

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

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 12, 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 9:00 a.m. in special 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:

23-138F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

23-139F AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore advised that the National Weather Service (NWS) had been asked to appear at the October meeting to provide an update about the upcoming winter.

Chief Moore reported that discussion regarding the Strategic Plan would be moved to the October meeting and could contain about 30 minutes of presentation.

Chief Moore proudly announced that staff had worked to obtain a grant of \$500,000 for a new brush truck. He said the item would be brought forward on the October meeting agenda. Chair Hill congratulated the team.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A THROUGH 5F

23-140F 5A Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the July 11, 2023 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

- 23-141F** **5B** Recommendation to approve a Mutual Aid Agreement between Secretary of the Air Force acting by and through the Commander, Nevada Air National Guard pursuant to the authority of 42 U.S.C. § 1856a and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for a term of five years with an automatic renewal for an additional five-year period with the right to renew for additional two five-year terms not to exceed a total of 20 years. (All Commission Districts)
- 23-142F** **5C** Recommendation to approve an amendment to an Interlocal Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the State of Nevada acting by and through the Nevada Division of Forestry Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to allow use of Nevada Division of Forestry equipment by Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District personnel. (All Commission Districts)
- 23-143F** **5D** Recommendation to approve a Sub-Grant Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Washoe County to provide for purchase of twenty-four sets of Ballistic Plates and forty-eight Ballistic Plate Carriers retroactive from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 as part of the FY 2024 United We Stand Grant, from the Nevada State Emergency Response Commission, passed through from Washoe County in the amount of \$20,237.50. If approved, authorize the Fire Chief or his designee to sign the grant award documents; and to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)
- 23-144F** **5E** Recommendation to approve the re-classification of one (1) Firefighter/Paramedic Police/Fire NV PERS position at an annual salary range of \$72,829.12 to \$94,756.48 to an EMS Coordinator Regular NV PERS position at an annual salary range of \$81,785.60 to \$106,308.80, and if approved, approve Resolutions TM15-2023 and TM16-2023 to amend/augment the District's General and EMS funds. (All Commission Districts)
- 23-145F** **5F** Recommendation to retroactively approve an Equipment Reimbursement Allocation Policy standardizing equipment and indirect cost reimbursements from billable emergency response, contracted natural resource management work, and grant reimbursements; and direct staff to allocate funds to the appropriate internal Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District budgets based on where cost to support billable operations occur effective July 1, 2023. (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 Clark absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5F be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5F are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

23-146F **AGENDA ITEM 6** International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 Report.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 President Patrick Walsh announced that Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) firefighter Derek Reed had recently returned from Maui, Hawaii, where he assisted as a representative on the Peer Support Team. Mr. Walsh mentioned the IAFF was very proud of Mr. Reed's service in helping fellow firefighters during a time of need.

Mr. Walsh noted Item 5E reclassified a firefighter/paramedic position to an office position. He stated there was no debate that the office was very busy and said it was doing great work. The IAFF was excited one of its team members would have upward mobility, but he wanted to point out the workload was increasing on both the office and suppression sides. He explained it was very difficult to get back firefighting positions that had been taken away and noted they operated with 10 engine companies over the past year, whereas they previously operated with 11. He reported that in the last few months, conversations with administration had taken place to bring back the eleventh engine company and redeploy those resources to the northern part of the region, which had been identified as a key problem area. No resolution on the subject had yet been reached. He wanted to make sure the Board understood their perspective that it was very hard to get back positions on the suppression side, frozen or not, that had been taken away. He offered to answer questions or confer outside the meeting. He wanted to publicly state the IAFF's perspective that they were not upset about someone receiving a promotion. However, they were slightly taken aback that a reclassification from the suppression side to the office side had occurred when both divisions were experiencing increased workloads.

Chair Hill appreciated the feedback. She mentioned it was important the issue got on the record, and she affirmed the Board needed to discuss it. She asked Chief Moore if he could provide an update or if Mr. Reed could provide a presentation regarding his time in Maui at a future meeting. She explained her constituents frequently brought up Maui as an example of something that could happen in the Lake Tahoe area. She stated she was not sure how comparable the areas were to each other but thought it would be helpful to hear about Mr. Reed's experience. Chief Moore and Mr. Reed were agreeable to the suggestion.

23-147F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Fire Chief Report

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of August 2023 and September 2023 to include the following items:

1. Report on Wildfire, Fuels Reduction Projects and Fall Green Waste Schedule
2. Report on Community Engagement Regarding Wildfire and Evacuation
3. Strategic Plan Update
4. Capital Projects Update
5. International Association of Fire Chief's Video of TMFR

B. June 2023 and July 2023 Response Statistics

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore asked Fire Management Officer Greg Jackson to speak on Item 7A regarding helicopter operations.

Mr. Jackson displayed a map titled “NVE 212 Line Treatment Units Map” that was included in the backup material for this Item. Mr. Jackson advised that his team was commencing operations at Diamond Peak Ski Resort in Incline Village (IV). He said they could not perform mechanical removals of trees and brush units in several areas, so they were flying all the material into Diamond Peak Ski Resort on the cut unit on Friday, September 15, 2023. He noted the land was needed in a timely manner because poles were going to be installed in the same area. He explained his team would then move to the Truckee Meadows district on Monday, September 18, 2023, in the Atoma and Mt. Rose area, and their flight patterns in Washoe County would not displace any residents. He stated they would take logs and brush out of Units 1 and 2, and out of a portion of Unit 3. The bridge location in the Atoma area would be the landing zone, where a large building had been recently demolished across the street from Mt. Rose Ski Resort. The logs would be taken off the mountain via trucks.

Mr. Jackson reported the final flight plans would occur off Toll Road in the Bain Spring Road area. He mentioned the project was split between TMFPD and Storey County and the project area was not shown on the map. He explained Storey County had completed a portion of the project, but the remainder could not be completed mechanically with heavy equipment due to steep terrain. Hand cutting would therefore occur, and the debris would be flown out. He summarized large projects would be taking place in Washoe County, Storey County, IV, and Douglas County. He stated delays were possible on Monday, September 18, 2023, due to lightning. If there were no delays, operations were planned until late October 2023.

Chair Hill asked if there would be any social outreach to inform citizens about the project. Mr. Jackson reported communication would be initiated by their Public Information Office (PIO) team, Fire Communications Manager Adam Mayberry, and NV Energy. Mr. Jackson noted some trail closures would occur, impacting people near the Galena Creek Visitor Center. He added some people liked to drop their cars off at the center and ride their bikes in the area. The team had been publicizing the trail closures whenever possible so people knew certain trails would be closed while logs were flown out.

***9:10 a.m. Commissioner Clark arrived.**

Chair Hill disclosed she had spoken with NV Energy representatives who stated TMFPD was the best agency to work with in Nevada. She declared Mr. Jackson should be extremely proud of his team and thanked him for making the County and State look good. Mr. Jackson thanked Chair Hill and offered to provide briefings on flight directions outside the meeting if needed.

Chief Moore reiterated the Strategic Plan update would occur during the October meeting.

Chief Moore spoke about capital projects and remarked that Washoe Valley residents were eager for more information about the Washoe Valley Station. He advised plans for the Apple and Washoe Valley Stations were occurring concurrently. He stated that after speaking with the architect and the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) contractor, TMFPD believed civil work for the Washoe Valley and Apple Stations would begin in July 2024. They could begin digging the foundation soon after and would see the project come out of the ground in late summer 2024. The caveat was the District needed financing, which Chief Moore advised would be discussed later in the agenda. He reported there was also an option for the Washoe Valley Station to obtain a low-interest loan from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for an approximate 40-year term at a low interest rate. He said this made the debt service payment very attractive and reported that if TMFPD did not obtain financing through the Nevada State Infrastructure Bank (SIB), they would get it through the USDA. Even though a decision had not been reached, the District was diligently addressing the financial component. He noted the architects were working hard on plans, the CMAR contractor was working hard on construction estimates, and things were progressing as quickly as possible. He announced that TMFPD found a beautiful site for the Apple Station that provided a perfect spot for serving the Interstate 80 (I-80) corridor from the Patrick exit to Wadsworth.

Chief Moore announced that the Fall Green Waste event would take place over nine calendar days. He explained Mr. Mayberry had provided communication to the community about the event. Chief Moore said he hoped to see citizens create their defensible space and commented that the TMFPD team would certainly assist them with their disposal.

Chief Moore announced that TMFPD was very proud that the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) contacted the District to feature them in a video along with 14 other fire departments. The video was played at the Fire-Rescue International 2023 conference in Kansas City, Missouri, in August 2023. He opined it was wonderful to see the District featured nationally along with some major metropolitan districts like San Francisco, California. He explained research was performed on the District because it had a lot to offer in the area of fuels reduction. He mentioned a major component of the conference's educational seminar was fuels reduction and the conference wanted to feature the District's actions in this area. Chief Moore stated the District's partnership with NV Energy was great. He noted that when TMFPD was not doing fuels reduction projects with

NV Energy, those resources were being used at the taxpayers' expense to do private fuels reduction projects. Therefore, the fuels crew was always busy and doing something just about every day. He said they were making a big difference and he was proud the District was chosen for the video. To save time, he did not play it at the meeting, but he said he might play it at the October meeting. The video was posted on TMFPD's website. Chair Hill congratulated Chief Moore and his team.

Commissioner Garcia questioned why Sun Valley was not represented on the Green Waste Schedule and asked Chief Moore what location he recommended Sun Valley citizens utilize. Chief Moore thought Spanish Springs was combined with Sun Valley and offered to see about adding a Sun Valley event. Commissioner Garcia asked if Sun Valley had hosted Green Waste events in the past. Chief Moore requested that Mr. Jackson answer Commissioner Garcia's question. Mr. Jackson explained Green Waste events had not taken place in Sun Valley in the past. He said it took three to four acres to drop off the Green Waste and ship it so he would need to find out more information about the land. Commissioner Garcia noted she was interested in exploring the possibility of adding a Sun Valley event to gauge public interest and engagement. Mr. Jackson said he would check with Battalion Chief James Solaro to see if there was an appropriate parcel either through Washoe County or the general improvement district (GID).

On the call for public comment, Mr. Thomas Daly thanked Chief Moore, Wildland Fuels Division Chief August Isernhagen, Mr. Jackson, and their fuels crews on behalf of the Estates at Mt. Rose Homeowners Association (HOA) for clearing about 45 acres of brush in their community, along with the HOA's contractors. He commented that the threat of wildfires had been significantly reduced in the area. He posited that small communities like his had been shut out from the grant program administered by the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) and commended TMFPD for stepping up to fill the void. He said the project was a successful public and private partnership. He encouraged the District to expand similar efforts to other small communities that could not obtain an NDF grant to help reduce their risk of wildfire.

There was no action on this item.

23-148F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to authorize the Fire Chief to communicate Board of Fire Commissioner support for the NV Energy Natural Disaster Protection Plan to the Public Utilities Commission through correspondence and attendance at hearings and refer the matter to the Board of County Commissioners for its consideration. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore explained it was very important for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to receive feedback from local governments about NV Energy's Natural Disaster Protection Plan (NDDP). He stated the PUC approved \$343 million for NV Energy to execute NDDP but they hit a snag when NV Energy was not approved for \$15 million that had already been spent. Chief Moore reported NV Energy would appeal the decision and announced TMFPD desired to be part of the appeal. Chief Moore said PUC staff questioned if all costs were

being applied to fuels reduction. He specified this was related to ensuring ratepayers were not being charged for firefighting time or anything else that was not related to fuel removal. Chief Moore remarked that his staff was very careful about defining and allocating what applied to NV Energy's program versus their own suppression efforts. He explained they did not charge NV Energy for any work performed for NV Energy contracts. Chief Moore noted the PUC was interested in learning more on this subject to address its concerns about multiple fire departments in Northern Nevada. Chief Moore said testimony from the TMFPD staff would be instrumental in resolving questions the PUC staff had.

Chair Hill commended Chief Moore for staying engaged and asking the Board for guidance. She asked if the Board would be able to see the letter from Chief Moore either before or after it was sent. Chief Moore advised he would copy the Board on the letter. He believed input from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) would be helpful and said he would talk to County Manager Eric Brown about presenting the subject to the BCC.

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be authorized.

BLOCK VOTE – 9 THROUGH 12

23-149F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to ratify Fiscal Year 2022-2023 reimbursements from the Washoe County, Nevada Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the cost of retiree health insurance premiums in the amount of \$152,444. Monies transferred from this trust have been placed into the District's General Fund. (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 9 be ratified.

23-150F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to retroactively approve a Joinder Provision of a second, one-year extension, July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, to the original Request for Proposal No. 3086-19 for Medical Services-Washoe County Personnel, ARC Health and Wellness Centers, in the estimated annual amount of \$175,000. (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 10 be approved.

23-151F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to retroactively approve a 3-year agreement with the option of subsequent one year term renewals, effective July 1, 2023, between Ready Rebound LLC and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for an amount of \$49,758 each year, for the purpose of managing employees’ work-related orthopedic injuries and reducing injury-related costs. (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 11 be approved.

23-152F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve a new Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement and Supplemental Project Agreement between the United States Forest Service and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to perform federally funded fuels reduction projects with District staff and equipment. Federal funding utilized in this agreement is not to exceed \$1,800,000 over the five-year agreement period. (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 approved.

23-153F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to approve the purchase of three Type I structural fire engines through Siddons-Martin for a cost of \$1,011,694.66 each for a total purchase price for the three engines of \$3,035,084 in accordance with NRS 332.115.1 (d), Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Deputy Chief of Operations Chris Ketring explained the District had prioritized replacing three Type I structural fire engines as part of their Apparatus Replacement Plan. He noted the bill time was 36 months and said the District would be paying for the engines with cash on delivery (COD). The District was budgeting for the replacement engines over the next three years and had utilized Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) contract pricing. Chair Hill asked what would happen to the old engines. Deputy Chief Ketring advised they would go to auction.

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.

23-154F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to approve an application to the Nevada State Investment Bank for a grant, long-term loan, or a combination thereof to construct a new apparatus bay at the Hidden Valley Fire Station #37, located at 3255 Hidden Valley Drive, in the amount of \$4,500,000 and approve Resolution TM17-2023 supporting the application. (Commission District 4)

Agenda Items 14 and 15 were opened together.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore referred to the applications. He said more information needed to be added and the current documents were already in the public record. He stated those documents included information related to audits, budgets, planning, and architecture, and the Board had already seen them. The District would be asking for either a grant, a loan, or both. They needed to first meet with the Nevada State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) to discuss options.

Regarding the Washoe Valley Station, Chief Moore explained the choice of applying through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a low-interest, 40-year loan term. He noted the option was attractive regarding repayment capabilities.

Chair Hill expressed excitement at the District's participation in the Nevada SIB. She noted she had been pushing for Nevada SIB participation because she felt it was a big deal. She stated the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) could write a letter of support if Chief Moore thought it would be helpful and asked him to reach out to County Manager Eric Brown, if necessary. She thought the District was a perfect candidate for the Nevada SIB program and that not enough government entities were utilizing it. She commended the team for the work they had done to take part in the opportunity.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be approved. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

23-155F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Recommendation to approve an application to the Nevada State Investment Bank for a grant, long-term loan, or a combination thereof to construct a new fire station to serve the greater Washoe Valley area, located at 0 Pelican Drive in the amount of \$11,500,000 and approve Resolution TM18-2023 supporting the application. (Commission District 2)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be approved. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

23-156F **AGENDA ITEM 16** Announcements/Reports.

Vice Chair Herman offered thanks to all firefighters and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore for protecting the community from any major seasonal fires. Chief Moore stated Mother Nature played a role.

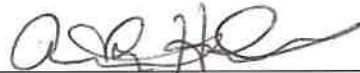
Chair Hill asked if, in response to International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 President Patrick Walsh’s comments during Item 6, Chief Moore could once again provide staffing information during the Fire Chief Report. She said because certain information became disjointed when reaching the Board, keeping a holistic eye on future plans and staffing could be helpful.

23-157F **AGENDA ITEM 17** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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9:30 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.



ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy
for **JANIS GALASSINI**, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows
Fire Protection District
Minutes Prepared by:
Kendra DeSoto-Silva, Deputy County Clerk

