

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MARCH 3, 2026

PRESENT:

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

Janis Galassini, County Clerk
Richard Edwards, Fire Chief
Jennifer Gustafson, Deputy District Attorney

ABSENT:

Clara Andriola, Chair

The Board convened at 10:01 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

26-020F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Carl Overmyer submitted a document, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He stated that he had been a resident of Washoe County for nearly 30 years. He explained that he moved to the area from California with a successful business that he attempted to incorporate into the Reno area. He expressed concern about what he described as bureaucratic creep. He stated that he had asked his Commissioner for a copy of the approved County ordinance authorizing the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) to conduct inspections and bill for those services. He advised the Board to review the documentation he submitted. He shared that he had conducted business at the residence referenced in his documentation for nearly five years and suggested that new rules had been implemented when the new Fire Chief took over. While he described Washoe County as a great community, he cautioned that continued growth combined with increasing bureaucracy could harm it. He stated that if the County needed additional funding, it should consider raising property taxes (p-tax) rather than penalizing businesses. He praised the TMFPD staff and acknowledged that their services were needed. He said he would prefer to pay higher p-taxes on the property he owned than be penalized for operating a business. He added that businesses were an important part of the community and expressed concern that such policies could drive businesses out of the State, as he believed had occurred in California. He noted that many people who moved from California were well-trained and dedicated, but he believed they were bringing their beliefs and agendas into Washoe County.

Vice Chair Garcia requested that staff review Mr. Overmyer's concern.

26-021F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Clark mentioned that he recently received a call from Carl Overmyer, who shared that he had lived in the State for nearly 30 years and had conducted business there. Commissioner Clark stated that it seemed unusual for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) to inspect a business and raise concerns about its signage. He believed that since Mr. Overmyer had been operating in the area for several years, he should have been grandfathered in. He acknowledged the importance of inspecting new businesses to ensure compliance, but expressed concern about inspecting an existing business that he believed had followed the proper process and then issuing a bill for the inspection. He agreed that it could be difficult for business owners to understand why that was occurring. He indicated that there were nearly 30,000 businesses in the County and questioned whether all of them would eventually be reinspected. He shared that Mr. Overmyer was informed by the inspector that the Fire Chief's predecessor had neglected to conduct inspections. He questioned why some businesses appeared to be singled out and penalized. He noted that Mr. Overmyer had taken the time to attend the meeting to provide public comment, which he stated was rare for a TMFPD meeting. He believed that the concern warranted further investigation and acknowledged that Vice Chair Garcia had asked staff to review the matter. He added that he would contact Mr. Overmyer to ensure the concern was followed up on and addressed appropriately.

Vice Chair Garcia stated that Chair Andriola was attending an event and had asked her to lead the meeting until she returned. On behalf of Chair Andriola, she expressed appreciation to the TMFPD Fire Chief Richard Edwards and staff for creating two fliers that had been circulating at the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) meetings and included a comprehensive overview of statistics. She explained that the fliers were distributed at the CAB meetings and could be easily shared on social media and through email. She added that the fliers provided a great way to stay in communication with the public about the work being done by the TMFPD.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A THROUGH 5E

26-022F **A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from February 3, 2026, Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting (All Commission Districts). agenda subject.

26-023F **B** Recommendation to approve a Supply and Medication Reimbursement Agreement between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority with an initial term until June 30, 2027, with successive one-year renewals; and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the agreement, including future amendments as needed. (All Commission Districts) agenda subject.

- 26-024F** **C** Recommendation to approve an agreement to retain Eide Bailly LLP to perform independent audit services for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$94,000, plus a federal expenditure audit fee of \$14,100 per major program if required and if approved, authorize the Fire Chief to execute any required audit documentation before March 30, 2026. Audit services are professional in nature and exempt from competitive bidding under NRS 332.115. This audit satisfies NRS 354.624, which requires each local government to provide for an annual audit of financial statements by a certified public accountant registered in the State of Nevada and to notify the state of this engagement by March 31 of each fiscal year. (All Commission Districts)
- 26-025F** **D** Recommendation to approve Amendment #1 to Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue Service Agreement, an agreement for interfacility ambulance transfers and emergent transfers between Northern Nevada Medical Center, Northern Nevada Sierra Medical Center, and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. Amendment #1 updates billing requirements, adds a definition for emergent transfer, and extends the term of the Agreement for an additional three (3) years. This item also includes a recommendation to repeal the Ambulance Billing Rate Sheets adopted by the Board on December 17, 2019, and July 11, 2023, as they are outdated. (All Commission Districts)
- 26-026F** **E** Recommendation to ratify an agreement with the American Heart Association to accept up to \$6,000 in funding through the Special Initiative Participation Incentive Program, which focuses on emergency medical services systems of care, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027; and if approved, authorize participation in the program, direct staff to make the necessary budget adjustments, and retroactively authorize the Fire Chief to execute all related documents.

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

On motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Herman, duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Andriola absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5E be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5E are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

26-027F **AGENDA ITEM 6** New Hire introduction and badge pinning.

Badge Pinning for Successful Completion of Probation:
Corey Ackerman, Firefighter/Paramedic
Rylee Retzer, Firefighter/Paramedic
Brock Harmon, Firefighter/EMT

Kyle Harris, Firefighter/EMT
Thomas Witzmann, Firefighter/EMT
James Flint, Logistics Supply Specialist

New Employee Introduction:
Jennifer Williamson, Fire Marshal

Employee Introductions:
Simona Parton, Accountant & Payroll Specialist
Rachel McFarland, Accountant, Accounts Receivable & Grants Specialist

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Division Chief Joseph Schum stated that it was a privilege to stand before the Board and recognize five individuals who had completed their probationary year. He welcomed the firefighters to the TMFPD as they completed the final step of their probationary period. He stated that the firefighters began their journey in October 2024 and completed an intense and demanding 18-week fire academy, followed by two weeks of focused indoctrination with the TMFPD. He added that they continued to learn, grow, and refine their skills throughout a 365-day probationary period, which concluded on February 24, 2026. He noted that the badge-pinning marked a significant moment in their careers, as each firefighter would be pinned with a personalized badge by a family member. He stated that having a family member participate in the pinning represented the support required to reach that milestone and the commitment that would continue to support the firefighters and their families throughout their careers. He added that although the probation period had concluded, the TMFPD leadership was confident the firefighters would have healthy, successful, and prosperous careers.

Division Chief Schum introduced Firefighter/Paramedic Corey Ackerman, Firefighter/EMT Brock Harmon, Firefighter/EMT Kyle Harris, Firefighter/Paramedic Rylee Retzer, Firefighter/EMT Thomas Witzmann, and Logistics Supply Specialist James Flint. He provided a brief history of their backgrounds. Firefighter Ackerman was pinned by his mother, Kathy Dwyer, Firefighter Harmon was pinned by his wife, Lindsay Harmon, Firefighter Harris was pinned by his girlfriend, Caroline Kemp Schroder, Firefighter Retzer was pinned by her fiancé, Mariah McNally, and Firefighter Witzman was pinned by his girlfriend, Jessica Wolf. Vice Chair Garcia stated that the firefighters had reached an important milestone and emphasized the importance of family support.

TMFPD Division Chief Jay Cwiak stated that the Logistics Division was very small in terms of numbers but had a large impact on the organization. He explained that James Flint graduated from the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology (AACT) in 2020 and was hired immediately at the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority Health (REMSA Health) as a logistics coordinator. He shared that Mr. Flint's ambition, enthusiasm, knowledge, and work ethic had made a mark throughout the TMFPD. Mr. Flint was pinned by his father, the Reno Fire Department (RFD) Fire Captain Kevin Flint.

TMFPD Fire Chief Richard Edwards introduced Fire Marshal Jennifer Williamson, who recently completed her probationary period. He noted that Ms.

Williamson had more than 20 years of experience in fire prevention, most recently serving as a plan reviewer at the State Fire Marshal's Office, and was selected as the TMFPD Fire Marshal through a competitive recruitment process. He stated that the TMFPD was very fortunate to have her and believed she would do wonderful things for the District and be an incredible leader to the fire inspectors. Ms. Williamson thanked the TMFPD for the opportunity and expressed her enthusiasm for contributing to the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Chief Edwards recognized Accountant and Payroll Specialist Simona Parton and Accountant and Grants Specialist Rachel McFarland, both of whom had recently completed their probationary period and who worked under Chief Fiscal Officer (CFO) Crystal Sublet. He noted that Ms. Parton oversaw payroll to ensure that everyone's paychecks were accurate and said she had done an incredible amount of work. He said that Ms. McFarland was responsible for all billing back to State and federal partners for wildland and off-district billing. He explained that she worked closely with the Nevada Office of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (NV OEM), Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF), and the United States Forest Service (USFS) to ensure that the TMFPD was paid for all the fires it responded to, not just within the County but across the United States. He shared that one of the TMFPD's resources was currently returning from Texas, where it had helped with wildfire repositioning. He added that Ms. McFarland would help ensure those expenses were recovered and returned to the District. He welcomed both Ms. Parton and Ms. McFarland to the TMFPD.

10:22 a.m. **The Board recessed for a photo.**

10:24 a.m. **The Board returned.**

Vice Chair Garcia thanked those in attendance for celebrating the milestones.

26-028F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Wildland Division Report on Fuels Management with 2025 Response Data and an Overview of 2026 Fire Season. [Non-Action item]

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Division Chief August Isernhagen and National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist Dawn Johnson conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Wildland Fire Division Update Year in Review & 2026 Fire Season Outlook; Volunteer Program 2025-Current (2 Slides); Wildland Fire/Fuels Management Numbers 2025 (2 Slides); Fire Season – 2025; Fire Season – 2025 – Nevada; Fire Season – 2025 – Geographic Area and Nationally; 2026 – Weather Service (4 Slides); and 2026 – Take Aways.

Division Chief Isernhagen reviewed the slide titled *Wildland Fire Division Update Year in Review & 2026 Fire Season Outlook* and said that the picture on the slide was from the Rancho Fire between Silver Knolls and Rancho Haven in August 2025. He reviewed the first slide titled *Volunteer Program 2025- Current* and shared that the

program was a subordinate program of the Wildland Division. He explained that in 2025, 65 volunteer days were committed to incident, 51 volunteer training days were completed, and 14 new volunteers had been onboarded. He mentioned that the pictures on the slide were of volunteers from 2025 during the refresher training in the spring and of incidents that occurred in the summer of 2025. He reviewed the second slide titled *Volunteer Program 2025- Current* and said that there were two operational volunteers in Gerlach, with three additional volunteers currently in the middle of the onboarding process. He thought the Board would recall that the TMFPD had taken over fire services in Gerlach, so staff were preparing those volunteers for the 2026 season. He mentioned a larger volunteer department at Silver Lake, with 13 operational volunteers. He added that Palomino Valley, Rancho Haven, and South Valley each had six volunteers. He stated that the number of volunteers in Gerlach was expected to increase as the onboarding process continued. He noted the photograph was of Gerlach volunteers during their spring 2025 refresher training.

Division Chief Isernhagen reviewed the first slide titled *Wildland Fire/Fuels Management Numbers 2025* and said it reflected the Wildland Division's overall fuels management numbers. He noted that, during 2025, the Wildland Division treated approximately 460 acres under general grant work. He explained that over 1,200 power poles had hazardous fuels mitigated at their bases through partnerships with NV Energy and Liberty Utilities, 47 acres were treated by prescribed fire, and middle management obtained just under \$5 million in external funding to support fuels work. He added that the TMFPD received notification that, for 2026, they had once again received NV Energy funding of just under \$5 million. He stated that nearly all of that work occurred in Washoe County to mitigate its exposure to wildland fire. He said the photograph was captured during a grant project that the TMFPD received through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), located on the west side of Sun Valley. He added that over 500 piles of similar sizes to the one shown on the slide were cut, cleared, and burned during the recent snowstorm.

Division Chief Isernhagen reviewed the second slide titled *Wildland Fire/Fuels Management Numbers 2025* and said that 91 private parcels received attention for defensible space implementation. He explained that more than 1,300 loads, or 6,500 cubic yards of vegetation, had been collected through the Green Waste Program, and 106 citizens participated in curbside chipping. He mentioned that over 1,200 burn permits were issued, which, based on public self-reporting, accounted for roughly another 6,500 cubic yards of material. He stated that the Wildland Division completed 340 defensible space inspections and held 49 community events focused on defensible space and emergency preparedness. He reported that three new Washoe County communities obtained their Firewise USA credentialing. He noted that just under 800 Christmas trees were recycled, which kept them out of landfills and the desert. He shared that the spring Green Waste Program would likely begin in May, and that dates would be posted on the TMFPD's website by the end of March. He believed the information he shared was impressive and unlikely to be matched by any other local agency, crediting the productivity to the dedication of nearly 40 individuals. He expressed appreciation for their commitment to work that could be thankless.

Division Chief Isernhagen reviewed the slide titled *Fire Season – 2025* and said that the TMFPD Wildland Division spent over 1,200 individual days on wildland incidents, while the District overall spent more than 1,700 days. He shared that the pictures were some of the larger incidents, including the Barron Fire near Rattlesnake Mountain and the Peavine Fire near Peavine Mountain, in the area between Stead and Cold Springs. He noted that the map showed all the substantial fires across the County in 2025, totaling just under 5,000 acres. He said that was generally considered a fairly normal year for Washoe County. He added that there was no reliable average because a single fire could burn up to 50,000 acres. He stated that although there were several large fires, fortunately, most were not near houses or communities.

Division Chief Isernhagen reviewed the slide titled *Fire Season – 2025 – Nevada* and said that the State overall had an average fire year. He noted that in Nevada, a single fire could burn up to 800,000 acres, making tracking difficult. He explained that larger fires occurred in Elko County, Douglas County, and that southern Nevada also experienced a few large fires, although the TMFPD did not respond to fires in southern Nevada. He mentioned that the photographs showed several TMFPD crews assisting in Elko with the Rabbit Draw Fire.

Division Chief Isernhagen reviewed the slide titled *Fire Season – 2025 – Geographic Area and Nationally* and said that during the 2025 fire season, the Great Basin experienced just under 2,800 fires that burned nearly 600,000 acres, which he described as a fairly slow year for the region. He explained that the national 10-year rolling average was about 60,000 fires burning roughly 7.5 million acres annually, while in 2025, there were approximately 72,000 fires that burned about 5 million acres. He shared that there was a 22 percent increase in fire starts and a 32 percent decrease in acreage burned. He said that, as part of the national response model, the TMFPD both received resources from across the Country and provided support for fire suppression efforts as far away as Florida and Alaska. He noted that the photographs showed the Rapid Extraction Module (REMS) in Washington, an engine crew at the Stoner Mesa Fire in Colorado, and a bulldozer on the Monroe Canyon Fire in Utah.

Ms. Johnson indicated that several additional weather systems had occurred since she was asked to present and that she could share updated data not reflected in the presentation if needed. She reviewed the first slide titled *2026 – Weather Service* and said the area had been in a snow drought. She explained that the slide showed the amount of liquid water contained in the snowpack if it were to melt. She noted that the black line represented the measurement as of February 23, 2026. She shared that the Central Sierra Snow Lab was one of the only large-scale manual stations that recorded snow measurements by hand. She mentioned that the lab recently measured a five-day storm total of 111 inches of snow, the third-highest five-day total on record. She shared that the area had received an impressive series of storms that changed the trajectory of snow levels, noting that the numbers had largely flatlined through most of January.

Ms. Johnson reviewed the second slide titled *2026 – Weather Service* and said it showed snow water equivalent compared with the amount of precipitation, or rainfall

received. She mentioned that Washoe County had received less snow than usual, but total rainfall was above normal. She explained that when looking at analog years, there were few instances in the Sierra where an abundance of rain had been received with so little snow. She stated that across northern Nevada, the snow water equivalent was only 25 to 40 percent of the normal range. She noted that although the snow water equivalent appeared incredibly low, the area was 100 percent of normal when considering the total amount of liquid precipitation that had fallen. She said there was no analog year in northern Nevada that corresponded to those conditions. She explained that many past years had been reviewed to understand how winter events translated into summer fire behavior, but she believed there were no comparable examples. She mentioned that the weather service was working with the Desert Research Institute (DRI) to learn more. She stated that, as of recently, the snow water equivalent for the Truckee, Carson, and Tahoe Basins ranged from about 60 to 70 percent of the median, while the Walker Basin was at 81 percent. She indicated that the Walker Basin tended to be higher because it was at a higher elevation and received more snow. She shared that, based on precipitation totals, all basins ranged from approximately 110 to 120 percent of normal. She noted that the area was sufficiently wet, with most of the moisture coming from rain due to the unusually warm temperatures. She added that the current winter was the second warmest on record.

Ms. Johnson reviewed the third slide titled *2026 – Weather Service* and said the area recently experienced a very warm, wet system following the cold, snowy system, which eroded much of the snowpack. She noted that the snowpack lost nearly an inch of water equivalent overall. She indicated that the eastern Sierra had never recorded a single-day total that large since January 1997. She explained that in 1997, a massive flood occurred due to the high soil moisture. She mentioned that the soil was currently incredibly moist, with the latest readings ranging from 125 to 165 percent of normal. She said that the information was important because, as the snow melted, the already wet soil would contribute to runoff. She added that any very warm, wet system could put the area at risk of flooding. She mentioned that, although no such systems were currently on the horizon, they would continue to be monitored.

Ms. Johnson reviewed the fourth slide titled *2026 – Weather Service* and said that, regarding drought monitoring, most of the western and southern parts of the State were drought-free, while the eastern portion had some moderate to severe drought areas. She noted that seasonal outlooks for the summer were anticipated to be warmer and drier, with above-normal temperatures expected in Arizona and New Mexico due to monsoonal influence. She clarified that monsoons were wind shifts that brought moisture into the region, causing thunderstorm activity. She said that El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions were expected to be neutral. She indicated that conditions were currently favorable for the summer, with near-normal monsoonal activity and thunderstorms, but dry lightning remained a concern given the number of available fuels.

Division Chief Isernhagen reviewed the slide titled *2026 – Take Aways* and shared that it was difficult to predict the impacts of the upcoming fire season. He mentioned that lightning activity could not be predicted and added that most fires were human caused. He stated that typically, after a wet winter, more fires were expected in the valley and fewer

in the higher elevations, because snow in the timber slowed fire activity, while the additional water contributed to grass growth in the valleys. He suggested that in a dry year, the opposite pattern would occur and noted that currently, both scenarios were possible. He explained that in his career, he could not recall a period with above-average water and soil moisture, extensive cheat grass, and snow levels so high that snow would not remain in high elevations as normally expected in June and July. He expressed concern for the upcoming fire season but added that if there were few fire starts, it might not be as challenging. He reminded the public that most fires were human-caused and that many could be prevented through responsible behavior. He urged the community to begin home hardening and creating defensible space around their homes. He shared that Living with Fire maintained a website with publications and resources beneficial to the public.

Vice Chair Garcia noted that there had been network issues during the meeting and stated that they were expected to be resolved soon.

Commissioner Herman stated that some residents in the North Valleys area were choosing not to graze their cattle and expressed concern that there could be additional fuel in the area.

Vice Chair Garcia mentioned that the Nevada Division of Insurance had presented at a recent meeting, noting that many had expressed concerns regarding homeowners' insurance. She shared that community members who received non-renewal notices for homeowners' insurance could contact the Nevada Division of Insurance by email, and that the Division could investigate consumer complaints and provide information about insurance-related concerns. She thanked Division Chief Isernhagen for the information and acknowledged the small but dedicated 30 to 40-member team that had accomplished so much. She asked how often the TMFPD applied for funding from NV Energy and whether it was a multi-year grant. Division Chief Isernhagen said the partnership began in 2020 and evolved over the years. He stated that NV Energy's direction from the Public Utilities Commission had changed. He explained that there was currently a standing three-year contract with the TMFPD bidding on work each winter. He mentioned that NV Energy communicated the awarded work under the master contract the following year. Vice Chair Garcia said she hoped NV Energy would continue to see amazing results so that the TMFPD could maintain that funding source.

26-029F **AGENDA ITEM 8** International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 Report.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 President Mark Thyer thanked the Commissioners for taking time to meet with him and for sharing a bit about themselves, noting the importance of maintaining a cooperative relationship. He highlighted that the 14th annual Guns and Hoses golf tournament would take place in April. He explained that the golf tournament was a partnership between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) firefighters and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) deputies, with all proceeds benefiting the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation (NNCF). Although he did not have the total raised over the past 13

years, he noted that a substantial amount of money had been contributed to the NNCF, which he described as a wonderful local charity. He encouraged participation, noting that on one hole, firefighters would wear Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) gear, while deputies would wear firefighter turnouts.

Mr. Thyer stated that he felt honored to witness the last group of probationary firefighters complete their probation and officially become firefighters. He explained that he was an instructor for the initial academy and felt tremendous pride in seeing those who successfully complete the academy also complete probation. He believed those individuals would represent the department's future and had done the work that fulfilled the TMFPD's mission. He expressed appreciation for their perseverance through trials and challenges and noted that he was proud, not only as IAFF Local 2487 President, but as someone who had been involved since the beginning. Vice Chair Garcia asked if the fire academy was 18 weeks long. Mr. Thyer explained that the academy lasted 16 weeks, with additional time at the beginning and end before the new firefighters were assigned to the line. He noted that the approximately four-month period was grueling and challenging for both the probationary firefighters and the instructors. Vice Chair Garcia thanked Mr. Thyer for his leadership.

26-030F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Fire Chief Report

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of February 2026 and March 2026 to include the following items:

- B.
 - 1. Capital Projects Construction Update
 - 2. WCSO Drones
 - 3. Regional Fire Study Update
 - 4. Washoe County Funding
 - 5. Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) Reporting Update

- C. Review of recent critical calls response statistics for January 2026.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Fire Chief Richard Edwards shared updated pictures of the construction project for the new Fire Station 35. He said the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the firehouse was expected in July. He updated the Board on the drone program, an innovative initiative in partnership with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). He said that the TMFPD would place drones at Fire Stations 45 and 46, and mentioned staff looked forward to seeing how the drones could assist during fire season. He indicated that the drones were for public safety use and could be deployed when fires were reported. He thought that drones would provide useful information, such as fire size, complexity, and potential challenges, to help reassign or reallocate resources effectively.

Chief Edwards mentioned a large project that the TMFPD had been working on with the Office of the County Manager (OCM), and he expressed appreciation to County

Manager (CM) Kate Thomas and Assistant County Manager (ACM) David Solaro for their assistance in reimagining how the TMFPD coordinates volunteer fire service in Washoe County and for streamlining the fiscal processes. He said that the TMFPD was working on a new interlocal agreement to create a more efficient overall fire service in Washoe County, which would be brought to the Board for review.

Chief Edwards informed the Board that the headings in the monthly response statistics report would differ from previous months due to changes at the United States (US) Fire Administration and the adoption of new analytic platforms. He indicated that the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), which had been in place for over 50 years, was changed to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). He thought that the Board might notice a change in the headings when comparing January's data to December's.

Chief Edwards shared that in January, through the mutual aid and auto aid agreements with the Reno Fire Department (RFD) and the Sparks Fire Department (SFD), the RFD responded to TMFPD calls 194 times, and the TMFPD responded to RFD calls 249 times. He noted that for the SFD, the TMFPD arrived at their calls 82 times, and the SFD came to the TMFPD calls 27 times. Commissioner Hill asked when the TMFPD would stop dual dispatching. Chief Edwards said there were currently productive conversations about regional dispatch and that Hexagon would provide a temporary solution. He mentioned that Hexagon had faced challenges in getting the software online, which delayed deployment until at least July. He believed that once Hexagon was available, it could reduce dual dispatch. He thought that having conversations with the RFD, the SFD, and the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority Health (RESMA Health) about regional dispatch to integrate fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) under one roof would also help eliminate dual dispatching. He stated that those conversations were underway, as was the formation of working groups to review the process. He said that the process was modeled after a similar one in Clark County involving the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Department (LVFRD) and the North Las Vegas Fire Department. He hoped to have a more definitive resolution in the coming months to share with the Board. Commissioner Hill asked whether the SFD was dispatching with the RFD. Chief Edwards explained that the SFD and the RFD were dispatched under the police department. Commissioner Hill thanked Chief Edwards and asked him to keep the Board updated on progress with Hexagon. She acknowledged that CM Thomas was also providing updates.

Commissioner Clark thanked the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 for assisting seniors by volunteering their off-duty time to help clear defensible space. He expressed appreciation to Division Chief August Isernhagen for a volunteer program that helped remove fuels and green waste. He thanked Chief Edwards for attending meetings in Cold Springs and the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) meetings. He said that Chief Edwards's availability, commitment, and involvement in the community were refreshing and appreciated. He highlighted that the Green Waste Program and extended burn days were instrumental in helping the County reduce fuels and minimize potential fire danger. He requested statistics on how often the TMFPD responded in different municipalities within the County. He thought the statistics demonstrated that the

TMFPD was a good neighbor to other jurisdictions and often responded to more calls for neighboring jurisdictions than those jurisdictions assisted the TMFPD. He expressed his appreciation for other jurisdictions' response to the TMFPD's needs.

Chief Edwards reiterated the January mutual auto aid call statistics. Commissioner Clark thought those statistics illustrated that the TMFPD were good neighbors, tried to help all citizens, and were not concerned with traditional boundary lines. He thanked Chief Edwards and his staff for the difficult work they do.

Vice Chair Garcia shared that she had received numerous comments regarding the drones at Fire Station 45 in Sun Valley and asked Chief Edwards to provide details about their location. Division Chief Jay Cwiak stated that the drones were part of the WCSO's program. He said there were two enclosed landing pads on top of the fire station and that extensive radar coordination occurred across the area. He explained that when a report was received, the drones were launched to inspect the incident site. He commented that there had been a significant law enforcement incident in which the drones arrived on scene before deputies and located the suspect, which allowed deputies to respond quickly. He noted that the drones were protected from the weather, could fly under certain wind conditions, and provided relatively clear footage. Vice Chair Garcia thanked Division Chief Cwiak for the explanation and acknowledged the importance of ensuring the safety of law enforcement and firefighters before they arrived at an incident. She highlighted that the success had occurred in a short amount of time.

26-031F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Financial presentation on the status of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 General Fund & Capital Project Funds as of January 31, 2026. [Non-Action item].

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Fiscal Officer (CFO) Crystal Sublet conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District General Fund FY26 Budget & Actual As of January 31, 2026; General Revenues As of January 31, 2026; General Expenditures As of January 31, 2026; Fiscal 2026-2027 Budget Timelines; Questions?.

Ms. Sublet thanked Accountant and Grants Specialist Rachel McFarland, Accountant and Payroll Specialist Simona Parton, and Account Clerk Kimberly Paholke and stated that they had been very helpful in her training. She shared that she had learned a great deal from them and found it refreshing to be part of a finance team that was dedicated, committed, and knowledgeable.

Ms. Sublet reviewed the slide titled *General Revenues As of January 31, 2026* and said that revenues were 60 percent of the annual budget. She noted that property taxes (p-tax) remained the primary source and that three of the four major payments had been received. She indicated that the fourth payment was expected in May. She reported that p-tax collections currently totaled \$23.6 million. She explained that as of January 5, 2026, the TMFPD had received consolidated tax (c-tax) payments totaling \$5.1 million in revenue. She added that total revenues were currently at 60.2 percent of the budget.

Ms. Sublet reviewed the slide titled *General Expenditures As of January 31, 2026* and said that 79 percent of the General Fund's expenditures were for salaries, wages, and benefits. She mentioned that expenditures were running favorably. She noted that, as of January, the TMFPD expected expenditures to be approximately 58 percent of the total budget, but they were currently at 51.3 percent. She indicated that salaries, wages, and benefits accounted for the largest share, totaling \$24.1 million. She added that total expenditures were \$29.8 million as of January 2026.

Ms. Sublet reviewed the slide titled *Fiscal 2026-2027 Budget Timelines* and said that a preliminary tentative budget would be presented to the Board on April 7, 2026, and that the tentative budget would be submitted to the Nevada Department of Taxation (NDT) on April 15, 2026. She noted that the TMFPD expected to receive final revenue numbers from the NDT in March. She stated that the final budget was anticipated to be presented to the Board on May 19, 2026, followed by a public hearing on May 26, 2026. She added that the final budget would be submitted to the NDT no later than June 1, 2026.

Vice Chair Garcia thanked Ms. Sublet for the update and presentation.

26-032F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Hill commended Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Fire Chief Richard Edwards and staff. She expressed gratitude that the new hires and staff were working well together. She noted that although the transition to becoming the Fire Chief had been exciting, it was likely challenging given the budget realities and the need for reductions. She acknowledged that the budget reflected expenditures at 51 percent, while 58 percent of expected revenues had been received. She stated that the work Chief Edwards had done with the Office of the County Manager (OCM) made her excited about the next fiscal year (FY). She recognized that the coming year would continue to be challenging, but believed Chief Edwards had strong staff support. She welcomed the new hires and shared her excitement about the future of the TMFPD. She thanked Chief Edwards for his leadership. Commissioner Herman stated that she agreed with Commissioner Hill's remarks.

26-033F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment

Vice Chair Garcia thanked the public for their patience as they dealt with the technological issues that occurred during the meeting.

26-034F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Possible Closed Session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.


Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Jennifer Gustafson stated that the meeting would not be adjourned but would recess for the closed session. She explained that

following the closed session, there would be another opportunity for public comment. She noted that individuals wishing to provide public comment could wait outside the Caucus Room, where the meeting would reconvene. She added that after the final public comment, the meeting would be adjourned.

11:02 a.m. The Board recessed to a closed session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with Employee Organizations per Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 288.220.


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11:10 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.



CLARA ANDRIOLA, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:



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

Minutes Prepared By:
Jessica Melka, Deputy County Clerk

