

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Workshop
September 18, 2025

Those Present:

Chief Scott Lindgren
Chairman Ben Johnson
Trustee John Breaux

Trustee Dan Kruger
Trustee Ben Ward

1. Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:35PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Nathan Waite led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Chairman Johnson, Trustee Breaux, Trustee Kruger, and Trustee Ward were all present. A quorum was met.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

Second: Trustee Breaux

Motion approved: 4-0

5. Public Comment

None

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes 08/20/2025

Trustee Breaux made a motion to approve the meeting minutes

Second: Trustee Kruger

Motion approved: 4-0

7. Review

Review of Previous Budget Workshop

Chief Lindgren

Chief Lindgren recapped the last revenue workshop, explaining Alan Kalt's presentation on the budget, tax base, and tax history. He explained that we had a lot of good open discussion, and some progress was made that will be reported later in the meeting.

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Chief Lindgren introduced Chief Mike Brown, a retired Fire Chief from North Lake Tahoe Fire. He has extensive experience in district funding, legislative issues, revenue strategies, and has assisted other Nevada Fire Districts with similar challenges.

Mike Brown shared his background and his current role with R&R Partners. He highlighted his work on bill SB 329 with NV Energy to contract work with local fire districts. He noted that ad valorem revenues are not keeping pace with costs, especially with recent PERS increases.

Chief Brown described his experience with Reno Airport, which ultimately pursued a contract for services with the City of Reno to manage fire and EMS responsibilities.

Chief Brown emphasized the importance of planning for funding, particularly through ballot questions, and stressed the need to involve the entire fire department and community in education and outreach. He gave an example of a recent ballot measure effort by Henderson Fire not passing because of poor community education and outreach.

Chief Lindgren and Chairman Johnson meet with Kathy Lewis, the COO of Douglas County. Chief Lindgren explained that all general improvement districts (GIDs) in the county share the same statutory cap. Therefore for the District to increase our rate, Oliver Park GID would have to reduce theirs first.

Chairman Johnson explained that he contacted Kingsbury General Improvement District's (KGID) board member, Greg Felton, to discuss if KGID were to assume Oliver Park GID there maybe an opportunity for the District to capture that tax revenue.

Chief Brady explained that Tahoe Douglas Fire is a 318 (General Improvement District) and asked if the District considered reforming as a 474 (County Fire Protection District) to reclaim some revenue that way.

Chief Mike Brown explained that an elected 474 district has more autonomy and financial control than an appointed one, including its own board, administrative functions, and ability to pursue funding through public ballot measures. He agreed it is something the District may want to look at.

Chief Lindgren explained that being a 318 we must share tax revenue with 15 other GID's.

Chief Lindgren explained that increasing revenue from the Ad Valorem tax is likely not an option, as Oliver Park GID would be unwilling to accept a reduced share.

Chairman Johnson stated he does not foresee community support for merging with East Fork Fire, considering it a last-resort option.

Chief Lindgren explained in the meeting with Kathy Lewis that they discussed redevelopment fees funded through Ad Valorem taxes, noting that approximately \$476,000 per year currently goes to the Tahoe Blue Event Center. This amount could significantly alleviate the District's

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financial challenges. Lewis indicated that, due to a state cap, the District may effectively recover about half of that amount, though this still requires verification.

Chief Lindgren noted that \$106,000 was mistakenly deducted from the District's Ad Valorem taxes due to LED abatements for certain properties. Kathy Lewis indicated this was an error, and the District should receive a refund of approximately \$100,000, which will also no longer be deducted in future years.

Chief Lindgren explained that the District has an MOU with the county regarding redevelopment fees, which allows for renegotiation if tax revenues do not keep up with expenditures. He noted that discussions have been opened with Douglas County.

Chairman Johnson stated that the District plans to use the framework of NFPA 1710 to identify resources needed and demonstrate shortfalls as a justification in discussion with the county.

Chief Lindgren clarified that Douglas County already collects a ticket tax, the District does not currently receive any revenue from it. Possibly the District explores implementing its own ticket tax to generate revenue. He also explained that none of the Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT) goes to Fire or Law.

Accounting Specialist Beer asked whether the District could increase fees for operational permits or standby staffing. Chief Lindgren explained that while fees for operational permits and standby staffing were previously minimal, the District now covers higher event staffing costs. He noted there is flexibility to adjust fees. Beer suggested possibly using a percentage of event revenue for larger events.

Chairman Johnson discussed property tax abatements in Nevada, noting that many high-value lakefront homes pay taxes based on the previous owner's lower assessed value. He explained once these abatements are removed it will gradually increase tax revenue for the District as higher-value properties are reassessed.

Chief Brown noted that Tahoe Fire and Incline Fire share similar operational challenges. He suggested that collaborating on projects and potential ballot measures could be beneficial due to these shared issues.

Chairman Johnson reported that revenue from local casinos has declined significantly over the past 30 years, with property taxes from major resorts now far below historic levels. He noted the District is exploring strategies to work with the resort community on fees or contributions, while maintaining the ability to pursue legislative action if cooperation is not achieved.

Trustee Kruger explained that revenue should align with expenses, noting that if 80% of calls come from resorts, a proportional share of revenue should come from them.

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Chairman Johnson suggested NFPA 1710 as a robust justification for staffing numbers, so they can be presented to the community objectively without questioning Chief's determinations.

Chief Brown stressed the importance of community involvement and meeting community expectations.

8. Committee Reports

Chairman Ben Johnson

Wage Comparison Committee: The purpose of the wage committee is to gather comprehensive, accurate data on compensation across all District positions, compare it with other regional departments, and create a robust document that can support fair pay and be confidently presented to the community.

Engineer Fording mentioned that there is already a document with comparisons of line member positions, listing out pay, incentives, benefits, etc.

Resort Tourist Contribution Committee: to evaluate resort contributions to the District and explore potential revenue options, such as ticket or occupancy taxes. Dan Kruger volunteered to join the committee with his background in Heavenly's revenue division.

Redevelopment (MOU) Committee: An update on the MOU was given earlier.

Ad Valorem Tax Committee: Chairman Ben Johnson volunteered to join this committee

Special Assessment (PR Focus) Committee

Equipment/Capital Expenditure Committee: Chairman Johnson reported that East Fork Fire is establishing a foundation, similar to the Sheriff Advisory Council, to help fund capital improvements. It is an idea that District is considering doing it jointly with East Fork Fire or exploring a similar approach.

9. Public Comment

None

8. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 4:43PM

Submitted by:

Kathy Donovan

Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk