

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JULY 2, 2024

PRESENT:

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

Janis Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Charles Moore, Fire Chief
Michael Large, 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, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

24-092F AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Mr. Alan Cocilova discussed his concern about a retention pond in Spanish Springs located south of Iron King Drive, between Lanstar Drive and Arc Dome Court. It contained a lot of dry vegetation, and many new homes were built adjacent to it. Some of the dry vegetation was tall, and he was worried that homes could be affected, especially in consideration of the heat and east-blowing winds. He hoped the District would be able to mitigate any potential fire issues in that area. He thanked the District for all the work it performed. Chair Hill asked Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore if the District could investigate Mr. Cocilova's concern. Chief Moore affirmed and advised that the team could engage with the homeowner if the retention pond was on private property. If it was on County property, then the team could begin taking appropriate measures.

Mr. Drew Ribar asserted that elections should have integrity. He announced he was a candidate for Assembly District 40 and had sued Washoe County because it failed to put his name on the sample ballot. He believed that bad legal advice was issued when the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) was advised that the vote to approve the canvass was a matter of course. He was told by Assemblyman Ken Gray that Lyon County had previously voted to reject a vote canvass. He informed the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) that the BCC could have voted against the vote canvass. He questioned Washoe County's commitment to transparent elections and said he encountered resistance when he tried to observe the vote recount that began on Sunday in the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) Office. He stated that an attorney denied media access to the recount, which violated freedom of the press, and he believed this had not previously occurred in

the State. He said the cameras had been turned off during the recount so the public could not observe, and he asked why the County would want to conceal the events of the election process. He posited that there were many errors, such as his name being omitted from the ballot. He commented that Republican candidates were replaced with Democrat candidates on the sample ballot, and he questioned if that had been done to confuse the public and give Democrats an advantage in the general election. When he spoke with community members to garner votes, he found that some people did not vote because they did not trust the system. He requested that the BOFC do something to fix the problem since it had the power to effect change.

24-093F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Clark discussed the special Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting that was supposed to occur at 8:00 a.m. that morning. Despite the urgency that was communicated to him, he was informed of the meeting's cancellation at 4:00 p.m. the prior day. He was not provided with an explanation regarding the cancellation, and he stated it was an example of why many people did not trust the County's processes. He declared that the County brought negative attention to itself, which he blamed on County Manager Eric Brown and the attention his actions drew to mismanagement. He asserted that the activity occurring in the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) Office was incompetent, but he commended the hard work that the ROV staff was performing.

Chair Hill thanked the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) for the work it had done to fight fires since its last meeting, including the Trail Fire, Sullivan Fire, and Ironwood Fire. She expressed gratitude to the team for keeping the community safe and supporting the District's goals.

Chief Moore observed that Independence Day was nearing, and the District was on heightened awareness. He implored citizens and homeowners to be safe and reminded that fireworks were strictly prohibited in all areas. The only exception was with a permit from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe at Pyramid Lake. He reported that with the current dry conditions, it would not take much to spark a fire. He cited an example of a lawnmower hitting a rock, which he had seen before. He encouraged celebration of the nation's birthday, but he asked citizens to be extra vigilant because the area was extremely dry.

CONSENT ITEMS – 5A THROUGH 5C

24-094F **5A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from May 21, 2024 and June 4, 2024, Board of Fire Commissioners Meetings.

24-095F **5B** Recommendation to approve a Notice of Cancellation for the regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting on August 6, 2024, at 10 a.m. (All Commission Districts.)

24-096F **5C** Recommendation to retroactively approve the Korn Ferry full classification and compensation study that Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District engaged the services of Korn Ferry to complete for non-represented, non-contracted staff, effective August 14, 2023. The results of the classification and compensation study of the non-represented, non-contracted positions include a revised salary structure based on the study's findings and are included for Board approval. (All Commission Districts.)

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

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

24-097F **AGENDA ITEM 6** International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 Report.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 President James Clouser wished the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) a happy Independence Day holiday. He reminded everyone to care for their dogs during the evening of Independence Day because it impacted firefighters. Dogs were terrified of fireworks, and it made firefighters' jobs harder and caused more accidents if dogs were running loose in neighborhoods. He asked everyone to keep their pets indoors and take care of them appropriately.

Mr. Clouser introduced Truckee Meadows Firefighter Foundation (TMFF) President Alex Doerr, who provided the BOFC with mugs. Mr. Doerr informed that the TMFF began its current configuration in 2014 after a firefighter became permanently bound to a wheelchair. He explained the TMFF gave back to firefighters, first responders, and their families, both regionally and nationally. The TMFF was also very involved in the community. He shared an example of a constituent in the City of Sparks whose insurance company threatened to drop her coverage if she did not perform certain actions related to her yard. The TMFF coordinated with the IAFF Local 1265 of Sparks and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Wildland Fuels Division to develop a plan. Within 45 minutes, they filled a 30-yard dumpster, pruned and chipped 20 to 30 yards of material, and removed the waste. He said this was an example of the work firefighters did outside of fire suppression and emergency calls within the Truckee Meadows. They performed those types of activities on their days off and gave back to the community in every way they could, including monetary donations and manual labor. He stated the TMFF provided aid and assisted people through challenges.

Chair Hill asked Mr. Doerr about the TMFF's raffle at the Reno Rodeo. Mr. Doerr announced that TMFF was fortunate to participate in the Reno Rodeo's 50/50 raffle throughout the past few years. It raised \$21,350 that year and would keep half of that amount. The TMFF had almost no overhead costs, so the funds were intended for first

responders, their family members, and community members. He noted that TMFF was constantly fundraising, and all raised funds went back into the community immediately. He shared that the funds from the Reno Rodeo were very appreciated and would allow the TMFF to do a lot of amazing things.

Chair Hill expressed gratitude that the TMFF was part of the community and served a larger community. Mr. Doerr said its members had a sense of pride, so giving back was very beneficial for them.

24-098F **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to approve a Master Service Agreement with Liberty Utilities for the purpose of elimination of wildland fire-related hazardous fuels and standby services to be paid to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District on a “time and materials basis,” which includes personnel and equipment use costs in an estimated amount of up to \$300,000 per year effective July 2, 2024, to October 15, 2027. (All Commission Districts.)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore advised the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) that the District had a similar agreement with NV Energy as found in this agenda item. He informed that Liberty Utilities operated a smaller utility in Washoe County, and it decided the agreement would benefit the community. It contracted with the District because of the District’s available resources. He stated the District’s crews worked quickly and could perform excellent work for Liberty Utilities.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be approved.

24-099F **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to approve a new Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 2487 Wildland Unit for a four-year term effective July 1, 2024, and if approved authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. (All Commission Districts.)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated the Wildland Unit was one of three bargaining units within the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 and applied specifically to wildland firefighters. He explained the agreement had been ratified by the unit and only needed approval by the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC).

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be approved and authorized.

24-100F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to approve a 3.75% cost of living adjustment effective July 1, 2024, for unclassified, non-represented confidential and administrative employees that follow the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Supervisory Collective Bargaining. (All Commission Districts.)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore asked if the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) desired a presentation on this agenda item, and it was determined that no presentation was needed.

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 9 be approved.

24-101F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve Amendment No. 7 to the Employment Agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief, which amends the term of the Agreement and includes a provision for a payout of vacation leave hours at the conclusion of the pay period encompassing December 31st for an approximate cost of \$21,700. (All Commission Districts.)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore requested that the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) extend his contract to January 2025. Currently, the total payout amount would be largely due at the end of his current contract period. The new agreement would allow some of the payout amount to carry over into the next tax year.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved.

24-102F **AGENDA ITEM 11** Fire Chief Report

A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of June 2024 and July 2024 to include the following items:

1. Report on the Trail, Sullivan, and Ironwood Fires and Current Fire Conditions
2. Adverse Weather Plan
3. Capital Projects Update

4. Fire Regionalization/Consolidation

B. Monthly Response Statistics for May 2024

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore announced that Mr. Nick Klaich was the new Division Chief of the Regional Hazardous Material Response Team (TRIAD). He mentioned that Mr. Klaich oversaw the hazardous material (hazmat) program, which was comprised of individuals from TMFPD and the Cities of Reno and Sparks. He reminded the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) of his prior comments regarding Chief Klaich as an overwhelming favorite candidate. He introduced Chief Klaich and commended his hazmat knowledge.

Chief Klaich shared that he was a 20-year employee of the City of Sparks Fire Department (SFD) and had been a Captain for 8 years. He was born and raised in Reno and was a Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) employee prior to working at the SFD. He stated the appointment allowed him to direct his attention to the team and provide safety to the area. At its strongest point about 4 years ago, the team contained 90 hazmat technicians who were shared between the SFD, TMFPD, and the City of Reno. That framework allowed them the best response model since they could share the costs of expensive equipment and training. He noted that bringing in outside educators was extremely expensive, so this model allowed them to provide a minimum of 12 different training courses per year to technicians, battalion chiefs, and individuals at the operations level. He announced that additional annual training would occur, so several large items would be brought to the BOFC. As benchmarks were achieved, he hoped to do presentations with Chief Moore and to improve the area's safety model.

Chair Hill welcomed Chief Klaich to the regional team and communicated her excitement that his expertise would be shared with the region. Chief Klaich appreciated her comments and stated that his team deserved the credit for their heavy lifting and dedication to community safety.

Chief Moore advised that the District would initiate fire restrictions shortly, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had already initiated them. He asked Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator Brett Taylor to provide additional information to the BOFC regarding fire restrictions and how they would impact citizens during the Independence Day holiday.

Mr. Taylor advised that the United States Forest Service (USFS), BLM, and State all initiated fire restrictions on July 1. TMFPD would most likely follow suit to help present a consistent message across all jurisdictions. He explained that the restrictions prohibited campfires, fireworks, and similar activities. The exception was that campfires were allowed on USFS land in improved camp areas. Although the restrictions might be inconvenient for the recreating public, there was increased fire activity in the early part of the season. He noted that the region was two to three weeks ahead of normal when compared to other fire seasons, and this differed from the past few years. He advised that welding and similar activities were prohibited between 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. to restrict

those activities from occurring during the hottest and driest part of the day. Chair Hill asked if that information would be posted on social media. Mr. Taylor affirmed and said that a press release would occur shortly.

Chief Moore announced that Division Chief Joe Schum would provide a report on the Trail Fire, Sullivan Fire, and Ironwood Fire, which were the largest fires within the past few weeks. The fires came close to homes, but the point protection strategy regarding fire engines and defensible space helped tremendously.

Chief Schum reported that the Trail Fire began on Tuesday, June 11, at approximately 3:00 p.m. near North Red Rock Road and North Virginia Street. Cooperators from 18 agencies responded to halt the fire's progress, including units from TMFPD's law enforcement partners, NV Energy, Washoe County Emergency Management, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, Carson City, South Lake Tahoe, and Washoe County School District (WCSD), which provided a location for the command post. The Trail Fire's total coverage area was 198 acres. Responders gained the upper hand around 9:00 p.m. and remained on scene in conjunction with the City of Reno through June 15. He pointed out that the affected land was shared between the District and the City of Reno.

Chief Schum explained that the Sullivan Fire broke out near Procter R. Hug High School almost concurrently with the Trail Fire being brought under control. The Sullivan Fire totaled 138 acres and was responded to by the same cooperators as the Trail Fire. Certain resources were released from the Trail Fire and sent to the Sullivan Fire. The City of Sparks was the primary agency responsible for the Sullivan Fire, and TMFPD assisted with directing resources in the command post. Responders stayed on site until June 15 to ensure there were no hot spots. He noted that a fire alarm occurred and was brought under control that same week along NV-447, between Wadsworth and Nixon. Another fire alarm occurred in California near United States (US) Route 395 and North Red Rock Road.

Chief Schum reported that the Ironwood Fire broke out on Friday, June 21, at about 2:00 p.m. and was followed by a swift response from regional partners. He mentioned that aircraft were involved in both the Trail Fire and the Ironwood Fire. Aircraft was not used in the Sullivan Fire because it occurred at night and aircraft were not used at night. The Ironwood Fire totaled 164 acres and was halted by ground and air resources. Responders remained on scene for the following two days, mopping up and following hot spots. He said that, fortunately, no primary residences were damaged during any of the fires. Only three outbuildings were damaged or destroyed. There was no reported damage to any equipment, nor were there any injuries to personnel or citizens. He counted this as a success, given how rapidly the fires expanded and how difficult they were to put out due to heat and wind.

Chief Schum declared that the summer was shaping up to be busy, and there were a lot of holdover fuels. The hot, dry, windy conditions had made the District busier so far that year than it had been either of the last two years. He announced that the Country had also seen an increase in fires. Due to the preparedness level and resource drawdown,

individuals were assisting regions in other areas of the Country, including Alaska. He added that the District was well prepared and fully staffed, and it increased its staffing on critical weather days and Red Flag days. On July 4, the District would have extra engines on board and would staff its Dozer, which was extremely helpful in halting fires. He stated that the District was as ready as it could be.

Chair Hill commended the District's work. She commented that Perimeter software was being used in real-time and inquired about its effectiveness. Chief Schum stated that the District's experience with Perimeter on the Trail Fire, Sullivan Fire, and Ironwood Fire was extremely positive. He noted that field workers could effectively draw the initial polygons and communicate that information to Washoe County Emergency Management for appropriate messaging and evacuations. He shared that a few minor issues still had to be worked out, but Perimeter was facilitating coordination between the fire agencies, law enforcement, and emergency management.

Commissioner Garcia stated the Sullivan Fire occurred on an election day, and it was unnerving to witness the fire approach her home as she checked election results. She had tremendous appreciation for the responders' quick response and the agencies' collaboration. She thanked the District and said the experience was eye-opening. She mentioned that many of her constituents heard rumors, and she wanted to verify if the Sullivan Fire was human-caused and the result of an encampment. Chief Schum stated that Deputy Fire Chief Dale Way would answer her question, and he commented that those who fought the fires did a tremendous job. They skipped meals, slept in the dirt, and performed a lot of hard work for which they deserved credit. Deputy Chief Way explained that the Sullivan Fire was determined to have been started by a homeless encampment and would still likely be classified as an accidental fire. He informed that the District was working with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) and its homeless unit to track down the involved parties. He was not sure if they had made contact yet. Commissioner Garcia asked if the individuals involved were deemed safe. Deputy Chief Way shared that no one was harmed or injured in the fire. He added that the Trail Fire was still listed as undetermined and said NV Energy sent in an investigation team, which had not yet made additional findings. He reported that the District's determination of cause was undetermined and would remain so, pending any additional information.

Commissioner Garcia spoke about her experience with real-time evacuation notices during the Sullivan Fire. She said there was a slight initial lag regarding the neighborhoods that would be evacuated. Within 15 minutes, the system refreshed and communicated accurate information. She expressed gratitude for the tool's usefulness.

Vice Chair Herman thanked the District and declared the speed at which the Ironwood Fire was extinguished a miracle. Chair Hill also expressed appreciation to the District and said the BOFC looked forward to supporting it through the challenging season.

Chief Moore pointed out that Chief Schum would explain the District's adverse weather plan. It was formally known as the Lightning Action Plan and had been modified to include other weather events. He wanted the BOFC to be familiar with the plan

and understand its implications. Chief Schum said the plan had been in place for several years and was primarily used to address lightning storms. Over the years, they discovered it was operationally useful during additional busy times, such as wind events, flooding, and snowstorms. The plan was revised through dispatch and internal processes to encompass all hazardous weather situations. He discussed the adverse weather plan's intent. When drawdown occurred, four to five engines could not effectively respond to a report of smoke or flooding as during normal circumstances. The District pulled back in these situations and monitored the radios. Battalion chiefs then distributed resources appropriately to ensure District coverage. Single units were sent to the low acuity reports until a different course of action was determined to be more exigent. The plan was used when the District needed to remain extremely coordinated without moving through the District in a normal response pattern.

Chief Moore discussed the capital projects update and said a permit for the Hidden Valley Station was submitted to Washoe County. A tremendously productive meeting occurred with the State Investment Bank's (SIB) executive director. The SIB asked the District for a presentation, which would be delivered on July 23. Chief Moore noted that the SIB operated in two segments. The presentation occurred first, and the final application would be acted upon in September. This was timely because the District expected demolition and utility relocation to begin in September. In the meantime, the TMFPD would negotiate a guaranteed maximum price with a contractor who would send plans to its subcontractors and provide the District with a price. The District would submit the cost to the BOFC for determination to move forward. He fully expected groundbreaking on the Hidden Valley Station to occur by the second half of September. Chair Hill proclaimed that was great news. Chief Moore stated it had been anticipated for some time, and he was excited to see it come to fruition. He remarked that Commissioner Andriola toured the Hidden Valley Station and witnessed how difficult it was to put a fire truck into the bay.

Chief Moore spoke about fire regionalization and consolidation. He reported that the City of Reno requested a meeting with staff from Washoe County, TMFPD, and the City of Sparks to discuss the possibility of regionalizing fire services. A broad conversation occurred, including a discussion of possible bill draft requests (BDR) on behalf of the City of Reno. He did not have specific items to report to the BOFC other than his knowledge that the City of Reno would most likely request another meeting. If that happened, TMFPD staff would attend the meeting and report back to the BOFC so it could understand the issues and direct staff on any potential participation moving forward. He wanted to be transparent with the BOFC that TMFPD staff was requested by the City of Reno, and Washoe County staff was also assisting. Chair Hill thanked him for keeping the BOFC updated.

Chief Moore displayed a photo of himself and a Dalmatian puppy, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He announced that November would mark 45 years of his work in fire service. He determined that he would retire at the end of the current contract period and remarked that it had been a great career. Chair Hill commented that he was an incredible public servant who successfully developed the District. She commended

his regional leadership and expressed appreciation for his service. Chief Moore stated that a leadership transition plan would come before the BOFC in the next few months. He believed the District was well prepared to transition and carry forward its good work. He was extremely proud of the District's accomplishments in 12 years, including work by the BOFC, TMFPD employees, and the District's leadership team.

Vice Chair Herman told Chief Moore that he would be very missed.

Chair Hill said the BOFC would do something special for Chief Moore's final meeting and would craft a worthy press release so the community could understand and celebrate his service. Chief Moore stated he would actively observe the District in the future, and he was very proud of its employees' achievements.

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Chair Hill stated there would be a closed session. She advised that Agenda Items 13 and 14 would be heard prior to recessing for the closed session.

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24-103F **AGENDA ITEM 13** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Clark congratulated Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore on his forthcoming retirement.

Commissioner Andriola commented that Chief Moore's retirement was amazing. She inquired about the Dalmatian featured in the photo Chief Moore displayed. Chief Moore explained that the dog bit someone, so they found a good home for it. Commissioner Andriola appreciated the opportunity to work with Chief Moore and mentioned their prior work together in connection to the American Red Cross. She commended his professionalism, care for the community, and tenacity. She stated she was thrilled with the Hidden Valley Fire Station, as were the residents and the community. She complimented Chief Moore for his ability to address issues with promptness and proper resources. She agreed with Chair Hill's consideration of a press release and celebration.

Commissioner Garcia confirmed that Chief Moore had been in fire service for 45 years. Chief Moore specified that he spent 45 years in fire service, starting immediately after college as a volunteer in November 1979. Commissioner Garcia praised Chief Moore's leadership and ability to adjust to a growing community, as the conditions of his leadership had changed over time. She remarked that he had been adaptable and met the needs of the community.

24-104F **AGENDA ITEM 14** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

24-105F **AGENDA ITEM 12** Possible Closed Session pursuant to NRS 288.220 for the purpose of discussing with management representatives labor matters and negotiations.

10:46 a.m. **The Board recessed for a closed session.**

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11:04 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:
Kendra DeSoto-Silva, Deputy County Clerk*