

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
February 16, 2022

Those Present:

Chairman Bill Kirschner
Vice Chairman Larry Schussel
Trustee Kevin Kjer

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren
Trustee Janet Murphy
Trustee Greg Felton (Virtual)
Legal Counsel Devon Reese
(Virtual)

1. Call to Order.

Meeting was called to order at 2:32pm`

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Kirschner.

3. Roll Call.

Chairman Kirschner, Vice Chairman Felton, Trustee Schussel, Trustee Murphy and Trustee Kjer were present. A quorum was met.

4. Approval of the Agenda.

Trustee Murphy made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Trustee Schussel seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

5. Public Comment.

None.

6. Board Trustee Comment.

None.

7. Approval of the Consent Calendar.

- a. Board Meeting Minutes 01/19/2022
- b. Monthly Expenditures
- c. Financials – 07/31/2021, 08/31/2021, 09/30/2021, 10/31/2021
- d. Administrative Policy – 001.00 Purchasing Policy Revision.
- e. Expectations and Board Goals – Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

Trustee Kjer made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar with the exception of striking the October Financials. Trustee Felton seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

8. For Possible Action: Consent items moved forward.

None.

9. Presentation:

Employee Recognition

Crew Foreman Matt Fogarty	8 Years of Service
Office Manager Kate Warner	12 Years of Service

10. Presentation:

Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation

Claudia Andersen, CEO Parasol
Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

Summary:

The Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation is a non-profit public charity that is dedicated to supporting the Lake Tahoe region – now and into the future. Parasol builds a more prosperous community by partnering with donors to make their charitable giving more meaningful, by supporting quality programs provided by local non-profit organizations and by providing community leadership on emerging issues. Founded in 1996 by community members, the Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation, through the generosity of its donors, has granted over \$91 million to charitable causes since its inception. Donor intention is also a huge mission for the group.

Anderson explained that following a survey done a few years back with community residents in our area, fire safety along with environmental wellbeing were at the top of their list for concern and donation requests. Fire safety has been a priority since then and the Tahoe Douglas Fire Rescue Helicopter Program would make a great addition to their efforts of addressing those areas of concern from their donors.

Parasol has agreed to fund the fuel break GIS mapping needed throughout the District to build effective fire break lines around the Tahoe Douglas area to provide wildfire defense.

Trustee Kjer wanted to confirm that The Parasol Group was able to work alongside government agencies.

Anderson confirmed that their funding can be utilized for any environmental, educational, or government needs for our area. While the Parasol Group is not a fundraising organization, it can manage and move around the charitable funds to be donated by their donors.

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Trustee Murphy asked how the group collected revenue off their donations/donors?

Anderson clarified Parasol takes 1% annually from each account.

TDFPD's Community Involvement account is sitting as cash with investment growth potential. It would be in the District's best interest to have these funds managed through Parasol who could promote it to their donors, invest it for growth, and disburse it as per the District's instructions.

If ever needed, liquid funds are more accessible through Parasol due to constant shifting of money in the organization. With the District's current investing restrictions, moving the funds to Parasol Group would allow for far less restrictions and higher investment rates to get the most out of these funds.

Chief Lindgren asked, "How would we go about applying to set up a fund with Parasol?"

Anderson confirmed there is an application process with a minimum of \$20,000 to open a fund.

Trustee Felton asked if the Fire Flow Initiative would qualify for being a fund managed by Parasol?

Chief Lindgren stated that in the future it possibly could. We would definitely need to discuss that move with our accountant Bill Johnson, but we do have a lot of money in the fund that is just sitting still; by utilizing Parasol the District could see some increased interest and better management.

Moving forward into next month's meeting, the Trustees will be asked to vote on the approval to move funds currently in the Community Involvement & Fire Rescue Helicopter checking accounts under the management of the Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation.

11. Presentation:

Wildland Fire & Fuels – 2021 Season Review and 2022 Season planning and projections.

Battalion Chief/Crew Superintendent Matt Fogarty

Summary given by Matt Fogarty:

Chief Fogarty covered the overview of the last fire season, including a lot of growth within the Wildland Fire & Fuel Division; partnerships with TRCD, the NV Energy Contract; and doubling our past crew numbers.

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Defensible Space - 260 Defensible Space Inspections and 649 Curbside inspections were completed by 5 inspector team.

Curbside Chipping - 81 requests in District and 171 in South Lake Tahoe. Crews actually did a lot of chipping in District on Community Workdays, which our homeowners know they do not have to call and request. We have communicated the program dates very well, and the neighborhoods are ready when the crews arrive.

Community Workdays - 14 days in the District with an additional 6 days in South Lake Tahoe funded through TRCD.

2022 Compost your Combustibles - This year the program was open for 8 weeks, longer than prior years with a total of 643,460 lbs. of organic material collected/recycled.

Wildland Fire Responses:

Park Fire (Local)
Jack's Valley Fire
Petrilla Fire
Mineral Fire
Prison Hill Fire
Beckwourth Complex
Tamarack Fire
Boundry Fire (Idaho)
French Fire (Idaho)
Caldor (Local)

Zephyr Crew 21/20

Total Fires: 10
Days Committed: 74

Brush 25 (NV Energy/Shoreline Crew)

Total Fires: 5
Days Committed: 29

Trustee Felton asked about the timeline of needing to be in partnership with NV Energy in order to pay off all the new equipment the District has received?

Chief Lindgren stated there is a 3-year contract in place for the equipment. After both parties have agreed on the purchase, the District places the order and pays for the equipment upon delivery. The District then invoices NV Energy for the full cost of the equipment, and they have been very prompt with payment. After that, the full number of hours that the equipment is utilized for NV Energy projects is tracked and deducted until

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the full amount of purchase is covered. Once paid in full, the District will then only charge NV Energy for maintenance costs.

Total Standby Service Days for NV Energy:

B25: 16
Crew 20: 4
Crew 21: 8

Total Standby Service Days For USFS:

Crew 20: 4
Crew 21: 9

Moving forward, the Zephyr Crew will be able to treat the urban USFS lots within our District which will dramatically improve the defensible space within our neighborhoods. The District has not been able to do in the past and it's a huge concern for our residents.

Brush 25 is approximately 70% completed with their infrastructure protection projects for the yearly projections.

Zephyr Crew completed 40 acres within the White property which is a part of a SNPLMA funded project; and an additional 10 acres were treated on private homeowner projects.

In 2021 the crew grew to 40 members. For 2022, the Zephyr Crew will hire to 35 and the NV Energy Crew to 29.

Tree Work at Sierra At Tahoe:

In the aftermath of the Caldor Fire, the Zephyr Crew donated a couple of weeks work to remove debris and help the Sierra staff get back on the road to recovery. Nearly 600 trees were dropped per day by our wildland firefighters, allowing many of them to get signed off on much needed certifications while helping our neighbors.

12. Discussion and Possible Action:

Discussion and possible action to allocate additional money within the Fire Flow Initiative Fund (70). Capital Outlay line item to be increased by up to \$300,000 to cover the difference between the insurance reimbursement and replacement costs for Marine 24 which has been totaled.

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

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Summary:

A forensic report was provided by the insurance company, who is currently working on getting a better compensation for our boat - ideally at the same rate the District originally purchased. The boat was has been sold by the insurance company and should be picked up shortly.

After an agreement is settled with the insurance company, the District will need to get a new boat into production ASAP at an estimated total cost of approximately \$600,000 including a trailer. After reviewing three design quotes from separate manufacturers, the District will likely place an order with Lake Assault, the maker of Marine 24. The vendor has agreed to push our boat to the front of their production line, if we decide to move forward with them. In order to do so, we will need the approval of \$160,000 allocated from the fire Flow Fund to make the purchase possible.

Trustee Kjer asked if there were going to be any differences between the new and previous Marine 24 designs?

Chief Lindgren stated that yes, we were able to get with our boat experts to discuss features we could and couldn't live without, as well as new features that have hit the market since our initial design that would be useful to the marine operations.

New protocols will also be in place to allow for the anticipation of bad weather and strong winds so the boat can be pulled and held a Cave Rock Landing to keep it safe from damage.

Trustee Felton asked if the decision to augment the funds now would affect our chances to receive grant funds in the future?

Chief Lindgren assured Trustee Felton that it would not affect any future grant funding opportunities although the District does not plan to utilize any grant funds for Marine 24.

Trustee Schussel made a motion to approve the allocation of funds within the Fire Flow Initiative Fund to purchase the boat. Trustee Kjer seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

13. Report Item:

District Division Reports

Assistant Chief Bryce Cranch

- **A Shift** - Employee physicals are currently being scheduled with ARC Health to begin in March. All full-time employees will receive a physical exam.

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- **C Shift** - Chief Prather along with Fleet Manager Dagenhart were monumental in the recovery efforts of Marine 24.
- **B Shift** - Chief Brady played a crucial role as the Incident Management on the Zephyr Heights water line break.
- **Class 21-02** - Academy graduates have started on their shifts as probationary FF/PM and we are excited to have them.
- **Testing** - Currently conducting 6 months testing for a few employees.
- **Probationary Periods** - Our 5 FF/PM hired in the previous round have all completed their 1-year probationary periods.
- **Call Volume** - Call volume down from previous year.
- **Boat Response** - DCSO's boat is back on the water, it can handle 1200 GPM at a standpipe and will be a great resource on the lake while we work on getting Marine 24 back and operational.

Fire Marshal Eric Guevin

- **IDT Plans** - Electronic plan system has been updated to make things easier on the user and the inspector.
- **EOD / Tracker + Rowlett** – FI Rowlett and Tracker were recently recertified for another year.
- **Harrah's Alarm System** - Still being serviced
- **Zephyr Crew Housing** - Working with the casinos and other commercial properties throughout the District to find a solution to the need for space to house the Zephyr Crew during the possible remodel at Station 22 the summer.

14. Report Item:

Review of Monthly Fire District Activities

Fire Chief Lindgren

- **TahoeSouth Event Center** - Construction is underway and on schedule. TDFPD crews will have a chance to walk the event space and gain an idea of the capacity and various response needs required once the space becomes operational in 2023.
- **Lakeside Inn** - The property is not being demolished as quickly as expected. Their hazardous abatement was recently completed, now they are just waiting on the weather. In the meantime, crews have been granted the OK to go in and salvage all reusable materials from both the Lakeside Casino property as well as the old Tahoe Beach Club office.

15. Report Item:

OPERATION: Save The Tahoe Basin - Fire Rescue Helicopter Program

- **Brochure** - A brochure has been created for the public and is being distributed as basic information on the project.
- **Celebrity Spokespersons** - 2 celebrity spokespeople for the program volunteered support and will be a part of all advertising and marketing needs moving forward.
- **Location** - A permanent location still needs to be established, working with several local connections to find out what all our options are before agreeing to anything.
- **Basin Collaboration** - Currently meeting with the other surrounding Basin Fire Chiefs to gain support for the program which will help expand fundraising efforts..
- **Fuels Breaks** - Currently being mapped out, and then will be assessed to see what it would take to get this project rolling ASAP.

Public Comment

Legal Counsel Devon Reese reported that the NV Attorney General has moved to agree with the motion that there was not a violation of the open meeting law involving the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team of which TDFPD is a member. Complaint was from 1 ½ years ago.

Discussion Confirm next meeting, with a proposed date of Wednesday, March 16, 2022 with a start time of 2:30 p.m. and possible agenda items.

Adjourn.