

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
November 17, 2021

**Those Present:**

Chairman Larry Schussel  
Vice Chairman Bill Kirschner  
Trustee Kevin Kjer

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren  
Trustee Janet Murphy (Late)  
Trustee Greg Felton (Virtual)  
Legal Counsel Alex Velto

**1. Call to Order.**

Meeting was called to order at 2:33pm

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Bill Kirschner.

**3. Roll Call.**

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

**4. Approval of the Agenda.**

Trustee Kirschner made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Trustee Kjer seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

**5. Public Comment.**

None.

**6. Board Trustee Comment.**

Trustee Kirschner addressed a location of brush work for the crews near his house on Terrace View. FMO Schafer has met with the property owner & plans to tack the work this winter season.

**7. Approval of the Consent Calendar.**

**Items:**

- a. Board Meeting Minutes 10/20/2021
- b. Monthly Expenditures
- c. Financials – 03/31/2021, 04/30/21, 05/31/21, 06/30/21

Trustee Kjer motioned to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Trustee Kirschner seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

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

None.

**9. Presentation:**

**Employee Recognition**

**OCTOBER:**

Firefighter/Paramedic Josef Almeida	1 year of service
Firefighter/Paramedic Cade Bolton	1 year of service
Firefighter/Paramedic Joseph Fording	1 year of service
Firefighter/Paramedic Corey McCarthy	1 year of service
Firefighter/Paramedic Matthew Steventon	1 year of service
Firefighter/AEMT Nolan Weintz	1 year of service

**NOVEMBER:**

Fleet Manager Justin Dagenhart	2 years of service
Engineer Scott Vandover	9 years of service
Engineer Paul Apple	9 years of service
Captain Kyle Fine	9 years of service
Captain Justin Reddig	9 years of service

**NEW EMPLOYEES:**

Firefighter/Paramedic Curtis Baker

**VETERAN's:**

**United States Army**

Firefighter/Paramedic Josef Almeida  
Engineer Paul Apple  
Captain Kevin Green  
Trustee Larry Schussel  
Zephyr Crew Member Kenan Hart

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**United States Air Force**

Zephyr Crew Member Kevin Jerde

**United States Navy**

Firefighter/Paramedic Gregory Koeck  
Trustee Bill Kirschner

**United States Army National Guard**

Firefighter/Paramedic Joseph Fording

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

**Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #13-2021 adopting fee changes with Fire Recovery USA for non-resident fire recovery services. Second reading, action will be taken.**

Administrative Division Officer Kate Warner

Trustee Felton asked, "If there is a multiple vehicle accident, do we wait to bill the responsible party?"

ADO Warner responded, "Yes we do wait, and we only bill the insurance companies provided by the patient."

Trustee Felton also asked, "For back country rescue missions, teams like Search and Rescue don't charge, is that the case with TDFPD?"

ADO Warner responded, "In the past we have not billed for those types of incidents, at this time we do not intend to implement that in the future."

Trustee Felton also asked legal counsel Velto, "Are we okay with having a fee structure in place for these types of incidents?"

Legal Counsel Velto stated that we should be legally compliant with the methods in place.

Trustee Kirschner motioned to approve Resolution #13-2021 as presented. Trustee Kjer seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

**11. Presentation:**

**Tahoe Douglas Fire & Rescue Helicopter Program**

Fire Chief Scott Lindgren

**Trustee Murphy Arrival - 3:01pm**

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Chief Lindgren began by covering all the current public services we offer to the community, and how the Helicopter program would improve those services already in place. Chief Lindgren also discusses the year's fire season we experienced with Tamarack and Caldor and how these conditions are the new normal; to have these threats right in our backyard is something we need to be taking very seriously and attacking proactively by having the resources in place to stop a wildfire from creating mass devastation in our district and the surrounding areas.

Currently, there isn't a designated aerial resource for any part of the Tahoe Basin. Tahoe Douglas Fire, along with other basin agencies are on board to implement a Helicopter Fire Rescue program under Tahoe Douglas Fire's jurisdiction. Currently, the plan is to have two aerial resources, one for outsourcing and resource requests to assist with funding and maintenance expenses, another for 24/7 local protection. There is also a strict maintenance schedule, so it is necessary to have two aerial resources in case one is Out of service for maintenance and or repairs.

**What else would a program like this provide?**

- Initial fire attack that would suppress fires quickly when they are small – 24/7, 365 days.
- Emergency Rescue from the air - 24/7, 365 days.
- The capability of dropping 1,000 gallons of water on a fire.
- The capability to drop a Heli-tack Crew on the ground for fire suppression.
- An onboard paramedic with full advanced life support equipment to perform emergency life-saving skills.
- A hoist to perform rescues in remote or hard to get to locations.
- The capability for night flying to detect and suppress fires and for search and rescue operations.
- Non-emergency fuels reduction work to establish fuel breaks around neighborhoods and businesses in the Lake Tahoe area.

**How can you help make this program a reality?**

- **Public Support – SPREADING THE WORD** - We need your help in spreading the word of this new program to your friends, neighbors, HOA's, etc.

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- **Political Support** – TDFPD is in the process of contacting local, state, and federal government officials for their support in making this program a reality for the Tahoe Basin.
- **Charitable Donations** – We have an online donation option set up for community members and businesses to donate towards the helicopter program.

**Other Services:**

- **Medical Abilities** - We will be able to provide higher risk medical service and rescue operations without competing with the transportation operations currently run by the Northern NV Hospital units.
- **High Rise Rescue** – In situations where a fire breaks out at one of the casino or resort properties, we will be able to provide high rise rescue missions.
- **Avalanche Rescue** – If there is an event where a ski resort or back country location is in need of ariel support in an avalanche search and rescue operation, we would be able to provide our assistance.

Ideally, we would like to outfit our helicopters as fully serviced Black Hawk T1 units. These will allow the maximum dropping and hoisting capabilities as well as the greatest ability to fly in higher altitudes up here in the mountains.

After the program is underway, we can sustain the funding with partner agencies throughout the district and basin. We will also contract the helicopters as a fire resource across the United States to be ordered for a wildfire or rescue needs year-round.

Trustee Kjer asked if there will be an informational hand out to share with the public?

We are currently working on a flyer that will be mailed out as well as pushing info out in media. Groups and businesses throughout the community will also be able to book a formal presentation with Chief Lindgren.

**12. Report Item:**

**District Division Reports**

**Fire Chief Scott Lindgren**

Over the weekend on Saturday, Both TDFPD and Zephyr Crew members (25 total) participated in a charity run for Wildland Firefighters Association – crew member Matt Hakin took 3rd place overall.

**Fire Marshal Eric Guevin**

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Fire Marshal Guevin stated that the Tahoe South Event Center will be moving steel gutters next week which will require lots of trucks and activity. Still planning on opening spring of 2023. Will be working throughout the winter season depending on wind/weather conditions.

**FMO Keegan Schafer**

No Report

**Office Manager Kate Warner**

No Report

**Public Comment:** None.

Confirm next meeting, with a proposed date of **Wednesday, December 29, 2021** with a start time of 2:30p.m.

**Adjourn**

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