

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JULY 1, 2025

PRESENT:

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

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

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 Janis Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

25-124F **AGENDA ITEM 3** Oath of Service for newly appointed Fire Chief
Richard J. Edwards by Chair Alexis Hill.

Chair Hill requested that Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Richard Edwards meet her at the podium so she could lead him in an oath of service. Chair Hill requested that Chief Edwards raise his right hand, and he recited the oath of service.

Chair Hill officially welcomed Chief Edwards to his position and remarked that the occasion represented an amazing day for the TMFPD.

Chief Edwards greeted those in attendance and agreed it was an exciting and historic day for the TMFPD. He felt deeply honored and humbled to serve as the TMFPD's fire chief. He thanked the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) and the men and women of the TMFPD for placing their trust in him. He recognized that his position was not only a title, but a responsibility to lead with integrity, courage, and compassion. He expressed gratitude to his mentors, colleagues, and the firefighters he had served with over the years for helping to shape his journey. He acknowledged the Stockton Fire Department's community and firefighters for their professionalism, resilience, and commitment, which he noted had prepared him well for his future with the TMFPD. He remarked that serving as the Stockton Fire Department's fire chief had been a privilege. He thanked his family most of all, acknowledging the chaos he and his family experienced over the previous 55 days due to the stress of high school graduations, retirements, and moving. He explained that the summer had likely not been as his family had envisioned but noted that they gave him resilience, and their love sustained and reminded him of why

his work mattered. He expressed excitement for the future with his family in a new community.

Chief Edwards described Truckee Meadows as a region defined by natural beauty, deep community pride, and unique challenges, such as the wildland urban-interface (WUI) risks and regional cooperation needs. He opined that the TMFPD was vital in protecting lives, property, and the environment. He considered the responsibility of such protection with great respect for those who served in his position before him. He affirmed that he would lead as fire chief with a philosophy based on inclusivity, transparency, and collaboration. He described his ethos as simple and explained that it was to provide the highest level of fire protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) while taking the best care of the firefighters and professional staff who delivered those services. He believed in empowering members of the TMFPD at every rank and building a culture within the agency where innovation was encouraged, professional growth was supported, and every voice was heard. He stated that together, the TMFPD would continue to grow into an organization trusted by the public, respected by its peers, and driven by service above self. He expressed his commitment to strengthening the TMFPD's operational readiness, fostering regional partnerships, and ensuring fiscal responsibility.

Chief Edwards anticipated meeting with each of the BOFC members and the TMFPD's chief officers, administrative teams, and fire crews to help finalize his 180-day plan. He acknowledged that while those in the TMFPD would face challenges in the future, he was confident that staff would meet such difficulties promptly and directly with unity, purpose, and courage. He expressed pride in standing beside the firefighters and professional staff of the TMFPD, as they represented the very best of public service. He reminded the staff of the TMFPD that he was always available to speak with them. He thanked the citizenry served by the TMFPD for their trust, as the TMFPD was their fire district that was there to serve them daily with excellence and honor. He reiterated his excitement to begin work as fire chief and thanked those in attendance.

Chair Hill thanked Chief Edwards and echoed his excitement.

10:09 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

10:11 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

25-125F **AGENDA ITEM 4** Public Comment.

Mr. Thomas Daly displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He thanked the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) and introduced himself as a resident of Washoe County. He welcomed Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Richard Edwards to his position. Mr. Daly expressed fear for the safety of his friends and neighbors in West Washoe Valley, as they had been without effective fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for more than three years. He explained that their closest fire station, Fire Station 30 near Bowers Mansion, had been closed in August 2022 despite a commitment by previous members of the BOFC to prevent

Fire Station 30 from closing until the planned Washoe Valley consolidated fire station became operational. He stated that promises had been made, and protection had been denied. He noted that the TMFPD Fire Station 32 on Eastlake Boulevard had become the closest fire station to West Washoe Valley. However, services from that station could not reach residents in West Washoe Valley soon enough to prevent catastrophic loss from structure fires or deaths from heart attacks or strokes. He explained that Fire Station 32's response time to West Washoe Valley was 12 minutes at best. He noted that despite those factors, residents of West Washoe Valley were paying fire taxes without receiving effective services. He stated that public reports revealed that the consolidated Washoe Valley fire station would likely never be built due to a lack of funding. He asked what the alternative plan was to account for that decision. He suggested that the land for the consolidated fire station be sold, noting that the property had been purchased by the TMFPD five years prior for approximately \$500,000. He recommended that the funds generated by that sale be utilized to support the existing Volunteer Fire Station 301 on Bellevue Road and Interstate 580 to build a manufactured home to serve as crew quarters. He noted that the TMFPD had done such actions for 12 years at the Hidden Valley Fire Station 37. He explained that the new crew quarters should contain the necessary furnishings, equipment, appliances, and utilities. He reported that the cost for that construction would be approximately \$500,000, and it would take about 150 days to complete with the right project manager in charge. He suggested that if the Board doubted the cost estimates and timeline he had provided, they should task Chief Edwards with getting competing estimates to report back to the BOFC during the September meeting for possible action or discussion. He noted that there would be no BOFC meeting in August. He recommended that the BOFC operate Volunteer Fire Station 301, after the crew quarters were constructed, with a team of three individuals, utilize funds from the contingency budget, implement some of the fuels management crew personnel, and apply for a no-match grant from the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) program to receive three years of cost-free funding from the federal government. He suggested that the Board think creatively to find a solution. He emphasized that West Washoe Valley had seen the destruction of more than 48 homes and structures, which the Little Valley Fire and Davis Fire had demonstrated. He asked how many more of the Board's constituents had to suffer devastation or risk death for the lack of a fire station in West Washoe Valley.

Ms. Barbara Batza greeted the Board and introduced herself as a resident of West Washoe Valley. She expressed concern about the safety of her spouse, neighbors, and herself. She explained that she had moved to the area following her retirement for a better lifestyle and was happy that her residence was located only ten minutes away from a major hospital. She stated that since the closure of Fire Station 30, she had been left with two questions. She asked how the members of the BOFC would feel if their closest fire services and EMS had a response time of over twice the National average, and how the issue was allowed to happen. She requested that the BOFC keep their promises to the residents of Washoe Valley by either breaking ground for the construction of a new consolidated fire station within 90 days or immediately equipping the volunteer fire station on Bellevue Road as a TMFPD career fire station. She thanked the Board.

Mr. Mark Batza thanked the firefighters in attendance at the meeting for their service and expressed his appreciation. He introduced himself, explained that he lived in West Washoe Valley, and voiced concern about his and his spouse's safety. He noted that he moved to the area after his retirement for a better lifestyle and was happy that his residence was located only ten minutes away from a major regional hospital. He explained that his happiness had been diminished since the closure of Fire Station 30. He reported that fire and paramedical services response times for his residence were more than twice the National average. He requested that the BOFC keep their promises to the residents of Washoe Valley by either breaking ground for the construction of a new consolidated fire station within 90 days or immediately equipping the fire station on Bellevue Road as a TMFPD career fire station. He thanked the Board.

Ms. Robin Leach introduced herself as a resident of West Washoe Valley. She was concerned about her friends, neighbors, and her own safety because they had no access to fire service and paramedic response within a safe and reasonable time to their area. She explained that the prescribed response time of six minutes was necessary to preclude destruction of a home from fire or prevent a deadly stroke or heart attack. She insisted that the BOFC keep the promises they had made to the residents of Washoe Valley by either breaking ground for the construction of a new consolidated fire station within 90 days or immediately equipping the volunteer fire station on Bellevue Road as a TMFPD career station, which she believed was the best option. She felt that if the members of the BOFC or their loved ones faced the fire or medical emergency response times experienced by the residents of West Washoe Valley, the lack of accountability and concern toward the issue would have been addressed and rectified long ago. She reminded the Board that promises had been made to the residents that had not been kept.

Mr. Bob Rusk greeted the Board and welcomed Chief Edwards to the TMFPD. He stated that he had lived in Washoe Valley with his wife for 45 years, and for 43 years, they had received the best fire protection services possible, as their home was located only four driveways away from the previous fire station. He noted his appreciation for that proximity to his residence until the fire station closed. He emphasized that former members of the BOFC had made promises to the residents. He stated that the closure of the previous fire station made no sense to him. He recounted his experience serving as a former Board of County Commissioners (BCC) member in the 1970s. He explained that during his eight years of service in that position, he had never experienced a Commissioner's request to place an item on a BCC or BOFC meeting agenda being refused, regardless of whether the members of the Board agreed with those requests. He recounted that there had never been a female Commissioner before his service on the BCC until his sixth year in the position, when Ms. Jean Stoess was elected as a new County Commissioner and became the first woman to serve on the BCC. He asked whether the residents of West Washoe Valley were happy and opined they would be by the end of the BOFC meeting, as he was confident that the Board would do the right thing. He encouraged the Board to continue doing good work. He recommended that the Board support Chief Edwards in moving the progress on the matter forward for the thousands of constituents that he and the Board represented. He explained that all members of the Board represented those in Washoe Valley because the Commissioners cared about them to the same degree

they cared about the constituents of the districts they were responsible for. He urged the Board to provide the residents of West Washoe Valley with good fire protection services, noting that he was depending on them to do so. He knew the BOFC could achieve that, as he had more faith in women than men. He concluded by thanking the Board.

Mr. Tim Stevens introduced himself. He explained that he was nearly 82 years old and was not in perfect health. He expressed his concern about his family's safety. He explained that he had felt reasonably safe with the fire protection services provided by Fire Station 30 near Bowers Mansion before it abruptly concluded service. He indicated that despite residents being promised that the TMFPD was building an alternative nearby, that had not happened. He had realized in the past three years that the timeframe for the arrival of emergency response after communicating distress over the phone that could ensure the survival of an individual's home or life was approximately eight minutes. He attributed that time frame to his belief that the arrival time of fire and medical services at his location would likely not be sufficient. He expressed that he had lived with the fear of that for nearly three years. He spoke as a citizen of Washoe County when requesting that the BOFC keep a long overdue promise by breaking ground for constructing a new fire station within 90 days or equipping the volunteer fire station on Bellevue Road as a TMFPD career fire station immediately. He stated that the residents of West Washoe Valley had waited long enough.

Ms. Nancy Davis introduced herself as a resident of West Washoe Valley for 20 years. She was uncertain why getting a fire station in West Washoe Valley had been repeatedly pulled from the TMFPD's monthly meeting agenda, especially considering the promises made to residents. She voiced concerns about her family and friends who lived in the area due to the substantial wait times over the past three years for an ambulance or fire services to respond to small accidental fires on windy days. She referred to the Davis Creek Fire as an example of such delays, as residents watched the fire go from a small fire to causing extensive damage. She opined that the damage from the Davis Creek Fire would have been substantially reduced if the area had a manned fire station nearby when the fire started. She insisted that the BOFC keep the promises that were made to the residents of Washoe Valley in 2022 by breaking ground for the construction of a new consolidated fire station within 90 days or immediately equipping the volunteer fire station on Bellevue Road as a TMFPD career fire station.

Mr. Alan Altman greeted the Board and noted that he was a retired physician who lived with his wife, dog, and cats in West Washoe Valley. He voiced concern about the safety of his family and pets, including his son and his son's wife, who lived near them. He attributed his worry to witnessing the devastation caused by the Davis Creek Fire and his possible need for life-saving emergency services due to his age. He noted that as a doctor, he was aware of the value preventive care offered to avoid serious illness or death and to help people live better lives. He compared preventive care to fire services and EMS based on their shared ability to prevent death, destruction, and ruining a lifetime of work. He wanted to echo the comments made by previous speakers by urging the BOFC to keep their promises to the community of West Washoe Valley and to promptly break ground on the construction of a new consolidated fire station or to re-equip the

volunteer fire station on Bellevue Road. He asked the Board to help the residents of West Washoe Valley avoid a preventable tragedy.

Ms. Loretta Low introduced herself as a resident of West Washoe Valley. She described her concern for the safety of herself, her husband, her community, and the areas surrounding West Washoe Valley. She explained that fires often started in one area before spreading over far distances. She opined that if the fires could be caught near where they began by the TMFPD, other communities further from the incident would also be safe. She attributed her concerns to the lack of adequate EMS that should be present in West Washoe Valley, which would require a response time of eight minutes. She emphasized that West Washoe Valley did not receive EMS responses within that timeframe, nor did the area have a TMFPD fire station. She acknowledged that everyone was likely aware of that, but wanted to ensure they understood. She emphasized that no TMFPD fire station in West Washoe Valley was present that would be able to save a resident's life because of the extended response time. She reiterated that there was an absence of any fire stations to provide EMS or fire protection in the area, and she opined that the solution was not having those services be provided from outside of West Washoe Valley. She stressed that the response times were too long to save a life. She opined that a career TMFPD fire station must be established in West Washoe Valley to ensure the safety of hundreds of residences. She welcomed Chief Edwards to Nevada. She encouraged the BOFC and Chief Edwards to keep the promises made to the residents of West Washoe Valley, establish a career TMFPD fire station within 90 days, or immediately equip the volunteer fire station on Bellevue Road as a TMFPD fire station.

Mr. Tim Salyer greeted the Board and welcomed Chief Edwards. He introduced himself and stated that he resided on the western side of Washoe Valley. He expressed concern for his family's safety and well-being in the event of an emergency. He wanted the BOFC to seriously consider pursuing the purchase or lease of Volunteer Fire Station 301 on Bellevue Road and Interstate 580 to ensure that residents could have acceptable response times in case of a fire event or medical emergency. He stated that the members of the West Washoe Association and residents of Washoe Valley would be happy to work with the Board on the matter. He thanked the BOFC for their consideration of his comment.

Ms. Laura Dilley welcomed Chief Edwards and greeted the BOFC. She introduced herself as a resident of West Washoe Valley and expressed her concerns about the safety of the community in which she lived. She was grateful that the area was provided with basic services to address fire or medical events, though those services were not adequate in the case of a significant emergency when response times became urgent. She recounted that less than two years prior, she experienced an unusual heart-related emergency. She explained that she had experienced a spontaneous artery tear, which caused a blocked artery, major shortness of breath, and symptoms related to a heart attack. She opined that she had been lucky that her husband had been available to immediately transport her to Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center, where she had an emergency procedure and spent the night in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). She stated that she had recently become a widow and explained that living alone had become a risk without a rapid

emergency response to her neighborhood. She believed the outcome could be fatal if the same medical emergency occurred again. She noted that she lived through the Tubbs Fire in Northern California and had experienced the horrifying nature of a major fire and the trauma related to her friends who had lost their homes, pets, and possessions. She expressed concern that fire station improvements in West Washoe Valley had not been provided after being voted for by former members of the BOFC. She explained that such events exposed the area's residents to an increased risk of loss in the event of an unexpected fire at their homes or surrounding areas. She asked the Board to honor the promise of providing a new and adequate fire station and the appropriate fire services to the residents of West Washoe Valley. She hoped the BOFC would support her concerns and prevent any unnecessary health or safety crisis in the area.

Mr. Robert Burke introduced himself as a resident of West Washoe Valley. He stated that it appeared as though all of the residents' concerns and points had been expressed, and he enthusiastically agreed with them. He noted that he would not take the time to reiterate those statements. He hoped that the Commissioners would make a positive change in the area and thanked the Board.

Mr. Anthony Markow introduced himself and noted that he lived in West Washoe Valley. He voiced his concern for his family's safety due to the absence of an adequate fire station providing the critical response time needed to save lives and property since August 2022, following the overnight abandonment of Fire Station 30. He noted that everyone was aware of the plan to build a consolidated fire station to replace Fire Stations 30 and 32. He appreciated that most of the current BOFC membership was not involved in that decision. He opined that the subsequent decisions to close Fire Station 30 due to bat infestation, not seeking remediation following the closure, and statements by the former interim fire chief that the consolidated fire station would never be built without funding in consideration of its design, had left the community exposed to multiple inevitable losses of life and property. He noted that such matters had been demonstrated by the loss of 11 homes and the Davis Fire in September 2024. He opined that it did not take much thought to realize how different the outcome could have been during the Davis Fire, had Fire Station 30 still been active at that time. He stated that everybody understood that wildfires could be extremely unpredictable, and without a chance to fight them, they were sure to be devastating with effects that would reach outside the immediate area. He opined that Saint James Village in Galena should be concerned that West Washoe Valley lacked the resources to prevent their area from tragedy. He noted that the same month the Davis Fire occurred, before it had reached full containment, an additional fire began within a Waste Management garbage truck on September 18, 2024. He explained that he lived on Landing Lane, which was located one street from the intersection where the garbage truck explosion occurred. He was shocked by the loud noise generated by the blast and could immediately see the black smoke rising above his neighbor's roof as he worked from his desk. He explained that he had resorted to crafting his own firefighting trailer equipped with two 330-gallon water totes, a water pump, a fire hose, and a nozzle due to the lack of firefighting resources in the area. He noted that his trailer had not yet been completed at the time of the explosion, and he had rushed to hook the equipment up to his truck to prevent another situation like the Davis Fire. He reported that he was prevented from engaging with the fire

when he got onto the road. He explained that it had taken 29 minutes for the first fire service resources to arrive at the scene. He noted that the corner lot where the explosion occurred contained significant dry and dead vegetation due to an abandoned property located nearby. He opined that another disaster was very close to occurring during that incident. He asked the BOFC why a fire station in West Washoe Valley had not been a priority, and asked Chair Hill why the matter had not been an agenda item when an active Commissioner requested it. He welcomed Chief Edwards and asked all responsible parties present how they would address the situation. He opined that the best option and his request was that the South Valley Volunteer Fire Department's fire station be immediately converted to a career TMFPD fire station.

Mr. Dennis Frezzo introduced himself and explained that he lived in the Franktown Estates community in Washoe Valley. He noted that the Franktown Estates included 107 lots, with over 60 homes already constructed and several more in the process of approval. He reported that he had lived in the community for over 21 years and had experienced several fires over the previous 20 years. He explained that those fires had not affected Franktown Estates because the skill and response time of the area's firefighters had been acceptable in the past. He opined that the current condition and status of the fire station being closed, with no alternative, left the community at a tremendous and unacceptable risk. He strongly recommended the immediate approval of the renovation of Volunteer Fire Station 301 located on Bellevue Road and Interstate 580, as it was the most expeditious and efficient remedy to the clear and present danger. He believed that failure to address the severe problem would be irresponsible, and thanked the Board for their time. He congratulated Chief Edwards and expressed his admiration to all firefighters.

Mr. John Milliron asked the BOFC to honor their commitment to the residents of Washoe Valley by building a new fire station or equipping the volunteer fire station to protect the lives and properties of those exposed on the west side of Washoe Valley. He noted that due to the recent closure of Fire Station 30 near Bowers Mansion, the Davis Fire had demonstrated the urgency of the matter. He explained that he lived approximately two miles north of the Davis Campground, which he described as a 100-acre community that was devastated by wildfire. He reported that his home had been graciously spared during the Davis Fire but his immediate neighbor's property was not. He explained that everything his neighbor owned was burned to the ground, and the once beautiful community lost hundreds of homes and pine and aspen trees. He noted that residents each paid thousands of dollars in property taxes, which amounted to thousands of dollars in funding for West Washoe Valley annually for fire protection services. He stated that despite those payments, residents heard the BOFC's budget was constrained. He noted that Mr. Daly offered ideas and proposals that were affordable and quick to enact, and he emphasized that residents supported those ideas and urged the Board to do the same. Mr. Milliron thanked the Board.

Ms. Roxanna Dunn introduced herself as the Incline Village Crystal Bay Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) Chair and remarked that she would be speaking as an individual citizen. She stated that she was speaking in support of the South Truckee Meadows residents asking for an additional fire station. She noted that the Commissioners

might remember meeting her in early 2024, when she and Ms. Diane Becker met with each member of the BOFC individually to convey their concerns regarding the evacuation protocol in their local area. She explained that they had emphasized the dangerous ratio of the number of people that would need to be evacuated from the Washoe Tahoe area, divided by the number of escape routes available. She noted that only three routes were available, two of which were State Route (SR) 28 East and SR 28 West. She described SR 28 as an old road carved into the cliffs that fed down toward the lake. She described the road as narrow, lacking in shoulders in several places, possessing few turnouts, and highly vulnerable to complete blockage. She noted that SR 28 West took vehicles to the parking lot known as King's Beach, with SR 28 East ending in the typical traffic jam at Sand Harbor. She opined that she would prefer not to take either route, which left only SR 431, commonly known as the Mt. Rose Highway, as the best option for moving people out of the Tahoe area. She explained that the Davis Fire demonstrated that SR 431 was also vulnerable during the previous summer. She recounted that SR 431 had been closed for a substantial portion of a day, with the Davis Fire coming dangerously close to the summit. She noted that a fire inspector had come to conduct a defensible space inspection the week prior. She said the fire inspector had told her that the Davis Fire could have easily travelled into the Tahoe Basin had it not been for a fortunate change in wind direction. She noted that if a fire began in the Truckee Meadows area and travelled into the Tahoe Basin, residents would be cut off from using SR 431 and would be left trapped. She opined that the best way to avoid a disaster of that kind was early detection and containment, which meant adequate fire resources were necessary. She asked that the BOFC consider those who lived on the other side of the mountain while deliberating on the implementation of a fire station for the South Truckee Meadows area.

Ms. Katrina Dale introduced herself and noted that she lived on the west side of the wildland urban-interface (WUI) area of Washoe Valley. She welcomed Chief Edwards and stated that he had a lot of matters brought before him that day. She acknowledged that Chief Edwards had only recently come to the region and informed him that there was significant wind in Washoe Valley. She noted that a small spark could set a huge fire due to the high winds. She reported that the region had suffered from the Washoe Lane, Davis Creek, and Little Valley fires. She opined that the issue had been left unaddressed and was now the responsibility of Chief Edwards and the BOFC. She appealed to their integrity as Commissioners and politicians, noting the campaign slogans that promised they were serving citizens well. She opined that the situation in West Washoe Valley represented an opportunity to uphold their promise and do as their slogans said. She acknowledged that there was substantial information to review, as residents had given the Board options for the fire station on Bellevue Road. She noted that while the solution was great, it was temporary, which she believed was better than nothing. She opined that those who made promises to residents took their tax money. She suggested that the former fire chief had left, and the residents now brought the problem to Chief Edwards. She pleaded that the Board operate with integrity by doing what they were at the meeting to do, which she noted was to serve the public. She explained that the residents of West Washoe Valley represented the public, and she thanked the Board.

Ms. Elizabeth Seibold introduced herself and explained that she lived in West Washoe Valley. She stated that she was handicapped, 80 years old, and a widow who lived alone. She noted that she no longer had any fire protection or paramedic services. She opined that the residents of West Washoe Valley had been lied to. She remembered that residents had been told in 2016, when the area experienced the Little Valley Fire, that there had been a controlled burn, with someone kept at the site. She noted that nobody who was currently on the Board was likely in their position then, but within a few hours, the controlled burn became the Little Valley Fire, which consumed 23 homes and substantial livestock. She emphasized that a fire of that kind could occur again. She stated that the residents knew that if they had been lied to once, they would be lied to again. She urged the BOFC to do something to help residents. She believed addressing the fire station on Bellevue Road was a good solution. She thanked the Board.

Ms. Mary Pierczynski greeted the Board and introduced herself as a resident of West Washoe Valley. She expressed concerns about her safety and the safety of her neighbors and family. She opined that Mr. Daly had given the Board a very good solution to the issue, as his suggestion introduced a way the problem could be resolved economically. She acknowledged that the BOFC wanted to do the right thing and hoped that the matter would be included in the agenda of the next TMFPD meeting scheduled for September, so that the issue could be comprehensively vetted and the Board would understand how serious it was. She welcomed Chief Edwards and opined that he had begun his position at a good time. She wanted to echo the comments that had been made by previous speakers and thanked the firefighters.

Mr. Rick Hoffman greeted Chief Edwards and noted that the issue being mentioned was controversial, as promises were made that had not been fulfilled. He introduced himself as a resident of the Franktown Estates in West Washoe Valley. He valued the lifestyle that he had come to the area to enjoy during his retirement. He explained that he was speaking due to his concern for his safety and the safety of his family, as there was a lack of adequate fire services and EMS. He mentioned that the issue was particularly important due to the age of the population in West Washoe Valley. He reiterated that there were promises made to the community prior to the closure of Fire Station 30 in anticipation of the reconstruction of a consolidated fire station that had not been kept. He opined that such matters were not right, and the BOFC had the power to change that. He noted that it was the Board's decision to do so. He requested that the Commissioners keep their promises and immediately commence the construction of the new site that the land had already been purchased for, or adopt the volunteer fire station near Bellevue Road as a TMFPD fire station.

Ms. Penny Brock displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. Ms. Brock introduced herself as the chair of the South Truckee Meadows Washoe Valley CAB. She reported that approximately 85 people had attended the June CAB meeting, with their primary concern being replacing the closed fire station in Washoe Valley. She attributed the attendance at that meeting to the idea that the Mt. Rose Highway corridor served as a gatekeeper of Lake Tahoe from a fire in Washoe Valley, which had been demonstrated during the Davis Fire. She recounted having previously lived in the

Galena Forest area. She explained that while living in that region, the fire chief from the closed volunteer fire station on Mt. Rose Highway had repeatedly told residents that fires burn uphill. She wanted the Board to be aware of that, as that had been witnessed during the Davis Fire. She opined that if the wind had not changed, Lake Tahoe might not be the same. She emphasized that a fire station in Washoe Valley was necessary, and the BOFC could at least do what had been proposed by reopening the closed volunteer fire station. She explained that Mr. Daly estimated the cost associated with the fire station to be \$500,000. She noted that she was unsure where the funding would come from. She referred to the document she displayed and stated that the BOFC had sourced \$500,000 in funding to relocate rocks from Las Vegas to Washoe County the year prior. She opined that if the Board was able to find funding for those efforts, they could locate \$500,000 in funding to reopen a mandatory and critical fire station. She stated that residents knew there was \$500,000 in the budget to do so. She asked that the Board source the necessary funding for the reopening of the volunteer fire station, then consider discussions about building a new fire station. She noted that a new fire station might come later, but the residents would at least have fire protection from the volunteer fire station in the meantime. She hoped the temporary solution would also include the EMS that Washoe Valley residents were asking for. She emphasized that such actions were critical, and that residents were begging the Board and Chief Edwards to provide a fire station for the sake of the South Valleys, Washoe Valley, and Incline Village.

Mr. Mark Luni introduced himself and explained that he owned a property in the Franktown neighborhood of West Washoe Valley. He asked if the Board had really spent a substantial amount of money to move rocks when there were many rocks in the area. He expressed frustration with that use of taxpayer funds. He recited a saying that indicated that small proactive preventative measures were more efficient than substantial reactive remedies. He noted that residents of West Washoe Valley had those preventative measures previously until they were taken away due to bats at the volunteer fire station. He explained that the Davis Fire took substantial resources to cure due to the severity of the destruction caused by the lack of a fire station in the area. He observed that the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex had several security measures, such as locked doors, security guards, fire sprinklers, and smoke detectors. He asked how safe the Board would feel if all those protective features were taken away, and they had to rely on the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) on Parr Boulevard to respond to disturbances. He noted that the WCSO facility was approximately 10 to 15 minutes away and inquired what damage could be done in that time. He was relieved there was protection in the Commission Chambers. He noted that his concern was for fire crews responding to wildfires as well as the residents. He stated that firefighters risked their lives, and that outweighed the value of transporting rocks.

Mr. John Carry introduced himself as a resident of the Franktown neighborhood in South Washoe Valley. He thanked the firefighters who had done an amazing job during the previous fires in his area. He was uncertain if congratulations were yet due to Chief Edwards, though he anticipated seeing whether they were. He wanted to support what everyone had said previously. He noted that those who had spoken were his neighbors and stated that the Board knew they needed protection. He opined that the

property taxes paid by the residents of Washoe Valley were sufficient to provide them with adequate fire and emergency services.

Ms. Laurie Carry introduced herself and greeted the Board. She congratulated Chief Edwards and thanked those in the TMFPD. She explained that the residents of West Washoe Valley had witnessed terrible fires, and protection against them was needed. She stated that residents felt vulnerable to fire and health emergencies, as the population in the area was aging. She noted that they needed to be able to rely on the services provided by a stable fire department. She opined that closing the volunteer fire station due to bats was an insufficient excuse, and claimed she knew how to solve that problem. She suggested that the BOFC develop a better idea to solve the issue and noted that several solutions had been presented to the Board. She explained that residents of West Washoe Valley would feel much better if the Board did the right thing.

Ms. Susan Roll greeted the Board and introduced herself as a resident of Steamboat Valley. She described those living in West Washoe Valley as her friends and neighbors. She explained that she was in attendance at the BOFC meeting as she had been scared while witnessing the Davis Fire burning towards her, leading to her preparing to evacuate everything, including her possessions, pets, and horses. She noted that she could not imagine what that had been like for her friends who lived even closer to the Davis Fire than she did. She opined that implementing a fire station for the area's residents was common sense and the right thing to do.

Ms. Robbin Muller introduced herself as a resident of Steamboat Valley. She expressed concern about her property, her immediate neighbors, and those who lived further away. She explained that Steamboat Valley was in the direction the wind often blew from Washoe Valley and Pleasant Valley. She hoped the issues could be solved so that better fire protection could be provided before the problem worsened. She thanked the Board.

Mr. William Naylor greeted the Board and introduced himself. He noted that it seemed as though every time fire statistics on allocating resources were deliberated, the topics discussed were only urgent care events or the number of cats rescued from trees. He opined that those were not the matters that needed consideration, and he explained that he would list what was important. He noted that the issue did not only apply to Washoe Valley, as it also concerned Pleasant Valley and Steamboat Valley, which suffered from past fires that had begun in Washoe Valley. He noted the first matter in need of consideration was that the issue affected a large area of forested land with high fire risk and an even more expansive region with medium fire risk in the WUI. He explained that those areas were unique compared to other regions served by the TMFPD in Washoe County. He described Washoe Valley as a large geographic area with physical separation by Washoe Lake. He noted the volume of visitors to West Washoe Valley, who might need EMS support. He provided the examples of Washoe Lake State Park, which attracted 300,000 visitors and was the third most visited state park in Nevada, as well as two Washoe County regional parks that similarly experienced substantial visitation. He emphasized the limited fire hydrant infrastructure necessary to fight fires and the need for water tankers.

He explained that additional water tankers had been promised with the new fire station, though that station would not be built. He explained that water tankers would be needed if a fire engine were to operate in the area. He described the limited EMS in West Washoe Valley. He asked why the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) did not service that region, despite the County having signed an EMS agreement with REMSA to service Washoe County. He suggested expanding the EMS contract to serve the people of West Washoe Valley. He noted that the proximity of West Washoe Valley to the Washoe Basin had been mentioned previously and emphasized that fires burned uphill. He stated that fires would not be able to spread into the Washoe Basin if they could be halted in Washoe Valley. He noted the limited evacuation capability in the area. He recounted that there had been a 1.5-hour delay at key intersections in Washoe Valley during the Davis Creek Fire, postponing residents trying to enter Eastlake Boulevard to evacuate the area. He speculated what could have happened if the Davis Creek Fire had not been stopped before reaching New Washoe City. He noted that Washoe Valley and Pleasant Valley had documented records of the periodic major wildfire incidents, proving they happened frequently. He reported that three fires had come within a quarter of a mile of his residence since he began living in the area ten years prior. He emphasized that 48 homes had been destroyed and compared the destruction in Washoe Valley to the regions with residents receiving fire service resources. He opined that the residents of Washoe Valley needed the Board's support to improve the situation in the area.

Mr. Cliff Low displayed a document, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. Mr. Low greeted the Board, welcomed Chief Edwards, and thanked those at the TMFPD. He introduced himself, noting that he served as president of the West Washoe Association. He explained that he lived in West Washoe Valley and expressed concern for the safety of his family and neighbors. He attributed his concerns to most of the reasons mentioned by the previous speakers, which he would not repeat. He stated that what he saw the Board considering was related to what he had mentioned during a BCC meeting three weeks prior. He recounted that he had spoken to the Board about their responsibility toward the promises made by Commissioners who served before them. He hoped the BOFC did not feel as though he was lecturing them at that time. He wanted to repeat his previous statements briefly to benefit the Board and those attending the BOFC meeting. He recognized that three of the Commissioners on the BOFC were not in office in 2022. He asked whether they would have voted against the proposal that had been passed previously if they could review the relevant minutes and had been given the information available at that time. He opined that if those Commissioners felt they would have voted in favor of the proposal, they had an obligation to take action to ensure the promises made in the past would be kept, regardless of whether they voted in support of the matter at that time. He believed that if a Commissioner failed to take action on a matter from the past they would have agreed with, they must also abstain from any motion that came before them for a vote that extended past their current term, because they could not expect their successors to do what they had failed to. He explained that such action would be hypocritical and opined that they may not have another term for whatever reason. He noted that he had made it easier for the BOFC and Chief Edwards by distributing the minutes from the January 2020 BOFC meeting to the Board. He explained that the minutes from that meeting showed when the consolidated fire station was voted for, and

when the decision had been made to keep Fire Stations 30 and 32 open until the consolidated fire station was fully operational. He stated that the Board had also been given the minutes from the BOFC meeting in September 2022, when the former fire chief was directed to expedite the completion of those efforts. He noted that the distributed documents also included the minutes for the BOFC meeting in November 2022, when the Board voted to terminate the lease for Fire Station 30. He stated that, like those who spoke before him, he pleaded that the Board act as Fire Commissioners to keep the promises made to the Washoe Valley residents by doing what might seem impossible, which was to break new ground for the consolidated fire station within 90 days or immediately equip the volunteer fire station on Bellevue Road to be a TMFPD career fire station. He thanked the Board.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised the Board she received four emailed public comments which were placed on file.

25-126F AGENDA ITEM 5 Announcements/Reports.

Chief Richard Edwards reported that Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) staff followed up on a request for information brought forth during the previous Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) meeting by Commissioner Clark. He explained that documents responding to Commissioner Clark's request had been provided to each Commissioner on June 26, 2025.

Vice Chair Herman wanted to speak about fire as a general concept impacting the County. She attributed the problems the County faced to a lack of funding. She recounted a Blue Ribbon Committee Report from her first year of her inaugural term that she had voted and campaigned against, as it ended all of the County's volunteer fire stations. She opined that the volunteer fire stations prevented many fires in areas such as Washoe Valley because the County spanned a wide area. She noted that there had been more than one fire station in the Washoe Valley area, which had been great at taking care of the needs of that region during that time. She acknowledged that the area had grown substantially since that time. She explained that the bill she had campaigned against had removed those volunteer fire stations, and she had been the only member of the BOFC at that time who voted against it. She noted that the bill had ultimately passed, as the rest of the Board had supported it. She clarified that none of the current members of the BOFC were involved in that decision. She emphasized that the bill and loss of the volunteer fire stations impacted all of Washoe County and that everyone was at risk because of it. She explained that Gerlach had similarly lost its volunteer fire stations despite her having fought with great determination to prevent them from being shut down. She opined that the problem was universal and provided the example of the substantial time it took to implement any measures in areas such as Warm Springs, where she resided, which had experienced large wildfires.

Vice Chair Herman opined that everybody needed to work together to solve the problem, which she acknowledged would be an immense job for the BOFC. She apologized for presenting such a substantial effort to Chief Edwards, noting that he had

only just taken his oath of service that day. She explained that she had given the facts on the matter and pointed out that the issue demonstrated a significant worry of the community. She noted that the Commissioners had recently heard similar concerns from many residents of Gerlach during a Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting a few weeks prior. She explained that similarly, there were concerns about increasing fire service coverage in the Warm Springs area. She suggested that the Board could occasionally investigate changing matters that had been discussed and decided by the BOFC in the past. She recommended that the Board consider reinstating the volunteer fire station system, as it had worked previously. She recounted that she had attended all of the volunteer fire station chief meetings before she had become a Commissioner to listen to their stories, and she had since realized that those volunteer chiefs had been correct. She noted that she was uncertain how the BOFC would achieve a solution but she emphasized the need to work hard to do so.

Commissioner Garcia greeted those in attendance and thanked them for being at the meeting. She welcomed and thanked Chief Edwards and described her excitement about his presence. She expressed gratitude to his wife and children for their commitment in allowing him to serve with the BOFC in the region. She hoped everyone had been very welcoming to his family, and she anticipated seeing how they got to experience the community they called home. She wanted Chief Edwards to be aware that all five Commissioners were living with fire in their districts and had constituents they advocated for. She referred to the points made previously by Vice Chair Herman and stated that the issues she had mentioned did not only impact one area within the County. She appreciated everyone who commented during the meeting to bring attention to the concerns in West Washoe Valley, and she acknowledged the importance of those efforts. She noted that Vice Chair Herman had mentioned that the Board had heard from Gerlach residents. She explained that the BOFC would continue to hear from other constituents in areas such as Verdi and Tahoe. She noted that those who levied such concerns were justified.

Commissioner Garcia acknowledged that the Board was aware that Reno was the fastest-growing city in the Country and that additional growth was expected. She explained that she had recently researched related statistics from the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA), which anticipated the region's population would increase to over 587,000 people by 2040. She reiterated that the population growth was imminent and had already begun. She acknowledged that agencies from every jurisdiction were facing budget challenges, including the Cities of Reno and Sparks, the Washoe County School District (WCSD), and the various fire protection agencies. She explained that the presence of those challenges was part of the reason she was so excited for Chief Edwards to be in his position, as he brought with him substantial experience, extensive knowledge, and creative solutions. She looked forward to meeting with Chief Edwards and hearing about how everyone could work collaboratively towards innovative solutions.

Commissioner Andriola welcomed Chief Edwards and thanked him for agreeing to serve in his role. She described her belief that anyone who began such a role should consider what the priority was, which she opined was self-evident. She echoed Commissioner Garcia's earlier remarks that Chief Edwards would discover why the Board

loved the region. She hoped that the community would embrace him and his family. She noted that past reports revealed that constituents had exposed the Commissioners to the matter, as mentioned previously by Vice Chair Herman and Commissioner Garcia. She explained that those in Spanish Springs consistently provided comments regarding fire service responses, as there had just recently been a wildfire in the region, which was shared with District 3, served by Commissioner Garcia. She opined that the BOFC needed to begin thinking differently about how they did things. She thanked Mr. Thomas Daly for considering opportunities for the Board to do so, and Mr. Cliff Low for reminding the BOFC of their responsibilities as public servants.

Commissioner Andriola emphasized the need for the Board to consider the expertise of those with an obligation to serve who offered their knowledge. She did not expect the Board would have to delve too deeply into contemplation of budget constraints regarding public safety, as there was no fiscal value more critical than the loss of life, and attributing a dollar amount to such matters was impossible. She acknowledged that the Board and everyone who had committed themselves to being public servants as fire professionals understood that. She noted that over the previous years, there had been a heightened awareness of the need for defensible space and its importance for the region's residents outside of urban areas. She welcomed Chief Edwards and his family again and anticipated the meetings she would have with him to find a solution. She noted that she was the newest member of the BOFC, and when she began her role, she had the pleasure of taking a tour with Mr. Low, Mr. William Naylor, and several others about the issues in West Washoe Valley. She noted that while the problems were not new, they were very important. She opined that the actions the Board could take quickly to find a solution were self-evident. She emphasized balancing budget concerns with life safety, which she noted would be a priority of the Board as they worked towards solutions. She acknowledged that Chief Edwards would be investigating the budget and what funding opportunities were available from the State or federal governments. She expressed uncertainty whether there was much available from those sources but opined that no chance should be disregarded. She explained that all members of the BOFC cared about the issues in West Washoe Valley and thanked those who commented on the matter for coming to the meeting. She hoped that even those who could not be in attendance but were watching or listening to the meeting could tell their families and neighbors that addressing the issues in West Washoe Valley was and had been a high priority of the Board. She acknowledged that it might not seem as though the matter was being prioritized, but she explained that she had engaged in extensive conversations on the topic with the former fire chief. She assured everyone that the BOFC cared about investigating an immediate solution.

Commissioner Clark requested a moment of silence for the firefighters who lost their lives during a recent incident in Idaho. He asked everybody to take a moment to reflect and thanked them after the silence. He welcomed Chief Edwards to the TMFPD and remarked that Chief Edwards had not been given the chance to fully prepare himself before starting significant discussions. He acknowledged that the situation in West Washoe Valley was difficult, and he recounted that he had left the previous BOFC meeting in disgust that the issue had been ongoing for several years. He noted that he had asked for the matter to be included in an agenda and had mentioned the topic during every BOFC meeting over

the previous two and a half years. He emphasized that the issue had persisted since 2019. He described those in the audience as the Board's neighbors and insisted that the BOFC needed to figure out how to help them. He noted that while the issue directly involved his district, he opined that if the problem occurred in another Commissioner's district, he would do everything he could to help their constituents. He stated that the issues had not been considered a priority, though he was uncertain why.

Commissioner Clark explained that the reason he had left the previous BOFC meeting early was that he had been disgusted to have heard from the news media that the necessary fire station would not be built. He asked why he had not been notified earlier that the County could not afford the fire station, as those matters involved his district. He noted that the public had been told for five to six years that the fire station would be constructed. He explained that leaving the previous BOFC meeting early was a form of peaceful protest. He commended those who attended the meeting to voice their concerns and spread a message that he believed Chief Edwards needed to hear. He asked how the Board could remedy the situation going forward.

Commissioner Clark complimented Mr. Daly for thinking of creative solutions to the issue, but he noted that they served as temporary measures. He thanked the volunteer firefighters of West Washoe Valley for their foresight when constructing the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Station in the location where it was built, raising the necessary funds, and building the station themselves. He stated that the volunteers had ultimately been disregarded despite their efforts, being instrumental in building the station, and protecting their neighbors. He emphasized that those volunteers should be thanked. He recommended that the Board consider investigating potential public-private partnerships (P3s) in the future to enable the use of the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Station. He opined that his recommendation seemed reasonable but acknowledged that he was not a specialist on the matter or an architect. He encouraged those who were knowledgeable in those fields to investigate the facility. He noted that P3s could be used to build a future station in West Washoe Valley so that the TMFPD could lease the station back from those who constructed the facility in order to prevent them from first needing to source a substantial amount of funds. He agreed with a lot of what was said by those who had left public comments earlier in the meeting.

Commissioner Clark opined that the matter presented the County with an opportunity to sell surplus properties to generate funds and allow that land to earn income from taxes. He noted that the funds generated by those sales could be loaned or donated to fix the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Station. He acknowledged that while the station had several challenges because the State owned the land and the building itself was owned by the volunteer firefighters, the sale of surplus properties could provide a temporary solution. He recounted having spoken to International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 President James Clouser, who said Commissioner Clark's idea seemed reasonable. He explained that Mr. Clouser had asked him how the TMFPD would fund those who worked at the station if a new one were to be constructed in West Washoe Valley. He explained that even if a fire station were free, there would still be costs associated with staffing the facility and providing apparatus. He noted that while there were many things taking place,

the Board had to move forward in solving the issue. He opined that Chief Edwards had a substantial amount of work to do in order to remedy the matter. He noted that the residents of West Washoe Valley had been promised solutions for years without anything being done. He requested that an action item be included in the next BOFC meeting's agenda to discuss a refurbishment or retrofit of the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Station as a temporary fix. He stated that the main goal was to construct a traditional fire station in that region. He thanked Chief Edwards for taking the time to listen to the concerns brought forward by those who had provided public comment during the meeting. He explained that the Board looked toward Chief Edwards' leadership, as Commissioner Clark had heard good things about his work in Stockton, California, despite a lack of funds. He hoped that Chief Edwards could achieve the same in Washoe County.

Chair Hill addressed earlier comments that insinuated that she had not included the topic of fire stations in West Washoe Valley on previous BOFC agendas by explaining that such suggestions were untrue. She stated that the Board had discussed the volunteer fire station on Bellevue Road since she began serving on the BOFC. She recounted that immediately following the Davis Fire, she connected the TMFPD's former fire chief with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which was offering very low loans that would not extend the TMFPD's bonding capability. She noted that those discussions were happening until the end of the former fire chief's service. She emphasized that the fire station in West Washoe Valley had been a priority, which had been affirmed by the comments of other members of the Board. She opined that it was unfair to allege that the Board was not putting important matters on the agenda, not keeping the community safe, or not making West Washoe Valley a priority.

Commissioner Clark clarified that he had not intended to accuse anybody of anything. He wanted to emphasize that no actions had been taken aside from discussing the matter. He explained that the problem had been ongoing for at least the two years since he became a BOFC member. He noted that an item for the topic might have been on an agenda, but there had been no progress. He opined that the most disagreeable aspect of that lack of action was that the former acting fire chief had not disclosed to him that the fire station would not be built. He agreed that until that moment, everyone had been led to believe that the station's construction would happen. He emphasized that the construction had never occurred, and it had since been disclosed that it would not be built. He acknowledged that the Board could discuss the matter but reiterated that no progress had been made until it was ultimately announced that the matter would not move forward.

Chair Hill noted that a single employee of the TMFPD had done those things. She explained that the BOFC had the authority and power to make the necessary changes towards a solution, which was a priority. She assured those in attendance that the relevant discussions would be held. She wanted to clarify the situation to be reflected accurately in the record, as she believed that previous statements had been unfair.

Commissioner Andriola suggested that there might be an opportunity for regular updates on the issues in West Washoe Valley during the Commissioner and Fire Chief Announcements and Reports item. She opined that it would be prudent if updates

were provided so the Board would be aware of progress and action taken on the matter. She suggested that it would be helpful for the BOFC to hear updates that clarified the status of ongoing efforts and what ideas were being investigated. She stated that updates would offer an opportunity for everybody to learn about instances such as Chair Hill's previous generosity while working with the former fire chief to investigate the funding opportunities she had discovered. Commissioner Andriola noted that Chair Hill's prior mention of those events was the first she had heard of those discussions having happened, which Commissioner Andriola thanked Chair Hill for doing. Commissioner Andriola reiterated her belief that all members of the Board and Chief Edwards were owed the chance to hear about those discussions, and she asked that the BOFC consider her request to include updates on the West Washoe Valley fire station in subsequent meetings, as she believed it would be helpful.

Chair Hill agreed with Commissioner Andriola. She suspected that former TMFPD Chief Charles Moore had discussed the fire station in West Washoe Valley in a previous update. She acknowledged that the Board was inundated with information but agreed that there was an opportunity to ensure the community understood all of the work being done and the conversations being held. She noted there would be a lot of work for Chief Edwards, though she was certain he was ready to take on the responsibility.

CONSENT ITEMS – 6A THROUGH 6D

- 25-127F** **6A** Recommendation to approve the meeting minutes from the May 20, 2025 and June 3, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners Meetings.
- 25-128F** **6B** Recommendation to approve a Notice of Cancellation for the regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting on August 5, 2025, at 10 a.m. (All Commission Districts)
- 25-129F** **6C** Recommendation to retroactively accept a Commission District 5 Special Fund Donation sponsored by Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman in support of the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's Quartz Lane cleanup project in Sun Valley, Nevada, in the amount of \$5,000. (Commission District 5)
- 25-130F** **6D** Recommendation to approve an interlocal agreement between Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Sierra County, California, and the Sierra County Fire Protection District No. 1, to provide fire suppression and Emergency Medical Service, excluding paramedic transport/ambulance services, in certain areas as outlined in the maps attached to the agreement. If approved, the agreement will be effective for three years, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028, with an automatic renewal provision for an additional three years. This agreement is intended to reimburse or cover Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the costs it incurs in providing services to communities in Sierra County, California, in the areas of Verdi and Long Valley. Under this agreement,

Sierra County will pay Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District \$49,440 for FY26; \$50,428 for FY27; and \$51,437 for FY28, with a 3% cost increase each following year unless the parties negotiate an updated cost. (Commission District 5)

Chair Hill asked whether any Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) members intended to pull items from the Consent Agenda, and it was determined that they did not.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Thomas Daly greeted and thanked the Board. He referred to the recommended approval of the minutes for the BOFC meeting held on June 3, 2025, particularly Agenda Item 4 of that meeting. Mr. Daly explained that during the June 3, 2025, BOFC meeting, Commissioner Clark requested that an agenda item be included on a BOFC meeting agenda to provide an update on the proposed consolidated fire station in Washoe Valley. He referred to Commissioner Garcia's earlier remarks by noting that the Board had not received a staff report or presentation on the topic since the brief mention of it during the BOFC meeting in January, which he emphasized had occurred six months prior. He explained that citizens with an expectation of hearing the matter had attended the BOFC meeting that day, but no agenda item, staff report, or presentation was scheduled. He asked why such a matter was not heard, as the topic represented a serious public safety issue. He stated that the matter should be considered a priority on the meeting agenda and the agenda for the upcoming BOFC meeting in September. He spoke on behalf of the citizens who had previously commented on the issue during Agenda Item 4 by requesting that the BOFC agendaize the topic or conduct a staff presentation, report, or Commissioner discussion with possible action during the BOFC meeting scheduled for September 2, 2025.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 6A through 6D be approved. Any and all Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 6A through 6D are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

25-131F **AGENDA ITEM 7** International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2487 Report.

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2487 President James Clouser welcomed Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Richard Edwards to the District and remarked that the IAFF Local 2487 was ecstatic for him to be the fire chief. Mr. Clouser stated that Chief Edwards's strengths, such as his charisma, passion, integrity, professionalism, and expertise, were a welcome addition to the organization. Mr. Clouser opined that the IAFF Local 2487 was proud to serve under Chief Edward's command.

Mr. Clouser reported that the IAFF Local 2487 had a tremendous fundraising raffle with the Reno Rodeo Association (RRA). He explained that the raffle had raised the most funds the organization had ever generated, at a value of \$66,000. He

noted that the IAFF Local 2487 would put the money raised towards the community, and the organization would investigate ways to utilize the funding to serve the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department in Idaho during its time of need.

Mr. Clouser remarked that it was nearly Independence Day and stated that those listening to the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) meeting should keep their pets indoors during the holiday. He urged them not to wait until the larger fireworks were set off to do so, as many individuals in the community lit their own fireworks at any time of the day or evening, which could scare pets, inhibit response times, and put people at risk.

Commissioner Andriola congratulated Mr. Clouser and explained that she had tried to encourage the 50/50 raffle event. She asked for clarification on whether the raffle had raised the highest amount of funds generated for the Truckee Meadows Firefighter Foundation (TMFF), which Mr. Clouser confirmed. Chair Hill inquired further about how much money had been raised. Commissioner Andriola responded that the raffle had generated \$66,000, which Mr. Clouser echoed by noting that the final value was slightly over that amount. Commissioner Andriola explained that the President of the RRA was responsible for choosing which organizations would receive half of the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle event over the ten nights the event was held. She noted that the organizations had participated in the raffle for two years and congratulated Mr. Clouser.

Mr. Clouser thanked the community for participating in the 50/50 raffle. He explained that the funds they had raised would be well distributed to very deserving people in need. Commissioner Andriola encouraged Mr. Clouser to have the organization partake in the 50/50 raffle event again during the 2026 Reno Rodeo and hoped the TMFF's participation would be secured. Mr. Clouser commended Firefighter/Paramedic Alexander Doerr for his role as president of the TMFF and for his work during the event. Mr. Clouser described Mr. Doerr as a phenomenal person whom the organization was blessed to work with.

Commissioner Andriola asked Mr. Clouser where the funds raised during the 50/50 raffle would be allocated. Mr. Clouser explained that the funds were reserved to be used as situations requiring them arose. He stated that retaining those funds ensured the organization had money to support causes in need, such as families impacted by fire and incidents like the one in Idaho. He emphasized that the availability of that money demonstrated one of the most significant aspects of fundraisers, as it allowed the organization to keep funds ready to be used when they were most needed.

Commissioner Andriola noted that the Reno Rodeo had tens of thousands of social media followers and suggested that Mr. Clouser occasionally share posts and tag accounts on social media to potentially raise more funds for the TMFF during the 50/50 raffle in the upcoming years. She encouraged Mr. Clouser to do so, as many people were uncertain where the funds from fundraisers would be allocated, and she hoped to offer an opportunity to help the organization. Mr. Clouser responded that her idea was great. He assured Commissioner Andriola that he would task another member of the organization who was more familiar with technology to look into her recommendation.

Commissioner Clark thanked Mr. Clouser for attending the BOFC meeting, listening to everything that had taken place, and always engaging with the community. He requested that Mr. Clouser provide the Board with an update on the partnership efforts between the IAFF Local 2487 and *Senior ResQ Magazine* to assist senior citizens in creating defensible space around their properties.

Mr. Clouser reported that participants of the program had continued to sign up and add their names to a list so the IAFF Local 2487 could look at their yards. He explained that the IAFF Local 2487 had assisted 6 participants with the service during their previous event. He stated that he would need to remember to take photographs during future events to post on social media. He explained that the participants were always extremely grateful for the service, as many of those helped by the IAFF Local 2487 could not complete the task themselves. He emphasized that the organization was happy to help in any way possible and hoped it would make a difference by preventing fires.

Commissioner Clark thanked Mr. Clouser for his efforts. He stated that people needed to know that the crews with the IAFF Local 2487 were assisting during the events on their own time as volunteers to help the community. Mr. Clouser confirmed that those who participated were volunteers.

Chair Hill thanked Mr. Clouser and remarked that it was good to see him again. She noted that the Board would see him again soon.

25-132F AGENDA ITEM 8 Fire Chief Report

A. Informational briefing on operational matters and activities for the month of May 2025 and June 2025 to include the following items:

1. Capital Projects Fleet Update
2. SB319 Update
3. Recent Wildfire Activity
4. Engineer Development School Executive Summary

B. Review of recent critical calls response statistics for May 2025.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Richard Edwards remarked that he had a lengthy report prepared for the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC). He explained that TMFPD staff had provided him with a tremendous amount of information regarding what had occurred over the course of the previous month.

Chief Edwards reported that the TMFPD had recently received three new Battalion Chief command vehicles that were being outfitted to replace older vehicles. He noted that the TMFPD was still awaiting the delivery of one Type III and two Type V wildland fire engines. He explained that one of those two types of fire engines was larger and designated for off-road use, while the others were set on pick-up style chassis with

more mobility and less water capacity. He noted that those fire engines would help increase the TMFPD's fire suppression capabilities. He reported that three new Type 1 engines were ordered, which he described as the larger fire engines that the TMFPD primarily operated. He explained that the Type 1 engines would begin construction in the winter, as the expected build times had been delayed due to complications with the apparatus manufacturer's supply chain. He noted that the timeline from the beginning of the project to the completion of the fire engine construction was likely 40 months. He explained that when new apparatuses were added to the TMFPD's fleet, older apparatuses were replaced and either moved to reserve status, assigned to different support roles, or liquidated at the end of their service life.

Chief Edwards noted that an update for Senate Bill (SB) 319 had been provided to the Board. He explained that SB 319 passed the Nevada Assembly on May 22, 2025, by a vote of 34 to 8. He noted that SB 319 required the BOFC, Reno City Council, and Sparks City Council to study the creation of a County fire protection district that would include the Cities of Reno and Sparks. He indicated that the version of SB 319 that passed the Nevada Assembly was slightly amended to require the study to be completed by December 31, 2026, rather than the original deadline set on July 1, 2026. He reported that Governor Joe Lombardo signed SB 319 into law on June 13, 2025.

Chief Edwards stated that SB 319 required the BOFC and the City Councils of Reno and Sparks to appoint two members from their respective governing bodies to serve on a public study group to investigate the creation of a County fire protection district that would consolidate fire protection services within Washoe County, Reno, and Sparks. He described that a majority of the public body for the study group constituted a quorum at any meeting regarding its voting structure. He noted that any group action must be approved by a majority of the members, with approval from at least one member appointed by each participating governing body. He emphasized the importance of recognizing those factors of the voting structure because if two members of the same body opposed a motion, despite the other two bodies unanimously supporting it, the motion automatically died. He noted that the body had to follow the Open Meeting Law (OML). He reported that the study group could contract with any entity to assist in the study, and all three participating governing bodies must share in the associated cost. He explained that the study group must produce a written report by December 31, 2026, with results and recommendations of the study group and any recommendations for legislation.

Chief Edwards acknowledged that the Board might have noticed from recent news broadcasts that local wildfire activity was increasing. He reported that a significant wildfire, the Marie Fire, had occurred on June 10, 2025. He commended the TMFPD firefighters for doing a tremendous job stopping the Marie Fire. He explained that the Marie Fire was driven by the wind and had begun at approximately 4:00 p.m., ultimately burning just over 114 acres. He reported that it had taken over 175 personnel to suppress the Marie Fire, and he reiterated his commendation to those members of the TMFPD. He acknowledged that while details regarding the efforts of the TMFPD personnel the day prior had not been included in the documentation for the BOFC meeting that day, he wanted to recognize the great work done by TMFPD firefighters who stopped

a fast-moving wind-driven wildfire in the Lemmon Valley area. He attested that their work was a tremendous effort that would have had much more devastating results if they had not taken aggressive action and been on the scene. He emphasized the great job that the TMFPD firefighters and chief officers had achieved.

Chief Edwards noted that the last report he had was regarding the executive summary of the TMFPD Engineer Development School. He explained that the TMFPD Engineer Development School was the training program for firefighters to become apparatus operators by teaching them how to drive the fire apparatus and use, retrieve, and pump water from it. He wanted to recognize the staff who participated in the program, as it was the largest engineer development class the TMFPD had ever completed. He explained that the class size demonstrated part of the growth and transition seen within the TMFPD. He thanked Battalion Chief Chris Black, Fire Engineer Brian Paquette, Logistics Supply Specialist James Flint, Account Clerk Kimberly Paholke, Fire Equipment Fleet Manager Todd Meckler, and Fire Mechanics Dillon Meade, Ernest Stewart II, and Tom Gleason. He stated that the class would not be possible without their efforts and coordination.

Chief Edwards noted that staff had included the monthly response statistics as a component of his report. He expressed uncertainty about whether the Board wanted to review that information in further detail. Chair Hill noted that the statistics were typically not reviewed unless Board members had questions. She indicated that she had not seen any indication that there were questions from the Board. She noted that the BOFC would notify Chief Edwards if they wanted to hear more information on the matter.

Commissioner Garcia expressed curiosity about the communications that would be made over the following week regarding the Independence Day holiday. She requested that the BOFC be given an update that might enable the Board to communicate further fire safety messages. Chief Edwards asked Fire Communications Manager Adam Mayberry to discuss the matter.

Chair Hill noted that she was very impressed with the work she saw towards the social media activity from the TMFPD. Mr. Mayberry expressed his appreciation for Chair Hill's acknowledgment. He explained that fireworks were illegal and reported that the TMFPD had released a joint press release with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) the day prior. He noted that there would be a heavy social media presence in preparation for the holiday on July 4, and a fire investigator skilled in communicating in Spanish would produce short videos in Spanish and English to be shared on the TMFPD's social media platforms. He noted that the holiday represented an essential time for the TMFPD to continue conveying that fireworks were illegal, started fires, and caused injuries. He appreciated the Board for wanting to share those messages with their constituents through their social media platforms. He noted that weather conditions had been extremely dry and hot, emphasizing the need to be mindful. Commissioner Garcia thanked Mr. Mayberry for the wonderful communication and videos he and his team shared and disseminated far and wide. She encouraged him to continue his great work.

Commissioner Andriola echoed Chair Hill and Commissioner Garcia's commendation for the TMFPD's social media presence. She noted that she saw the great activity on social media, and she hoped the Board could continue to pass the TMFPD's messages along. She referred to Chief Edwards' report about the TMFPD Engineer Development School and remarked that the program saw a 55 percent increase in enrollment. She noted that the increased participation was a testament to the TMFPD's commitment to training professionals and being prepared. She thanked everyone who participated in the TMFPD's Engineer Development School and looked forward to what was to come from the TMFPD's social media advertisements, which she hoped the BOFC could help spread in preparation for Independence Day.

25-133F **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to adopt Resolution TM09-2025 adopting the 2025 Washoe County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Federal Emergency Management Agency requires that each jurisdiction adopt a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan on a 5-year cycle. An updated plan was produced with experts from the various public safety disciplines throughout the County as well as private businesses and citizens. Participating partner agencies include the following: City of Sparks, City of Reno, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Truckee River Flood Management Project, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. Adoption of this plan is necessary to enable the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation grant funds. (All commission Districts)

Chair Hill inquired whether Chief Richard Edwards had any additional comments or information to voice for the item, and he responded that he did not. She asked whether the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) had any questions on the item, and it was determined that the Board had none. She noted that the BOFC was familiar with the topic.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

County Clerk Jan Galassini noted that the Board's electronic voting system was not responding, and she requested that the Board provide their votes verbally. Chair Hill inquired whether Ms. Galassini would prefer if the vote were taken through a roll call, which Ms. Galassini affirmed.

Ms. Galassini performed a roll call vote as recommended by Chair Hill.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be adopted.

25-134F **AGENDA ITEM 10** Announcements/Reports.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Richard Edwards wished everyone a very safe and happy Independence Day. He reminded those in attendance that fireworks were illegal in Washoe County and recommended that fireworks be enjoyed through the commercial fireworks shows in the area. He requested that people take good care of their pets during the holiday.

Commissioner Garcia wished Vice Chair Herman a happy birthday, which Chair Hill echoed, remarking that Vice Chair Herman's birthday was July 4. Chair Hill inquired if Vice Chair Herman would enjoy if the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) sang her a song to celebrate. Commissioner Andriola agreed that the Board should sing for her. The Board sang the *Happy Birthday to You* song to Vice Chair Herman.

Commissioner Clark noted that he had a question for the District Attorney's (DA) Office. He explained that he had been informed that a member of the Board had been communicating with the former fire chief. He noted that he had not been notified of those communications and had been unaware they had occurred. He asked whether the Commissioner's action of not sharing those conversations with the rest of the BOFC to ensure they would all have the same understanding represented a violation of the Open Meeting Law (OML).

Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Jennifer Gustafson expressed uncertainty about her understanding of the scenario Commissioner Clark presented. Commissioner Clark stated that another member of the BOFC was engaging in communications with the former fire chief, but they had not shared that information previously. He asked whether that Board member could have shared that information with the BOFC, and he proposed that Chair Hill had reprimanded him for his lack of awareness regarding certain communications involving her and the previous fire chief. He asked how he was legally supposed to know about other BOFC members' conversations with the former fire chief.

DDA Gustafson explained that she could discuss the topic with him another time. She explained that a quorum of the Board discussing relevant business could represent a potential violation of the OML if that quorum gathered outside of a public meeting to discuss a matter the Board had jurisdiction or control over. Commissioner Clark asked whether Chair Hill was allowed to share with one individual that she had engaged in conversations with the former fire chief about potentially financing the construction of a fire station. He inquired how the other Board members would know if discussions of that kind were taking place.

Chair Hill clarified that information regarding that matter had been included in the Fire Chief's Announcements.

Commissioner Clark stated that he could not read minds. He did not want to be called out for not being aware of conversations he was supposed to know about, when he had not been informed that they had taken place.

25-135F AGENDA ITEM 11 Public Comment.

Mr. Cliff Low displayed a document. No copy was submitted for the public record. Mr. Low introduced himself. He addressed Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Richard Edwards and stated that he and many others looked forward to working with Chief Edwards on various issues, including those related to West Washoe Valley, which he noted Chief Edwards had heard substantial information about during the meeting. Mr. Low opined that Chief Edwards had inherited many issues when entering his position as the TMFPD fire chief, and he presumed that Chief Edwards was aware of that. Mr. Low requested that County Clerk Jan Galassini include the comments of each person who spoke during the meeting individually in the minutes rather than consolidating their remarks into a single list. He noted that consolidating public comments had occurred in the past and speculated that a former County Clerk might have been responsible for that. He stated that everyone who commented during the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) meeting had taken the time and trouble to commute a significant distance to the meeting, though he acknowledged the distance was not as far as Gerlach or Incline Village. He reiterated that those who left comments should appear individually in the minutes for the meeting with their remarks. He mentioned the volunteers of West Washoe Valley and their role in the matters discussed. He explained that it was his understanding that the volunteers, which might have been referred to as the Washoe Valley volunteers previously, had raised the money themselves for the construction of the fire station, with many of them being physically involved in building that facility. He reported having been told that the fundraising was done after the volunteers made a living quarters for the Bowers fire station for their own use, only to be kicked out of them. He stated that the BOFC should maintain consideration of those volunteers as the Board investigated the solution that had been suggested to them. He referred to the Davis Fire and noted that the former TMFPD fire chief or one of his staff members had stated that it would not have made a significant difference if TMFPD personnel had been stationed at Fire Station 30 during the incident. He opined that those comments strained credulity, as he believed that it would have made a difference if a fire crew had arrived at the scene even a minute earlier. He noted that it had been announced that further investigation into who was responsible for the Davis Fire and consideration of prosecution had been dropped. He stated that such actions from the District Attorney (DA) or whoever made that decision were personally painful to him. He noted that he was running out of time for his comment and asked what function of government was more basic or more important than public safety. He opined that the issue the Board was hearing should not be viewed as belonging to the Democratic, Republican, or mixed political parties. He referred to the document he displayed and asked the Board to make the changes depicted on the document.

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11:45 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:
Brooke Koerner, Deputy County Clerk

Pending Board Approval