

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

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

PRESENT:

Jeanne Herman, Vice Chair
Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner (via phone)
Clara Andriola, Commissioner

Janis Galassini, County Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
Michael Large, Deputy District Attorney

ABSENT:

Alexis Hill, Chair
Michael Clark, Commissioner

The Board convened at 9:00 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, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

24-143F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Ms. JoAnn Moore disclosed that she was the wife of Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore and that he did not know she was attending the meeting. She noted that he had announced his retirement at the end of January after 45 years of fire service. She said she had gone through boxes and found a newspaper from November 28, 1997, in which Governor Roy Romer of Colorado gave the State Fire Leadership Award to the Avon Fire Protection District (AFPD) Chief Charles Moore for his work assembling a mutual aid agreement. She mentioned that 23 agencies, along with 11 different counties, had signed immediately; however, there was one fire department that did not. She referenced that the fire department had two fire stations and a few dozen full-time firefighters and that they did not think they would need the agreement. She expressed that with a never-give-up attitude and constant conversation, the Vail Fire Department (VFD) eventually signed the mutual aid agreement. She stated that a year later, the VFD was the first to call for mutual aid when an eco-terrorist group hiked Vail Mountain armed with accelerants and set the mountain on fire. She said the Two Elk Restaurant burned down, and a homicide almost took place since a man was sleeping inside. She recounted acres of land and chair lifts burned to the ground, but mutual aid worked beautifully 27 years ago and stopped the fire before it could have been devastating. She speculated it could have burned down homes and facilities on the mountain. She mentioned that if the fire had gotten into Vail Village, it would have devastated the community. She said the Vail Fire was like the Davis and Callahan fire, and that mutual aid worked. She communicated that everyone came together with unique talents and skills, even with

different uniforms, badges, placards, and no imaginary lines or boundaries. She applauded the TMFPD and said what they did was amazing. She thanked the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) on behalf of the families for ensuring the TMFPD had what they needed so that they came home at the end of their shifts.

24-144F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore noted he would give an update on the Callahan Fire during Item 10. He commended the TMFPD staff for an aggressive fire attack, which could have had many structures lost. He appreciated the work done and the hours worked on the fire.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A THROUGH 5E

24-145F **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from October 1, 2024, Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting.

24-146F **5B** Recommendation to approve a Notice of Cancellation for the regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting on December 3, 2024, at 10 a.m. and reschedule the meeting for December 10, 2024, at 9 a.m. (All Commission Districts)

24-147F **5C** Recommendation to approve a Lease Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Whispering Road Investments, LLC to lease 2,700 square feet of flex Commercial Space and 1200 square feet of secured outdoor parking located at 1365 Quilici Ranch Road, Verdi NV, 89439 for a term of sixty (60) months and a base rent of \$4,293 per month plus \$528 monthly rent for the secured outdoor space commencing on January 1, 2025 for the purpose of establishing office and storage space for Wildland and Fuels Division personnel and equipment. (Commission District 5)

24-148F **5D** Recommendation to accept a grant from TC Energy, in an amount of up to \$20,000, to obtain needed extrication equipment relating to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's Operations Division. (All Commission Districts)

24-149F **5E** Recommendation to approve the selection of Bob Murray & Associates to perform an executive search for the selection of the next Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Fire Chief at a cost of \$22,000 plus reimbursable expenses at an approximate additional cost of \$8,000-\$12,000; if approved, authorize the current Fire Chief to execute all necessary agreements and documentation for the recruitment. (All Commission Districts)

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 3-0 vote with Chair Hill and Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5E be approved.

24-150F **AGENDA ITEM 6** Resolution to recognize and express appreciation to the staff of Greater Nevada Field.

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Agenda Items 6, 7, and 8 were held concurrently.

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Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated the Davis Fire was probably the most complex fire that the TMFPD had fought since 2012. He mentioned that after the Davis Fire, many agencies, local community groups, and businesses stepped up to help celebrate the preservation of the many homes affected. He noted the resolutions that day were in appreciation for three businesses. He introduced Reno Aces President Eric Edelstein. He said the Reno Aces generously donated the use of Greater Nevada Field for the celebration. Chief Moore read the resolution for Agenda Item 6.

Chief Moore introduced NV Energy Fire Management Officer Scott Lucas. Chief Moore commented that it was a pleasure working with NV Energy through the Davis Fire. He noted NV Energy was in the command post and that constant communication took place. He mentioned the extent of power disruption to the community and the large effort to get the power back on. He said it was a pleasure to have NV Energy represented in the incident command post. He relayed that NV Energy was a sponsor of the fireworks show at the Evening of Gratitude event and said the TMFPD was thankful for NV Energy’s financial support. Chief Moore read the resolution for Agenda Item 7.

Chief Moore introduced Meruelo Gaming Senior Vice President Andrew Diss. Chief Moore said the TMFPD depended on Grand Sierra Resort (GSR) to help house displaced individuals from the Davis Fire. He expressed thanks to the GSR for being a generous contributor to the fireworks show at the Evening of Gratitude event. Chief Moore read the resolution for Agenda Item 8.

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 3-0 vote with Chair Hill and Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be recognized and expressed. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Agenda Item 6 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

24-151F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Resolution to recognize and express appreciation to NV Energy.

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For additional discussion on this item, please see Agenda Item 6, minute number 24-150F.

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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 3-0 vote with Chair Hill and Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be recognized and expressed. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Agenda Item 6 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

24-152F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Resolution to recognize and express appreciation to Grand Sierra Resort.

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For additional discussion on this item, please see Agenda Item 6, minute number 24-150F.

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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 3-0 vote with Chair Hill and Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be recognized and expressed. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Agenda Item 6 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

24-153F **AGENDA ITEM 9** International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 Report.

Local 2487 Truckee Meadows Firefighters Association President James Clouser reminded the public that in the middle of dangerous dynamic situations, riding quads and golf carts through fire scenes was dangerous to the individual and hazardous to fire personnel. He understood the excitement of wanting to return home, look after pets, and obtain medicine and personal items. He said personnel would facilitate and ensure there was help for those individuals; however, staff needed to be in control so individuals did not get hurt. He noted if the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and fire personnel were to trust individuals to go back into their homes, they would appreciate it if those people did not abuse that trust by riding quads around the fire scene in the middle of the TMFPD's apparatus. He mentioned there was a very close call the previous night that they would like to avoid in the future. He expressed they would assist in getting whatever was needed from homes, but it could not be done by individuals on their own. He addressed the individual who was in the forest trying to help and said staff appreciated that the person used to be a professional; however, being in the middle of an active fire scene with bulldozers was dangerous and distracted him from focusing resources on putting the fire out because he had to worry about controlling or removing the individual. He asked the community not to try and help the fire site and understood that at one point, they could have been a 30-year professional, but personnel had no way of verifying that. He requested the community to refrain from jumping in, taking hose lines, or trying to fight the fire.

Mr. Clouser commented that the Truckee Meadows Firefighters Association was starting a toy drive and expressed gratitude towards the district for helping facilitate it. He thanked Renown for their participation. He believed the intent would be made clear as public official announcements were made. He said the idea was to have toy drops at all Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) stations, which would be presented to the children at Renown Hospital. He voiced that personnel were just starting to get the ball rolling and that the toy run was in its infancy. He believed it was timed right for Christmas and to have a successful program. He thanked everyone involved and hoped it would be successful and done every year.

24-154F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Fire Chief Report

A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for October 2024 and November 2024 to include the following items:

1. Capital Projects Update
2. Automatic Aid
3. Green Waste Update
4. Post Davis Fire Restoration

B. Monthly Response Statistics:

1. August 2024
2. September 2024
3. October 2024

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore asked TMFPD Deputy Chief of Operation Chris Ketring to address the Callahan Fire. Chief Moore said it was potentially as dangerous as the Davis Fire. He commended the TMFPD staff for their hard work.

Deputy Chief Ketring noted the Callahan Fire was very similar to other fall and winter fires which could be very catastrophic. He mentioned the Callahan, Pinehaven, Little Valley, and Washoe Drive fires all took place during the fall and winter. He said the fires were wind-driven, and the previous day's fire could have resulted in many more homes being lost. He explained that the fire stood at 61 acres and that all evacuations had been lifted the previous night. He stated road closures were also lifted. He addressed that power lines were restored except for two residential lots that were heavily impacted. He commented that once resources were completed, the TMFPD would coordinate with NV Energy to restore power to the two lots. He mentioned there were 115 line personnel on the ground from approximately 20 different fire agencies for the Gold Ranch, Davis, and Callahan fires. He remarked that support was requested from cooperators and those agencies showed up. He revealed that without their assistance, the fire the previous day could have been different. He referenced that one residential structure, two barns, and one gazebo were lost. He said resources had remained on the scene to extinguish and remove burning material and that there would be an operation plan to release all the cooperators back to their agencies. He commented that the TMFPD would continue to extinguish and patrol over the following days. He explained that even with the wind, the weather was good, with more rain throughout the week. He believed that it would help them expedite their work. He thanked the cooperating agencies outside of the fire departments that assisted. Those agencies were the Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP), Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Search and Rescue, Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space (WCRPOS), Washoe County Library System (WCLS), Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), Washoe County Emergency Management (WCEM), and NV Energy. He expressed that without their support, efforts would not have been as successful.

Commissioner Andriola asked Deputy Chief Ketring how the Callahan Fire started and if there were any injuries.

Deputy Chief Ketring stated the cause was still under investigation and that there was one reported firefighter injury but no civilian injuries.

Commissioner Andriola thanked Deputy Chief Ketring for the quick response. She said the phone emergency system worked for immediate alerts, and she thought the communication was well done. She commended the TMFPD for knowing when to put the evacuation into place and when it was lifted. She thanked the efforts of everyone involved.

Commissioner Garcia agreed with Commissioner Andriola and thanked the American Red Cross (ARC) and Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS). She noted the response was amazing and thought the public comment from Ms. JoAnn Moore was moving and highlighted the power of mutual aid. She expressed appreciation

for mutual aid and believed that it had occurred during the Callahan Fire. She mentioned whether it was a long-term event like the Davis Fire or if residents were displaced for one day like the Callahan Fire, she believed mobilizing multiple agencies quickly to reduce fires was commendable. She stated the Callahan Fire could have been worse, and she felt for the community members who lost their home. She was grateful for the generous and giving community and requested that if there were opportunities to give back, she would like to know. She wished a happy Veterans Day to those who had stepped in to serve the country, especially those who served in fire service or had served previously in military services.

Chief Moore gave a capital projects update and said there was an agenda item regarding the construction contract for the Hidden Valley Station. He was glad it was up for consideration and happy to see the station finally moving forward. He believed there was a nine-month construction window for the station. He announced there would be a groundbreaking. He said the State Investment Bank (SIB) needed to approve the resolution the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) was considering that day. He recalled the Board approved a new automatic aid agreement with the City of Reno; however, there had been a delay in initiating it due to the maps in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system being more complex than anticipated. He explained it should be ready to go live on the date listed in the Chief's Report.

Chief Moore gave a green waste update and said many citizens were taking advantage of the service. He referenced the final number was 1,156 citizens who brought their green waste for recycling. He reported there were 203 individuals who requested the curbside chipping service. He was pleased with the citizens for using the program to develop the defensible space around their homes. He expressed that the Davis and Callahan fires showed how defensible space worked. He said there were a lot of photos that showed how defensible space saved homes. He wanted to see the program continue for as long as possible because he believed it was very effective. He asked the TMFPD Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator Brett Taylor to discuss the post-Davis Fire Restoration.

Mr. Taylor noted the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Report was a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service product that was available for more public engagement. He mentioned the BAER report only worked for USDA Forest Service land and that their recommendations were to stabilize some roads and potential soil stabilization in the future. He referenced that between the USDA Forest Service's report and the United States (US) Army Corp of Engineers' assessment of private and County land, neither report found a high degree of erosion potential on the Davis Fire. He explained the Army Corp report would be shared, and the TMFPD would be able to get an idea of the recommendations for soil stabilization. He stated the preliminary good news was that the Davis Fire area was not going to slide off the mountain like what happened with a lot of other fires. He referenced that there was a lot of good understory fire that retained a lot of large trees and vegetation that stabilized the soil and kept the ground intact, so it did not sluff off the hill. He communicated they were reintroducing noninvasive plants to try and help rehabilitate the area. He said the TMFPD assisted the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) with aerial seeding over private and County lands, and federal land if

possible. He relayed the TMFPD was pursuing hazard mitigation grant funding (HMGP) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to get more erosion control barriers, install log erosion barriers, and remove hazardous trees that could pose a risk to the public on the trails and private residences. He voiced they were trying to get funding prior to the winter, and that they were going through the steps required by FEMA.

Chief Moore clarified the groundbreaking of the Hidden Valley Fire Station would take place on November 21, 2024.

24-155F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve a Health Benefits Program for District employees, dependents, and retirees for an estimated total cost to the District of \$2.5 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 2025. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore noted this item was a renewal of the TMFPD's health benefits which represented an increase of 9.7 percent. He said the TMFPD had the funds budgeted to accommodate the increase.

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 3-0 vote with Chair Hill and Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved, authorized, and executed.

24-156F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to adopt Resolution TM09-2024 authorizing the issuance of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's Capital Improvement Revenue Bond, Series 2024 in the maximum principal amount of \$5,252,000 to finance the acquisition of properties for stations and administration authorized by NRS 474.511, including fixtures, structures, stations, other buildings and sites therefor and appurtenances and incidentals necessary, useful or desirable for any such facilities, including all types of property therefor; and providing the effective date hereof and delegate to the Fire Chief authority to finalize the terms of the Bond upon approval of the loan by the Board of the State Infrastructure Bank in November. (All Commission Districts)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore introduced Mr. John Peterson of JNA Consulting and TMFPD Chief Fiscal Officer (CFO) Cynthia Vance. He mentioned it may be beneficial to have an overview since the matter was a little complex.

Mr. Peterson echoed Chief Moore by saying the item was a proposal for the TMFPD to issue a bond not to exceed \$5,252,000. He said the bond would be secured by

15 percent of the District's receipt of state-wide consolidated taxes. He noted it was similar to the bond the District issued in the past. He said the bond proceeds would be used to construct and improve the facility in Meadow Valley. He thanked Mr. Erik Jimenez of the State Infrastructure Bank for assistance with the proposed financing. He assumed if the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) approved the item, the next step would be to go to the State Infrastructure Bank. He said the State Infrastructure Bank would approve the loan, and the closing would occur the first week of December. He mentioned the terms of the loan were 25 years, with the final payment in June 2049. He reported the interest rate was 3.11 percent, which, in his opinion, was lower than if they had financed on their own. He thanked the State Infrastructure Bank for providing low-cost funding. He voiced annual payments would be approximately \$310,000 a year, with a half-year payment due the current fiscal year (FY) of approximately \$155,000. He said the interest rate was fixed and not subject to change and stated they had the ability to refinance if market conditions changed and rates were low. He relayed that there was plenty of flexibility with the financing. He said he spoke with the TMFPD's bond counsel, Ms. Kendra Follett, and was informed that due to only three Commissioners being present, unanimous approval was needed to move the project forward.

Ms. Vance asked for the signatures on the resolution to be given quickly because they would need to be taken to the State Infrastructure Bank on Monday.

Commissioner Andriola expressed appreciation for the work done with the State Infrastructure Bank and said the residents of Hidden Valley were excited. She looked forward to the upcoming vote and thanked Mr. Peterson for clarifying the possibility of better interest rate opportunities. She hoped the groundbreaking ceremony was well attended.

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 3-0 vote with Chair Hill and Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be adopted and authorized. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Agenda Item 12 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

24-157F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to approve an Owner-CMAR Construction Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Plenum Builders, Inc. to provide Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) construction services for the "TMFPD Station 37 Apparatus Bay Addition Project", located at 3255 West Hidden Valley Drive, with a total project cost of \$5,025,938. (Commission District 4)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said the President of Plenum Builders, Inc., Mr. Tobin Basta, was available for questions.

Mr. Basta noted the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) agreement pricing was competitive. He mentioned there were a lot of sub-contract bidders and that the project came in under budget. He said the process had been great and that they were excited to get started and break ground if that was what the District wished.

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 3-0 vote with Chair Hill and Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be approved.

24-158F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to accept a grant from the Bureau of Land Management, in the amount of up to \$767,939.33, to fund hazard fuels mitigation in the East Washoe Valley. (Commission District 2)

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Agenda Items 14 and 15 were held concurrently.

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Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore said this item was the grant that he had mentioned in a previous meeting. He noted the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was giving money to the TMFPD for fuel reduction, which tied into the same fire hazard area northern Carson City had. He mentioned they would be working with Carson City to tie both projects together from Washoe Valley to Carson City. He commented that with the Board of Fire Commission's (BOFC) approval, plans would be made to make progress in the spring.

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 3-0 vote with Chair Hill and Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be accepted.

24-159F **AGENDA ITEM 15** Recommendation to approve a Subaward Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Carson City Fire Department for funding from a Bureau of Land Management Community Fire Assistance Program Grant in the amount of \$227,957 to fund hazard fuels mitigation in North Carson City and, if approved, direct staff to make necessary budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

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For additional discussion on this item, please see Agenda Item 14, minute number 24-158F.

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On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Chair Hill and Commissioner Clark absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be approved and directed.

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Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore asked Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Michael Large if Commissioner Garcia could attend the closed session telephonically. DDA Large said Agenda Item 18 would be heard after the closed Session held in the Caucus Room.

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24-160F **AGENDA ITEM 17** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore reported the Apple Fire Station was using Plenium Builders, Inc. He noted they had gone through a bid opening, and Plenium Builders, Inc., would give them a guaranteed maximum price. He looked forward to starting work on that fire station after the first of the year. He said Apple Incorporated was providing most of the funding and that the District would pay for a certain portion, which included an additional apparatus bay and two additional bedrooms. He mentioned it would be brought to the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) soon. He commented that he had been talking to the State of Nevada and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding the Washoe Valley Fire Station funding. He stated part of the program they offered required him to go through a request for quotation (RFQ) and a request for proposal (RFP) for the architect. He expected the station to be identical to the Apple Fire Station. He said there was not a lot of rethinking for an architect to go through. He referenced that if they went through another architectural process, it would be quick. He said the side adaptations were for the engineering of seismic, in addition to snow and wind loads. He remarked that the TMFPD would do that after the first of the year, and with any luck, they would find more financing.

9:47 a.m. The Board recessed to a closed session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with employee organizations per Nevada Revised Statute 288.220.

24-161F **AGENDA ITEM 16** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor issues with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

24-162F **AGENDA ITEM 18** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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10:11 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:
Lizzie Tietjen, Deputy County Clerk*