

# Ebbetts Pass Fire District



## MINUTES

Board of Directors

July 20, 2021

### SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

1. The meeting was called to order with proper social distancing among everyone and with accommodation for the public through the use of Zoom Meetings at 9:00 A.M. Board President Denny Clemens called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Directors present: Denny Clemens  
Jon Dashner  
Scott McKinney  
Pete Neal  
Absent: Michael Barr

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson  
District Secretary Cheryl Howard  
Battalion Chief Aaron Downing

Others present via Zoom Meeting: Cameron Weist, Weist Law  
Media present: None

2. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENT** - None

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Mr. McKinney made a motion to approve the 6/15/21 Minutes, 6/21/21 Minutes and the June 2021 Checks Listing and authorize to file for audit. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal; ABSENT: Barr).

The Board determined to move on in the agenda to allow time for Dmitry Semenov to join the meeting.

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### 4.2. Personnel Committee (Directors Dashner & McKinney)

Chief Johnson reported that he had included in the packet the results of the recent Captain's promotional testing process. The list was listed in the order of ranking on the test and would be in effect from 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2023. He added that

Battalion Chief O'Donnell had conducted the testing and even Mr. Neal had participated in a couple of capacities during the testing along with several fire chiefs and CalFire chiefs.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Clemens & Neal)

Chief Johnson reported that he was hoping to meet as a committee maybe later this week to discuss the new District Ordinance and the court system.

4.4. Apparatus/Equipment Committee (Directors McKinney & Neal)

Battalion Chief Aaron Downing reported on the current challenge for replacement of a vehicle due to the ongoing pandemic-generated supply chain impact.

5. Scheduled Items

5.1 EPFD Intra-Account Budget Transfer—End Fiscal Year 2020-21

Chief Johnson noted that the Board had previously approved Resolution 2021-6 Authorizing Calaveras County Auditor's Office Budget Transfers. He then explained that the Intra-account transfers were within the Fire, Paramedic, and Ambulance Budgets themselves so that the accounts would not show negative balances. Chief Johnson noted that the transfers as presented were already shown on the account summaries. The Board's consensus was to approve intra-account transfers as presented.

4.1.1. California Municipal Advisors LLC Discussion/Action Regarding Refinancing of District's Outstanding CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL)

The Board members determined to go to this discussion while Cameron Weist was available to report. Cameron Weist reported that the financing plan had been executed to essentially to script with the loan being achieved and the move forward with the paydown of the PERS UAL and the Resolution that was presented for the Board's consideration. [At this point there was a problem with the internet and Mr. Weist was disconnected.] Chief Johnson then reported on the financing and noted various contents of Resolution 2021-07. After a brief discussion, Mr. Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-07 as presented which is a Resolution Approving the Form and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Certain Financing Documents in Connection with the Refinancing Part or All of the District's Outstanding Unfunded Accrued Liability to the California Public Employees' Retirement System, and Providing for Other Matters Properly Relating Thereto. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal; ABSENT: Barr).

5.2. Co. of Calaveras Public Works Dept: Blagen Road Repair Project Public Meeting

Chief Johnson reported that this was notification of an upcoming meeting which he planned to attend and would bring back information for the Board.

5.3. Co. of Calaveras Public Works Dept: Calaveras Roadside Fire Fuels Reduction

Chief Johnson reported this had been the response to the Board's letter sent following the June Board meeting.

5.4. SDRMA: 2022 SDRMA Health Benefits Rate Changes

Chief Johnson reported this was information on the medical insurance premiums effective 1/01/22 which included a 3.3% increase in premiums. He noted that the PERS Health Benefits were reporting a 7.67% increase and added that, if savings were there, he would be seeking it out.

5.5. PG&E Granted Easement at Calaveras County Library, Arnold

Chief Johnson noted that this had been presented for the Board's information and that the item remaining for completion of the micro-grid project was approval from CalTrans of the permit to connect to the underground near the highway. It was unknown if approval would be achieved prior to this year's potential public safety power shutoffs (PSPS).

6. **REPORTS**6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson reported the previous month had been busy with the holiday including a parade and he noted the great job done by Erin Felby on the District's float. There had been several deployments for wildland fires including a line medic assignment. He thanked the Battalion Chiefs for their continuous efforts toward staff planning activities. He also noted the financial auditor had begun collecting information for this year's audit.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson reported briefly on AB389 regarding the Contra Costa model of ambulance provision where it had been challenged in court.

[Able to restart the Zoom Meeting on the internet and the Cameron Weist rejoined the meeting.] The Board members reported to Cameron Weist that they had approved the Resolution. Mr. Weist then gave some information regarding the recent report on PERS having 21% on earnings for the year.

6.3. Administrative - EMS

Chief Johnson reported that the District had adjusted its billing structure with the new bundled structure as of July 1, 2021.

7. **COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONSIDERATIONS**7.1. Board Members

Mr. Clemens noted that he liked the District and Board being fiscally responsible with its revenues and expenditures.

7.2. Firefighters Association – Chief Johnson reported there had been a great beer booth over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend and thanked all the Board members for their volunteerism there.7.3. Employees' Group – None

7.4. Public Comments  
None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McKinney made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard  
District Secretary