

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
August 21, 2024

Those Present:

Chief Scott Lindgren

Chairman Greg Felton (virtual)

Vice Chair Ben Johnson

Legal Counsel Devon Reese

Trustee Stacy Noyes

Trustee Janet Murphy

Trustee Larry Schussel (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Brandon Brady led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call.

Vice Chair Johnson, Trustee Murphy and Trustee Noyes were present. Chairman Felton and Trustee Schussel attended virtually. A quorum was met.

4. Approval of the Agenda.

Trustee Murphy made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Second: Trustee Noyes

Motion approved: 5-0.

5. Public Comment:

District resident Stacy Baker expressed concerns about fuels reduction programs in the District, stating that she now lives in a wind tunnel that she believes actually provides a path for fire to more easily travel. She questions the science behind the decisions to support fuels reductions projects and urges the District to spend more time on home hardening efforts. She asked that the Board carefully consider the information that Mr. Hanson was to present.

District resident Richard Glasson requested more information on what is happening behind his house with the Kingsbury *Shaded Fuels Breaks* Project. He stated that he tried to talk with USFS employees who were parked on his street, obviously working on a planned project, but was unable to get any specific details.

Research Ecologist and Director of the John Muir Project, Chad Hanson, attended virtually. He stated that he does research in and around the Lake Tahoe area regarding wildfire and forest ecosystems and provided information on removal of trees. He discussed a few key points on how the District can best protect the community from wildfire. Hanson explained the viewpoint that fires are driven mostly by weather and climate factors, adding that a “more dense forest” can act

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as a buffer against the hot, dry, windy conditions that drive intense fires. He discussed the benefits of home hardening and defensible space.

6. Trustee Comments:

Vice Chair Johnson acknowledged the Battalion Chiefs for shift coverage while they were down one Battalion Chief.

Vice Chair Johnson acknowledged the Fire Prevention Bureau for their diligence in the start-up of the George Whittell High School Fire Science Program.

7. Approval of the Consent Calendar.

- a. Board Meeting Minutes 07/17/2024
- b. Monthly Expenditures
- c. Financials – 01/31/2024

Trustee Noyes made a motion to approve the consent calendar.

Second: Trustee Murphy

Motion approved: 5-0.

8. Consent items moved forward:

None.

9. Presentation: Special Recognition

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

August

Conner Bradley	8 Years of Service Hired in 2015, promoted to FT August 2020
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Kris Rowlett	5 Years of Service
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Everett Bertolone-Smith	1 Year of Service Hired in 2019 as a Seasonal Crew Member
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Jordan Kohler	1 Year of Service
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Oath & Badge Pinning

Assistant Chief/Special Operations Kevin Lawson

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10. Discussion and Approval of Resolution #007-2024, identifying the terms and conditions for the fire district non-suppression personnel response away from their official duty station and assigned to an emergency incident.

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

Chief Lindgren discussed that this is an update to Resolution #004-2023 already in place related to non-suppression personnel response.

ADO Warner stated it is a formality when we've added additional positions or changed titles.

Trustee Murphy made a motion to approve Resolution #007-2024, identifying the terms and conditions for the fire district non-suppression personnel response away from their official duty station and assigned to an emergency incident.

Second: Trustee Noyes

Motion approved: 5-0.

11. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #008-2024, vendor agreement adopting fee changes with Fire Recovery USA for non-resident service as approved in the 2024 Fees for Service.

Administration Division Officer Kate Warner

Chief Lindgren noted that Resolution #008-2024 will remain the same with one change to the verbiage on page 1: "Be it ordained by the Board of Directors of the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District:" will be changed to, "Be it ordained by the Board of *Trustees* of the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District."

ADO Warner advised the District has been under contract with Fire Recovery USA since 2010 to provide mitigation services for costs related to personnel, equipment and supplies related to non-resident responses. To be fully transparent regarding this program, it has been added to the Fees for Service as Exhibit 6. The vendor requires a resolution to be in place to do the billing for the District and this resolution reflects the current rates as approved by the Board at the July meeting. This is a non-resident billing to insurance carriers and does not apply to anyone that resides in the District.

Trustee Murphy asked if this would be considered an amendment. ADO Warner replied no and that this is an update on a prior resolution.

Trustee Noyes made a motion to approve Resolution #008-2024, vendor agreement adopting fee changes with Fire Recovery USA for non-resident service as approved in the 2024 Fees for Service, with the change on Page 1: *changing Board of Directors to Board of Trustees.*

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Second: Trustee Murphy.
Motion approved: 5-0.

12. District Divisions

Fire Prevention Bureau - Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Bryce Cranch

Chief Cranch gave kudos to the Fire Prevention Team: FI Garrison, FI Rowlett and FPS/PIO Turner.

Cranch provided a PowerPoint presentation with photos and detailed information regarding *behind-the-scenes action* of:

- The 4th of July Fireworks Show
- Marine 24 Patrolling Lake Tahoe
- Harvey's Outdoor Concert Series
- Celebrity Golf Tournament
- Palm Tree EDM Festival - Pyrotronics and Laser Show Process
- EOC Tracker Training
- Grease Fire Investigation at WOLF Restaurant
- Fire Science Program at George Whittell High School
 - Cranch gave kudos to FI Jessica Garrison for all of her dedication and tremendous hard work in this program.

FI Garrison discussed her role in the Fire Science Program and how excited she is to be the lead in this. She also presented photos from the Explorers Program which just wrapped up from the prior school year. The difference between the Fire Explorers and Fire Science Program is that the "mothership" of the Fire Explorers is the *Boy Scouts of America*, and the age range is for middle schoolers and high schoolers. The Fire Science Program will be a part of Douglas County's *Career and Technical Education (CTE)* offerings for high school students.

Trustee Noyes asked if the Fire Science Program will be available for California students to attend. Chief Lindgren responded that the program is just starting and the District hopes to expand the program, however at this time, California students are not able to attend the class.

Wildland Fire & Fuels - Division Chief Keegan Schafer

Chief Schafer advised:

- The Zephyr Crew just got back from their 3rd two-week assignment.
- Brush 24 is on their 5th two-week assignment.
- Promotion: Scott Cameron to Captain.
- Promotion: Mason Cain and Adam Dasmann from part-time to full-time.
- Chief Monaghan has fulfilled duties on the "Muller Line" which is a NV Energy project in the valley that Shoreline Crew has been working on for a while.

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Administration Division - ADO Kate Warner

ADO Warner gave kudos to HR Specialist Vanessa Vindel for earning the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM). Vindel is now a Certified HR Professional.

Vindel is also working on the Strategic Plan, and it will be provided at the next Board meeting.

Warner displayed social media videos from:

- “TDF Recognition24
- Silver State Women in Fire (SSWIF)

13. Review of Monthly Fire District Reports and Activities. No action will be taken.

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

Chief Lindgren discussed the *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Coordination and Cooperation to Promote Fire Science Education between Douglas County School District (DCSD) and Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District* and the proposed *MOU for Conducting Tahoe Region Aviation Fire Rescue Helicopter Base and Fire Rescue Helicopter Program at GWHS Feasibility Study between DCSD and TDFPD*.

Lindgren gave a presentation to the Douglas County School Board which voted 7-0 to support the Fire Science program at George Whittell High School (GWHS) and to proceed to the next steps in securing a location on county property for a helicopter site. The school district has secured grant funds to support the program.

14. Public Comment

None.

15. Confirm next meeting, Wednesday, September 18th, 2024 at 2:30pm; possible agenda items.

Submitted by:

Amanda Van De Hey
District Specialist