

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
July 22, 2026

Those Present:

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch
Chairman Ben Johnson
Vice Chair Stacy Noyes
Trustee John Breaux

Trustee Dan Kruger
Trustee Ben Ward
Legal Counsel Jessica Galiste

1. Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:32 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Larry Schussel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Noyes, 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: 5-0

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Trustee Comments

Trustee Kruger reported that the Radio Working Group is making progress with improvements in communication in Glenbrook area with additional improvements expected.

Chairman Johnson provided an update on the Fire Chief recruitment process. He stated that the Fire Chief job description is on the agenda for approval and that staff are working with legal counsel to ensure the recruitment process complies with applicable laws before moving forward.

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- a. Board Meeting Minutes 06/24/2026
- b. 002.00 - Procurement Card Policy
- c. Job Description – Fire Chief
- d. Job Description – Assistant Fire Chief
- e. Job Description – Battalion Chief

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Trustee Kruger made a motion to approve items a. and b. as presented and move items c., d., and e., forward for discussion.

Second: Trustee Breaux

Motion approved: 5-0

8. Consent items moved forward:

Trustee Kruger presented a reorganized draft of the job descriptions, clarifying that no language changes were proposed, only a reordering of responsibilities into categories to improve clarity for evaluations and future hiring processes.

HR Specialist Vindel explained that the job description template meets legal and risk management requirements and should be revised carefully.

Chief Cranch recommended giving time to review the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief job descriptions and prioritizing approval of the Battalion Chief job description due to an upcoming recruitment timeline under the collective bargaining agreement.

Chairman Johnson expressed support, stating that the revised format could improve the Board's review and evaluation of the Fire Chief.

Trustee Kruger made a motion to approve the Battalion Chief job description as presented and hold the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief job descriptions for further review.

Second: Vice Chair Noyes

Motion approved: 5-0

9. Special Recognition

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch

Service Recognition:

Battalion Chief Mike Monaghan

7 Years of Service

Hired in 2008, promoted to FT in 2019

Crew Member Mason Cain

2 Years of Service

Hired in 2021, promoted to FT in 2024

Admin Assistant/Board Clerk Kathy Donovan

1 Year of Service

Completed Probation:

Firefighter/Paramedic Will Schultz

Fire Inspector I Amanda Van De Hey

Engineer Nolan Weintz

Engineer Jacob Looney

Engineer Matt Steventon

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10. District Divisions

Fire Prevention – Interim Fire Marshal Kris Rowlett

- K-9 bomb detection deployments for events such as the California Sheriffs' Conference and Nevada State Fair Rodeo were provided through mutual aid agreements, which support reciprocal assistance during local events, including the American Century Championship golf tournament at Edgewood.
- Board members were invited to tour active construction projects after Labor Day, including the Heavenly tower renovation and casino remodels.
- Delays to the Peak Luxury Apartments project were attributed to elevator issues and project redesigns, not Fire Department review.
- The Fire Prevention Division experienced a busy event season supporting the Fourth of July and American Century Championship.

Wildland Fire & Fuels – Battalion Chief Matt Fogarty

- The Zephyr Crew was reassigned from the Stookey Fire in Utah to the Bologna Fire in Oregon.
- Personnel and apparatus remain assigned to incidents in Oregon and Northern California, with additional crew rotations completed.
- Battalion Chief Fogarty provided an update on the Cottonwood Fire, noting the incident grew rapidly and that crews are now experiencing post-fire flooding due to monsoon activity.
- Additional personnel were assigned to incidents in Oregon, including Brody Zink as a Heavy Equipment Boss with Joe Stamps serving as a trainee.
- Regional fire activity remains active, though recent moisture has moderated fire behavior and aided initial attack efforts on lightning-caused starts.

Operations – Battalion Chief Brandon Brady

- Staffing updates include Acting Battalion Chief Isenberg, with personnel rotation through the assignment.
- Personnel and apparatus continue to support out-of-district incidents, including Captain Curtis Baker's assignment to the Grapevine Fire in Caliente, deployments to the Babylon Fire, Brush 23's assignment in Plumas County, and ongoing assignments involving Battalion Chief Monaghan and the Shoreline engines.
- Regional wildfire activity remains extremely busy, with significant incidents occurring throughout the western United States. Battalion Chief Brady highlighted the value of personnel serving in overhead positions, noting the experience gained actually benefits the District during complex incidents.
- Crews responded to multiple lightning-caused fire starts throughout the region, with rapid initial attack and aerial resources helping contain the incidents.

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- Significant calls included multiple Fourth of July emergencies, a successful resuscitation following a near-drowning, and a residential structure fire where the home's automatic fire sprinkler system limited fire spread and reduced damage.
- Crews also responded to several mutual aid structure fires, including one that extended into a wildland fire.

Drone Presentation:

- Battalion Chief Brady provided an overview of the District's aviation program goals, including improved situational awareness, early detection, rapid response, technical rescue support, and nighttime operations.
- Discussed challenges associated with a traditional helicopter program, including significant costs, sustainability, and the impact of the Pressler Act requiring government agencies to utilize private contractors when reasonably available.
- Recommended applying the District's "crawl, walk, run" approach by starting with smaller, sustainable aviation capabilities and collaborating with existing regional aviation resources.
- Discussed current aviation resources available through partnerships and the Wildland Fire Protection Program (WFPP).
- Presented the growing use of drones in the fire service, including thermal imaging, fire reconnaissance, mapping, search and rescue, and incident support.
- Highlighted potential collaboration with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office drone program and discussed emerging firefighting drone technology.
- Discussed drone limitations, including weather, FAA requirements, and pilot certification. Chief Brady reported five District personnel are currently pursuing FAA Part 107 certifications.
- Discussed potential drone applications for Wildland, EOD, and other District operations.
- Trustee Johnson stated that learning more about Battle Born Helicopters' program would be beneficial for the Board.
- Trustee Kruger requested additional information comparing available drone capabilities with specific District incidents where they could provide operational value.
- Discussed the need to determine whether aviation fund donations may be used toward drone technology.

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

Interim Fire Chief Bryce Cranch

- Provided a financial update, noting typical cash flow changes due to tax collections, payroll expenses, seasonal staffing, strike teams, and end-of-year costs.

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- Discussed the complexity of the recent payroll period due to CBA raises, employee buyouts, and other adjustments; recognized Finance Manager Nolting-Bammer and Accounting Specialist French for their work
- Provided an update on revenue generation efforts, including donor outreach and identifying additional revenue sources.
- Provided an apparatus update, noting multiple engines and brush trucks were assigned to incidents, requiring operations with remaining available resources.
- Recognized HR Specialists Vindel and Nalder for their work on recruitment, job descriptions, insurance rollover, and Chief recruitment support.
- Discussed Fourth of July and Celebrity Golf Tournament Fire Prevention efforts, including inspections, permitting, and event safety requirements. Chief Cranch noted the need to review event fee structures.
- Trustee Breaux requested the discounted value of the District's bonds if sold prior to maturity. Chief Cranch will follow up with Steward Shipley and provide the information.

Jodie Nelson asked about the status of monthly financial statements. Finance Manager Nolting-Bammer explained that the District has been behind in providing information needed for completion, and the Board has received financial snapshots but not finalized statements since June 2025.

Finance Manager Nolting-Bammer provided an update on the new software implementation, noting staff are working through challenges following the transition to the live system with support from the implementation team. Nolting-Bammer also reported that final FY26 ad valorem revenue came in approximately \$400,000 above state projections across all funds, with approximately \$251,000 attributed to redevelopment area (RDA).

12. Public Comment

Chairman Johnson provided an update on efforts with Chief Prather to streamline and standardize division reports.

13. Confirm next meeting, Wednesday, August 26th, 2026, at 2:30pm, possible agenda items.

Trustee Breaux made a motion to move the next Board meeting to Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 2:30 PM.

Second: Vice Chair Noyes

Motion approved: 5-0

14. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Submitted by:

Kathy Donovan

Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk