

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Workshop
March 24, 2026

Those Present:

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch
Chairman Ben Johnson
Trustee John Breaux

Trustee Dan Kruger
Trustee Ben Ward

1. Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

HR Specialist Vindel 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 Breaux made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Second: Trustee Ward

Motion approved: 4-0

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes 02/19/2026

Trustee Kruger made a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Second: Trustee Breaux

Motion approved: 4-0

7. Committee Reports

Chairman Ben Johnson

Trustee Ward reviewed each committee with the group and updated members as needed to ensure adequate support and bandwidth for each.

The potential advantages of being a 318 entity versus a 474 entity were discussed, as advised by the Department of Taxation. A Fees for Service Committee was established including Trustee Ward, Trustee Kruger, Chief Prather, and Chief Brady. The Committee will evaluate potential response fees, but expressed hesitation due to concerns they could discourage residents from

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Workshop

March 24, 2026

contacting the fire department during actual emergencies. Alternatives discussed included applying fees only after a property exceeds a set number of false alarms and evaluating repeat alarm properties. There is a False Alarm Response (negligent) Fee in the Districts current Fees for Service.

The Grants and Tax Donations committee and External Revenue Generation committees were combined and committee members added.

Resort Tourist Contribution Committee

Chairman Johnson discussed exploring a percentage of the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue, a nightly fire service surcharge, or an interlocal agreement for TOT funding, while noting the political sensitivity of existing TOT allocations.

Chief Mike Brown stated he would bring this to a team of attorneys to investigate obtaining a portion of this funding.

Chairman Johnson discussed a live entertainment tax, potentially shared with the Sheriff's Office. It would help generate revenue from visitors contributing to increased service demands, including ski traffic associated with Vail Resorts.

Chairman Johnson and Chief Brown discussed the District's high volume of responses outside its jurisdiction and the importance of using response data to support future legislative funding discussions.

Chief Brown discussed the importance of building relationships with state legislators and engaging them on District operations, wildfire mitigation efforts, and funding needs ahead of future legislative sessions.

Chief Brown emphasized the importance of reviewing all district services and programs to ensure all available revenue opportunities are being captured.

The workshop took a 10 minutes recess.

External Revenue Generation + Grant & Tax Donation Committee

Chairman Johnson reported that work continues on establishing a foundation modeled after East Fork Fire and the Sheriff's Advisory Council. A presentation will be provided at a future meeting. The goal is to have the foundation in place by December this year.

Trustee Ward noted that all the workshop documents are now uploaded to the District's shared drive.

Wage Comparison Committee:

The committee's next step is to complete a 30-year normalized wage cost increase estimate. Trustees Breaux and Trustee Ward will meet with Finance Manager Nolting to gather the necessary data.

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Workshop

March 24, 2026

The committee identified the need to confirm future staffing projections with Chief Cranch and revisit the Strategic Plan to ensure employee count estimates are accurate.

Equipment/Facilities/Fleet/Capital Expenditure Committee:

Trustee Kruger presented spreadsheets and graphs showing historical spending by equipment, facilities, and fleet. He shared a 10-year spending plan and fleet replacement projections.

The next step is to work with the committee to verify the accuracy of the data entered in the spreadsheets.

8. Discussion Regarding Possible Date of the Next Workshop

Next workshop is tentatively scheduled for April 14th at 2:30pm

9. Public Comment

Diane Buck introduced herself and attended the meeting to learn more about the District. She shared that she lives in Zephyr Heights and is running for County Commissioner to represent Tahoe.

10. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 4:21 PM

Submitted by:

Kathy Donovan

Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk