

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 7, 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:

23-179F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Ms. Nancy Litchfield appreciated the Board's commitment to addressing the climate crisis and promoting a healthy and sustainable future for the County. She thanked the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) for its consistent work to safeguard the community's homes, properties, and lives. She spoke about the Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) recent approval of a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program, which allowed private companies to receive low-interest loans for renewable energy resiliency and other conservation projects. She applauded the County for hiring Sustainability Manager Brian Beffort, whom she opined was energetic and passionately committed to finding ways to cut carbon pollution. She asserted she was a climate advocate and there were many others in the community like her. She declared she was part of the Citizens' Climate Lobby Group and expressed concern that Reno was a rapidly warming city. She believed climate disruptions would grow more frequent and intense. She asked the Board to be mindful of the environment as it made decisions.

23-180F AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore announced that open burning would be permitted starting December 1, 2023, weather permitting. He explained some property owners could not take advantage of the green waste program and needed to burn in place. He pointed out that one acre inside the hydrographic basin and two acres outside the hydrographic basin were the minimum lot sizes allowable for open burning. He declared that the TMFPD website would include additional information.

Chief Moore informed that ash cans would be available to the public on November 28, November 30, and December 1. He recalled many fires related to ash cans occurred before the program was implemented and that former County Commissioner Vaughn Hartung recommended the TMFPD give away free ash cans. Chief Moore reported the number of fires related to abandoned ashes had decreased to zero since the onset of the program. He noted there would be 200 ash cans available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Chief Moore informed that the TMFPD and other local cooperators were working with NV Energy to develop a consistent contract as requested by the Public Utility Commission (PUC). He declared the contract was nearing completion and would be brought before the Board in December. Chair Hill thanked Chief Moore for his leadership in moving the NV Energy contracts forward. Chief Moore commended Division Chief of Wildland and Fuels August Isernhagen for his work on the project.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A THROUGH 5C

23-181F **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the October 3, 2023 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

23-182F **5B** Recommendation to approve a Notice of Cancellation for the regularly scheduled Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District’s Board of Fire Commissioners meeting scheduled for December 5, 2023, at 10 a.m. and to reschedule the meeting for December 12, 2023, at 9 a.m. (All Commission Districts)

23-183F **5C** Recommendation to approve a Notice of Cancellation for the regularly scheduled Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District’s Board of Fire Commissioners meeting scheduled for January 2, 2024, at 10 a.m. and to reschedule the meeting for January 9, 2024, at 9 a.m. (All Commission Districts)

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

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5C be approved.

23-184F **AGENDA ITEM 6** Awards, Recognition, and Introductions.

Golden Axe Award
Adam Crichton, Squad Boss
Brock Harmon, Crew Member

Meritorious Conduct Award
James Solaro, Battalion Chief

Veteran Recognition

Michael Krysztof, Captain
Brad Noble, Captain
Ed Martin, Engineer
Aaron McComb, Engineer
Jose Rodriguez, Engineer
Geno Higman, Firefighter/Paramedic
Ryan Rutter, Firefighter/Paramedic
Anthony Sacci, Firefighter/Paramedic
Sage Coulter, Firefighter/EMT
Cas Hoag, Crew Member
Adrian Martinez, Crew Member

Outgoing Volunteer Station Managers Recognition

Palomino Valley - Dennis Own
Red Rock - Bill Garand
Silver Lake - Dave Walizer

Incoming Volunteer Station Managers Introduction

Palomino Valley - Steve Cwiak
Red Rock - Doug Hulsebus
Silver Lake – Steve Fields

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Division Chief of Wildland and Fuels August Isernhagen introduced Squad Boss Adam Crichton and Crew Member Brock Harmon. Division Chief Isernhagen recalled an incident that occurred while Mr. Crichton and Mr. Harmon were on a fire assignment in August 2023. He relayed that Mr. Crichton and Mr. Harmon came across a civilian who had been involved in an accident and sustained injuries. He said the two immediately took action to help the injured and call for help. In the weeks following the incident, he reported receiving several phone calls from external agencies applauding the actions of Mr. Crichton and Mr. Harmon. Division Chief Isernhagen read a letter from Division Chief John McNamara of the Reno Fire Department (RFD) lauding the efforts of Mr. Crichton and Mr. Harmon.

10:11 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

10:12 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

TMFPD Chief Charles Moore introduced Battalion Chief James Solaro. Chief Moore recited a quote from Steve Jobs about hiring smart people. He recognized Battalion Chief Solaro for his work over the past decade on fire hydrant systems. In addition to his role as Battalion Chief, Mr. Solaro was also a licensed fire protection and electrical engineer. Chief Moore declared Battalion Chief Solaro's institutional knowledge about the TMFPD's numerous water systems and the history of its infrastructure was beneficial. He added that Battalion Chief Solaro was instrumental in helping with the legal

analysis of a hydrant maintenance and ownership issue. Chief Moore applauded Battalion Chief Solaro for his distinguished decade of performance and service.

Chief Moore recognized TMFPD employees who had also served in the armed forces. He thanked them for their sacrifice and dedication to the nation and the community. He declared they demonstrated exceptional qualities such as discipline, leadership, and resilience during their military service, which translated seamlessly into fire service. He appreciated their contributions to national security and the values they brought to the TMFPD. He asked the veterans present to join him at the podium and state their names and ranks.

Division Chief Isernhagen introduced outgoing Volunteer Station Managers Dennis Own of the Palomino Valley Fire Station, Bill Garand of the Red Rock Fire Station, and Dave Walizer of the Silver Lake Fire Station. He stated the TMFPD had a large volunteer program. He provided a brief history of the outgoing managers' backgrounds and thanked them for their service.

Division Chief Isernhagen introduced incoming Volunteer Station Managers Steve Cwiak of the Palomino Valley Fire Station, Doug Hulsebus of the Red Rock Fire Station, and Steve Fields of the Silver Lake Fire Station. He provided a brief history of their backgrounds.

Vice Chair Herman expressed sadness to lose the current Volunteer Station Managers and looked forward to working with the incoming managers. She thanked them for their hard work as volunteers.

10:25 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

10:28 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

23-185F **AGENDA ITEM 7** International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 Report.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 Vice President Jamie Rivera stated he did not have any updates for the month and looked forward to 2024 when he would share the IAFF's strategic goals with the Board.

23-186F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Fire Chief Report.

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the months of October and November 2023 to include the following items:
1. TMWA Proposal to purchase 0.275 acres
 2. Green Waste Numbers
 3. Capital Projects Update
 4. Strategic Plan Update

B. September 2023 Response Statistics.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore displayed a document that was placed on file with the Clerk. He gave an overview of the Hill Fire from October 24, 2023. He mentioned that the TMFPD had a contract with Sierra County to respond to the area the fire was in. TMFPD Division Chief of Wildland and Fuels August Isernhagen informed the Hill Fire was detected by newly installed NV Energy fire detection cameras. He reported that improvements had been completed within the past year at an NV Energy site near where the fire broke out. Wildland crews from the TMFPD had worked on the improvement project, giving them expanded knowledge of fuel types, road access, fuel breaks, and power lines in the area, expediting suppression activities. He asserted that collaboration and teamwork were crucial and remarked that more than 12 agencies from both California and Nevada responded to the fire. He thanked Washoe County Emergency Management (WCEM) and noted that the Hill Fire was the first real scenario to use the Perimeter evacuation software. He opined the incident was successful overall.

Chair Hill commended Division Chief Isernhagen and his team for their hard work. She asked how closely the TMFPD worked with Sierra County. Division Chief Isernhagen responded that the TMFPD had mutual aid agreements with Sierra County to handle its fires. Chair Hill inquired about the typical response time to this type of fire. Division Chief Isernhagen reported response times were usually within five minutes.

Chief Moore declared that the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) had asked to purchase some land behind Station 33 to establish and build a new pump station. He thought it was unlikely that the TMFPD would ever need that parcel of land and the TMWA project would benefit the public. He asked if the Board had any objections to the TMFPD moving forward with ordering an appraisal and creating a purchase and sale agreement with TMWA. Chair Hill asserted she did not have a problem with the land sale.

Chief Moore mentioned the green waste collection project. He recalled Ms. Nancy Litchfield's comments regarding environmental awareness and sustainability. He remarked that with the help of Washoe County public works, a lot of the collected green waste had been turned into soil and compost products to be purchased by the public. He noted that Washoe County had also utilized some of the wood chips at regional parks. He declared that none of the collected green waste went to the landfill, and all of it was disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. He expressed pride in the green waste collection program and the hard work of the fuels crew.

Chief Moore provided an update on capital projects. He stated that the Board of Adjustment (BOA) approved the special use permit (SUP) for the Apple Station. He provided a document, which was distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He declared the handout was a copy of the Staff Report to the BOA, which included information about where the Apple Station was situated. He noted that Apple was currently

considering the proposal, and it would likely come before the Board in December. He was optimistic that the TMFPD could break ground on the project in the summer of 2024.

Chief Moore spoke about the Strategic Plan. He said staff was working to obtain numbers from the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to compare the TMFPD to its regional partners in Reno, Sparks, and Carson City. He hoped the Strategic Plan could come before the Board in January 2024 for final adoption.

There was no public comment or action on this item.

23-187F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to approve a Health Benefits Program for District employees, dependents, and retirees for an estimated total cost to the District of \$3 million and authorize the Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners to execute all insurance contracts and service agreements pertinent to the approved Health Benefits Program for calendar year 2024. (All Commission Districts)

Chair Hill thought the staff did a good job keeping costs low and providing great benefits to its employees.

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 9 be approved and authorized.

23-188F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve the purchase and installation of two 3,000-gallon water tanks from West-Mark Service Centers on two district-owned water tenders for a cost of \$84,116.13 each for a total purchase and installation price of \$168,232.26 in accordance with NRS 332.115.1 (c)(d), Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Deputy Chief of Operations Chris Ketring stated this item was to approve two new water tanks for existing water tenders. He pointed out that the trucks were built in 2005, had low mileage, and were still in great condition. Staff had been experiencing issues with cracking on the water tanks attached to the apparatuses. He reported that TMFPD mechanics tried many methods to mend the tanks and believed they had exhausted all repair options. He noted the TMFPD planned to change the design of the tanks to make them easier to utilize, and West-Mark Service Centers was able to build the new tanks to the staff's desired specifications.

Chair Hill asked Deputy Chief Ketring if he knew the cost of a similar tank from a different company since this item did not go through a competitive bidding process.

Deputy Chief Ketring responded that the TMFPD did reach out to various companies for quotes, and West-Mark Service Centers had provided the lowest quote.

Commissioner Clark wondered what caused the current tanks to crack and what they were made of. Deputy Chief Ketring stated the tanks were made of stainless steel, and a design flaw caused the cracking. He relayed that the TMFPD's lead mechanic had informed him that as staff welded the stainless steel, it weakened the metal, leading to more cracks. Staff also tried to seal the inside of the tanks, but the sealant was coming off and getting sucked into the water pumps, creating blockages. He remarked that the TMFPD had two different apparatuses with steel tanks that did not have any issues. Commissioner Clark asked if the old tanks had any salvage value. Deputy Chief Ketring said he would ask the TMFPD's Fleet Manager but assumed the tanks would be recycled.

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 10 be approved.

23-189F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve a 2nd Memorandum of Understanding between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Washoe County, and Apple, Inc., which defines the next steps in the development and processes for design and pre-construction services for the Apple Fire Station and the respective duties and responsibilities of each party; and if approved, authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement. (Commission District 4)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated Apple, Inc. had approved the architect's proposal for the Apple Station. He noted that the designs for the Washoe Valley Fire Station and the Apple Station were virtually identical. He pointed out that the TMFPD was responsible for managing the Apple Station project and paying the architect; however, Apple, Inc. would reimburse the TMFPD for those costs.

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 11 be approved and authorized.

23-190F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Resolution TM22-2023 to augment the district's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$1,869,800 and direct staff to make the appropriate budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts).

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore mentioned that the District did not have a dedicated tax levy for capital projects. Capital projects were funded through savings. He remarked that the Board previously approved the purchase of three Type I fire trucks, and the TMFPD planned to save \$1 million per year over the next three years to pay for them in cash. \$1 million from this item would go towards the fund for the new trucks, and the remainder would be allocated to other capital projects.

Commissioner Andriola thanked Chief Moore for his explanation and his commitment to balancing project funding.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

23-191F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor issues with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore requested a closed session and recommended that the Board hear Items 14 and 15 prior to recessing for the closed session.

23-192F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or reports.

23-193F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

10:51 a.m. **The Board recessed for a closed session.**

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11:16 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

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

Minutes Prepared By:
Taylor Chambers, Deputy County Clerk