

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PREVENTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
**November 16, 2016**

**Those Present:**

Chairman Greg Felton (by phone)  
Vice Chairman Bill Kirschner  
Trustee Kevin Kjer  
Trustee Steve Seibel  
Trustee Larry Schussel  
Fire Chief Scott Baker  
Legal Counsel Jason Guinasso  
Assistant Chief Jim Antti  
Battalion Chief Rich Nalder  
Battalion Chief Todd Moss  
Battalion Chief Ralph Jones  
Fire Marshal Eric Guevin

Fire Inspector Todd Stroup  
Office Manager Kate Warner  
Accounting Specialist Carrie Nolting  
Administrative Assistant Erin Allison  
Forester John Pickett  
Captain Andy Isenberg  
Captain Chris Peterson  
Engineer Justin Reddig  
Engineer Nathan Johnson  
Guest Ann Grant  
Guest Gary Midkiff

**1. Call to Order.**

Meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Pledge of allegiance was led by guest Ann Grant.

**3. Roll Call.**

Vice Chairman Kirschner, Trustee Kjer, Trustee Seibel, and Trustee Schussel were present, and Chairman Felton was present by phone. A quorum was present.

**4. Approval of the Agenda.**

Trustee Seibel motioned to approve the agenda. Trustee Schussel seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

**5. Public Comment.**

Ann Grant thanked Engineer Johnson and Captain Isenberg on behalf of the CERT team for training on how to inflate and set up the hazmat rehab tent. Trustee Seibel congratulated Ann

Grant, Trustee Schussel, and Chairman Felton for their election to the Board. Vice Chairman Kirschner seconded the congratulations for all.

**6. Approval of the Consent Calendar.**

Items:

- a. Approval of Minutes 10/26/16
- b. Monthly Expenditures
- c. Board Goals & Objectives – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter update

Trustee Kjer motioned to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Trustee Seibel seconded the motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion approved 5-0.

**7. For Possible Action: Consent items moved forward.**

None.

**8. Presentation: Employee Recognition.**  
Fire Chief Scott Baker

Chief Baker thanked everyone who ran for the Board elections and congratulated those who were elected.

Chief Baker congratulated Captains Isenberg and C. Peterson for completing their probationary year as Captains. He also recognized Union President Engineer Johnson for the coordination of the fire district's participation in Fire Ops 101. He thanked Engineer Reddig for being instrumental with the new hose lays and all of the hose testing that the crews have completed.

Chief Jones introduced Battalion Chief Ralph Jones and his wife Julia, who pinned Chief Jones with his Battalion Chief badge. Chief Baker presented his Battalion Chief helmet shield and congratulated him on his promotion.

Chief Baker presented a shadow box containing one of the original Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Department jackets and read the plaque as follows:

*"This Kingsbury Volunteer jacket belonged to Bobbi Kirschner, wife of Bill Kirschner, who served as a volunteer firefighter from 1970 to 1976, as president of Kingsbury Fire from 1972 to 1976, and frequently at Christmas as Santa Clause. Bill and Bobbi's son Glenn Kirschner and his best friend Ralph Jorgenson were also volunteers. In 2015, Bill was elected to serve as a trustee for the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District Fire Board."*

Chief Baker presented the shadow box to Vice Chairman Kirschner who thanked everyone for the recognition. The shadow box will be displayed at Station 21.

**9. Presentation: Update on the fire flow issues in under-served areas of the Fire District.**  
Fire Chief Scott Baker  
Fire Marshal Eric Guevin

Chief Baker updated the board on the progress with the fire flow issues:

- Trained our crews to ensure that all of our firefighters know what would be required in these unique areas;
- Hosted public meetings with Fire Marshal Guevin and Chief Baker to inform the homeowners on the same;
- Reviewed North Lake Tahoe Fire’s fire flow plan;
- Contacted CPA Bill Johnson and confirmed that fire district can receive donated funds and determined how the funds could be used for a fire flow program; and
- Contacted Steven Gross from Porter & Simon Law Offices.

Fire Marshal Guevin reported that he consulted with Nevada Taxation Department regarding the fund and how we could manage the funds that could be applied to this project. The incorporation of donated money does not appear to be an issue, and it was recommended we place it into our normal operations account.

We held public meeting for Pittman Terrace residents and 14 residents participated. During the meeting, topics discussed included code review, code requirements, and the three options that currently exist for residents. Those options are for residents to develop their own fire flow, buy into the proposed program, or the possible boat/water supply program. Developer responsibility also was discussed, and Chris Sauer presented a proposal for a community water system. There were concerns about the legal requirements of homeowners and whether they were required to provide fire flow for themselves and the community, and the answer is there are not. The houses are existing non-conforming, but topics of sale of a home and notification of the potential future homeowner, insurance coverage, and remodeling were discussed. Residents are legally responsible to disclose the fire flow issue to potential future owners, and if any remodeling is to be done, fire flow will be a requirement.

It was clarified that even though Chris Sauer presented a separate proposal, TDFPD called the meeting to address the issues for our residents.

The Bentley Trust had a large representation, including their lawyer; and they may be interested in participating in the program.

Fire Marshal Guevin and Chief Baker took a tour of the water front by boat thanks to Midkiff and Associates. They assessed the shoreline and shallows to see if it would be possible to utilize a boat. They also looked at piers to see if any would be appropriate.

We have received an anonymous pledge for a donation of \$300,000 and another pledge for \$75,000 from a person who is currently developing on the lakefront; however there are time limits attached and stipulates for fire flow/water supply.

Fire Marshal Guevin has been working with Chief Baker to look at funding for a sustainable program. For the program to be successful and sustainable, we are looking for approximately \$750,000 and would need that amount in pocket or pledged to be able to move forward. Those funds would cover a water tender, possible pier development, or a water supply program, which would be all inclusive, not just the fire boat, and would be something that could be utilized in other areas of the district.

As mentioned, over the past few weeks, crews have completed water tender drills and have been learning a lot of beneficial skills and lessons on the possible use of a water tender as part of the water supply program.

We are working on an agreement to be flushed through with legal to see how we can accept the funds. Tax deductions (for the donors) are the big issues because they can count it in whole as a contribution and be tax deductible. Because we are not mandating participation in the program or how residents determine/secure fire flow, they can't get a certificate of occupancy if they don't meet the requirements.

Chief Baker commented that the boat would include training as well. The water tender was included in the plan after Carl Rucshmeier gave his presentation at September's Board meeting. The pier came into the plan once other agencies became included in paying for the pier, and we are now planning to use the money we had for the pier for the water tender.

Trustee Schussel asked if the other agencies would be contributing to the pier. Chief Baker responded yes, it would be a public safety pier.

Aramark (Zephyr Cove Lodge) has promised that we can use their pier until the public safety pier is completed and ready for use.

Trustee Seibel asked if the pier would be at the Dryfus estate. Chief Baker responded yes, most likely because it is the easiest access point for us.

Vice Chairman Kirschner asked if there are plans for farther down the road. Chief Baker responded that any public improvement plan is down the road. This is a quick fix for the problem at hand, but the public improvement plan is the real answer and we will continue to move forward on that.

**10. For Discussion and Possible Action:**

**For discussion and possible action to approve the POOL/PACT Risk Management Grant totaling \$35,242.00 for one new Stryker Gurney and Load-Pro System. The Fire District would be responsible for \$8,810.50 (25%).**  
Fire Chief Scott Baker  
Battalion Chief Todd Moss

Chief Baker explained that POOL/PACT has given us the opportunity to be part of this grant, which has to be presented to and accepted by the Board. POOL/PACT They would fund \$26,431.50 of the expense.

**Chief Moss**

Chief Allison applied for this grant a few years ago, and we currently have three of these systems in use. Back injuries are one of the biggest problems for people within the EMS professions. Being a paramedic for 16 years himself, he can attest to this. Before Tahoe Douglas started using these systems, we lost two employees to early retirements due to back injuries that occurred when operating or moving gurneys.

The Load-Pro System is a carriage system that comes out of the back of the ambulance, and the gurney hooks into the carriage and you press a button to load the patient. We are looking to buy a new ambulance in 2017, so this system would go into that ambulance to make it be fully equipped, mirroring the rest of our ambulances .

Back injuries can cost about \$70,000 or a person's career, so these systems are a great risk management tool to try to prevent back injuries.

Trustee Seibel asked if this would be for the gurney only. Chief Moss explained that there are two parts - a docking system and the stand alone gurney.

Trustee Seibel commented that it would be the total package that would go in the new ambulance, and Chief Moss confirmed.

Legal Counsel Guinasso directed to the Board to make a first motion to accept the \$26,431.50 grant from POOL/PACT, and then make a second motion to supplement the grant with \$8,810.50 from our own budget.

Trustee Schussel motioned to accept the POOL/PACT grant for \$26,431.50. Trustee Seibel seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Trustee Schussel motioned to acknowledge we would pay \$8,810.50 out of our budget for 25% of the total project. Trustee Seibel seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Chief Moss thanked the Board.

**11. Report Item: Review of Monthly Fire District Activities.**  
Fire Chief Scott Baker

Chief Baker recognized Mechanic Gregg Gemmet for his 18 years of service. He is resting comfortably at home after double bypass surgery. He will be out for a month and then will return to light duty for 2-3 months.

Chief Baker recognized Engineers Fine, Apple, and Reddig, and Firefighter/Paramedic Vandover for their 4 years of service.

Fire Inspector Stroup has been working with Reno Fire and Red Cross on the vibro-tactile alarms that can be used for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Fires double in size every minute, and many home fires result from bedroom fire or living room fire. Early notification to get occupants out early is very important. For education in the past, fire departments have used the saying "hear the beep where you sleep," but the problem is that not everyone can hear the beep. In homes where deaf or hard of hearing people live, 98% do not have a non-auditory fire alarm because many don't know there is an alternative. Research has found that strobe lights are not effective at waking people up. The intermittent tactile alarm that vibrates is 100% effective for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as people who are not deaf or hard of hearing. Approximately 15% of American adults have hearing issues. Hearing difficulty is defined as deaf or having serious difficulty hearing.

In the vibro-tactile research, they test three groups: hearing able, hard of hearing (minor hearing loss – significant hearing loss), and deaf. In our district, there are 161 individuals that fall in these categories. We will work with American Red Cross and Reno Fire Department to supply these individuals with strobe and vibro-tactile alarms. The Deaf Center of Nevada will be providing interpreters during this process for public education on the alarms for those with hearing difficulty.

Chief Baker commented that this is all at no cost to us, and we are going out to contact the residents in need.

Vice Chairman Kirschner asked how the device works and what it shakes to wake the person up. Fire Inspector Stroup responded that it is a two part system with a strobe light and the alarm. There is a disc about the size of a hockey puck that is placed either under the mattress or pillow and is connected to the alarm that ties into the smoke detector system. It is like a special type of alarm clock that detects the smoke detector sound that activates the vibro-tactile alarm.

Vice Chairman Kirschner asked if it is wireless. Fire Inspector Stroup responded that yes it is wireless.

The new auditors are doing a very thorough job. They thought they found a discrepancy, which is nothing we have done wrong, but is holding us up. They expect to meet the deadline on November 30th. Once they have completed the audit, we have 30 days to present to board. The auditors will be in attendance at the December Board meeting. Reviews have been made, and it should be ready soon. Chief Baker recognized Accounting Specialist Nolting and Office Manager Warner for the long hard hours they have put into the audit.

The next fire academy is coming up and testing will be starting on December 5<sup>th</sup> and will run throughout the week. Applications are in for a Firefighter/Paramedic. Carson, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, North Tahoe Fire Protection District, East Fork Fire Protection District, and Storey County Fire Department are participating in the academy.

The Healthcare committee is reviewing with BRG brokers to work on plans and rates for next year. There have been discussions of rates between 18-28%. We will provide an update when we have more information.

International Trauma Life Support of Nevada sent a letter thanking Captain Green, who has been very involved and is on the state faculty. It is very valuable to us and the state to have him involved.

**12. Report Item: Review of Fire District Division Reports.**  
Assistant Chief Jim Antti  
Battalion Chief Todd Moss

#### **Chief Antti**

Chief Antti thanked the Board and thanked everyone for helping with his transition into the Assistant Chief position.

The Consortium testing is starting December 5<sup>th</sup> with the written test and will run throughout the week. There are around 45 applicants for all agencies, but not all are applicable to us because some agencies are taking EMT IIs. Physical agility testing will be on December 6<sup>th</sup>, and December 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will be the Assessment Center and interviews. The Academy will begin on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Engineer Reddig will be the Regional Training Officer again. He did a great job with the last group and received high marks last time. The Academy gets stronger and stronger every time. We are participating throughout the entire process for all different aspects of testing.

Type I Engine from Ferrara has been spearheaded by Engineer Reddig, who has been getting weekly questions from the engineers to tweak the project to meet our needs. Due to severe flooding in the Southern US, delivery has been delayed to April/May 2017. We will be taking a trip to Ferrara for a pre-paint inspection, which will be 30-45 days before final inspection and

delivery.

We received a donation from Glenbrook HOA for \$1,000, which will be used to purchase valving on our tanks to facilitate providing water to non-watered areas. As Fire Marshal Guevin mentioned earlier, the crews have been conducting training on supplying water with an engine, Water Tender, and tank. It has been a really good training opportunity and will lead to other training opportunities in the future.

The Chiefs met and reorganized the staff duties. Chief Antti will be in charge of operations, Chief Jones will be in charge of training/safety, Chief Moss will be in charge of EMS, and Chief Nalder will be in charge of facilities and vehicles.

Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> is Fire Ops 101, which Office Manager Warner, Accounting Specialist Nolting, Trustees Kjer, and Kirschner will be attending. This will be the first time Tahoe Douglas is participating in this event. We will also be sending a crew and an engine for the extrication demo, and we are all looking forward to it. Our Local 2441 Association and Union President Nathan Johnson were acknowledged for hosting the event.

### **Chief Moss**

We are pretty close to the inception of a Ground Emergency Medical Transport program. We transport everyone whether they have insurance or not. Through the CMS Medicare program, we will be reimbursed on any Medicaid patients that we transport. Right now, we get \$200-\$300 reimbursement for transporting Medicaid patients, but transports can cost anywhere from \$1,000-\$1,500. The process of getting this program started has been evolving for the last 5 years. Chief Allison was part of starting this with other chiefs and consultants in the area. Once this program is active, it will increase the Medicaid reimbursement to about \$1,000 per call. We don't have very many Medicaid patients in our area, but about \$8,000-\$10,000 extra per year will be brought in. Other districts like Carson City Fire Department and East Fork Fire Protection District, will benefit greatly from this program. We are expecting it to be in place early next year, and it will be retroactive for all Medicaid transports from September 2016 to the present.

Vice Chairman Kirschner asked what a transport includes.

Chief Moss responded any transport expenses for a Medicaid patient.

Gunner and Chief Moss have completed the 120 hour Explosive Detection Canine program. They are the first certified team in Douglas County. Chief Moss thanked the STAR alliance for a \$2,000 donation to our EDC program which will be used for a heat detection system for the canine vehicle. Gunner goes where Chief Moss goes 100% of time, and sometimes he gets left in the car. The heat sensor will notify Chief Moss when the temperature of the vehicle is at a dangerous level. If there is a heat emergency, the lights and sirens will go off and the windows will roll down.



Chief Baker commented that Chief Moss received exceptional marks from all his instructors on his certification tests with Gunner.

**13. Discussion: Confirm next meeting, with a proposed date of Wednesday December 14, 2016 with a start time of 2:30 p.m. and possible agenda items.**

Meeting confirmed for Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with a start time of 2:30 p.m. in the Station 23 classroom.

Chairman Felton requested an update on the Standards of Coverage at the December meeting.

Chairman Felton complimented the Fire District and Office Manager Warner for the extremely successful blood drive this month. They were able to collect 65 units, which is fantastic.

Chairman Felton recognized Captain Isenberg's accomplishment of completing his Bachelor's Degree within his probationary year as Captain. It is a fantastic accomplishment and Chairman Felton is greatly impressed with Captain Isenberg's commitment and follow through.

Chief Baker commented that next meeting we will have the audit presentation. There are concerns about the timing of accepting funds for the boat, but it will be discussed and a special meeting will be called if it is determined we need one.

**Adjourn.**

Trustee Schussel motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Trustee Kjer seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

**Closed Session: Not needed at this meeting.**

**Erin Allison  
Board Secretary  
Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District**