

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 2, 2023

PRESENT:

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

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

ABSENT:

**Clara Andriola, Commissioner**

The Board convened at 10:00 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**23-054F**      **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

**23-055F**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore announced the District was starting its strategic plan process and part of that was obtaining public input. He said citizens could find a link on the District website to sign up for a survey that would be mailed to them. Citizens could complete the survey and provide input about how they wanted the District to look in the next three years. This was also an opportunity for people to express concerns or share comments. He stated that information would be released soon, and the link should be available in the next few days.

Chief Moore indicated Agenda Item 5F would be pulled and brought back to the Board in June, noting some last-minute changes needed to be made. He stated Agenda Item 13 would not be needed.

Chair Hill commended Chief Moore for the survey and hoped the information would be promoted throughout the County.

**CONSENT ITEMS – 5A THROUGH 5E**

- 23-056F** **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the April 4, 2023 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.
- 23-057F** **5B** Recommendation to approve a Professional Services Agreement between H+K Architects and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for an estimated amount of \$19,800 for developing the Special Use Permit (SUP) to include Exhibits, predevelopment meetings, preliminary engineering, and preliminary landscape design for the development of the Apple Fire Station. (Commissioner District 4).
- 23-058F** **5C** Recommendation to approve a Professional Services Agreement between Wood Rodgers and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for an estimated amount of \$90,200 for Entitlement and Special Use Permit (SUP) Services, Survey and Mapping, and preliminary Civil Engineering for the development of the Apple Fire Station. (Commission District 4).
- 23-059F** **5D** Recommendation to accept a donation of four (4) LG refrigerators and three (3) commercial coffee makers in support of Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Operations and if accepted express sincere appreciation for the thoughtful contribution. (All Commission Districts)
- 23-060F** **5E** Recommendation to accept a monetary gift card in the amount of \$25 from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for the Fire Chief's participation in a study for the temporary storage of nuclear waste. (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 Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Andriola absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5E be approved.

- 23-061F** **5F** Recommendation to approve and adopt a resolution authorizing overtime and portal to portal pay for all Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District employees. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Moore indicated this item was pulled from the agenda and would be brought back for the June meeting.

**23-062F**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** National Weather Service Report by Edan Lindaman.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore explained that before every wildland season, he provided the Board with an update from the National Weather Service (NWS) regarding the service's thoughts on the upcoming weather patterns and the possibility of fire risks.

Fire Weather Program Manager Edan Lindaman provided background information about herself, stating she had been a forecaster for 16 years and had lived in the City of Reno for 13 years. She mentioned everyone thought they had survived the once-in-a-career winter, and it had come right back. She apologized for the weather and joked that the NWS did not officially have control over it.

Ms. Lindaman conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: NWS Seasonal Outlook 2023; Recap of the Relentless Winter; Wet AND Cold; Snowpack April 1st 2023; Two Super Wet Years: 2023 vs 2017; And...It's Gotta Melt; Drought Status – Massive Improvements; Official Predictive Services Outlook (2 slides); What Have Other Recent Big Snow Years Done?; NWS Fire Weather Alerts You Might See; Comments on Summer Recreation; At-A-Glance Refresher on NWS Fire Weather; Staying Weather Aware with iNWS; Outlook for Late Spring – Early Summer: May-July; 1983 Slide Mountain Disaster; Tree Mortality.

Regarding the “Recap of the Relentless Winter” slide, Ms. Lindaman observed the image on the left showed all the atmospheric rivers that made landfall across the west coast. She stated the image on the right showed the precipitation in the western United States (U.S.), noting the really green colors depicted the record wettest for much of the west spreading from Central California into Nevada and Utah. She remarked it was a really busy season for the entire western U.S. Ms. Lindaman shared that the image on the “Wet AND Cold” slide showed the departure from normal for the mean temperature from January through March.

On the “Snowpack April 1st 2023” slide, Ms. Lindaman stated all the really blue numbers were greater than or equal to 200 percent of the period of record (POR) median. Many areas actually reached the 300 percent mark. She noted there were areas in Central California that even exceeded 400 percent. She asserted it was a very remarkable winter with lots of snowpack.

Ms. Lindaman discussed the “Two Super Wet Years: 2023 vs 2017” slide and observed that meteorologists thought 2017 would be a once in a career winter, but 2023 beat that mark. She spoke about the images on the slide and reported that both 2017 and 2023 were very wet, but the major difference between the two years was that 2017 was much warmer. With the 2023 winter being colder, any precipitation that fell as snow did not have a chance to melt.

Ms. Lindaman informed it was now snowmelt season and all the snow had to come off the mountains somehow. On the “And... It’s Gotta Melt” slide, she highlighted the seasonal flow averages from 1970 to 2023. She noted the red bar showed the projected seasonal flow for one of the streams in the region. She mentioned that the Carson and Walker Rivers were likely to approach or even set new records due to warming periods. The observed increases were due to low-elevation snowpack. She explained that normally all the snow was in the upper Sierra, but there was significant lower and mid-elevation snow that would contribute to the higher seasonal flows for the current year.

A silver lining to all the snow and water, Ms. Lindaman declared, was that major improvements were made to the drought status. She pointed out the image on the left of the “Drought Status – Massive Improvements” slide, noting it depicted the current status of the region. Much of Western Nevada and California was no longer in drought. She informed the image on the right showed the 24-week U.S. drought monitor class change improvement. The deep blue, blue, and green colors depicted the massive class improvements that had occurred over the last several months.

Ms. Lindaman shared the NWS worked in coordination with the Predictive Services center, noting that Predictive Services did the official outlook in terms of the fire season. She observed much of the Great Basin across Western Nevada was near normal, so if there was a hotter June and July period there could be a quick ramp up into the fire activity for the season. She stated it was the first time in many years that below normal was projected for the Sierra. She asserted it was a welcome sight to see the green colors across the Sierra and into California on the “Official Predictive Services Outlook” slide.

Ms. Lindaman highlighted the “What Have Other Recent Big Snow Years Done” slide. She explained the drought tree kill would contribute to the fire activity once the snow melted off. She noted red flag conditions were considered very gusty winds and low humidity for several hours at a time. She indicated the NWS was projecting dry lightning and a lot of thunderstorms. On a red flag warning day, activities that could spark a fire should be avoided. She said the NWS started issuing particularly dangerous situation (PDS) red flag warnings in 2017 and had only issued three since then. She compared the PDS red flag warnings to blizzard warnings, which were also not issued often. She advised if a PDS red flag warning was issued, it was a rare event and of extreme concern.

Ms. Lindaman said flooding impacts would be a concern for several months. She advised there would be plenty of water in the lakes and reservoirs going into the late summer. She informed that the fire weather planning forecast was issued daily and would soon move to twice per day in the next couple of weeks. She mentioned the area forecast discussion was her favorite thing the NWS issued. The area forecast discussion was a blog-style narrative about the weather that gave the readers an insight into the forecasters’ personalities and their confidence in the weather that would happen. She hoped there would not be any smoke concerns that year but advised that if there were, the NWS would run the high-resolution smoke model that helped project where smoke might travel in and out of the region. She said the seasonal outlooks could be somewhat informative, but there was much more skill during the one to two weeks out timeframe. She noted the region was not

looking at any huge heatwaves during May, June, and July, and relatively equal chances for the precipitation outlook.

Commissioner Garcia asked whether it was Ms. Lindaman's group that created the Freak Out Scale in January to which Ms. Lindaman replied yes. Commissioner Garcia said she had shared the information with the families she served, and she thought it was quite funny and a creative approach to disseminating information to a wide audience. Ms. Lindaman mentioned she would pass that information on to her coworkers as other offices in the NWS did not provide that information. Her group enjoyed posting and sharing information in a different way. She encouraged everyone to read the forecast discussion because there was some good information in there. Chair Hill replied that she would check it out. She stated this was some of the best news she had heard about fire danger since she was elected to office.

Chief Moore mentioned the NWS was a great partner. He asserted knowing what weather was coming in the next day or two was important, and the spot weather forecast information was essential when fighting fires to help the TMFPD to make appropriate decisions.

**23-063F**      **AGENDA ITEM 7** Proclamation in support of the Nevada Wildfire Awareness Campaign.

Division Chief of Wildland and Fuels August Isernhagen read the Proclamation which was presented to Ms. Jamie Roice-Gomes, Manager of the Living with Fire Program.

Ms. Roice-Gomes stated the Living with Fire Program was part of the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Extension. She said wildfire could threaten Nevada communities and impact homes, property, and human lives. The key to minimizing the impact in Nevada was proactive communities that took the steps to prepare. In response, representatives of Nevada's local, State, and federal firefighting agencies, wildfire-prone communities, and partners like the National Weather Service (NWS), and the UNR Extension had conducted a wildfire awareness campaign since 2006. The theme for the year was "Protect our home, prepare for a wildfire." She provided a few tips for residents, which included connecting with neighbors and encouraging community projects to reduce the wildfire threat, keeping the first five feet from your home free of combustible items, and removing flammable shrubs and planting high moisture content, low growing plants, or hardscapes. She added it was helpful to prepare an evacuation go bag for the entire household. She asked that the public prepare for wildfires during May; however, she clarified that people should prepare year-round because wildfires could occur in the spring, fall, winter, and summer.

**10:20 a.m.**      **The Board recessed.**

**10:27 a.m.**      **The Board reconvened with Commissioner Andriola absent.**

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Andriola absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be adopted.

**23-064F**      **AGENDA ITEM 8**    District Fiscal Outlook Presentation by Eugenia Larmore.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore explained that economic forecasting had always been a strategic standard for the District to ensure it knew what would happen economically and could adjust the budget accordingly. He believed the way to accomplish that was with good information. He said Eugenia Larmore was a dependable partner to inform the District of risks. He acknowledged there were probably many economist opinions out there, but the TMFPD trusted Ms. Larmore's advice.

Ms. Larmore introduced herself as the President of Ekay Economic Consultants. She mentioned the Board had been provided with the report and said she would highlight some of the assumptions behind the projections. She stated she would focus primarily on the revenue side because that was what was driven by the economic conditions; the cost side was more internally controlled.

Ms. Larmore conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Current General Fund Revenues; Property Tax (54% of Budget); Sales Tax (25% of Budget); Remaining Consolidated and AB104 Tax (4.8% of Budget); Other Revenue (16.2% of Budget); General Fund Revenue Projections; Current and Projected General Fund Expenditures; Projected General Fund Revenues and Expenditures.

Ms. Larmore said the preliminary budget for 2023-2024 was the base year from which she projected five years forward. Property tax was the main driver of revenue for the District, as it was for most of the governmental entities in Nevada. Property tax was approximately 54 percent of the total revenue. She clarified that she would focus on the general fund only because it was the primary receiver of revenues and was where all the funds came from. She noted she expected a softening sometime around the end of 2023 into 2024. She hoped that by 2025, the economy would be in a sustainable and stable place. She predicted a drop in 2023 and some drop and an increase in 2024. She explained that in 2025 property tax would be more stable, which was included in the projections. She projected a slightly lower increase of 4.1 percent per year based on historical capitalization (CAP) rates for existing revenue. She explained she took the 2023-2024 numbers and inflated them by 4.1 percent, and then added new residential and commercial. She said Mr. Brian Bonnenfant from the Center for Regional Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) was present. Mr. Bonnenfant completed the projections for the residential piece. Ms. Larmore noted they did a lot of that work at UNR, and they were great partners.

Ms. Larmore said there was not much sales tax data for 2023 yet; property tax was typically projected forward. She explained the historical growth of 10 percent included the COVID-19 (C19) payments that created a lot of spending, and it included the high inflation period that was still happening. She noted that wages would stabilize with inflation and the taxable sales growth would be much lower than it had been historically. Population growth equated to the more people in the area, the more money that was spent. Income growth referred to the more money people had, the more they spent. She said sales tax was a component of both the consolidated tax (C-Tax) and Assembly Bill (AB) 104 revenue. Lower growth was expected in those groups compared to the historical data. Cigarette and liquor revenue had declined significantly, which she thought was due to people coming out of C19 healthy. She relayed that studies had shown cigarette usage had declined post-C19. AB104 was driven primarily by gaming tax revenue and real property transfer tax (RPTT) revenue. She expected both of those to be below historic levels.

Ms. Larmore said she expected there to be no change to the interlocal agreements' revenue; however, it was difficult to predict and there was no expectation for significant changes to those agreements. Regarding federal and State grants, she said no revenue was expected due to the expiration of two larger grants by the end of the projection period. Charges for services were dependent on expenditures, which meant they grew at the same rate as expenditures. The fuels program was reimbursable, so it was equal to the expenditures for the program. For miscellaneous, she noted the projections would go with the historical revenue amount with no increases.

Ms. Larmore opined 4.7 to 4.8 percent per year growth was very healthy, but it was still about 9 percent below the historical growth. She explained that regarding revenues, it was good to be on the conservative side because it was not good to overestimate them, expend them, and then not have the revenues that were projected. She said the analysis was very conservative, but it did take into account the softening that was expected. The expenditures were a base analysis that took the 2023-2024 numbers and increased them by 2.5 percent. She did not expect any increases in capital outlay or new hires. The analysis was simply increasing it by the salary and cost increases. For the comparison, she took the beginning fund balance, revenues, and expenditures, and that equaled the ending fund balance. The ending fund balance, she stated, was very healthy and consistently increasing. That would allow the District to go above the base expenditures as needed.

Commissioner Clark welcomed Ms. Larmore and mentioned he had worked with her during the Board of Equalization (BOE). He asserted Ms. Larmore was very familiar with the tax laws, regulations, and values of real estate in the County. He brought up that the federal government had changed some underwriting guidelines with Fannie Mae for home purchases which could result in people with good credit being charged higher interest rates. He explained that the idea behind that was to charge more to the people who did the right things to maintain good credit, in order to give money to people who typically would not have qualified for credit. He expressed appreciation for the idea of trying to help people get into houses, but he thought it would be detrimental to those who paid their bills on time and were able to make proper down payments. He said many states had written letters to the federal government about the new rule that had taken place the day prior. He

noted the Controller for the State of Nevada wrote a letter opposing the change. He asked Ms. Larmore for her opinion about the impacts on sales and home sellers decreasing prices, which would affect values. Ms. Larmore said assuming the sales numbers or prices declined, while it might not affect taxable sales on the property side, RPTT would be impacted. She noted that was a relatively important number through the C-Tax and AB104. She stated as far as the policy from an economic standpoint, people did not like to see good behavior disincentivized which this policy could create. She thought she had seen the analysis and it was about a \$40 per month increase on a \$400,000 home. She said it was obviously an impact, but she was unsure about the sensitivity buyers would have and she indicated that it would preclude sales. She thought higher mortgage payments were comparable to rental payments and believed people would accommodate the higher rate, but it would create a change in the market. She said people had to live somewhere. She was uncertain if that matter had been studied and if the magnitude of the impact was understood.

Commissioner Clark said he heard the purchase of an entry-level home was about \$1,000 per month more, which added up. He got a sense that people were resentful for paying their bills on time and maintaining good credit scores only to be penalized by higher interest rates. He thought the higher interest rates could impact values. He was surprised to see the majority of the states opposed the rule.

Chair Hill appreciated the data-driven information in Ms. Larmore's presentation. She thought it was helpful to have real numbers to help calm residents down about what was estimated.

**23-065F**      **AGENDA ITEM 9** International Association of Firefighters Local 2487 Report.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 President Patrick Walsh said that on April 24 the IAFF raised \$34,000 for children's cancer research in conjunction with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). He expressed appreciation for all the participants and people who helped. He announced the Truckee Meadows Firefighter Foundation (TMFF) was putting on a pickleball tournament on May 20 at the Hidden Valley Country Club. He said there were still openings to sign up to play. Chair Hill asked if beginners could participate, and Mr. Walsh responded yes. He said he would love it if the Board showed its support by attending or getting a team together.

Chair Hill mentioned that the Firefighters Memorial opened in Carson City and she wondered how that event went. Mr. Walsh said it was an amazing showing and hundreds of firefighters from all over the State were in attendance. He indicated they marched from Carson Station 51 to the memorial site.



**AGENDA ITEM 10** Fire Chief Report

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

1. Green Waste Program Usage Summary for April 2023.
2. Update on the Use of Aerial (Red) Fire Retardant and a Federal Lawsuit That Seeks to Curb Its Use.
3. Five-Year Capital Plan Discussion including Debt and/or Grant Financing of Fire Trucks and Fire Stations, including Hidden Valley Station 37, Washoe Valley Consolidated Station, Apple, and Spanish Springs Station 46.
4. Other Updates on Staff Activities and Community Functions to include Career Fair and Battle of the Badges Public Safety Food Drive.

B. March 2023 Response Statistics.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated the District was becoming a victim of its success with the Green Waste Program. He indicated a significant amount of chipped greenery would need to be moved before the next event. He noted staff would be moving the greenery to Carson City to be recycled and turned into soil and mulch. He thought the additional volume was the result of all the storms and people trimming their branches, which increased the usage of the program. There could be more need for curbside chipping and the TMFPD was looking into how many more individuals could use that service. He had a request from Washoe Valley residents to come through there again. He would work with citizens to determine a date for the service, although he believed the District would not conduct any more green waste days until the fall.

Division Chief of Wildland and Fuels August Isernhagen confirmed there were no plans for open burning, green waste disposal, or curbside chipping until the fall. The main reason for that was the nearing fire season and the likeliness of sparking a fire with the moving pieces of equipment. He noted the programs were paused during the summer and would revamp in the fall.

Chair Hill thanked Division Chief Isernhagen for the work on those projects. Division Chief Isernhagen admitted the thanks went to the wildland crews and the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF). He thanked the NDF for its help.

Chief Moore stated Vice Chair Herman brought up a concern about the use of red fire retardant. Through the District's research, it could not find anything that would suggest the fire retardant was not going to be used until staff came across a federal lawsuit that was filed. The lawsuit sought to curb the use of red fire retardants due to environmental concerns. He indicated that the TMFPD would watch the lawsuit closely. Regarding concerns about environmental damage, he asserted not using red fire retardant would make wildland fires much bigger. Fire crews depended on aircraft to control wildfires, and he

was concerned about the adjudication of the lawsuit. He thought he should bring that to the Board's attention in case there was a way for the County to have a say in the lawsuit. He thought the TMFPD had a significant interest in the use of fire retardant because it helped the District pinch off the direction of wildland fires to a point where crews could flank it and put it out. He included a copy of the lawsuit in the documents provided in the Staff Report, which outlined the concerns.

Chief Moore stated the five-year capital improvement plan (CIP) had a significant bearing on the budget that year, which Chief Fiscal Officer (CFO) Cynthia Vance would present in an upcoming item. The strategy in the budget was to deal with the TMFPD's obligations under the labor contracts and the new Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) obligation. He observed the amount charged for the PERS contribution had gone way up. He said he did not find any capacity to be able to do any significant capital projects. He thought Chair Hill had asked the District to look at the capital going forward. He stated there were a lot of capital projects the TMFPD wanted to get done. He believed the District could possibly proceed with the Apple Station project due to Apple Inc. paying for the majority of the project. He noted the TMFPD wanted to add an additional bay and two bedrooms, which would not be a significant cost to the District. He thought that the project could be started in the spring of 2024 and would take about nine months to one year to complete. He indicated the other two stations the TMFPD was looking at were Washoe Valley and Hidden Valley. He said the engine that went in the apparatus bay at Hidden Valley was unique because it was the only engine in the fleet that fit in the small, old volunteer building. He opined that a modern apparatus bay would be needed in the future. The engine at that station was getting very old in terms of miles and years, and it would need to be replaced. He said that was an important capital project the TMFPD needed to research.

Chief Moore asserted that since 2019, the District had contemplated putting the Washoe Valley station in a strategic location to serve the entire area from one station. He mentioned that in talking with the bond consultant, the TMFPD did not have the consolidated tax (C-Tax) capacity to be able to pay for the bonding currently. He remarked that C-Tax would hopefully increase, as was presented in the fiscal outlook presentation. He stated any significant capital expenditures would have to be paused. He informed the District had planned to go to the Debt Management Commission (DMC) and to sell bonds to get the stations built at the beginning of 2024, but he believed that would have to be delayed for at least one year. He hoped it would not be longer than that. The status plan was to get stations shovel-ready. He noted the Hidden Valley property and architectural plans were ready to go for a building permit as soon as the funds were available for the project. Washoe Valley had the same architectural plan as the Apple Station, so there would not be significant time or architectural expense to get the station ready to be built when the time came. He indicated grants from the federal government were being pursued. He explained there was a new grant coming down from the federal government to pay for new fire stations and to remodel old ones. The County's grant team was very helpful with seeking grants. He explained that was how the TMFPD would focus on finding money to build the stations.

Chief Moore spoke about rolling stock and the three fire engines that needed to be replaced. He said two engines were built in 2007 and they currently had about 130,000 to 140,000 miles on them. He recalled that in a previous meeting he mentioned the build time for a fire engine was around 30 months. He opined the engines would need to be ordered within the next six months to get them delivered in 24 to 30 months. The current fire engines would be about 17 or 18 years old when the new ones arrived. He noted that 10 to 12 years of front-line service was normal before engines went into reserve. He believed the District would be pushing the envelope on the three current engines. He said the TMFPD talked about a ladder truck and staff recommended replacing some brush engines and water tenders. The District was developing a capital list to try to fit new apparatus into the budget when the economy finally recovered and the C-Tax increased. He indicated a priority list would need to be created for all capital projects and be brought back to the Board. He thought the fire engines were the top priority as that was how the District delivered services. He acknowledged the TMFPD had stations and fire trucks, but they were wearing out quickly. He said the task at hand for the next 18 months was to find grants and prioritize the capital needed, and when the economy recovered and there was enough C-Tax capacity, issue bonds. He noted there could be more capital added to the list, but the big items were there. Chair Hill said it was a great list and declared it was great to be able to see what the plan was.

Chief Moore asserted the TMFPD's obligation was to keep everyone employed with no layoffs, but it did concern him that the District would be deficit spending that year. He noted Ms. Vance would discuss that further. He opined if the District were to have two years of deficit spending, that would really concern him. He indicated some adjustments would have to be made, although President of Ekay Economic Consultants Eugenia Larmore's presentation provided him with the hope that things could turn around quickly. He said he followed economic news very closely and noted that a lot of what he read, particularly out of Bloomberg, was that the economy should start to recover fairly quickly.

Commissioner Clark wanted to address the Washoe Valley fire station which had been contemplated since 2019. Chief Moore confirmed the TMFPD first started planning for it in 2019. Commissioner Clark observed it was currently 2023, and the station had not broken ground yet. He asked for a ballpark estimate as to what it would cost to build the facility currently as opposed to building it in 2019. Chief Moore stated the Hidden Valley project, if it was built a couple of years ago, would have been \$2.5 million. Costs were currently approaching \$4 to 4.5 million. Commissioner Clark clarified that was an extra \$4.5 million and Chief Moore confirmed that was correct. Commissioner Clark said price increases could go on forever and that nothing was cheaper now than it was previously. He asserted it was incumbent on the Board to purchase the items needed and to move forward because items were only going to cost more later. He mentioned it took the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) 24 months for new vehicles, and it took the District 30 months or more for new apparatus. He opined early planning was necessary to save time and money on needed equipment. He thought it was prudent to move forward and get the facilities started and the apparatus ordered. He asserted these were public safety issues and that the County needed to have operational

vehicles and fire stations opened. He wondered how many pieces of apparatus could have been purchased if the County had saved \$4.5 million on a fire station. Chief Moore thought at least four pieces of apparatus could have been purchased. Commissioner Clark thought it was economically prudent to move forward with the orders. He noted the County continued to grow and he wanted the citizens to be protected, facilities to be built, and equipment to be purchased. He expressed support to move forward as fast as possible.

Commissioner Garcia mentioned the fourth item in 10A, the career fair and K-12 outreach. She stated recruitment and retention were incredibly important to her as was workforce development. She addressed the Staff Report which indicated Chief Moore targeted two high schools and reached almost 2,000 students in those efforts. She thought that was amazing. She asked for an explanation as to how the North Valleys and Reno High Schools were selected. Chief Moore was unsure how they were selected but said he could follow up and provide her with the information. Commissioner Garcia that at the strategic planning envisioning session the previous day she mentioned that strategic and intentional outreach to youth was a good way to recruit local youth who may not have the social capital to speak with people who were a part of the TMFPD. She asserted the TMFPD had wonderful careers. She thought everyone could agree diversification of the workforce and staff was something people wanted. She liked the direction Chief Moore was headed with the career fair and outreach. She said she would be happy to collaborate, and she offered her support with this program to continue to work with the K-12 setting to expose local students to amazing careers.

Commissioner Garcia spoke about Item 10B regarding incident response. She reminded she had been on the Board for four months and every month she scrolled through the report to see which area in the County had the highest number of incident calls and responses. She asserted month over month Sun Valley continued to have the highest call volume in the region. She liked the report and the way it broke down call types and thought she could speak with the Chief offline about what was happening in Sun Valley. She received the District text messages and appreciated being provided with that information. She wondered whether there was more she could do to help disseminate information to the residents of Sun Valley about fire prevention tips and outreach to see the numbers come down. She would love to research the Sun Valley data. She mentioned a presentation that was brought to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) about opioid issues and said she took a screenshot of one of the slides that listed zip codes with the highest emergency medical services (EMS) incidences for non-fatal overdoses. She noted that four out of five of the zip codes were in District 3. She expressed concern and hoped the data could be broken down further to get more detailed information about Sun Valley. Chief Moore thought there was a lot more that could be distilled from the data and mentioned EMS Coordinator Sabrina Brasuell, who ran the EMS Oversight Program, was present. He mentioned Ms. Brasuell could certainly help with that effort. He believed people on the lower end of the socioeconomic scale would use 911 as their pathway into healthcare because they had no other choice. He said that was part of it but indicated EMS was a big component of the responses to Sun Valley. He stated he had always been concerned about the frequency of structure fires in Sun Valley. He noted there were so many different types of causes of structure fires. He said he could work with Deputy Fire

Chief of Prevention Dale Way and provide more analysis about why there was such a high frequency there and whether there were some fire prevention strategies he could put forward.

Chair Hill thought it was worthwhile to present to the entire Board and said she would be interested to see whether the County needed to be investing more heavily in efforts to ensure people's safety. She mentioned a dear friend who lost her home in Sun Valley and she knew how devastating it was for the family who struggled to pull the pieces together. She said she would love to see the full report once it was ready.

Chief Moore mentioned the highest number of fires were accidental and were not necessarily electrical causes. Although, he noted that electrical fires sometimes had an accident element because of the overload of currents. He said the causes he was familiar with were all over the board.

Deputy Chief Way stated he had not done a complete analysis regarding Sun Valley. There were many accidental fires in Sun Valley as the area was known for hoarding conditions. He worked with Washoe County Code Enforcement to identify some properties. Code Enforcement was short-staffed in dealing with that area. He said Washoe County Code Enforcement helped the firefighters as they tried to access properties, even for EMS calls. He recalled he had been on EMS calls where crews had difficulties getting the gurney into the modular home. Sun Valley was historical for excess debris issues, and he wanted to see a better effort to resolve that. He thought Waste Management (WM) could possibly get involved in more community cleanup efforts. He agreed with Chief Moore's message that socioeconomics played a huge role. He mentioned he came from North Las Vegas which was the most diverse city in the State of Nevada and was in the top 20 most diverse cities in the United States (U.S.). Las Vegas had similar neighborhoods to the Reno area, which included good neighborhoods and bad neighborhoods with hoarding issues. He said even with community messaging it was difficult to handle as people were doing everything they could to survive. He recalled a situation he came across where a person owned a trailer but not the land. The person had done his own electrical work on an unpermitted addition, which caused a fire. Deputy Chief Way mentioned trash had been stacked all over the property, to which the trailer owner indicated the landowner was responsible for trash service and only provided a small trash can from WM. Deputy Chief Way stated the man's family could fill a small can in two days. Deputy Chief Way reached out to WM and suggested only offering the big trash can on any property in Sun Valley. He said the trash situation was evident in Sun Valley and when people ran out of options, they would start stacking garbage which created fire hazards.

Deputy Chief Way observed the TMFPD experienced the same situation when crews had to enter a home in Sun Valley, noting people with less in life tended to keep more of what they did have. He spoke about fires back in the 1940s or 1950s when crews had more time, almost 30 minutes, before a flashover of a fire. This was due to homes containing more natural fibers which did not burn or flash as fast as the synthetics and plastics that were used currently. He informed synthetics and plastics burned eight times hotter than natural fibers and the window for flashovers was three minutes. Flashovers

occurred at the ceiling level and ignited everything in the room. Flashover quickly reached 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. He opined it was difficult to regulate personal property unless a person was creating an extreme danger to adjoining personal properties. He thought Code Enforcement could help with the aesthetics of property ownership and maintenance.

Commissioner Garcia agreed with Deputy Chief Way and said she had already reached out to Commission Support to see whether she could purchase some dumpsters and promote cleanup days in those neighborhoods. She mentioned she was out the prior Sunday knocking on doors to promote her coffee event at the Senior Center. She was walking along 6th Avenue, Slope Drive, and Birdy Lane and sent pictures to Commission Support of all the debris. She noted a person could barely get to the front door of some of the homes. She acknowledged it cost money to go to the dump and required a truck to haul debris. Those were some privileges many people in the area did not have. She said Sun Valley was always at the front of her mind and she wanted to help promote outreach, communication, and opportunities for people to get rid of unneeded items. Deputy Chief Way agreed and said he was happy to work with her. He said the matter was a pet project of his and he wanted to see it improve. Commissioner Garcia appreciated his help. She mentioned being on a fire call during her campaign and responding to a structural fire that took place at a trailer. She asserted it was devastating to see the trailer burn as fast as it had.

Chair Hill said once data was received, the Board could push for better decisions and investments.

There was no public comment or action on this item.

**23-067F**     **AGENDA ITEM 11** Presentation and review of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 tentative budget and discussion regarding the priorities and projects anticipated in the budget. Recommendation to bring the tentative budget and any Board directed changes back to the Board of Fire Commissioners for a Public Hearing and approval of the final budget. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore indicated the public hearing and approval of the final budget would occur during the May 16 meeting.

Chief Fiscal Officer (CFO) Cynthia Vance stated there had been quite a bit of discussion about the budget and capital projects during Ms. Larmore's presentation. Ms. Vance conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Fiscal Year 23/24 Proposed Budget; Current Staffing Levels – 207; Revenue; General Fund Overview; Special Programs (2 slides); General Fund Summary; Existing Debt Service Schedule; Capital Projects; Other Funds.

Ms. Vance informed the TMFPD expected to keep its current staffing levels all funded and stable. The current approved staffing level was 207 and the District included funding in the budget for all positions at 100 percent. She noted there might be some savings related to vacancies. She provided a breakdown of the current staff by department. She pointed out that Administration included a grant-funded Logistics and Volunteer Coordinator, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was comprised of a staff of 21, 18 of which were for ambulances.

Ms. Vance highlighted the District's main revenue sources, noting just over 80 percent of the TMFPD's budget came from property tax and consolidated tax (C-Tax). The current property tax was still seeing larger increases, with about a 7 percent increase from the previous fiscal year (FY). She informed the District used the State provided projections and said those projections had been very close. Regarding the C-Tax, she observed there was only a 2.6 percent increase from the prior year's budget. She noted the District was not expected to hit budget on the C-Tax for FY23, but the District was currently running about 0.3 percent above budget on the C-Tax as of the last collections. She mentioned the other intergovernmental revenues, stating those were some of the other sales-related taxes. Most of the miscellaneous and other revenues were reimbursements, licenses, and permits. A majority of the charges for service were related to the fuels program in which the TMFPD provided services for cleaning; most of that was from NV Energy.

Ms. Vance reported the TMFPD kept its expenditures as flat as possible, noting most of the obligations were related to the collective bargaining agreements (CBAs). She remarked that the increase for FY24 was already negotiated, which would be a 2.75 percent salary increase effective July 1, with another increase on January 1. This was an average of approximately 4.16 percent for the year. She pointed out that the other big impact was related to the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). As of July 1, PERS contributions for police and fire employees would increase from 44 percent to 50 percent, and a majority of the District's employees fell into that category. Per the CBA, the District would pick up the entire increase. She commented that many governments split the increase, for example, the employees would pick up 3 percent and there would be a reduction of wages. Per the TMFPD's agreements for police and fire employees as well as regular employees, the District would pick up the entire increase in lieu of a raise. She asserted that was almost like an additional 3 percent raise. For regular employees, the PERS contributions would increase by about 3.75 percent from 29.75 percent to 33.5 percent. She remarked those items were a large part of the TMFPD's employee benefits and salaries and wages, which made up 83 percent of the District's budget. She commented on the services and supplies, stating those had been maintained fairly flat. Regarding the capital outlay in the general fund, she shared it related to a contract with NV Energy to purchase another apparatus which was reimbursed and reflected in reimbursement revenues. She informed the District's total operating expenditures were \$46,238,621. This left just over \$1 million of operating revenues, but that was used to fund all the other funds.

Ms. Vance highlighted some of the programs included in the general fund, noting there were some specific programs that were held pretty much flat. She informed that the \$30,000 for the Water Entry Team (WET) was for training and equipment that might be needed. She pointed out that \$80,000 was budgeted for assessment programs, which were required under the CBA.

Ms. Vance observed the TMFPD was projecting a beginning fund balance of just over \$7.5 million, which was about 18.9 percent of the projected expenditures for the current FY. She remarked that the prior year's final budget was 13.2 percent for the ending fund balance. She spoke about the other financing uses, stating those included a contingency fund of \$400,000, which was a standard the District had been using, along with transfers out. Regarding the transfers out, she noted most of the other funds did not have any revenue sources, such as the construction fund, the workers' compensation fund, and the sick and annual compensation benefits fund. With the other financing uses being just over \$4.7 million, the TMFPD was left with a projected ending fund balance of \$4.2 million. She asserted the District budgeted conservatively; it covered all of its expenditures and kept its revenues smaller. She declared the District would continue to try and grow its revenue, so she expected that to end a little bit higher.

Part of the transfers out and the other financing sources, Ms. Vance reported, was \$1 million in the TMFPD's current debt service. She pointed out that it would remain at about \$1 million for the next five years. This included a \$4 million equipment debt, a \$2 million property debt, and a \$7 million facilities debt.

Regarding the capital projects fund, Ms. Vance observed it was only really funded by transfers in from the general fund. She noted there might be some sales from older apparatus but that was usually fairly minimal. She informed the District was trying to get to a point of being shovel-ready for most of its projects so that as it had the ability to fund the projects, it was in a position to do that fairly quickly. She shared that the District also maintained a balance to address unforeseen capital repairs and replacements.

Ms. Vance discussed the EMS fund. She pointed out it was the District's new proprietary fund that was heading into its second year. She observed there was a fairly large transfer from the general fund into the EMS fund. This was mostly because a majority of the EMS fund's revenues came from the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) funds, which were related to Medicare, and those funds arrived late. She noted those funds were almost two years in arrears; in FY23, the District received the revenue for services provided in FY21. The TMFPD kept the budget for the revenues fairly flat at \$1.7 million, but it had increased its transports. She observed it would be another couple of years before the TMFPD saw the revenues in that fund become steady.

Regarding the emergency fire fund, Ms. Vance shared that it was self-replenishing and it could have up to \$1.5 million in deposits. The TMFPD budgeted high for extreme fire, but it also budgeted large reimbursements to equal that. A majority of the fund was reimbursed; there were only a few expenditures. She provided an example, noting the TMFPD might not be reimbursed if a fire was less than 24 hours.



Ms. Vance spoke about the sick, annual and comp benefits fund. She remarked that the District had set up a fund to accumulate resources to pay as staff aged and left service, noting some of the staff received a significant benefit payout. There would be a transfer into the fund of about \$250,000, and the current balance in the compensated absences was about \$7.7 million.

For the debt service fund, Ms. Vance reported it was just to pay the principal interest of \$1 million for the District's current debt. She mentioned the stabilization fund, stating it could only be used if revenues fell at a certain amount. She noted that the fund's balance had been growing from investment income. Regarding the workers' compensation fund, she indicated it was an internal service fund that was used to pay City of Reno heart and lung claims. This was due to an agreement the TMFPD had with the City of Reno where the District was liable for certain claims. She noted heart and lung claims could be seen past retirement. She believed the balance in that fund would be able to pay for any claims; she did not think the District would ever need to make another transfer to that fund.

Chair Hill knew there was some stress about the consolidated tax (C-Tax) and wondered if there were any concerns about property tax as well. Ms. Vance responded no and explained the District used C-Tax to pay for its debt. She said the February C-Tax of \$778,000 was received in April, which was 9 percent under budget and less than the prior year. She stated there were other funds that were exceeding budget, so she expected the TMFPD to meet budget for the current year, just in different sources. Chair Hill felt comfortable with the budget.

Chair Hill asked Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Wade Carner if the Board needed to take action on this item to which he responded no.

There was no public comment or action on this item.

**23-068F**     **AGENDA ITEM 12**     Recommendation to accept the 2023 annual performance evaluation of Fire Chief Charles Moore to include a discussion of results, goals, and objectives; if approved, authorize the Staff to make all necessary adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore indicated Human Resources (HR) Manager Carla Arribillaga was under the weather so he would be presenting his own evaluation.

Chair Hill stated the Board could read the evaluation. She opened the floor to Board members to provide comments. She said former Board members did not like to use the online survey tool. She asserted she took the survey and thought Chief Moore was doing a great job. She commented he was a pleasure to work with and she appreciated his passion for the District and the region. She noted the work he did was hard, especially with the region tasking him and other leaders to investigate consolidated dispatch and she knew those conversations were intense. She commended him for his continued communication and outreach.

Vice Chair Herman echoed the comments from Chair Hill.

Chief Moore stated he had a talented staff and compared his job to being an orchestra conductor and his staff were the ones playing the music. The District ran well because it was a team. He appreciated the comments from the Board. He wanted the Board to know there were a lot of people who made the District work. Chair Hill concurred and stated a good leader always pointed that out. She disclosed that Chief Moore was not asking for additional pay, a merit increase, or a bonus. She noted he would receive the same cost of living adjustment (COLA) that employees would receive, 4.16 percent, at the end of the fiscal year (FY). He would also receive the 3 percent Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) increase. Chair Hill asserted this was also a demonstration of being a good leader because Chief Moore was seeing the softening of the consolidated tax (C-Tax) and he was not asking for anything he would not give to his employees.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Andriola absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be accepted, approved, and authorized.

**23-069F**      **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 indicated there was no need for a closed session.

**23-070F**      **AGENDA ITEM 14** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore sent best wishes to Deputy Chief of Operations Chris Ketring who was undergoing shoulder surgery.

Commissioner Clark stated he would have a meeting that afternoon with residents from the west side of Washoe Valley who had questions about statistics. He requested information about the response statistics since Station 30 had been closed since August 1, 2022. He wondered what the statistics represented for the 31 calls for service in March 2023. Chief Moore said he would happily obtain the information and discussed a time frame for the data. He indicated he would provide it to Commissioner Clark within a day.

Chair Hill stated that Commissioner Andriola was not on the invitation for the meeting that day and asked for her to be added to the list. She took responsibility for not following through to ensure that Commissioner Andriola was updated about the meeting.

Commissioner Clark did not realize that Commissioner Andriola had not been notified and mentioned occasions when he had not been notified. He hoped it did not happen again.

**23-071F**      **AGENDA ITEM 15** Public Comment.


There was no response to the call for public comment.

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**11:30 a.m.**      There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

  
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**ALEXIS HILL**, Chair  
Truckee Meadows Fire  
Protection District

ATTEST:

 **SEAL**  
*Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy*  
**JENNIS GALASSINI**, Washoe County Clerk  
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows  
Fire Protection District  
Minutes Prepared By:  
*Dqni Blackhawk*, Deputy County Clerk  
*Ersonne St. Grand*, Deputy County Clerk  
*Lauren Morris*, Deputy County Clerk