

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 3, 2023

PRESENT:

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

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

23-160F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Mr. Cliff Low displayed a document that was placed on file with the Clerk. He reminded the Commissioners that he denounced the conduct directed at the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) by some public commenters. He pointed out that the BCC Rules of Procedure Handbook indicated public comment would be provided as Item 4 on the agenda in addition to the public comment period offered at the end of the meeting. He stated there were no provisions for removing items from the agenda and inquired whether one ordinary BCC meeting had occurred since April 25, 2023. He mentioned an article in the *Reno Gazette-Journal (RGJ)* regarding the same topic and quoted Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards, who noted the Chair was assigned approval authority of the agenda. Mr. Low expressed skepticism toward section 5.11 of the handbook granting anyone the right to violate the rules. He recalled ADA Edwards specified the Chair could rearrange items, but Mr. Low observed items were removed instead. He noted some Commissioners asked for the first public comment period to be returned to the agenda. He referred to section 5.5 of the handbook and asked to review minutes or records of comparable consultation with the County Manager or County Clerk, which he declared should be made public.

23-161F AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore announced there might be a Block Vote for Items 12 through 17. He expressed gratitude for the generous grant awarded by the William N. Pennington Foundation for the purchase

of a new Type III wildland fire engine and the corresponding loose equipment. He mentioned he authored a letter of appreciation signed by Chair Hill, of which copies were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk.

Commissioner Clark said it was a pleasure to participate in a meeting at which the public was permitted to speak at the beginning. He thought it was inappropriate for individuals to be forced to wait sometimes up to six or eight hours to deliver public comment on minor issues. He addressed several complaints he received from District 2 concerning decommissioned government vehicles parked on a property located on Esmeralda Drive near the western portion of Eastlake Boulevard. He requested that the fire marshal possibly check the property for safety purposes as well as update him on the matter so he could notify the surrounding neighbors. He informed there were residents of the Arrowcreek Parkway area who still had concerns. He indicated he would potentially contact TMFPD Communications Manager Adam Mayberry to discover a resolution or provide clarification for those individuals. He thanked Chief Moore for the TMFPD's work.

23-162F **AGENDA ITEM 5** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the September 12, 2023 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

23-163F **AGENDA ITEM 6** Winter Weather Outlook - Presented by Edan Lindaman.

National Weather Service (NWS) Senior Meteorologist and Fire Weather Program Manager Edan Lindaman conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: NWS Reno 2023-24 Winter Outlook; 2022-23: The Year That Kept on Giving; Abnormally Wet Winter, Spring, Summer; Drought - Nothing to See Here; Fire Concerns Going into Fall (2 slides); El Niño vs La Niña... Here We Go Again (2 slides); El Niño and Winter River Flooding...; How About Snow; Analog Years - Rapid La Niña to El Niño Transition; Winter 2023-24: Back to Back Wet Years; CPC Outlooks - Near Term; Appetizer Winter: October - December; Main Course Outlook: Dec-Jan-Feb; So What Does All this Mean; How Can You Prepare; Any Questions.

Ms. Lindaman announced some of the record highest precipitation totals and daily snow totals took place during New Year's Eve of 2022 going into the New Year for 2023. She informed the rivers were running, and Reno suffered damage from snow accumulation, which continued into spring 2023. She mentioned there was a lot of elevated snowfall, rainfall, and freezing fog. She noted the flooding that occurred in Carson City was due to water traveling down the mountain and the heavy thunderstorms. She indicated the record wettest areas were documented throughout the west, California into Nevada, in November through March 2023, and many parts of the same areas were reported to have

ranked much above the normal top 10 percent in March through August 2023. Ms. Lindaman mentioned there was no concern regarding drought across Northern California and Northern Nevada due to the wet weather conditions. She explained possible fire weather conditions, such as strong wind events, would be monitored, as fuel could still carry fire in windy settings after the dry period. Additionally, significant wildland fire potential was reportedly normal for October and November 2023.

Ms. Lindaman contrasted El Niño and La Niña weather conditions and noted the region was currently experiencing El Niño conditions. She clarified that the science and climatology were not indicative of projected stronger El Niño conditions in Northern California and Northwestern Nevada. Ms. Lindaman interpreted how the previous El Niño years exhibited a trend of not producing significant peak river flows, whereas the years with higher peak flows were in the weak La Niña or neutral areas. She spoke about the difficulty of determining the possible snow conditions at this point, though there was some evidence suggesting the occurrence of snow in the region. She conveyed there was uncertainty regarding whether the region would encounter more wetness in October, November, and December 2023. She noted the Pacific Northwest (PNW) was expected to have a near- to above-normal precipitation probability. She highlighted that there would be a more active period of precipitation from mid to late October. The seasonal temperature was predicted to be above normal conditions southwest, with the precipitation projected to lean below normal conditions for January, February, and March 2024. She summarized the weather data, concluding the possibility of anything weather-related. She reported there might be a major change from the region's positive position if it experienced long dry stretches during the typical wet periods, flooding was unlikely, and fires were currently not of significant concern based on the antecedent conditions. She recommended staying informed about the region's weather and suggested NWS resources.

Chair Hill complimented the presentation.

23-164F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Awards and Recognition.

Golden Axe Award:

Cameron Moore, Squad Boss

Life-Saving Award:

Sebastian Hickey, Firefighter/EMT

Daniel Moriarty, Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter of the Year - Presented by Scott Wilcox, VFW Post 10053

2020-2021 Firefighter of the Year- Brad Noble, Fire Captain

2021-2022 Firefighter of the Year- Alex Doerr, Firefighter Paramedic

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Division Chief of Wildland and Fuels August Isernhagen introduced Squad Boss Cameron Moore, who was recognized with the Golden Axe Award. Mr. Moore was honored for his proactive efforts in addition to his situational awareness and attention to detail of his surroundings on July

26, 2023, when hardware on top of a power pole in the Hidden Valley area was observed sparking. Mr. Moore made notifications and mobilized equipment and personnel for potential fire suppression, as weather observations indicated a 100 percent probability of ignition.

TMFPD Chief Charles Moore introduced Firefighter Paramedic Daniel Moriarty and Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Sebastian Hickey, who were recognized with the Live-Saving Award. Chief Moore shared that Mr. Moriarty and Mr. Hickey were dispatched to the new Spanish Springs freestanding emergency department (FED) on April 23, 2023. They quickly assisted an individual suffering from a cardiac arrest episode for over 45 minutes. The patient was intubated, defibrillated, administered cardiac medications, and given the Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS) chest compression device. Chief Moore stated the patient was able to regain pulses and was transported to Northern Nevada Medical Center (NNMC) for treatment. The TMFPD was notified by the treating physician that the patient was extubated the following day with no reported neurological deficits. Chief Moore added that TMFPD received a letter from the hospital recognizing staff's actions, and he acknowledged Mr. Moriarty and Mr. Hickey's service saved the patient's life.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10053 Service Officer Scott Wilcox explained his role in providing services to veterans and their families as well as community outreach. He wanted the new TMFPD crew members to realize the awards presented were obtainable with hard work and education. He introduced 2021 to 2022 Firefighter of the Year, Firefighter Paramedic Alex Doerr, and 2020 to 2021 Firefighter of the Year, Fire Captain Brad Noble. He noted Mr. Doerr had been a TMFPD firefighter paramedic since 2014 and currently served as a firefighter precipitator for training new paramedics. As a member of the District Safety Committee, he was the Nevada Director of the National Firefighters Cancer Support Network. He had instituted several policies and procedures for decontamination at the scene and the station in addition to raising awareness of the proper cleaning of personal protective equipment (PPE) to remove contaminants. Mr. Doerr was able to make skin cancer screenings available in Northern Nevada through his work with the Cancer Support Network (CSN). Mr. Wilcox detailed how Mr. Noble joined TMFPD in 2012 and was a former member of the Nevada Air National Guard (NVANG). Mr. Wilcox described Mr. Noble as an excellent first responder. He noted Mr. Noble spearheaded the implementation of First Do, which was a program that provided alerts of incidences, geographic information system (GIS) mapping, and access to preplans to supply efficiency and access to critical information. He also implemented and maintained Check It, a program that preserved maintenance and other records for the apparatus and fleet. Mr. Wilcox informed that Mr. Noble rescued an elderly couple from their home during the 2021 Poeville Fire, as the fire began to ignite the house. In a separate off-duty incident, he performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on a cardiac arrest victim at the Reno Athletic Club, which saved the victim's life. Mr. Wilcox thanked Chief Moore and his department as well as the Commissioners for allowing him to attend the meeting.

Chair Hill thanked Mr. Wilcox for his involvement.

10:38 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

10:41 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

23-165F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Introduction and Badge Pinning of Promotional Employees and New Hires.

Promotional Employee

Justin Hansen, Heavy Equipment Operator

New Hires

Gabriel Akimoff, Crew Member

Michael Gallo, Crew Member

Brock Harmon, Crew Member

Garrett Hires, Crew Member

Colton Huber, Crew Member

Jason Hughes, Crew Member

Andrew Schmid, Crew Member

Collyn Stone, Crew Member

Dillon Strong, Crew Member

Dylan Todd, Crew Member

Anthony Vela, Crew Member

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Division Chief of Wildland and Fuels August Isernhagen introduced Heavy Equipment Operator Justin Hansen and announced some individuals were not in attendance due to extenuating circumstances. He introduced Crew Members Gabriel Akimoff, Michael Gallo, Colton Huber, Jason Hughes, Andrew Schmid, Collyn Stone, and Dylan Todd and provided a brief history of their backgrounds. Mr. Hansen was pinned by his father, Steve Hansen; Mr. Akimoff was pinned by his girlfriend, Landi Goddard; Mr. Gallo was pinned by his girlfriend, Lindsey Fullerton; Mr. Huber was pinned by his mother, Erin Huber; Mr. Hughes was pinned by his mother, Karen Hughes; Mr. Schmid was pinned by his daughter, Olive; Mr. Stone was pinned by his girlfriend, Taylor Lindemen; and Mr. Todd was pinned by his father, Richard Todd.

Chair Hill congratulated the badge-pinning honorees and welcomed the new hires to the TMFPD team.

10:48 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

10:51 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

23-166F **AGENDA ITEM 9** International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 Report.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 Vice President Jamie Rivera thanked Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Deputy Fire Chief Chris Ketring and the District for allowing the IAFF to show its support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. He noted the duty shirts for the month were made during the previous year in support of retired North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) Battalion Chief Carol Green, who was diagnosed with breast cancer. Mr. Rivera stated that 100 percent of the proceeds from the shirts would be used to assist with treatment and other needs. He mentioned that the IAFF Local 2487 had a key role in helping Battalion Chief Green through her workers' compensation process and approval, which determined the practice for all other female firefighters going forward. He thanked Washoe County Sheriff's Deputies Association Workers' Compensation Representative Leslie Bell for all her hard work. He added Battalion Chief Green was in remission and proceeding toward a successful recovery. On behalf of the IAFF Local 2487, Mr. Rivera thanked and congratulated all the recognized honorees.

Chair Hill thanked Mr. Rivera for his work.

23-167F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Fire Chief Report.

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the months of September 2023 and October 2023 to include the following items:
 - 1. District Census and EMS Coordinator Position
 - 2. Fuels Reduction Update
 - 3. Capital Projects Update
 - 4. Peer Support Report from Battalion Chief Derek Reid

- B. August 2023 Response Statistics

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore indicated a census of department staff members was prepared based on Chair Hill's request. He reported the census fluctuated over time, though he believed the trend showed an increase of more than twice the number of employees compared to 2012. He stated the plan was to use the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) grant program funds to reimburse the salary for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator position. The position would be assigned to a new firefighter paramedic who was expected to be hired in spring 2024.

Chief Moore announced the TMFPD green waste collection and disposal for the Autumn 2023 Green Waste Collection Days would begin on October 7 and 8, 2023, in Washoe Valley and Wadsworth followed by Lemmon Valley and Silver Lake. He counted approximately nine or ten events during the months of October and November 2023, including the free curbside chipping program, through which the TMFPD hoped to

have the opportunity to assist senior citizens who might not be able to harvest their green waste otherwise.

Chief Moore informed that entitlements for the Apple Station would be presented for approval of the special use permit (SUP) before the Board of Adjustment (BOA) on November 2, 2023. He indicated that once approved, the design development was intended to proceed for the Washoe Valley and Apple Stations. He added that TMFPD was in the process of working on the utilities design for the Apple Station and planned to use the electricity from the other side of Interstate 80 (I-80). He expressed concern regarding financing the stations since the consolidated tax (C-tax) was being challenged. He conveyed the intention was to prepare for the stations' construction and formalize a decision at the start of the next fiscal year based on the District's revenue stream and financial options as well as the cost associated with building the stations.

In response to a question from Chair Hill, Chief Moore confirmed the staffing for the Apple Station would be funded by TMFPD. Chair Hill wondered if there might be an opportunity to work with Storey County on a potential grant, as Storey County would have some more property tax once it received some of its abatements that were set to expire. She mentioned Storey County had spoken about partnering with Washoe County and suggested starting discussions on the matter.

TMFPD Battalion Chief Derek Reid reported on his peer support deployment in Maui County, Hawaii, for which his purpose was to visit and check on the mental wellness of the Maui Fire Department (MFD) crew members. He stated that the Lahaina Fire was currently recognized as the deadliest fire in United States (US) history. He revealed the fire resulted in over 100 deaths to date, with many individuals still missing. He explained he was joined by peer support-trained personnel from New York, Utah, Arizona, Oregon, and Hawaii. They visited eight fire stations over the four-day period, during which they made contact with 168 firefighters who provided candid accounts of their experience on August 8, 2023. Battalion Chief Reid commented that he and the other personnel learned about the residing firefighters' Hawaiian culture and values, and how the event affected and would continue to impact the community indefinitely. He conveyed the fire devastated some of Lahaina Town's oldest historic and spiritual sites, and he visited the multi-generational neighborhoods where the native residents had no time to escape from the wind-driven fire. He commented that, despite being saddened by the Maui citizens' loss, he was grateful and honored to have been welcomed into their firehouses and their native culture to provide emotional support. He acknowledged how proud the native residents were of their culture and how accustomed they were to doing their business with little help on large and catastrophic incidents. He compared the MFD to TMFPD.

Battalion Chief Reid noted the MFD had virtually no access to mutual aid due to its location on an island. He provided background on the Lahaina Fire and stated the MFD crew members did not have any contact with loved ones who were in the direct path of the fire. He added that 19 firefighters with MFD lost their homes or had immediate relatives who lost their homes and observed how miraculous it was that no firefighters lost their lives. He indicated he and the individuals he deployed with from the mainland sent

their thoughts and prayers to the Maui firefighters and remained in contact. He described the culture of Maui County as resilient.

Chair Hill stated the Board appreciated Battalion Chief Reid representing TMFPD and his hard work in Maui County.

23-168F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Presentation, discussion, and possible direction to staff on the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's Draft 2024-2026 Strategic Plan, which includes the following goals and impacts: (1) Serve the Needs of Our Community. (2) Build a Safer, More Resilient Community and Workforce. (3) Create a Sustainable Future for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection. (All Commission Districts)

OnStrategy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Erica Olsen clarified she was representing Lead Strategist Kamryn Mock. She briefed the Board on the process used to develop the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) draft 2024 to 2026 Strategic Plan, including compiling all the stakeholders' input about the District. She emphasized the importance for TMFPD Chief Moore and the planning team to make the process available for all staff to participate. She noted Chief Moore's efforts to ensure every individual could be involved in the process if they wished. Additionally, Chief Moore and the planning team asked for the Strategic Plan to help create cross-functional work. She explained the document reflected the intention of Chief Moore and the planning team to use the Strategic Plan to drive resources and action in order to stay focused.

Chief Moore clarified the Standards of Cover document analyzed the TMFPD's data and stated he and the planning team identified the gaps within the District as well as where it was successful in terms of the services it offered. He speculated the resources in the north needed to be strengthened because 75 percent of the calls were received there. He noted the District was largely rural land use and did not benefit from having a great density. He said this posed a challenge when compared to the Cities of Sparks and Reno, wherein response times were generally short because of the concentration of risk and resources within five miles. He added a lot of resources could be transported to bear on a structure fire in an urban area. He informed there were heavy response times for some areas where the TMFPD served. He affirmed arrival of the first resource was the most critical because most structure fires were restrained through the first deployed measure.

Chief Moore expressed concern regarding annexation, as its effect on the District would remove tax revenue and create deployment of bizarre boundaries. He wished the cities would prepare a plan to provide service to the areas that were annexed. He added the District was closer to many areas that were annexed while it did not have a way to respond to emergency incidents that were within short distances from a TMFPD station and advised the issue needed to be fixed. He reported positive steps were being taken toward the common computer-aided dispatch (CAD), which would help resolve the communication between dispatch centers. He added there still needed to be policy decisions based on whether the method of service would be closest unit response to every call or closest unit response to critical situations. He thought closest unit response should

be employed for life-threatening emergency events initially. He recommended studying the ratio for if the District responded to every call for the Cities of Sparks and Reno where the TMFPD was closest, with the expectation that the cities would respond in the same way for the District.

Chief Moore highlighted the Strategic Plan initiative of driving more regional response and building connections between the neighboring fire departments so the TMFPD might respond to events seamlessly, noting it could possibly lead to a more regional fire department eventually. He remarked on the financial stability of the TMFPD for not relying on property tax and C-tax, as the District had developed a relationship with NV Energy and had done well with obtaining grant awards. He mentioned goal teams would be established to meet quarterly and prepare recommendations to build action items into the budget for planning expenditures. He indicated the intention was to present the Strategic Plan to the Board in November 2023 and/or December 2023 for its adoption.

Vice Chair Herman thanked Chief Moore for doing a thorough job on the Strategic Plan. She recognized Washoe County's responsibility for how the County had developed, for which she apologized. She wished Chief Moore luck with the Strategic Plan efforts and assured that the Commissioners would offer support.

Commissioner Andriola commended Chief Moore on the draft Strategic Plan and was in favor of the accountability aspect and the financial sustainability strategic goal included in the draft. She said exploring non-traditional forms of revenue sources to help prepare for the projected decline was forward-thinking. She voiced her support for the strategic goal regarding recruitment and stated that exploring the implementation of an apprenticeship program was a beneficial opportunity for the inspector positions referenced in the document. She thanked Chief Moore for conducting a survey, completing an analysis of the stakeholders' feedback, and understanding residents' concerns. She thought it would be helpful for the Commissioners to be involved in the task of reporting.

Commissioner Clark thanked Chief Moore for his report. He acknowledged many people did not understand the existing jurisdictional boundaries, since their concern was to talk to somebody and be assured that help was on the way during an emergency situation. He believed the boundary conflict with other jurisdictions was not serving the public to the greatest extent. He indicated there should be mutual aid provided without a question of who would respond to the incident and how fast the response would be to help, as that was what the citizens were looking for. He thought the County needed to prioritize providing public service to residents as fast as possible and offered to assist with the matter.

Commissioner Garcia thanked Chief Moore and mentioned how well the draft captured the Strategic Plan and the implementation plan. She was in favor of how the document was guided by input from labor management, community members, and the Board. She specified her feedback when interviewed was largely focused on increasing the diversity of staff. She recounted a personal experience when participating in a ride-along in Sun Valley, during which she helped translate since the one other Spanish speaker on the scene was assisting with a fire. She described feeling inspired to share the experience

and emphasized its significance because the increase in diversification was a component within the regional growth referenced in the draft. She informed approximately 25 percent of staff were employees of color, and the percentage of those individuals who were Hispanic/Latino varied between 15 to 18 percent. She noted the employee demographic mirrored the County's population of 26 percent Hispanic/Latino. Commissioner Garcia stated that the matter was important to her since she represented District 3, which had a Hispanic/Latino population of 40 to 50 percent. She advised instances when people were unable to ask for what they needed would typically take two seconds to handle in another language.

In response to Commissioner Garcia's inquiry regarding the current racial/ethnic background of TMFPD, Chief Moore assured he could obtain that statistic. Commissioner Garcia was in favor of the inclusion of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) with the objectives for Goal 3. She supported the apprenticeship program and the signature academy included in the initiatives, which she thought were phenomenal, proactive ways to recruit young, diverse local youth who would live and work in the County. She did not believe the fiscal year (FY) 2026 desired impact column for recruitment and DEIB was specific enough compared to the other objectives. She wanted the Board to set the FY 2026 desired impact goal in the Strategic Plan. She also wished to see the percentage for the current measurable impact integrated into the document for recruitment and DEIB because the Commissioners did not know where they were going if they did not know where they were starting. She believed the objective would be challenging to address.

Chief Moore expressed his firm belief that a fire department needed to reflect its community ethnically. He noted diverse employees needed to be grown within Washoe County's network starting at the high schools so they could be recruited by TMFPD once they were attending community college.

Commissioner Garcia agreed with Chief Moore's input; however, she proposed assessing Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title I elementary schools as a first touchpoint to increase the TMFPD's presence at a young age. She referenced how the City of Reno offered a test to measure proficiency in languages. She suggested the County consider providing bilingual pay as an incentive for ethnically diverse people from different backgrounds and identified Spanish and Tagalog as critical needs in the community.

Commissioner Clark pointed out that not all Hispanic individuals communicated in Spanish and asked Chief Moore to investigate if there were staff members of any background who might speak Spanish. He did not believe the heritage of an interpreter mattered.

Chair Hill appreciated the approach of the draft Strategic Plan and thought it was the best one she reviewed during her service on the Board. She congratulated Chief Moore and thanked him for being open to hearing feedback from his team, the community, and the Commissioners. She valued Commissioner Garcia's input. She referenced

Commissioner Clark's statement and thought a lot of recruitment resulted from people seeing staff members who looked like them in a workplace. She said she was a major proponent of the environmental sustainability objective in the document and was in favor of the many outlined components. Referencing Commissioner Garcia's input, Chair Hill requested that Chief Moore contact Sustainability Manager Brian Beffort to tighten up the goals on reductions in carbon and provide the result. She supported Commissioner Andriola's point about Commissioners reviewing the goals and asked if the specific goals could be discussed during each Board meeting. She believed the matters related to the closest unit response needed to be evaluated and addressed differently. She echoed Commissioner Clark's input concerning the importance of public safety.

Chief Moore indicated he was fully engaged with City of Reno Fire Chief David Cochran and City of Sparks Fire Chief Walt White. He opined that it was time to converse as fire chiefs and staff as well as at the policy level with the Board because such discussions needed to be solidified before a new CAD system could be implemented. Chair Hill agreed.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Cliff Low, regarding diversity, thought the ability to communicate was of significance rather than a person's physical appearance. He suggested considering the use of technology that might be currently available, inexpensive, and could prepare real-time translations to remedy the communication issue. He commented that the seriousness of the needs from an emergency call and the potential consequences for delayed response times should be taken into consideration for the allocation of resources. He noted annexation was a real challenge and stated it affected the revenues that TMFPD earned in addition to the utilization of resources. He clarified that property tax revenues began to increase when an area was annexed, and if arrangements were not made to provide emergency services in that area, TMFPD could be relied on for services. Mr. Low asked the Board to prioritize trying to address the annexation issue.

There was no action taken on this item.

BLOCK VOTE – 12 THROUGH 17

23-169F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to accept a grant from The William N. Pennington Foundation in the amount of \$558,000 for the purchase of a new Type III wildland fire engine and corresponding loose equipment, and if accepted, approve Resolution TM19-2023 accepting the grant funding and direct staff to make necessary budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be accepted, approved, and directed. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

23-170F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to approve the purchase of a Type III brush fire engine through Siddons-Martin for a purchase price not to exceed \$499,761, in accordance with NRS 332.115.1 (d), Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be approved.

23-171F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to approve Amendment No. 6 to the Employment Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief at Section 12(B), to allow compensation to be paid out in either a cash lump sum or payment into the employee's 457 Deferred Compensation account at the employee's current rate for annual leave accrued in excess of 240 hours in a calendar year, and if approved, approve a request by the employee for a cash payout of up to 120 hours of vacation leave at his current rate, not to exceed a total amount of \$15,000. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be approved.

23-172F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Recommendation to approve the purchase of fifty-five (55) P25-compliant Tri-Band mobile radios to include miscellaneous accessories at an estimated cost of \$183,559.80 from L3Harris Technologies, Inc. 221 Jefferson Ridge Parkway Lynchburg, Virginia 24501 in accordance with Washoe County/Harris Corporation (Now L3Harris Technologies) Agreement MBP#19829. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be approved.

23-173F **AGENDA ITEM 16** Recommendation to approve a Sub-Grant Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Washoe County to provide for the purchase of two ambulances in an amount of up to \$500,000 allocated as part of the American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Corona State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. If approved, approve a Resolution TM20-2023 accepting the grant funding and direct staff to make necessary budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 16 be approved. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

23-174F **AGENDA ITEM 17** Recommendation to approve Resolution TM21-2023 authorizing a short-term (less than 12 months) interfund Loan not to exceed \$1,500,000 from the General Fund to the Emergency Fund for the purpose of funding emergency event costs pending receipt of state and local reimbursements and direct staff to make necessary budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 17 be approved and directed. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

23-175F **AGENDA ITEM 18** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or reports.

23-176F **AGENDA ITEM 19** Public Comment.

Mr. Cliff Low displayed a document that was placed on file with the Clerk. He referenced the Board of County Commissioners’ (BCC) Rules of Procedure Handbook and noted it provided for two sessions of public comment both early and later in the meeting. He reiterated the handbook indicated the ordinary order of business, which only allowed the rearrangement of the agenda items. He believed the explanations that were given for allowing items to be removed from the ordinary order were a stretch at best. He added that multiple Commissioners had requested for the topic regarding the starting public comment period of the BCC meetings to be placed on an agenda, which had not been done. He read section 5.5 of the handbook aloud. He did not understand how permitting the item to be on an agenda as a discussion-only item would substantially conflict with the law or the ability of the County to carry out its administrative operations and duties. Mr. Low stated he would call upon whomever the responsible party was to make available to the public all records of such a consultation that came to those conclusions. He referenced an article in the *Reno Gazette-Journal (RGJ)*. The article quoted Chair Hill saying that after investigating the matter and speaking with the District Attorney’s (DA) Office, she realized the rules outlined in the handbook needed to change. Additionally, the article quoted Chair Hill speaking about following the rules. Mr. Low stated the Board and the Commissioners deserved better, and the public warranted consistency.


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11:39 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:



for Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy
JANIS GALASSINI, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows
Fire Protection District
Minutes Prepared By:
Danielle Hayward, Deputy County Clerk