

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
June 24, 2026

Those Present:

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch
Chairman Ben Johnson
Trustee John Breaux

Trustee Dan Kruger
Trustee Ben Ward
Legal Counsel Kara Hayes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Alan Reed 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

Engineer Fording reported on behalf of the negotiations team that the three recent contract negotiations went smoothly with strong collaboration from both sides. He noted that the contracts will support future retention and recruitment efforts.

6. Trustee Comments

Chairman Johnson addressed Dreu Murin's public comment, Chief Cranch and Chairman Johnson have opened the lines of communication. Chief Cranch is working on ways to reduce false alarms, one of Murin's concerns. A second public comment from Brett Tibbits asking that the agenda material be posted online and that change has been made and going forward materials are on the TahoeFire.org website.

Chief Cranch stated that the District's public comment process is working as intended by providing the public with a forum to share concerns. He noted that he offered to meet with the author of one public comment, but the individual did not attend the scheduled meeting. Chief Cranch remains open to meeting in the future and confirmed that board materials will be posted on the District's website prior to meetings.

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Trustee Ward congratulated and recognized staff for completing the budget process and getting it approved.

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- a. Board Meeting Minutes 05/27/2026

Trustee Breaux made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Second: Trustee Kruger

Motion approved: 4-0

8. Consent items moved forward:

None.

9. Discussion and possible approval of renewal proposal from Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (POOL) for FY 2026-2027

Alan Reed, C.I.C, Warren Reed Insurance

Wayne Carlson, Executive Director, POOL/PACT

Alan Reed of Warren Reed Insurance presented the FY 2026–2027 POOL renewal proposal. He reported an 11.28% premium increase (approximately \$12,000), primarily due to increased insured property values and payroll, noting that POOL's base rates decreased while the District's increased exposures drove the overall cost increase. He also reviewed current insurance market conditions, cyber risks, available member services, and grant opportunities.

Wayne Carlson, Executive Director of POOL, discussed the organization's continued financial stability, long-term insurance partnerships, and recent coverage enhancements, including expanded cyber coverage and increased equipment breakdown limits at no additional cost. He noted POOL remains a nonprofit, member-driven organization and is celebrating its 39th year of operation.

Mr. Reed encouraged the Board to review the renewal packet, including the annual exposure schedules for insured properties, vehicles, and equipment, noting that members have the opportunity each year to update those schedules and coverage selections. He thanked the District for its long-standing participation in the program.

Trustee Kruger made a motion to approve the renewal proposal from Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (POOL) for FY 2026-2027.

Second: Trustee Breaux

Motion approved: 4-0

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10. Discussion and possible approval of the Two-year Collective Bargaining Agreement between Tahoe Douglas Professional Firefighters Association Local 2441 Wildland Unit and TDFPD

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch

Chief Cranch presented the proposed Wildland Unit Collective Bargaining Agreement, stating the negotiations were a good example of labor alignment and resulted in a contract that clearly defines employee benefits and provides stability for the Wildland Division. He noted the agreement follows the District's other collective bargaining agreements.

Chief Cranch reviewed the agreement's wage provisions, which include 5% and 3% salary increases over the two-year term. He explained the Wildland Division relies heavily on contract revenue and fire assignments, and the agreement includes a reopener provision tied to revenue and fund balance thresholds. He stated the agreement is financially sustainable and recommended Board approval.

Trustee Ward made a motion to approve the two-year collective bargaining agreement between Tahoe Douglas Professional Firefighters Association Local 2441 Wildland Unit and TDFPD.

Second: Trustee Breaux

Motion approved: 4-0

11. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #001-2026 Budget Augmentation – General Fund in the amount of \$693,435, increasing the budget from \$15,255,791 to \$15,949,226 for additional unanticipated resources.

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch

Chief Cranch explained that the budget augmentation reflects the audited FY 2024/2025 ending fund balance, which updates the FY 2025/2026 beginning fund balance, along with additional Strike Team revenue. The additional funding was allocated to salaries, wages, benefits, and service and supply expenses.

Chief Cranch thanked Finance Manager Nolting-Bammer for her preparation of the budget documents and reporting to the Department of Taxation.

Trustee Kruger made a motion to approve Resolution #001-2026 Budget Augmentation – General Fund as presented.

Second: Trustee Breaux

Motion approved: 4-0

12. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #002-2026 Budget Augmentation – Sick Leave Fund in the amount of \$149,736 increasing the budget from \$396,556 to \$546,292 for additional unanticipated resources.

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch

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Chief Cranch explained that the District budgeted for sick leave payouts and employee separations, and the unreserved ending fund balance is carried forward to fund those same salary and wage expenses.

Trustee Breaux made a motion to approve Resolution #002-2026 Budget Augmentation – Sick Leave Fund as presented.

Second: Trustee Kruger

Motion approved: 4-0

13. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #003-2026 Budget Augmentation – Fire Safe Community Fund in the amount of \$1,880,515 increasing the budget from \$8,100,518 to \$9,981,033 for unanticipated resources.

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch

Chief Cranch explained that the budget augmentation reflects increased fuels management and Strike Team revenue, partially offset by lower than anticipated contract revenue, along with the unreserved ending fund balance carried forward from the prior fiscal year. A portion of the ending fund balance was allocated to offset the anticipated shortfall in contract revenue.

Trustee Breaux made a motion to approve Resolution #003-2026 Budget Augmentation – Fire Safe Community Fund as presented.

Second: Trustee Ward

Motion approved: 4-0

14. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #004-2026 Budget Augmentation – Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$38,491, increasing the budget from \$1,723,599 to \$1,762,090 for additional unanticipated resources.

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch

Chief Cranch explained that the budget augmentation reflects the FY 2024/2025 ending fund balance carried forward into FY 2025/2026 and remains allocated for capital outlay expenses.

Trustee Kruger made a motion to approve Resolution #004-2026 Budget Augmentation – Capital Projects Fund as presented.

Second: Trustee Breaux

Motion approved: 4-0

15. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #005-2026 Budget Augmentation – Health Insurance Fund in the amount of \$878,966, increasing the budget from \$3,046,394 to \$3,925,360 for additional unanticipated resources.

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch

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Finance Manager Nolting-Bammer explained that the budget augmentation reflects the higher than anticipated FY 2024/2025 ending fund balance, allowing the remaining funds to be transferred to the new Internal Health Insurance Benefit Fund and close out the existing Health Insurance Fund.

Trustee Ward made a motion to approve Resolution #005-2026 Budget Augmentation – Health Insurance Fund as presented.

Second: Trustee Breaux

Motion approved: 4-0

16. Special Recognition

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch

Completed Probation:

Firefighter/Paramedic Ryder Thomas

Badge Pinning:

Firefighter/AEMT Aaron Johnson – Promoted from Engineer/Squad Leader

Chief Cranch shared that, based on feedback, badge pinning ceremonies will transition from Board meeting presentations to more informal shift change recognitions. The change allows for greater crew involvement and a more personal and supportive experience for members being recognized.

17. District Divisions

Operations – Interim Assistant Chief Steve Prather

- The District had 142 emergency responses during the month of May, primarily medical calls.
- Captain Norwood completed his assignment as Acting Battalion Chief. Chief Prather recognized his ownership of the role and noted that formal evaluations were completed to provide feedback and support continued growth.
- Captain Andy Eisenberg has stepped into the Acting Battalion Chief role and is performing well.
- The District is preparing for increased activity during the Fourth of July holiday, including additional staffing for anticipated call volume and events.
- Radio system updates and upgrades are underway, including antenna improvements and repeater replacements.

Chairman Johnson encouraged feedback and ideas to streamline the division report process over the next couple of months.

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Wildland Fire & Fuels – Division Chief Keegan Schafer

- Division Chief Schafer reported that the Zephyr Crew is on its second assignment of the season in Caliente, Nevada, and that Shoreline Crew members and engine crews remain assigned in Northern California.
- The District continues to prepare for Fourth of July staffing while managing mandatory rest periods for personnel returning from assignments.
- Chief Schafer provided an update on the Glenbrook Community Wildfire Defense Grant, including ongoing fuels reduction work funded through the \$2.8 million grant. He noted the District continues to provide oversight and support for the project, which includes defensible space, home hardening, and fuel reduction efforts through 2029.
- Chief Schafer presented photographs highlighting fuel reduction work and discussed the importance of ongoing maintenance to sustain wildfire mitigation efforts.

Fire Prevention – Interim Fire Marshal Kris Rowlett

- Interim Fire Marshal Rowlett reported a busy month of fire prevention activities and recognized Fire Inspectors Turner and Van De Hey for their efforts.
- Inspector Van De Hey completed an FI-210 Wildfire Origin and Cause Refresher course to maintain and strengthen wildfire investigation skills.
- Interim Fire Marshal Rowlett provided updates on the Edgewood Tahoe Resort South Shore Expansion Project and ongoing inspections related to temporary facilities during construction.
- The Division is preparing for Fourth of July fireworks inspections and safety operations, followed by inspections for the upcoming American Century Championship.

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

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch

- Expressed appreciation for District personnel and their continued dedication across all divisions.
- Reviewed the financial snapshot and Finance Division update included in the Board packet, including updates on the NetSuite implementation and transition to First Due staffing software.
- Discussed the July 1 implementation of the second year of CBA salary increases and proposed a 6% salary adjustment for non-represented employees. The adjustment is supported by salary survey data, included in the budget, and has an estimated impact of approximately \$32,000. Chairman Johnson expressed support for using data to inform the decision.

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- Provided an update on the proposed Douglas County Stormwater Utility assessment and noted the District may qualify for an exemption based on public education and sandbag distribution efforts.
- Reported on the transition to the Anthem health insurance network and recognized Kelsey for her work on the process.
- Provided an update on the Accounting Specialist recruitment process and recognized Vanessa for leading the effort.
- Reported on the upcoming Post-Retirement Trust (PRT) meeting and consideration of trust documents.
- Presented information on drone technology and potential applications for emergency response; recognized Chief Brady for leading the initiative.
- Reported on options for HR support, including consulting services and potential assistance from Douglas County.
- Reported that the District will need to identify a new accounting firm following the upcoming audit cycle.
- Provided an update on the Fire Science Program at George Whittell High School and its importance as a community program.
- Provided updates on regional transportation discussions regarding the proposed Spooner Summit roundabout.
- Reported that revenue generation discussions will resume in July, including a targeted meeting with labor representatives.

19. Public Comment

Elisabeth Lernhardt provided comments regarding the proposed NDOT roundabout project at the Highway 28 and US 50 intersection near Spooner Summit. She expressed concerns that a roundabout may not adequately address current and future traffic volumes, noting the intersection is already experiencing high seasonal traffic levels. She shared an alternative “trumpet” intersection concept, which would separate traffic flows through an overpass or underpass design, while acknowledging it would be a more costly option. Elisabeth also raised concerns regarding evacuation planning for the East Shore and Incline Village areas, including how counterflow operations would function with a roundabout and the need for additional evacuation modeling. She encouraged NDOT to provide additional community outreach and communication regarding the project and requested the Board remain aware of these concerns as planning continues.

20. Confirm next meeting, Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026, at 2:30 PM, possible agenda items.

Confirmed.

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21. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 PM.

Submitted by:

Kathy Donovan

Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk