

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PREVENTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
**August 24, 2016**

**Those Present:**

Chairman Greg Felton (Attending by phone)  
Vice Chairman Bill Kirschner  
Trustee Kevin Kjer  
Trustee Larry Schussel  
Trustee Steve Seibel  
Fire Chief Scott Baker  
Legal Counsel Jason Guinasso  
Assistant Chief Jim Antti  
Fire Marshal Eric Guevin

Accounting Specialist Carrie Nolting  
Administrative Assistant Erin Allison  
Crew Supervisor Keegan Schafer  
Forester John Pickett  
Forestry Intern Allie Horton  
Forestry Mahsa Saghedpour  
Forestry Chris Prevel  
Captain Justin Rossi  
Guest Ben Sharit  
Guest Kathy Sharit  
Guest Ann Grant  
Guest Marybeth Donahoe

**1. Call to Order.**

Meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Pledge of allegiance was led by Trustee Kjer.

**3. Roll Call.**

Vice Chairman Kirschner, Trustee Kjer, Trustee Schussel and Trustee Seibel were present. A quorum was present. Chairman Felton attended via the phone.

**4. Approval of the Agenda.**

Trustee Seibel announced that Item 15, Item 6 e, and Item 6 f were pulled from the agenda, and he motioned to approve the agenda with those changes. Trustee Kjer seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

**5. Public Comment.**

None.

**6. Approval of the Consent Calendar.**

Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes 07/20/16
- b. Monthly Expenditures
- c. Financials 02/29/16, 03/31/16, 04/30/16, 05/31/16, and 06/30/16
- d. Goals and Objectives FY 2015-26 – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter
- e. Job Description – Battalion Chief Revision 09-2016
- f. Board directed salary range change for Assistant Chief and Fire Chief

Trustee Schussel motioned to approve the Consent Calendar items a, b, c, and d as presented. Trustee Kjer seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion approved 5-0.

**7. For Possible Action: Consent items moved forward.**

None.

**8. Presentation: Employee Recognition.**  
Fire Chief Scott Baker

Chief Baker asked former Fire Chief Ben Sharit to come up. He acknowledged his distinguished career at Tahoe Douglas and all he has done in his time with the Fire District. As is tradition, Chief Sharit hung his retirement picture on the retirement wall.

Chief Sharit thanked the Chief Baker and all of the Board members.

Chief Baker recognized Mike Monaghan as the new Assistant Foreman with the Zephyr Crew. He was going to be pinned, but he is out on fire assignment.

Chief Baker also recognized Zephyr Crew Foreman Matt Fogarty, and Crew Members Brody Zink and KC Green for 3 or more years of service in the Zephyr Crew. Fogarty and Zink are on fire assignment and Green was unable to attend to receive their TDFPD challenge coins.

Chief Baker introduced Allie Horton as the Forestry intern. Horton introduced herself and is working with our Forester reviewing test plots and doing data collection to determine how controlled burns could work and where they should be done throughout the Fire District.

Chief Baker recognized new Assistant Chief Jim Antti.

Antti thanked Chief Baker and the Board for the opportunity and is looking forward to the challenge, and appreciates the trust and support.

**9. Presentation: Acknowledgement from Residents.**  
Fire Chief Scott Baker

Recently TDFPD assisted in the memorial for Jacob O'Malley. We received a letter from his family and BLM certificate for our contributions. O'Malley's mother sent an email to Chief Baker asking him to read the following statement at the Board meeting:

*"Dear crews and personnel of our local fire houses and community,  
The O'Malley family would like to thank all of you who were involved in that beautiful flag displayed over Warrior Way and for all that you did that day of the memorial to help make that happen for us. We are so grateful for this community, all the love and support that we have received in the passing of our son, Jacob. We hold you in our hearts and are forever grateful for all of you. Our prayers are with you always as well. Love and thank yous,  
Tootie, Leonard, and Kyle O'Malley".*

Chief Baker spoke to Jacob O'Malley's mother on August 24, and she wanted to make sure that the Fire District knew how thankful and appreciative they were for all of the help and support that we have provided the family Captains Zabel, Peterson, and Brady were highly involved in the memorial service and the flag that was hung from the ladder truck during the funeral procession.

Chief Baker received another letter from BLM today, August 24, thanking TDFPD for their assistance in the memorial for Jacob O'Malley and Will Hawkins. The letter will be in the Board book for September.

Chief Baker also recognized Nate Johnson and the Union for all of the hard work during the memorial and participating in the casket watch.

**10. Presentation: Update on Fire Engineer's Report.**  
Fire Marshal Eric Guevin

Nick Moriarty ruled out the possibility of using water tenders to address fire flow and suppression in areas in the Fire District that currently have issues with fire flow due to tightness of access on roads because water tanks and hard plumbing are cost prohibitive and impractical. A 2009 Public Works study failed to study this area of the Fire District because they thought it was too impractical.

JBA has proposed the boat program as an option for the Fire District to look at to address fire flow issues within certain waterfront areas in the district. The Fire District will need to find locations to place the boat, determine how we would staff the boat, and provide instructions/maintenance on standpipes.

Chief Baker and Fire Marshal Guevin went to Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Department to look at their boat program, and with some modification, we can attempt to implement a similar program at Tahoe Douglas.

JBA's review showed that water systems in other areas of the district were good, with 90-95% of the Fire District provided with adequate fire flow. The lakefront properties are the highest need and priority for fire flow at this time.

There are serious maintenance concerns raised with regards to using fire pumps, including who would do it, how much it would cost, and what training that it would require.

JBA suggested the use of domestic water supply and fire sprinklers to create a combination system, as a fire boat would not provide enough fire flow or suppression ability on its own. JBA believes every home should be required to have a 13D sprinkler system, regardless of square footage of the structure. Tanks on the homeowner's property could be put in to supply water to the sprinkler system. JBA has recommended an enhanced 13D system with 2 heads for 20 minutes of water flow to be able to hold a fire in check until TDFPD can operationally get set up to attack a fire. This would require us to change our county ordinance.

It was proposed that fire flow be provided to areas adjacent to the lake using manual standpipes and the boat as a fire hydrant system.

It was also proposed that residents have draft stops or fire breaks in the attics of their homes so that fires would be slowed in the attics. Having sprinklers in the attics during winter conditions causes issues with freezing.

Inspection, testing and commissioning of the sprinkler systems in each of the homes would be the responsibility of TDFPD.

Overall, JBA is proposing a combination of sprinklers, a fire boat with standpipes, and a pier dock pump or some type of standpipe system for overarching water supply.

Trustee Seibel asked for more detail on 13D and 13R systems. What size tank would be needed to supply a home with the proposed fire flow requirements? Where would the tank be located on the property?

Guevin responded that the tanks would likely need to be 2,550 gallon tanks that could be part of the foundation or the garage of each home. A 13D sprinkler system is the model that is created for domestic structures and is typically used within homes. A 13R system is the model for residential structures like motels and apartment complexes.

Trustee Seibel asked if the current sprinkler requirement is for structures that are 3600 ft<sup>2</sup> and above?

Guevin responded that yes, currently sprinklers are required for homes above 3600 ft<sup>2</sup>, but we have adequate fire flow in all other areas in the basin no matter the square footage of the homes, so sprinklers would be the best way to address the fire flow inadequacy in this area.

Trustee Kjer asked why JBA was quick to dismiss fire pumps and promote the fire boat. If TDFPD is in charge of maintenance and testing, why was he so quick to dismiss the fire pumps?

Guevin responded that one of the cautions in talking with Public Works is the fire pumps are very hard to maintain. Pumps can be problematic for maintenance and cost prohibitive, and the reliability of the system is concerning. HOA maintenance of pumps is possible. The pumps were dismissed because even though they meet the intent of the code, there are a lot of concerns about reliability and maintenance.

Trustee Kjer responded that he believes it would be cheaper to maintain pumps rather than pumps and boats, since the pumps would still be necessary even if the boat plan is approved.

Trustee Schussel asked what is the proposed plan for when the boat is out of service or out for maintenance, and how will we address fire flow/protection during those times?

Guevin responded that it would not be any different than the situation we are in now, and we would still have water tenders. If the homes had sprinklers, that should provide enough protection until our personnel can be on scene with other apparatus.

Chairman Felton commented that the focus for this plan is structures near the lake, but when funding was approved, it was for the entire district. He would like to see the plan be comprehensive of entire district.

Since the in ground system of tanks and hydrants was dismissed as problematic, is there potential for an underground pump system if we can find the funding for it? He believes this would be the best solution to address risk for residents and would speed suppression efforts, and it would also be the best solution in terms of mutual aid.

In cases of large structure fires/wildland fires where we would call in other assets or departments, he believes response time would be slow if they don't know how to work the pumps/boats system.

Chairman Felton commented that the ongoing costs of staffing and maintenance is estimated to be around \$400,000 for the boat, but his research has shown that boat programs cost upwards of \$1 million for all costs. TDFPD will need to address potential funding sources for any and all of the potential solutions.

Legal Counsel Guinasso cautioned the Board of giving specific direction to staff as this is a discussion item.

Vice-Chairman Kirschner asked how Fallen Leaf Fire Department funds their boat program.

Guevin responded that the boat was originally purchased using grant money, and all additional equipment has been bought using the general fund.

Vice-Chairman Kirschner asked do residents pay for maintenance?

Guevin responded he cannot speak to that.

Vice-Chairman Kirschner asked if the new boat would replace the current boat, Marine 24? He also complimented the crew on water rescue of the four men who's boat sank in Lake Tahoe. Guevin deferred to Chief Baker to respond to the question. Chief Baker responded that there are many other questions and issues that need to be addressed, and this is just the beginning of the process.

Vice-Chairman Kirschner opened for public comment.

None.

**11. Presentation: Introduction of the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities.**  
Forester John Pickett

The Nevada Fire Safe Council filed for bankruptcy in 2012 with no plan to revive. It would be nearly impossible to get other federal agencies to give funding to another agency with this name, so the "Nevada Fire Safe Council" branding will be lost.

A national cohesive strategy has been developed for a three prong attack on the wildland urban interface issues – resilient landscape, fire adapted communities, and safe and effective wildland fire response. We have each of these elements within TDFPD with the work that is done on urban interface lots, the defensible space work that residents do on their properties, and the Zephyr Crew wildland fire response. Fire Adapted Communities is the missing element.

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team is a collaboration all agencies that have anything to do with firefighting or land management in the Lake Tahoe Basin. They have created a plan with roles of all of the different groups that are involved in protection of our Fire District from wildfire. There are currently 17 groups and 18 signatories incorporated in the plan.

The Fire Adapted Communities section of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team will be used to support fire response and fire prevention throughout the district, and will be managed by Marybeth Donohue. Fire districts around Lake Tahoe will be part of creating this.

Pickett manages wildland urban interface in the woods, but can't do work on a homeowner's property without their cooperation and permission. We need to get info to homeowners to take action to mitigate fire risk on their properties.

Defensible Space Inspections, Community Chipping, Compost your Combustibles, Community workdays are ways we are addressing and attempting to help homeowners mitigate the risk.

With the curbside evaluations under WUI law and the defensible space enforcement program, we have inspected every property in our Fire District. We want people to bring us to their property to help them create defensible space.

The Fire Adapted Communities group acts as a community organization that can get messages and educational information to other community members or organizations about the necessity and importance of the Defensible Space program. The Fire Adapted Communities leaders will provide and distribute comprehensive educational materials with all of the information we have on defensible space and what residents can and should do to keep their properties and the Fire District safe from wildfire. The goal is to create the energy to have people want to participate.

The Fire Adapted Communities plan creates a network of like-minded communities, provides educational materials, provides leadership for communities that want to get involved, and assists with locating grant funding.

TDFPD will manage grants, implement projects, inspect properties, and make determinations about defensible space.

Marybeth Donahue

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District brought on the Fire Adapted Communities program in December of 2015, and since then, Donahue has been working on outreach to find leaders in communities and work with TDFPD. The Tahoe Resource Conservation District has four programs – storm water monitoring, landscape conservation, Fire Adapted Communities, and Aquatic Invasive Species control & prevention. The goal is to create a network of all of the fire districts together within the Basin to actively participate in the Fire Adapted Communities program.

Fire Adapted Communities have membership on individual, leader, and ambassador levels. Leaders receive training and support from fire experts, network within their communities, distribute educational materials that are provided by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, and attend an annual meeting. Ambassadors assist in decision making for wildfire related events and education, act as role models for leaders, and participate in TFFT Fire Pit Meetings to help decide what messages about fire safety and Fire Adapted Communities are being sent out to the community.

The Fire Adapted Communities program is important for safety, promotes community to keep a unified effort within the Basin, and connects people within the community. Tahoe Resource Conservation District applied for funding for \$5 million to continue Fire Adapted Communities work and services around the Basin.

The Basin will be moving on from the Nevada Fire Safe Council. The Lake Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities and TDFPD are taking over functions that were previously under the

Nevada Fire Safe Council. There is likely to be significant funding to help with work in communities. TDFPD will partner with the Fire Adapted Communities program to get the word out about the Defensible Space program and the work that TDFPD can do for the community.

Vice-Chairman Kirschner thanked Pickett for his hard work and presentation.

- 12. For Possible Action:** **Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution #09-2016 which designates four (4) Chief Officers authority to enter into a Cost Share Agreement on behalf of Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District in the event of major wildfire/urban interface fire event or other disaster within the fire district jurisdiction.**  
Fire Chief Scott Baker

Trustee Seibel motioned to approve the action item. Trustee Kjer seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- 13. For Possible Action:** **Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution #10-2016 which designates four (4) Chief Officers the authority to sign a Transfer of Authorization “Delegation of Authority” on behalf of the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District in the event of a major wildfire/urban interface fire event or other disaster within the fire district jurisdiction.**  
Fire Chief Scott Baker

Chief Baker explained that this resolution allows the Fire Chief or Assistant Chief to call in action on a person’s behalf, and addresses requesting help for national assets in fire emergencies.

Trustee Schussel motioned to approve the action item. Trustee Seibel seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- 14. For Possible Action:** **Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution #11-2016 which designates two (2) Chief Officers the authority to institute a request for a “Declaration of Emergency” on behalf of the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District in the event of a major wildfire/urban interface fire event or other disaster within the fire district jurisdiction.**  
Fire Chief Scott Baker

Chief Baker explained that this resolution allows the Fire Chief and the Assistant Chief to declare a state of emergency for the district in a fire emergency event.

Trustee Kjer motioned to approve the action item. Trustee Seibel seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

- 15. For Possible Action:**                      **Discussion and possible action to approve a five (5) year contract for Fire Chief Scott Baker.**  
Trustee Steve Seibel

This action item was removed from the agenda and will be discussed at a future meeting.

- 16. Report Item:**                              **Review of Monthly Fire District Activities.**  
Fire Chief Scott Baker

TRPA has been working on getting **Public Safety piers** in the North, East, and South regions of the Lake. The plan looks promising, has been stamped, and is moving forward.

Our representative has told us that we are moving forward to accept an agreement post-settlement from the **Nevada Fire Safe Council**. The next hearing is August 29<sup>th</sup>, and without opposition the settlement is expected to go through, and we should be receiving funds.

#### **Tahoe boat rescue of 4 men – Captain Justin Rossi**

On August 13<sup>th</sup> at approximately 11 pm, Station 23 crew (Captain Rossi, Engineer Apple, FF/P Vizzusi and Vandover) was called out for a water rescue. Dispatch reported a person in Marla Bay who could hear someone yelling for help in the water. The crew went to retrieve Marine 24 and Vizzusi dressed in the dry suit. As they were uncovering the boat, they could hear the calls for help. They got the boat out and up on the TAC channel, where they were communicating with Chief Moss who was on the pier in Marla Bay. E24 went to Presbyterian Center to try to triangulate sounds and figure out where the victims were in the water. Chief Moss told the M24 crew that the sounds were coming directly out from the Marla Bay pier. M24 drove directly out from the pier about 1 mile trying to navigate with sound. They would drive a short distance and then turn off the boat to listen for the calls for help repeatedly until they were able to locate the first victim. The first victim was found in the water and pulled into the boat, and the M24 crew dispatched to Chief Moss they had him.

The victim explained he was out with his friends and their boat went down at about 8:30 pm, and that there were 3 other victims still in the water. The M24 crew notified Chief Moss of the other victims, and Chief Moss called for other assets, including CalStar and Coast Guard, neither of which were activated quickly enough to assist. The M24 crew continued the same search pattern as they had been doing for the first victim and were yelling for the other 3 victims. The first victim explained that he tried to swim into shore and had separated from the others, and that he had headed directly into the wind towards Emerald Bay. The M24 crew continued driving short distances and turning off the motor until they heard the other victim's calls for help. The crew located the other three victims, got them all on the boat, and headed to shore

as quickly as possible. The victims did not want to go to the hospital, so the crew brought them to the station, where they were given blankets, hot tea, and warm showers. The victims told the crew that one of the guys was a professional water polo player, and he was the one who kept the other two victims afloat on the cooler for three hours. The others likely would have drowned without him.

Vice-Chairman Kirschner thanked Captain Rossi and congratulated him and the crew on the successful rescue. He commented that it was brilliant to try voice triangulation. Captain Rossi said it is daunting when you are on the water and can't see anything at all, and knew they had to try. Luckily it was late enough that there was no boat traffic or wind and they were able to hear.

Rossi and his crew were congratulated for his efforts by all Board members.

### **Tahoe Queen Fire – Chief Baker**

Crews were dispatched to the fire at approximately 7:45 am. Because it was a shift change day, were had on duty and off duty response.

Chief Baker thanked North Lake Tahoe Fire for their coverage of 24/25, East Fork Fire for their coverage of 21/23, and South Lake Tahoe Fire for their coverage of 23 and medics at the fire.

The crews did a fantastic job minimizing exposure of the M.S. Dixie and Bleu Wave that were docked very close to the Tahoe Queen. Captain Romanowitz did excellent job saving the M.S. Dixie and Bleu Wave and initiating the response on scene. There were no EPA or Haz Mat concerns or events, and with the help of Aramark personnel, we were able to boom the entire boat with no exposures.

Many kudos have been given to the crews from a variety of agencies.

Chief Baker thanked the crews for their hard work and response to the fire.

Vice-Chairman Kirschner commented that it was lucky the Tahoe Queen was at the dock and not full of passengers.

Chief Baker recognized Forestry intern Mahsa Saghedpour for her work on data collection on the fire reduction and work that has been done throughout the Fire District. This is her last week working with TDFPD.

- 17. Report Item:** **Review of Fire District Division Reports.**  
Assistant Chief Jim Antti  
Battalion Chief Todd Moss

Chief Antti reported that TDFPD has had a busy since the last Board Meeting. There have been a lot of calls at the lake this month with the Tahoe Queen Fire and water rescues. There was also a water rescue of girl caught in the prop of boat, although TDFPD was not directly involved in the call. Major incidents on the lake have increased.

Back country rescues have been busy as well. All of the recent calls have been mitigated rapidly and professionally. The crews have done an outstanding job in their response, which is a testament to their training and dedication to knowing the community and the district. The crews are taking very little information on calls and turning it into successful rescues.

There have been a lot of standbys this month for sporting events, concerts, and special events. Bomb squad sweeps are also up for all of the events.

Vice-Chairman Kirschner asked what the 911 citizen complaint in the Assistant Chief report was. Chief Antti explained it was a call in of a possibility of kid's having a campfire or other illegal activity, and that it was not a complaint against anyone in the Fire Department.

**18. Discussion: Confirm next meeting, with a proposed date of Wednesday September 28, 2016 with a start time of 2:30 p.m. and possible agenda items.**

Meeting confirmed for Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with a start time of 2:30 p.m. in the Station 23 classroom.

Trustee Schussel will not be able to attend the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and will not have access to a phone.

Guevin announced that, the TDFPD Pancake Breakfast is September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, Labor Day Fireworks show is September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and Firefest is September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### **Adjourn.**

Chairman Felton motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Trustee Seibel seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

This meeting was recorded on audio tape.

**Closed Session: Not needed at this meeting.**

**Erin Allison  
Board Secretary**

APPROVED