandate in any way. Chief Moore believed this would be an unfunded mandate. He said the TMFPD would be able to comply with the standard if someone provided the District with \$15 million every year. He noted that was only one of 300 standards and conjectured about the staff time it would take to ensure the TMFPD complied with the entire volume of NFPA standards. He said the NFPA standards were good best practices for the fire service industry but did not necessarily represent best practices for every part of the Country. The TMFPD could try to comply with the best practices and the safety standards, but there were restrictions on what could be deployed based on financial resources. Commissioner Clark observed it appeared the District had no way to comply with this mandate while being fiscally responsible. Chief Moore said there was no possible way for the District to comply without degrading response times significantly. Chair Hill suggested adding language about population or density to the bill. Chief Moore mentioned he heard from Government Affairs Liaison Cadence Matijevich that many districts within the State were opposed to this bill moving forward. He recommended the Board add its voice to that opposition.

Chief Moore explained AB 178 would change the annual permitting of ambulances to every five years. He shared that the permitting process was onerous and required a large amount of paperwork. He said the bill was generally supported by the emergency medical services (EMS) community.

With regard to AB 358, Chief Moore said the bill was somewhat controversial but the Northern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association (NNFCA) was a strong proponent of moving the regulation of the EMS system Statewide from the State Department of Health to the SFM Office. He indicated the lack of customer service was the primary reason for the change. He recounted some issues and delays the TMFPD experienced concerning ambulance attendant licenses and paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certifications. He said the NNFCA believed the reorganization of the EMS Division under the SFM would provide more access and better communication with that division which was important to almost every fire district within the State. He understood the ambulance association of Nevada did not support this bill.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was ordered that staff be directed to support AB 178 and AB 358 and oppose AB 213, SB 368, and SB 304 with the addition of Chair Hill's recommendation to add some supportive language to SB 304.

23-049F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor issues with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore requested a brief meeting of approximately ten minutes with the Board in the Caucus Room.

23-050F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Clark requested information regarding an incident that took place on 4th Street the prior day. Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said he would endeavor to find out.

23-051F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

11:00 a.m. **The Board recessed.**


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



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:



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

Minutes Prepared By:
Carolina Stickle, Deputy County Clerk

