

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
June 29, 2022

Those Present:

Chairman Bill Kirschner
Vice Chairman Larry Schussel
Trustee Kevin Kjer

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren
Trustee Janet Murphy
Trustee Greg Felton
Legal Counsel Emily Meibert

1. Call to Order.

Meeting was called to order at 2:31 pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Kirschner.

Moment of Silence: In honor of NHP Officer Danny Lopez, Retired TDF Engineer Roger Stockton, and Retired TDF Firefighter & Board of Trustee Bob Cook.

3. Roll Call.

Chairman Kirschner (virtual), Vice Chairman Felton, Trustee Schussel and Trustee Kjer were present. Trustee Murphy was absent. A quorum was met.

4. Approval of the Agenda.

Trustee Kirschner made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Second: Trustee Schussel. Motion approved 4-0.

5. Public Comment.

None.

6. Board Trustee Comment.

Trustee Kirschner recommended the augmentations be combined for efficiency. Legal Counsel agreed that the resolutions could be combined.

Trustee Kjer appreciated seeing the candidate for the fire board who has been consistently in attendance.

7. Approval of the Consent Calendar.

- a. Board Meeting Minutes 05/18/2022
- b. Monthly Expenditures
- c. Job Description – Fire Inspector 1
- d. Job Description – Mechanic
- e. Administrative Policy - 008.00 Vehicle Policy
- f. Administrative Policy - 009.00 Inventory Policy

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Trustee Kjer made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as written. Second: Trustee Kirschner. Motion approved 4-0.

8. For Possible Action: Consent items moved forward.

None.

9. Presentation: Employee Recognition

Service Recognition:

Captain Charles Salerno 30 Years of Service

10. For Possible Action:

Discussion and possible approval of a renewal proposal for commercial and workers compensation insurance from Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (POOL) and approval for payment in the amount of \$74,656 from FY 2022-2023 funds.

Alan Reed, C.I.C., Warren Reed Insurance

Summary:

Carrier Summation - changes were noted.

State of Insurance Industry - Ukraine war affects insurance by the limiting supplies/resources which increase risk in all areas of insurance. When insurance intentions are strained in one area of the world, everyone is affected.

Three Primary Drivers - Property, cyber, liability insurance are our main areas of market in the nation/Tahoe Basin. As we see more natural and man-made events (i.e. Caldor Fire) threatening our basin, we will watch these rates increase.

Property Insurance – Average increases are 5%-15%. Catastrophic losses amid COVID-19 recovery challenges are affecting rates.

Casualty/Liability Insurance - Lots covered under these policies (i.e. harassment, injury, equipment damage) nuclear verdicts and large settlements are driving the current market.

Cyber Insurance – System breach costs remain high with an average cost of \$9.05M in 2021, with healthcare data being one of the costliest.

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By holding a membership with POOL, the District is an “owner/manager” to the company. NPAIP received its re-accreditation with the state of Nevada showing compliance to industry standards.

Grant Funding – The POOL has provided over \$1.4 million in grant opportunities for its members - for risk related items like training and seminars, camera systems, cyber security, etc. - which are available to the District or to individuals.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) – This is a confidential program to assist employees, board members, family members, etc. with any needs they may face during life’s hard times. The EAP is designed to create a better employee experience, professionally and personally, and to foster long term health for the individuals in our agencies.

Chief Lindgren has taken a new seat on the POOL Advisory board.

Average rate increases this year were about 15% increases, however through negotiations the program costs were reduced to 12%. Not including the exposure changes that can occur through the fiscal year. The POOL protects the District from extreme hits when something major happens - for example, the totaling of Marine 24 total this last winter.

Program costs – 2022-23 will be \$74,656, up 8% from prior year. The claims experience modified increased from .92 to 1.05.

Second 1 – Discusses the history of the POOL, Warren Reed Agency, carrier reviews and financial information.

Second 2 – Contains detailed descriptions the coverage TDFPD currently has in place, member services and membership list.

Section 3 – Contains detailed of coverage totaling \$16M in buildings, contents, emergency apparatus, vehicles, and equipment (51).

Trustee Felton asked why Marine 24 information was still listed on the coverage breakdown. (Note: post-meeting a correction was made and a credit issued.)

Trustee Kirschner motioned to approve the renewal proposal for commercial and workers compensation insurance from Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (NPAIP) and approval for payment in the amount of \$74,656 from FY 2022-2023 funds. Second: Trustee Kjer.

Trustees Kjer and Felton express concern about the ability to replace emergency equipment at full replacement costs – for example M24, was not fully covered. Options and challenges were discussed. The District will need to revisit this area before we decide the coverage and cost associated with the replacement boat.

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Note: Trustee Murphy joined at 2:40pm and was present for the discussion.

Trustee Murphy stated replacement costs will always fluctuate. She asked if the premiums were adjusted when new purchases were made.

Chief Lindgren – Confirmed that no adjustments are made during the year as new vehicles are purchased. Options for better coverage for the new boat will be researched. The timeline for the boat is late March, early April.

Motion approved 5-0.

Vice Chairman Felton clarified with Legal Counsel that the augmentation could be presented and voted as a hole by Chief Lindgren, unless there was a need to pull out a particular one for further review.

11. For Possible Action:

Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #04-2022 Budget Augmentation – General Fund in the amount of \$1,200,000, increasing the budget from \$10,316,326 to \$11,516,326 for additional unanticipated resources.

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

Chief Lindgren introduced, Bill Johnson, from David, Johnson Larsen, Ltd. the District's accounting firm, who then recommended that the Aviation Fund be separated due the fact that it is a new fund.

Summary: Chief Lindgren proceeded to explain that the budget augmentations are generally driven by the annual audit confirming that budget projections were different and why. Increases in revenue are one of the reasons for augmentations and usually result from strike team billing which is budgeted conservatively and only covers District costs for salaries and benefits and equipment use. This year's adjustments in revenue also include contractual changes with the USFS and NV Energy, and the insurance claim payment for Marine 24 which was totaled.

Agenda Items 12-15, and 17 were voted on as a group, detailed below. Agenda Item 16 followed.

12. For Possible Action:

Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #05-2022 Budget Augmentation – Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$107,836, increasing the budget from \$195,000 to \$302,836 for additional unanticipated resources.

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

13. For Possible Action:

Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #06-2022 Budget Augmentation – Special Services Fund in the amount of \$27,717, increasing the budget from \$364,400 to \$392,117 for additional unanticipated resources.

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

14. For Possible Action:

Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #07-2022 Budget Augmentation – Health Insurance Fund in the amount of \$500,000, increasing the budget from \$2,145,000 to \$2,645,000 for additional unanticipated resources.

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

15. For Possible Action:

Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #08-2022 Budget Augmentation – Fire Flow Fund in the amount of \$475,800, increasing the budget from \$289,000 to \$764,800 for additional unanticipated resources.

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

16. For Possible Action:

Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #09-2022 Budget Augmentation – Aviation Fund in the amount of \$20,000, increasing the budget from \$0 to \$20,000 for additional unanticipated resources.

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

Summary: New budget for TDF this year, approved by state of NV to track fundraising donations and initial expenses related to project startup costs.

Johnson clarified that if a new fund only has revenue, augmentations are not necessary. However, if there is even a dollar in expenditure, which the District has had for brochures, and it was not augmented, it will show up as an audit exception.

Chief Lindgren reported that the fund currently has approximately \$100K. Parasol Tahoe Fund has roughly \$400,000 in revenue.

Trustee Felton asked for clarification on which funds we are speaking about when the Aviation Fund is discussed. Chief Lindgren confirmed that the numbers will reflect the District's (US

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Bank) account only. The Parasol funds will be for the purpose of investment growth until the funds are needed.

Johnson added that the Parasol account functions as an investment for the District similar to the OPEB Trust. A footnote on the audit will explain that District funds were invested in the Parasol fund.

Trustee Schussel motioned to approve Resolution #09-2022 Budget Augmentation – Aviation Fund in the amount of \$20,000, increasing the budget from \$0 to \$20,000 for additional unanticipated resources. Trustee Kirschner seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0

17. For Possible Action:

Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #010-2022 Budget Augmentation – Fire Safe Community Fund in the amount of \$1,300,000, increasing the budget from \$2,874,574 to \$4,174,574 for additional unanticipated resources.

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

A motion was made by Trustee Kjer to approve budget augmentations represented in Resolutions # 4-8, and 10 as presented. Second: Trustee Schussel. Motion approved 5-0.

18. For Possible Action:

Discussion and possible approval of the three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025 with Local 2441 International Association of Firefighters – Tahoe Douglas.

Assistant Fire Chief Bryce Cranch

Chief Lindgren who acknowledged the negotiation team – Chef Cranch, ADO Warner, FM Nolting, Attorney Velto put in over 100 hours in researching, drafting and meeting discussions. The Union Negotiation Committee had five members board – Chairman Ben Pratt, ENG Alex Dennis, CAP Justin Redding, CAP Will Morgan and FFPM Jake Looney who contributed an equal amount of time.

He especially appreciated the team bringing the contract to closure in advance of the close of the fiscal year, thus avoiding retro pay adjustments for payroll.

Chief Cranch - Big thank you to FM Nolting for all her support and assistance in all our possible scenarios to verify the financial impact of the proposals. ADO Warner keeping things on track, handling the schedules and supply needs. Legal Counsel Velto was very knowledgeable of our District policies, NV law and other agency agreements. Our Union reps who were very easy to work with and conducted each meeting professionally and timely. They have a challenging roll, to address major issues for their membership and to gain consensus with a diverse group of individuals.

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With these negotiations there will be big cultural change items including a new OT process will change to allow for mandatory scheduling and minimum staffing. Salary increases were also discussed and approved for the next three years. Additional incentives were added for special skills, and top performing personnel who deserve recognition.

There was language clean up with the benefits and an increase in the annual education allowance. Chief Cranch recommended the approval and confirmed that union personnel had also approved it.

Trustee Kirschner made a motion to approve of the three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025 with Local 2441 International Association of Firefighters – Tahoe Douglas. Second: Trustee Schussel. Motion approved 5-0.

19. For Possible Action:

Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #011-2022 proposing the adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface Code in the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District to be effective August 1, 2022. To include external shutoffs for generators, and solar voltaic systems. First reading – no action.

Fire Marshal Eric Guevin

Summary: This presentation will just be an introduction to make the Trustees aware of the issues, and the possibility of a recommendation in the future. Douglas County has consistently made changes to remove the sprinkler requirements - first with manufactured homes, and then new structures. BOCC feels that the sprinkler requirements are an onerous expense to contractors and homeowners and prefers to leave the installation to the owner. The Wildland Urban Interface Code does provide coverage for the District to require the sprinkler systems in the new structures. Negotiations with the BOCC resulted in the promise to leave our District out of the change; however, there is no guarantee that will be upheld as Commissioners change in the future.

Legal Counsel Reese reviewed the 318 District entitlements and determined the District has the right and authority to not be included in the current code laws; and has additional authority under our Interlocal agreement with the State Fire Marshall's office to adopt stricter codes.

Chief Lindgren explained that International Fire Codes and International Building Codes are in place, then each state adopts as is or with additional requirements, but codes cannot be lower. States in the West, existing in the Wildland Urban Interface, often add additional requirements. Then the states, counties, cities and districts will adopt the codes accordingly. Traditionally, Tahoe Douglas Fire has always ridden on the Douglas County codes and added changes as appropriate.

The BOCC is very concerned about the valley and does not want restrict construction projects.

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In the District, we cannot do less than the Douglas County codes but we can and want to add stricter codes and the data supports the recommendation. We want to add the Wildland Urban Interface Code, solar systems, charging ports, and generators which all present a hazard to our public and our firefighters. Crews must know these systems exist in the structure to handle a situation safely.

Staff has met with the Douglas County Manager to discuss our intent.

No action was taken.

20. For Possible Action:

Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #012-2022 proposing the adoption of the Internal Fire Code (2018) with amendments applicable to fire sprinkler system requirements, external shutoffs for generators and solar voltaic systems, charging stations and energy storage systems application in the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District to be effective August 1, 2022. First reading – no action.

Fire Marshal Eric Guevin

Summary: The edits on the code were the result of collaboration with Northern NV Fire agencies as a collective group to determine and finalize these updated codes. The last page of the attachment includes a more detailed breakdown of appeals, code specific changes, and previous codes for reference.

Appendix: B is specific to TDFPD needs, our Board of Appeals, and enforced codes.

Trustee Murphy asked if existing buildings, commercial and residential, do not have these codes, will the District enforce the changes.

Fire Marshal Guevin responded that the District has more control over a commercial property than residential. If a commercial property updates their ownership or occupancy, then the District can/will require a sprinkler system.

Trustee Murphy asked if East Fork Fire (EFF) is aware of these changes.

Chief Lindgren stated EFF is also communicating with the BOCC and expressing their concerns. The codes we are discussing are all life safety codes, they protect people and property. If a home catches fire in our District, it can very quickly spread to the forest. The BOCC does not share our concern for the safety of our firefighters and our community.

No action was taken.

21. Presentation:

District Division Reports

Assistant Chief Bryce Cranch
Fire Marshal Eric Guevin Fire
Fuels Management Officer Keegan Schafer

No questions for the Division Heads, no reports were presented. Chief Lindgren addressed concern about fuels reduction projects in the District.

Fuels Reduction: A lot of positive fuels reduction is underway in the District and most of it centers around NV Energy Infrastructure easements and the USFS land those easements are on. State law requires an electrical arborist certification to fall trees within in 10 feet of a power line. The contractor doing that work is dropping trees on hiking paths with no regard for the locals who ride and walk on those trails. Residents see our crews on the project cleaning up, so FMO Schafer is doing damage control. Chief Lindgren has been vocal about safety, quality of work and other concerns. He has requested certification opportunities for our crews, and is seeking to be the contractor moving forward.

All fuels material will be burned or chipped by the end of this season as soon as weather conditions allow. In the spring, we will be doing low intensity vegetation management burns.

NV Energy got permission to remove 1000' on either side of the power lines on USFS property.

22. Review of Monthly Fire District Activities

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

Fuels Breaks: There was a Fire Safe Community meeting held in Incline recently, in conjunction with the Parasol Tahoe Fund, to address homeowner concerns. Topics were home hardening, homeowner insurance rates, fuels reduction and the helicopter program. TDF will conduct similar neighborhood meetings to address the different issues in each community faces. Parasol has posted a survey on their webpage for homeowners who are having insurance rate declines or premium increases. The data will be presented to the state insurance commission.

Water Rescue Calls: Frequent calls for water rescue have the District really missing Marine 24. Staffing has been increased to meet the tourist demands for the peak season.

Firework Shows: Scheduled for July 3 & 4 and various Edgewood weddings. These shows are permitted for professional vendors, inspected by our staff and approved as weather conditions permit.

Recruit Ax Presentation: Chief Lindgren explained the tradition of how an old grubby ax is given to recruits to polish and mount as a team building project. At the graduation, the recruits present

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that ax to their Fire Chief. The Class 22-01ax from FFPMs Lenzi and Van Steyn is displayed in the classroom.

23. Report Item:

OPERATION: Save The Tahoe Basin - Fire Rescue Helicopter Program

Fire Chief Lindgren

July 4th Coverage: Chief Lindgren announced that NDF will have a helicopter at Whittell High School over the July 4th holiday this weekend. They are not dedicated, so they will leave the area if necessary.

COVID-19 killed our education programs with the students. GWHS Principal Sean Ryan is supporting many of the District indicatives - helicopter, Fire Explorer (ages 13-18) and K-12 fire prevention education programs. He is willing to work with us to provide opportunities for our youth and we are so grateful.

Celebrity Golf: Charles Barkley has offered to support the program – details are underway. The Visitors Authority gave the District a full ad in their program which goes out to 7000-8000 attendees and K2 donated the creation costs for that ad.

Site Visits: TRPA will visit potential sites for both temporary and permanent options. Monitoring sound and vibration readings were conducted.

Public Comment

Next meeting:

Confirm next meeting, with a proposed date of Wednesday, July 20, 2022 with a start time of 2:30 pm and possible agenda items.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:47pm

Submitted by:
Kate Warner
Administration Division Officer

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Approved