

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

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 19, 2019

PRESENT:

Vaughn Hartung, Chair
Bob Lucey, Vice Chair
Marsha Berkgigler, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner

Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
David Watts-Vial, Deputy District Attorney

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, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

19-016F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

19-017F AGENDA ITEM 7 Recognition of Staff for Emergency Childbirth.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore recognized Captain Jeffrey Knox, Firefighter/Paramedic Jonathan Bernard, and Firefighter/Paramedic Nicole Stowe for their brave service in two incidences of emergency childbirth. Chief Moore stressed their jobs required so much more than responding to injured people and destruction by fire. He said it was nice to be able to recognize staff for something that was a joy-filled event. Chief Moore presented each of the three staff members with a Star of Life emblazoned with a stork. He thanked and expressed his pride to each staff member.

19-018F AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Lucey said snow had been an issue recently and he thanked staff for their assistance clearing buried fire-hydrants in remote areas. He mentioned an emergency call in Hidden Valley of a resident who fell while shoveling his driveway and said the crew returned to the home after the incident and cleared the resident's driveway.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A and 5B

19-019F **5A** Recommendation to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2019 meeting.

19-020F **5B** Recommendation to approve a job classification and possible salary range for a position titled EMS Coordinator; and if approved, authorize the reclassification of one (1) Firefighter/EMT position to the position of EMS Coordinator. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A and 5B be approved.

19-021F **AGENDA ITEM 6** I.A.F.F. Local 2487 Report.

No one was present from the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 to give a presentation.

19-022F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Fire Chief Report.

- A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of January and February 2019 to include the following items:
 - 1. Green Waste Program costs
 - 2. Sierra County Agreement
 - 3. Open Burning
 - 4. Gerlach Fire Update
 - 5. Social Media Platforms (Adam Mayberry)
 - 6. Annual Career Statistics Review
- B. Fire Prevention Update (Deputy Chief Beaver)
 - 1. Fire Prevention Statistical Reports
 - 2. Builders Association of Northern Nevada Update
- C. Operational Update (Deputy Chief Gorgon)
 - 1. Significant Incidents for January 2019
 - 2. Review of Career Statistics for December 2018
- D. Commissioner Request Dashboard

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore spoke about the costs of the green waste program. He said he spent time with Cody Witt, Northern Nevada Manager of Full Circle Soil & Compost, and said the company utilized a very scientific process; he noted it was a fascinating operation. Chief Moore was told the costs were as low as they could possibly be. Some loads were pristine and some loads were polluted. He mentioned some items that had been placed in with the green waste, including a ski boot holder, plastic, and an inhaler. He explained sorting the green waste

took many man-hours and said Mr. Witt was charging the lowest possible rate for uncontaminated waste. He stated the public needed to be educated about recycling and the green waste program if it was going to continue. He was working on a video for education purposes. He said the only other way to dispose of waste was to burn it in a burn box but that process would create a carbon footprint. He wanted feedback about future funding for green waste programs. He said the costs for the program could range from \$10,000 to \$30,000 or \$40,000 if recycling was included. He indicated the most significant expense was transporting materials to Carson City. He stated costs would be higher if he was unable to guarantee the material was free of contaminants.

Commissioner Lucey stated the program was very beneficial, especially in District 2. He thought the program needed to continue and should stay green rather than opting to burn waste. He said it was challenging and time consuming but it was best for the environment. He wanted funds to be secured to keep the green waste program and ensure it was environmentally sound.

Chair Hartung asked about reaching out to youth group organizations to help sort the waste or to utilize a work program. Chief Moore indicated there were staff and volunteers present at collection sites to sort the waste. He said Boy Scouts and staff helped people at the East Lake location unload their waste and were able to keep it from being contaminated. He was the only one helping at the Lemmon Valley collection site and items were dropped off that contaminated the green waste. He thought more volunteers would help the screening process be more effective. He said an explorer program within the Fire District was discussed and volunteers helped but he reiterated more people assisting in unloading waste would simplify the screening process.

Chair Hartung wondered whether collection site volunteers could refuse to accept contaminated loads. Chief Moore said volunteers would direct people to take the severely contaminated loads to the landfill and they would pick items out if there was only a small amount of contamination.

Chair Hartung suggested a green waste badge could be created for Boy Scouts to earn by volunteering at collection sites.

Commissioner Jung asked about partnering with Waste Management (WM) to offer free dump passes to residents who brought items that were inappropriate for the green waste collection site. This could prevent illegal dumping in open spaces.

Commissioner Lucey said the franchise fee collected from the WM agreement could provide funding to help with the green waste program. He thought it was something to discuss with the County Manager.

Chief Moore said they learned more every time a collection event was done. He stated they recycled more than 1,000 trees in collaboration with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful. He added that there were collection boxes on the side of stations to collect tree donations.

Chief Moore stated he was close to sending the preliminary agreement for Sierra County to Deputy District Attorney David Watts-Vial for his final review. He thought it would be done before the next fiscal year. He said Washoe County and Sierra County were in agreement on the costs and the service area.

Chief Moore said the District was allowed by the Air Quality Management Department to approve open burning as of March 1. He stated residents within the boundary could apply for a permit. He said burning could be problematic as many of the burn piles were wet and would need to dry out prior to burning. He stated residents with a minimum of one half acre lots would be able to obtain an open burn permit. He said residents in the Warm Springs area were anxious to get open burning started.

Chair Hartung asked whether conversations about open burn regulations in the outlying areas were continuing. Chief Moore replied he had discussions with District Health Officer Kevin Dick about relaxing the rules in outlying areas, especially Warm Spring and areas where air pollution was not an issue. The concern he heard was weather conditions could cause smoke to be blown into Reno from burns in outlying areas and he indicated the National Weather Service verified those concerns were valid. He said they needed to know the proper atmospheric conditions so residents could burn when smoke would be disbursed to the east.

Chair Hartung said he was hopeful for a rural permit. He stated Storey County had no requirements for a permit to burn.

Commissioner Berkbighler expressed concern about open burning restrictions on days when residents were allowed to use their fireplaces. She said residents of rural areas needed to have the opportunity to burn fuels to keep fire dangers under control. She stated she would discuss this with the Health District.

Chief Moore said he would meet with Gerlach Fire Department volunteers on March 25. He noted he had a lengthy meeting with consultant Mike Brown of R&R Partners about a study being conducted. He thought Mr. Brown would bring an update to the Board at the next meeting. Chief Moore said he was preparing the District to take over direct management of Gerlach fire protection starting the next fiscal year. He believed having a robust volunteer fire force required enough people to respond appropriately to the service levels of the area. He said it was the same in any area that used volunteers.

TMFPD Public Information Officer Adam Mayberry conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Social Media Platforms & Target Audience; New Social Media Platform Nextdoor; Nextdoor (cont.); Nextdoor for TMFPD (and Washoe County); Nextdoor Posts; Nextdoor, public and private posts; Nextdoor, target post; and Thank you.

Commissioner Berkbigler said she was on the Nextdoor application for her neighborhood and it was very beneficial. She was glad the TMFPD was taking advantage of the program.

Chief Moore stated call volume had decreased, which he thought was interesting given the growth in the area. He noted the number of wildland fires had decreased. He stated he would use the reported statistics for the strategic plan to propose new station locations. He indicated 54 percent of call volume occurred at three stations: Spanish Springs, Valley Road, and Stead. The remainder of calls were spread throughout the District. He wanted to review response times from the busiest stations to ensure all areas were accommodated in the future. He stated the first draft of the Standards of Cover was promised in February but document preparation was behind schedule. He would be working in March, April, and May to complete it.

Commissioner Jung asked whether first responders were consulted when the Regional Plan was updated. Chief Moore stated he had not been asked to provide any testimony or suggestions. Commissioner Jung thought he should be consulted for future planning. She wondered about the involvement of the Washoe County School District in the process and said the School District could predict growth better than other entities.

Commissioner Jung asked about the three stations with the most calls and said she assumed the majority of those calls were medical calls. Chief Moore stated there were more medical calls but they also included a high volume of fire calls. Commissioner Jung asked about moving stations and whether the areas where the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) provided services were taken into consideration. She wanted to see a comparison map of medical call locations and areas of high priority to REMSA.

Commissioner Herman said she addressed the subject at one of the Regional Planning meetings and would follow up with them.

Commissioner Berkbigler agreed it was very important to understand which services were provided and which additional services were needed. She said the majority of growth was in the north valleys and the three highest volume stations were in those areas. She thought the volume at those stations was already an issue that needed to be addressed.

Chair Hartung said a conversation had occurred at a Regional Planning meeting about levels of service with REMSA. He asked about call levels in Spanish Springs involving automatic and mutual aid with the City of Sparks. Chief Moore explained the District responded to more calls but Sparks was a good partner because, as second or third responder, they could build a better firefighting force at the location. He said automatic aid was still an ongoing issue with the City of Reno. Chair Hartung said he wanted to see more two-man rescue teams.

Commissioner Berkbigler expressed concern about the three areas with high call volumes. She said the new housing development, Stone Gate in Cold Springs, was a huge concern due to the Reno Fire Chief, who informed the Reno City Council they did not have the funds to provide service to the area. She said that would put more pressure on the District and could lessen service to County residents. She wanted the area reviewed to determine what services and equipment were needed.

Chief Moore stated the conversation needed to include regional response on all levels. He said Station 35 was closest to Verdi. The City of Reno required a four person crew to respond in Verdi but the District was not being called to respond even after increasing the response crew. He thought the City of Reno was asserting its exclusive right to serve in Verdi. He did not understand the issue but wanted to ensure the appropriate level of response was sent to any emergency. He opined the process was not currently working and needed to be addressed for the safety of the area.

Commissioner Lucey expressed concern about the massive imbalance of call volumes considering 60 percent of crews and equipment were south of town. He thought individuals in stations in the south were not getting necessary training or experience due to lower call volumes. He wanted to rotate crew members to other stations to allow for training and utilization of skills.

TMFPD Deputy Fire Chief Lisa Beaver reviewed the fire prevention statistics for 2018. She stated the District served at 61 public education events and were able to reach 12,947 children and 6,657 adults. She said she spent significant time at community meetings which was not included in the public education event statistics. She noted the District inspected 21 public schools and suggested improvements for school safety. She said 17 of the 21 schools were rated outstanding and they were working with the remaining schools to address needed improvements. She said the District inspected daycare facilities as well and each one could take between two and four hours per inspection.

Deputy Chief Beaver mentioned she was invited to be a guest speaker at the Builders Association of Northern Nevada on March 21. She said she was honored to be invited to attend the Campfire Lessons Learned event in Paradise, California. She asked the Lead Fire Marshal in Paradise about sharing important information about fires and prevention with the local community. She thought methods of notifying the community of a disaster and evacuation tips were important and she hoped to gain other valuable information as well.

Chair Hartung wanted a special time scheduled for the Paradise Lead Fire Marshal's presentation.

Deputy Chief Scott Gorgon said any recent significant incidents were weather related and they resulted in many accidents in area. He stated some flooding issues occurred in the Lemmon Valley and Palomino Valley areas. One fatality occurred

on Valentine's Day during commute hours. He indicated the statistics were included with the staff report and he would answer any questions.

9:52 a.m. Commissioner Jung left the meeting.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

19-023F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to approve the purchase of supplies and equipment for two new type I structure engines from LN Curtis & Sons in an amount not to exceed \$160,000 using the FR-GPO Contract #0000170 or similar contract as allowed by NRS 332.115.1. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be approved.

19-024F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation pursuant to NRS 332.195(1) to join in Nevada State Contract Bid #8475 and approve the purchase of two (2) new Command Vehicles in the amount of \$46,297.25 per vehicle and to approve additional modifications and equipment for each estimated at \$20,000. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved.

19-025F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Discussion and direction to staff regarding 2019 Nevada Legislative Session and other legislative issues proposed by legislators, or by other entities permitted by the Nevada State Legislature to submit bill draft requests, or such legislative issues as may be deemed by the Chair or the Board to be of critical significance to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. (All Commission Districts.)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore stated staff was aware of Assembly Bill 102, which was legislation that would increase penalties for individuals who committed crimes against family members of first responders such as police officers or firefighters. He thought this was a reasonable proposal and said it was staff's recommendation to support this bill.

Commissioner Berkbigler said she supported the idea not only for firefighters but for all safety personnel in the community.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbiger, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved.

19-026F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Possible Closed Session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Fire Chief Charles Moore stated there was no need for a Closed Session.

19-027F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore stated the March agenda would be full due to consultant Mike Brown of R&R Partners providing information to the Board.

19-028F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Public Comment.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still expressed frustration about road closures in Lemmon Valley which prevented the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority from accessing Lemmon Drive to transport a patient to the hospital. She was disturbed by road closures and a lack of communication with first responders. She spoke regarding a child that nearly died due to road closures.

Ms. Denise Ross expressed concern about the issue Ms. Holt-Still spoke about. She indicated the person taken to the hospital was Mr. Ray Lake's mother. Ms. Ross opined someone would die before something was done to correct the issue.

10:03 a.m. **Commissioner Jung returned to the meeting.**

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10:04 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

MARSHA BERKBIGLER, Chair
Truckee Meadows Fire
Protection District

ATTEST:

NANCY PARENT, Washoe County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk, Truckee Meadows
Fire Protection District

Minutes Prepared By:
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk