

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

APRIL 2, 2024

PRESENT:

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

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

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

23-033F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Mr. Cliff Low mentioned an old television sitcom called *Car 54, Where Are You?* He opined his comment should be titled Station 31, Where Are You? He reminded the Board that Station 31 was slated to replace Stations 30 and 32 in Washoe Valley. He wondered why the fire station was incomplete and pointed out that ground was yet to be broken on the project. He declared there were staff reports and meeting minutes about Station 31 dated prior to the election of the current Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC). He referred to a set of minutes from January 2020, which ordered that Station 30 at Bowers and Station 32 at East Lake should not close until a consolidated station was fully built and operational. He noted that the discussion also included a request for staff to add a Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) substation and a helipad for the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) at Station 31. He said that in August of 2022, Station 30 was closed under what he believed to be questionable circumstances and the Board instructed staff to complete Station 31 as quickly as possible. He recalled at the September 6, 2022, BOFC meeting, staff provided an update on Station 31, which indicated that the architect for the project completed the programming phase, and a design proposal was expected to be presented to the Board in October of 2022. He remarked that Chief Moore informed the Board it needed to approve debt financing prior to the start of construction and the project was scheduled for completion in May of 2024.

23-034F AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Chair Hill noted Vice Chair Herman was present on the phone.

Commissioner Clark asked Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore to explain why the construction of Station 31 was delayed. Chief Deputy District Attorney (CDDA) Mary Kandarar recommended that an in-depth discussion on that topic be avoided because it was not on the agenda. She suggested the Board place an item on a future agenda to receive more information on the subject and allow the public an opportunity to provide commentary. Commissioner Clark agreed with CDDA Kandarar and requested a brief overview of the issue to provide a foundational basis for a future agenda item. Chief Moore remarked that the TMFPD was contracted with Apple, Incorporated to build a fire station that would share an architectural design with Station 31, which was still in progress. He added that the cost of building Station 31 had doubled from \$6 million to \$15 million in three years. After a discussion with the TMFPD's bond consultant, it was determined that the District did not have the consolidated tax (c-tax) capacity to finance that much debt, so the TMFPD applied for funding through the State Investment Bank and would report to the Board once it had more information. He stated the Hidden Valley Fire Station was on hold for similar issues because in 2019 the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) determined that the architecture was too expensive and asked him to send the project back out for bid, which was unsuccessful because the new bid came back at the same price. He asserted that the Bower's Station was closed because it had a bat and rodent infestation, and he refused to put the health and safety of his staff at risk. Chair Hill recalled it was determined during a public meeting that the Bower's Station needed to be decommissioned. She said there was an opportunity to add a deeper discussion about Station 31 to the next TMFPD agenda. Commissioner Clark thought the Station 31 project should have already been approved, and the consequences of that inaction were increased construction costs and a public safety issue in Washoe Valley.

**CONSENT ITEMS – 5A THROUGH 5E, EXCLUDING AGENDA
ITEM 5D HEARD SEPARATELY**

- 23-035F** **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the March 5, 2024, Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.
- 23-036F** **5B** Recommendation to approve the purchase of two new Power-PRO 2 powered ambulance stretchers at a cost of \$63,267 each, two Stair-PRO model chairs at a cost of \$4,554.90 each, and two LUCAS compression systems at a cost of \$20,122.10 each for a total purchase price not to exceed \$167,441 from Stryker, pursuant to NRS 332.115 1(a),4, Exemptions to Requirements for Competitive Bidding. If approved, approve Resolution TM03-2024 augmenting the EMS Fund. (All Commission Districts)
- 23-037F** **5C** Recommendation to approve a notice of termination of a lease agreement, dated January 21, 2020, between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Verdi History Preservation Society, Inc., for property known as Verdi Station 400, located at 165 Bridge Street and if

approved, authorize legal counsel to draft and send notice of the termination effective June 30, 2024, and take action to vacate the structure and property by said termination date. (Commission District 5)

- 23-038F** **5E** Recommendation to approve and accept the Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue 2024 Report to the Community and authorize its distribution and publication. (All Commission Districts)

Commissioner Garcia requested that Item 5D be pulled for discussion.

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

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5E, with the exclusion of Item 5D, be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5E, with the exclusion of Item 5D, are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

- 23-039F** **5D** Recommendation to approve a Memorandum of Understanding entered into between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, and the City of Sparks Fire Department to collaborate and to jointly submit an application for Assistance to Firefighters Grant. (All Commission Districts)

Commissioner Garcia noted that the Staff Report did not highlight results seen by the City of Sparks and asked for an explanation.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated the City of Sparks Fire Department hired a physical therapist to help its trainees build the flexibility and strength necessary to graduate from the fire academy. He met with the Sparks Fire Department to discuss a partnership opportunity to help both the Sparks and TMFPD trainees. During those discussions, it was determined that the physical therapist should work with trainees and existing staff to prevent work-related injuries and decrease worker's compensation claims. He noted the TMFPD and Sparks invited the City of Reno Fire Department to participate in the grant, but they did not respond on time, so the project moved forward without the Reno Fire Department.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On Motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Item 5D be approved.

- 23-040F** **AGENDA ITEM 6** Presentation of Life-Saving Award to Captain Daniel Boyer and Firefighter Paramedic Alex Doerr.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Deputy Chief of Operations Chris Ketring introduced Captain Daniel Boyer and Firefighter/Paramedic Alex Doerr. He gave a brief overview of the lifesaving rescue they performed during a working structure fire. He expressed pride in their actions and continued accomplishments. TMFPD Chief Charles Moore presented Captain Boyer and Firefighter Doerr with their awards.

10:19 **The Board recessed.**

10:24 **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

23-041F **AGENDA ITEM 7** National Weather Service Report by Tony Fuentes.

Senior Forecaster with National Weather Service (NWS) Reno Tony Fuentes conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: NWS Seasonal Outlook 2024; Snowpack is Back – Major Improvements; The March Blizzard in Context (2 slides); How’s the Drought Status; Latest CPC Outlook for Summer: July-Aug-Sept; El Niño is Fading Quickly; Competing Factors for Great Basin Fire Activity; Official Wildfire Seasonal Outlooks; Summer Fire Season Outlook; Forecast Info Refresher – NWS Fire Weather (2 slides); NWS Fire Weather Alerts You Might See; Staying Weather Aware with iNWS; Key Outlook Takeaways; and That’s All Until Next Time.

Mr. Fuentes stated the snowpack was below average in December and January, but the blizzard in early March brought levels into the normal range. He explained that the snow water equivalent was determined by measuring the water yield after the entire snowpack melted. Due to the heavy winter, he predicted the region would avoid a bad drought season despite projections of dry conditions and above-normal temperatures for the summer months. He believed the El Niño climate pattern would fade into neutral conditions and likely transition to La Niña by mid-summer; however, those oscillations did not always correlate to what could be expected for weather in the region. He said La Niña conditions could cause the southwest monsoon season to be less intense with fewer chances for lightning and thunderstorms. He noted fine fuels throughout the region were fairly packed down from the heavy winter precipitation, which made them harder to burn and created below-average to average fire conditions. He asserted the region needed to be watchful of those fine fuels as the summer went on. He provided information on resources people could access for updates regarding fire and weather alerts.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore emphasized that red flag warnings from the NWS were critical for operation because they allowed the TMFPD to prepare for potential fires.

23-042F **AGENDA ITEM 8** International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 Report.

President of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487, James Clouser, said he was absent from the previous meeting because he was

lobbying in Washington, D.C. He reported that the IAFF advocated for four major things while lobbying: the renewal of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant; the removal of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a known carcinogen, from firefighters' turnout gear; the addition of cancer to a bill the IAFF referred to as the heart and lung bill, which determined any diagnosed heart or lung diseases were presumed to be caused by a firefighter's career; and the re-inclusion of firefighters in normal Social Security benefits. He expressed appreciation to the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) for their patience during the contract negotiation cycle and noted the workload and timeline increased because the Wildland Division of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) was incorporated into the IAFF that cycle.

23-043F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Fire Chief Report

A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the months of March and April 2024 to include the following items:

1. Open Burning
2. Jasper Fuels Reductions Project. HMGP Grant Award.
3. Green Waste Collection
4. Curbside Chipping
5. Public Education Events.

B. Review of recent critical calls response statistics for February 2024.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Division Chief of Wildland and Fuels August Isernhagen provided an update on the Jasper Fuels Reductions Project. He reported that the TMFPD was awarded two Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grants totaling about \$1.5 million for the Jasper and the Long Valley Fires, which occurred in 2019. He said the Jasper Project was mainly on the west side of Spanish Springs, south of Spanish Springs High School and into the Sun Valley Regional Park and surrounding parcels. He stated the work in Spanish Springs was about 40 percent complete, and the work in Sun Valley was about 20 percent complete. He declared the Long Valley Project was located on the west side of Silver Knolls and in its early stages to establish fuel breaks in and around the community. He expressed thanks to a former TMFPD Deputy Chief who initialized the project.

TMFPD Chief Charles Moore stated curbside chipping services were available for community members who could not physically bring their green waste to a collection site. Applications for the program closed on May 7, 2024, and crews would perform the service May 14 through 20, 2024. He announced the start of open burning and said the area's moisture made 2024 safer than previous years. He explained that a one-acre lot located outside the hydrographic basin was required for open burning and directed the public to the TMFPD's website for more information on open burning permits.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Cliff Low noted the Chief's Report usually included updates on capital projects and assumed there was nothing new to report.

He declared that he had a recent photo of a Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) truck parked inside the Bower’s Fire Station. He asked if NDF employees worked out of that station or if there was another explanation for why that truck was on site. He asserted Station 30 was closed under the premise that a consolidated station would be built, which had not happened. He said there were rumors that the TMFPD intended to scale back its original plans for Station 31. He hoped that was inaccurate because the project was intended to consolidate Stations 30 and 32, host space for the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO), and house a helipad for the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA). He remarked that Washoe Valley was reliant on the TMFPD for emergency medical services (EMS) because REMSA did not staff the area and Carson City was too busy. He wondered if the TMFPD had done everything it could to start the Station 31 project. He suggested the Board research a construction loan so the TMFPD could complete any preliminary site work for Station 31 to move the project along. He warned that there could be consequences if another fire, like the Little Valley Fire, came through the area before Station 31 was complete.

23-044F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve an agreement for the sale and purchase of District-owned property, in the amount of \$312,625.00, for a 0.38-acre parcel of land located at 470 Foothill Road, APN 044-300-19, commonly known as Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Station 33, and authorize the chair to execute the agreement and to perform all actions required of seller as described in the agreement. (Commission District 2)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) needed to build a water booster pump station and identified the parcel behind Station 33 as an ideal location. He remarked that the land did not add additional capacity to the station because there was a substantial drainage easement through the property. He explained the property would go into escrow while TMWA did its due diligence with the County to obtain approval for the project. He thought the sale was a simple deal that would benefit a much-needed water resource.

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved and authorized.

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Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore suggested the Board hear Items 12 and 13 before it recessed to the closed session.

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23-045F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or reports from the Board.

23-046F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Public Comment.

Ms. Tracey Thomas opined that the Announcements/Reports item should follow final public comment to allow Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore to respond to the public's questions. She requested more information on the statistics and outcomes of the emergency response calls detailed in item B of the Fire Chief's Report. She spoke about an individual who was informed by an inspector that he was not allowed to remove sagebrush from around his property because it was protected vegetation, and she wondered if that claim was true. She asked if there were avenues available for the public to obtain details on emergency call responses.

23-047F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Possible Closed Session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.

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

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11:21 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.



ATTEST:

Catherine Smith
for **JANIS GALASSINI**, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows
Fire Protection District

Alexis Hill

ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

*Minutes Prepared By:
Taylor Chambers, Deputy County Clerk*