

Ebbetts Pass Fire District



MINUTES

Board of Directors
November 21, 2023

APPROVED 12/19/2023

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. with additional accommodation for the public through the use of Zoom Meetings. Board President Scott McKinney called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson, Erin Felby, Rodney Hendrix
Aaron Downing, James Crabtree, Glenn Verkerk
Josilyn Layton

Others present via Zoom Meeting: Cheryl Howard, Bertha Underhill
Public present: None

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

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Mr. Barr made a motion to approve Consent Items 3.1 and 3.2. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 4.1. Finance Committee (Directors Dashner & Barr)

Chief Johnson reported there were only six weeks left until the midpoint of the fiscal year and the first Teeter allocations. He added that the revenue from ambulance transports were better than budgeted for this point in the fiscal year.

4.2. Personnel/Safety Committee (Directors Dashner & McKinney)

Chief Johnson reported there were no new injuries although one employee was currently off due to an old injury.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Clemens & Neal)

Chief Johnson reported there had been a Calaveras County JPA meeting and Doug Oliver had reported there would be an interim Fire Prevention Officer with the County interim appointment of Michael Clark in January. Additionally, BC Aaron Downing and FPO Joan Lark had recently inspected/toured Timber Trails and had noted the large strides towards fuels reduction completed around and within the community.

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

Battalion Chief Aaron Downing reported on the status of the apparatus and the ordered chassis.

5. Scheduled Items5.1. Consideration of Scholarship for Paramedic Program Applicant Josilyn Layton

Firefighter-EMT Josilyn Layton asked for the Board's support for her to participate in the Paramedic Hybrid Program at Sacramento State University. She explained the three phases that would be required of her upon acceptance to the program—Didactic, Clinical, and Internship. Noting the school only planned to have the one hybrid class this year had moved up her consideration of participation, she explained there would be times when she would be needing coverage especially while she attended classes during the Didactic whereas during the other two phases she should be able to schedule around her on-duty schedule. After some discussion with Chief Johnson regarding medic requirements by the District, Mr. Barr made a motion to approve the Josilyn Layton's request for the District to reimburse her for class registration costs to obtain her Paramedic certification and license and to also cover her shift time when needed. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0.

5.2. Health Management Associates: CY 2022 Inter Governmental Transfer (IGT) Revenue

Chief Johnson reported the IGT amount is estimated to be \$644,939 which is very good. He reminded the Board of the potential of using this as a paydown toward the PERS UAL.

5.3. CalPERS Additional UAL Payment to Avoid Negative Amortization for Plans

Chief Johnson reported that this was the correspondence showing the Board-approved payment to PERS.

5.4. Employee Reimbursement Report – Fiscal Year 2022-23

Chief Johnson noted this report was one to be done annually in the effort to show government transparency. Mr. Barr made a motion to approve the Employee Reimbursement Report for Fiscal Year 2022-23 as presented. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0.

5.5. EPFD Appropriations (Gann) Limit Calculations

Chief Johnson reported that he and Cheryl Howard had met recently with County Counsel regarding the District's challenge to stay under its Gann Limit. He noted the challenge was with the approval of the third special tax which had included the wording for approving a higher Gann Limit was only allowed for four years. He noted efforts to stay below the Gann Limit were successful in gaining knowledge if not creating a stay of the increased limit and more discussion would be necessary during the coming months.

5.6. EPFD Policy Review:

5.6.1. Policy 6800 Personnel – Physical Medical Exam

Mr. Clemens asked whether a back x-ray could be included in the physical for new hires. The Board's consensus was to table discussion until the next regular meeting.

5.6.2. Policy 6730 Personnel – Drug and Alcohol Abuse --- Testing Circumstances

The Board's consensus was to table discussion until the next regular meeting.

5.6.3. Policy 5060 -- Expense Authorization

5.6.4. Policy 5050 -- Accounting Procedures

Following brief discussion, Mr. Neal made a motion to approve Policy 5060 Expense Authorization and Policy 5050 Accounting Procedures. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.7. December Regular Meeting

The Board's consensus was to have its regular meeting as scheduled on December 19, 2023. Mr. Barr commented that he would be unable to attend.

6. **REPORTS**

6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson noted the Annual Awards Dinner was scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2023. He also noted that the District had received a donation of a refrigerator and a large TV from Aaron Downing's neighbors.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson reported that SB553 required the District to create a comprehensive violence program by July 1, 2024. He expressed the hope that between then and now there would be opportunities to learn and help with its creation.

6.3. Administrative - EMS

Chief Johnson reported that a meeting including American Legion Ambulance, Mountain Counties EMS Agency, and the Sheriff's Office would be done to discuss proper ambulance response to the Murphys area.

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

Mr. Clemens asked the staff to remain safe during the upcoming holidays.

7.2. Firefighters Association

Glenn Verkerk reminded everyone to get their RSVP's in for the Awards Dinner and thanked Mr. Dashner for his donation of the wine for the event.

7.3. Employees' Group

Rodney Hendrix thanked the Board members for their patience with the delay for scheduling a meeting regarding the medical exam policies.

7.4. Public Comments

Bertha Underhill expressed her pleasure that the Board was staying on top of needs within the fire district.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dashner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 5-0. 9:57 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard
District Secretary