

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
August 17, 2022

**Those Present:**

Chairman Bill Kirschner (Virtual)  
Vice Chairman Larry Schussel  
Trustee Kevin Kjer

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren  
Trustee Greg Felton  
Legal Counsel Astrid Perez

**1. Call to Order.**

Meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm and was led by Vice Chair Greg Felton.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Kirschner.

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

**5. Public Comment.**

South Lake Tahoe Resident Jesse Gardner – Zephyr Crew completed 30 work orders this season in the neighborhood. Letters of appreciation for the chipping and community workday programs were awarded to BC/Crew Superintendent Fogarty in appreciation. Work was made possible by funding from Tahoe Resource Conservation District utilizing SNPLMA grant funding.

**6. Board Trustee Comment.**

Trustee Kirschner extended his congratulations to the fuels project crews.

Trustee Kjer also acknowledged the community workday project in Glenbrook. One property in particular had a ton of large junipers and the crews did a great job mitigating the fuels risk.

Trustee Schussel acknowledged Chairman Kirschner's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Trustee Felton spent time with AS French reviewing the UKG HR software the District has purchased. He acknowledged that there was a considerable amount of set up work involved; however, the software will move the District closer to paperless operations and streamline the HR functions tremendously. He noted the collaboration with East Fork Fire. Trustee Felton also mentioned a technical point, with regards to a hose purchase. He informed the Board that

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changing the diameter of hose from 1.5” to 1.75” almost doubles the output, so the new purchases should provide quicker suppression results for the crews. He acknowledged the smart purchasing decision.

**7. Approval of the Consent Calendar.**

- a. Board Meeting Minutes 06/29/2022
- b. Monthly Expenditures - June 2022, July 2022
- c. Financials – 12/31/2022, 01/31/2022, 02/28/2022
- d. Job Description – Administrative Assistant – Fire Board Clerk
- e. Job Description – Administrative Assistant – Fire Prevention Clerk
- f. Job Description – Human Resources Specialist

Trustee Kjer made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as written, with one minor correction (Fire Board Candidate, not plural). Second: Trustee Schussel. Motion approved 4-0.

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

None.

**9. Presentation: Employee Recognition**

**Service Recognition:**

<u>July</u>	Captain/Crew Foreman/FMO Mike Monaghan Hired in 2008, promoted to FT in July 2019, promoted to FMO through the NV Energy contract	14 Years of Service
	Firefighter/Paramedic Brent Tajkowski	5 Years of Service
<u>August</u>	Engineer Kevin Crebs	26 Years of Service
	Captain/ Crew Foreman Conner Bradley Hired in 2015, promoted to FT in August 2021	6 Years of Service
	Fire Inspector Kris Rowlett Promoted to Fire Inspector II in August 2022	3 Year of Service

Chief Lindgren expanded on a new project that Captain Monaghan/FM Nolting/AS French will be working on which is grant funding from President Biden’s *Build Back Better Program* through the 2022 Community Wildland Grant to update the Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). TDFPD already updates our CWPP on a regular basis so that makes the District highly eligible for a \$10M grant for work on private, county and state lands; and structure protection on any land. There will be over a billion dollars in available in increments of \$250M and \$10M.

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**10. For Discussion and Possible Action:**

**Discussion and Approval of Resolution #011 - 2022, proposing rate modifications to become effective on October 1, 2022. First reading - no action to be taken.**

Fire Marshal Eric Guevin, Battalion Chief Brandon Brady and Accounting Specialist Carrie Nolting

**Summary:** Chief Lindgren addressed the need to update many District rates to remain consistent with other fire agencies and to recoup the costs for extra personnel and equipment, especially for standbys. In 2022, community special events have been demanding with the Basin rebounding from COVID-19 cancellations. The District does not make money, the changes reflect current costs.

Chief Brady took a poll of regional agencies, and recommended a mid-line rate, plus an increase 3% each year for EMS only rates. FM Nolting stressed that personnel/equipment costs will be adjusted as needed to reflect direct costs and new purchases.

Fire Marshal Guevin added that the Fire Prevention Bureau did not charge for operational permits in the past, however due to expanded staff time and the sheer number of events, he is now recommending a fee to be added. Permit review and personnel stand-by time periods are getting longer for concerts, blasting permits, wedding firework shows, and other special events.

Chief Lindgren added that our vendors/contractors/venues have been informed that these rates will go into place for October 1, 2022, so the change will not impact the market until next summer. Plus, the District will have expanded rates in place for the opening of the new event center.

Trustee Felton asked if additional equipment would be needed to meet the demand. Chief Lindgren added that the capital budget will address those issues. He anticipates the next push will be the Barton expansion at the Lakeside Inn property. He will be speaking at the Barton Board Meeting to thank them for allowing the regional fire agencies the training opportunity. It was a unique and highly beneficial live training experience. Barton also allowed the District to salvage items from the building and save tax payer money on future needs.

Note: Trustee Murphy joined the meeting at 2:57pm.

First reading – no action was taken.

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**11. Report Items:**

**District Division Reports**

Assistant Chief Bryce Cranch – not present  
Division Chief/Fire Marshal Eric Guevin Fire  
Captain/Foreman/FMO Mike Monaghan  
Administration Division Officer Kate Warner

FM Guevin

No questions on the Fire Prevention report. FM Guevin has been working with East Fork Fire and BOCC regarding the fire sprinkler ordinance. Douglas County did revoke the sprinkler ordinance for the Carson Valley only, so the TDF Trustees will be asked to review code changes specifically for the fire district as needed for our environment. His comments at the BOCC meeting are in the transcript (2:20 minutes into the BOCC meeting – August 2022), and specifically addressed life safety, public safety and firefighter safety. He spoke in support of our sister agency East Fork Fire (EFF), and to remind the Commissioners that TDFPD personnel respond to fire events in the valley and the change in the ordinance puts them at risk.

Future resolutions for TDFPD will include the adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface code, and amendments the International Code for solar, electrical vehicle charging stations, and generators. TDFPD is working with EFF Fire Chief Carlini to mirror the adoption codes. This will involve two readings prior to approval.

FM Guevin noted that Douglas County Commissioner Tarkanian held a town hall meeting at Casey's restaurant with over 160 people in attendance which was well over the capacity. Adjustments were made to ensure attendee safety, however, many attendees left annoyed because there was not enough seating and it was difficult to hear.

He updated that the event center sprinkler systems on the lower floors have been installed, sheet rocking is proceeding and staff inspects the site every Friday. All major construction projects in the District are running behind schedule due to supply issues.

Trustee Felton requested additional information on the water rescues. FM Guevin cautioned that information distributed to the public is often controlled by other agencies. Chief Brady acknowledged that TDFPD crews have been very successful in locating the patients after hours in the water. It continues to be extremely difficult to get helicopter support in these searches.

FMO Mike Monaghan

Videos were shared from Round Hill Pines fuels reduction projects. All of the timber from the Shoreline projects will be harvested in some way, there will be no waste. The contractor

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complimented the TDFPD crews to Chief Lindgren saying that they have never been treated this well on a project, or have had such great cooperation with the local agencies.

Signage is being created to communicate to the public what the markings on trees are, why the work is being done, what happens with the logs, why are certain trees taken out and others left behind. These projects are providing a lot of contact with our public. Fuels reduction projects establish zones around the power lines:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Phase 1          | 15' on each side of power lines, total 30'. All fuels will be removed, exceptions being trees over 30" in diameter or trees with wildlife present |
| Phase 2          | 175' includes thinning the trees, elimination of 75% of the ground fuels and all dead fuels and ladder fuels                                      |
| Phase 3- Phase 5 | Healthy forest, with fuels breaks for wildfire protection   |

Currently log removal on Sewer Plant Road is on hold with the USFS as there has been a delay on their end, and we do not want the logs sitting in the forest in the District.

B21, B22 and B25 crews have been on fire assignments and gaining great experience.

ADO Kate Warner

No questions on the Administration Division report. UKG software is occupying a lot of AS French's time with testing underway to roll it out to our current employees. Warner is especially excited about the recruitment component. With all the information sent back and forth to candidates in the pre-employment process; it is extremely labor intensive and there's a lot of opportunities for error. UKG should close all those gaps for the next round of hiring which will be the Wildland Fire & Fuels Division for 2023 which will open November 1, and AS French is posed to have the District ready for that deadline.

Recruitment

- Mechanic finalist completed Phase 1 of the pre-employment requirements
- Fire Inspector I finalists will proceed to Fire Chief interviews
- FF/PM Entry & Lateral Assessment Center is scheduled and candidates confirmed. It is our intent to create a list for the next two fire academies.
- Administration positions will be addressed in September

Finance

- Actuarial draft report for Public Employee Benefit Plan (PEBP) has been received; Other Public Employee Benefits (OPEB) is pending.
- FY 21 (Trust) and FY 21-22 (District) Audits are scheduled to begin the last week in September

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Calendar Items

- Friday, 09/09/22 - Blood Drive– Kahle Community Center
- Saturday, September 17 - Pancake Breakfast – moved off Labor Day weekend
- Saturday, October 3 - Fire Fest – Hard Rock Casino

**12. Review of Monthly Fire District Activities**

**Fire Chief Scott Lindgren**

ST22 - Remodel

Chief Lucas has been working our architectural firm and bidding will be starting for ST22 which will be done in two phases.

- Phase 1 - Will involve the internal remodel of the existing building adding bathrooms, showers, a kitchen area and bunk rooms. Fire sprinklers will be added. He is pushing to start this phase in September. Some of the demolition will be done by our crews.
- Phase 2 - Will expand the building either up, or up and over to the West, adding enclosed parking for vehicles and dorm space. The Shoreline building lease (Wells Fargo) has been extended to April 2023. The District continues to share the space with CORE Construction at no cost; they just assisting with minor projects like adding a secondary exit by converting a window into a door in the dorm space.

ST25 - Remodel

- Phase 1 - The downstairs front office and the locker room walls will be taken down to add locker room and restroom space for an additional shower.
- Phase 2 - A two story 12'x 20' addition will be added for a tool room and expanded the dorm space, targeted for early spring.
- Phase 3 – Will remodel the existing 2<sup>nd</sup> floor space to better accommodate additional personnel – kitchen, dayroom and bathroom. Items are all in the budget and capital plans.

Thank you communications continue to pour in for our crews and the work they do in the community.

Lightning Fire – Monument Fire on Freel Peak outside the Caldor Fire burn area. WF&F Crews and TDFPD engine crew hiked in and dropped the main tree that had been struck. Fuels are extremely dry, but they got the fire out. It took over 2 hours to get a helicopter on site.

Tahoe National Forest Super Scoopers are at SLT airport as a national resource, and are the most effective for grass fires. They have been out on assignments, and have just recently returned.

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**13. SAVE the BASIN**

The Tahoe Summit provided opportunities for lobbying with our legislators. Site location and design are the focus at this point. Chief Lindgen is meeting with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss the possibility of utilizing the school and county property. Property between HWY 50 and the football field, about 9 acres that is pretty flat and empty buildings on the campus might be accessible. The new Lake Schools principal is very interested in supporting joint projects with the District.

Fundraising projects are being planned with some local businesses and volunteers, but the location must be secured. Celebrity support continues to grow and new leads are being followed up on.

NV Division of Forestry Director KC Casey is having trouble maintaining their aviation program, and has contacted Chief Lindgren to collaborate with the Nevada Division of Forestry and the Toiyabe National Forest on a plan. All agencies agree that there are not enough air assets.

**Public Comment**

Guest Jesse Gardner stated that he learned so much by staying through the meeting and is looking forward to seeing *Firewise Communities* in our District.

**Next meeting:**

**Confirm next meeting, with a proposed date of Wednesday, September 21, 2022 with a start time of 2:30 pm and possible agenda items.**

**Meeting Adjourned: 4:03pm**

Submitted by:  
Kate Warner  
Administration Division Officer

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Approved