

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
August 20, 2025

Those Present:

Chief Scott Lindgren
Chairman Ben Johnson
Vice Chair Stacy Noyes

Trustee John Breaux
Trustee Dan Kruger
Legal Counsel Alex Velto

1. Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:31PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Captain Chris Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Noyes, Trustee Breaux, and Trustee Kruger were all present. A quorum was met.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

Second: Vice Chair Noyes

Motion approved: 4-0

5. Public Comment

Former Tahoe Douglas Fire Trustee, Larry Schussel, spoke during public comment wishing everyone a happy summer.

6. Trustee Comments

Chairman Johnson shared from his Wife, an English teacher at George Whittell High School, that the students had a class writing prompt asking which staff member they'd want to come with them in a zombie apocalypse, they nearly all choose Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Bryce Cranch.

Vice Chair Noyes praised the morning workshop as a strong start, highlighting the Board and Chief Lindgren's commitment to collaboration, communication, and transparency.

Trustee Breaux agreed and added that financial independence would solve a lot of issues.

Trustee Kruger agreed, noting that having a common goal is valuable and implementing it is important.

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Chairman Johnson advised that he and Vice Chair Noyes have met with various employees of the District, including Captains and Chief Officers, to try and help with the internal communication. He recognized the District's dedicated, high-quality staff and said meeting with them has been insightful.

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- a. Board Meeting Minutes 07/16/2025
- b. Financials – 11/30/2024, 12/31/2024
- c. Personnel Policy – 6.13 Leave for Nursing Mothers – Definitions

Trustee Kruger made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Second: Vice Chair Noyes

Motion approved: 4-0

8. Consent items moved forward:

None.

9. Special Recognition

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

June

Matthew Olivares-Laine

2 Years of Service

Hired in 2021 as Seasonal Crew Member

July

Mike Monaghan

17 Years of Service

Mason Cain

1 Year of Service

Hired in 2021 as Seasonal Crew Member

August

Conner Bradley

9 Years of Service

Hired in 2015, promoted to FT August 2020

Kris Rowlett

6 Years of Service

Everett Bertolone-Smith

2 Years of Service

Hired in 2019 as Seasonal Crew Member

Kevin Lawson

1 Year of Service

Jeffrey Fairley

1 Year of Service

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Promotions:

Jacob Looney

Firefighter/Paramedic

Promoted to Fire Engineer

Matt Steventon

Firefighter/Paramedic

Promoted to Fire Engineer

Nolan Weintz

Firefighter/Paramedic

Promoted to Fire Engineer

New Employee:

Kathy Donovan, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk

10. District Divisions

Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Bryce Cranch

Assistant Chief/Special Operations Kevin Lawson

Operations – Assistant Chief/Special Operations Kevin Lawson

Chief Lawson updated the Board on Captain Peterson's retirement, noting his key role in developing training strategies. He also noted Captain Peterson and Chief Brady's strong collaboration with the partnering agencies in all four counties. Good progress is also being made by The Regional Operations Committee toward unifying Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs).

Updates:

Chief Lawson mentioned that the District has some vacancies and is currently strategizing with East Fork Fire Protection District (EFFPD) and Storey County Fire Protection District to put together candidates for the Capital City Regional Fire Academy (CCRFA) beginning this Fall. Chief Lawson, Captain Peterson, and Chief Brady met with Golden Nugget representatives, securing facility access and planning to formalize new high-rise training opportunities.

Vice Chair Noyes asked why the District uses Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) and not Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs.) Chief Lawson advised that the working group decided to streamline the outdated documents and make them all guiding documents. Chief Lindgren clarified that the District calls it a guideline to allow for flexibility in different demographics and different emergency situations. Chief Lindgren gave an example of a performance test using

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TDF Marine 24, where the crew is timed on how quickly they can board the boat, connect to a standpipe, and get water flowing.

Chief Lindgren shared that live-fire training scenarios will take place in Carson City from September 7–12 and suggested it would be a good time for Trustees to do a ride-along.

Chairman Johnson asked Chief Lawson for an update on the boundary drop implementation. Chief Lawson explained that progress has been excellent. The District now has an agreement with East Fork Fire Protection District (EFFPD), and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been sent to South Lake Tahoe Fire for review. Chief Lindgren advised that the boundary drop with South Lake Tahoe Fire is more complicated than the boundary drop with EFFPD because of the different dispatch centers but they are willing to work together.

Trustee Breaux asked about staffing levels at South Lake Tahoe Fire. Chief Lawson explained they currently have nine firefighters on duty per shift, with three assigned to each truck. He added that reaching a goal of 16 staff per shift would be a major achievement for the District.

Chief Lawson advised that EFFPD had their Board meeting last night and they voted 5-0 to have an additional air ambulance stationed at EFFPD Station 12. Chief Lindgren explained that the District is in support of that and having that resource is better for our citizens. Chief Lindgren talked about how “Battle Born Air Ambulance” is providing full funding for three firefighter/paramedic positions. This will eventually lead to a qualified crew for an air firefighting resource.

Chairman Johnson asked if Battle Born Air is also included in the District’s employee air ambulance benefit. It is not at this time, but HR Specialist Nalder will look into it and follow up with Trustees about their access to air ambulance benefits.

Wildland Fire & Fuels

- **Crew Swaps:** Battalion Chief Monaghan is rotating crews every 14 days on the brush engine in Eldorado National Forest; another brush engine in Sierra National Forest is also swapped every 14 days.
- **Zephyr Crew:** Deployed this morning to the Cottonwood Fire in Elko, NV.
- **Captain Norwood:** Assigned to an incident management team in Wyoming.
- **District Coverage:** Chief Lawson emphasized that key resources remain in the District at all times.

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Fire Prevention Bureau – Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Bryce Cranch

Chief Cranch mentioned the important information that is being passed off from Administration Division Officer Warner and that he is meeting with the Admin team to work on the transition of leadership. Chief Cranch recognized Fire Inspector (Trainee) Van De Hey for her work in two roles. Chief Cranch recognized the staff for their hard work, noting how busy the District is during the summer. He also specifically acknowledged Fire Inspectors Rowlett and Turner for their exceptional efforts in managing these demands.

Chief Cranch made an update for Fuels Management Officer Schafer. The Van Sickle Project is going well and is waiting for another purchase order to continue. The *Green Waste Trailer* has been a huge success this year, including the Zephyr Heights neighborhood emptying biomass from their urban lots. The Round Hill fuel breaks and urban lot cleanup work is just getting started and the Glenbrook Community Workdays were a success.

Chief Cranch shared pictures from 4th of July fireworks load-in, continuity test, cleanup and barge issues. Chief Lindgren spoke about the fireworks barge that started to sink and how it was successfully towed to the beach. The Tahoe Douglas Bomb Squad was brought in to oversee the diffusing of the fireworks.

Fire Prevention Specialist/Public Information Officer Turner and Chief Lindgren had a meeting with the Glenbrook HOA. A decision was made not to use the same fireworks vendor for next year's Fourth of July celebration. This was due to safety concerns and dissatisfaction with how the vendor managed this year's event, prompting the District to explore alternative options to ensure a safer and better-organized celebration.

Chief Cranch shared photos from the wild land fire at the Park Estate. Chairman Johnson recognized FPS/PIO Turner for helping with the displaced dog in this situation. Photos were shared from the pyrotechnics used in the summer concert series. Chief Cranch gave an update on the Fire Science Program at George Whittell High School; sharing pictures of the classroom and training props that were built.

11. Review of Monthly Fire District Reports and Activities and Annual Goals and Objectives. No action will be taken

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

Chief Lindgren addressed the Board, asking if they have any questions about the enclosed report. No questions.

Chief Lindgren spoke about how the public Workshop from this morning was a huge success.

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Vice Chair Noyes suggested using this placeholder on the agenda to provide only a brief update on the Strategic Plan 'big rocks,' since the items discussed in this morning's Workshop have taken priority.

Chief Lindgren discussed the different radio communication and infrastructure options, noting that there isn't enough county-level funding to upgrade the system as needed. While the District is getting significant help from the radio technicians, we continue to have issues with the current antiquated system.

Ben Johnson thanked Chief Lindgren for his effort on the Workshop this morning.

12. Public Comment

None.

13. Closed Session

Per NRS 288.220, this portion is closed to the public, as the Board of Trustees will be discussing an update on Local 2441 negotiations.

14. Confirm next meeting, Wednesday, September 17th, 2025, at 2:30pm; possible agenda items.

15. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at: 4:30PM.

Submitted by:

Kathy Donovan

Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk