

Ebbetts Pass Fire District



MINUTES

Board of Directors

February 15, 2022

APPROVED 03/15/2022

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 Pete Neal called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Directors present: Michael Barr
Jon Dashner
Scott McKinney
Pete Neal

Absent: Denny Clemens

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson
District Secretary Cheryl Howard
Battalion Chief Rodney Hendrix
Battalion Chief Aaron Downing
Captain Shea Buhler
Engineer Jim Eaves

Others present via Zoom Meeting: None

Media 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 4-0 (AYES: Barr, Dashner, Neal, McKinney; ABSENT: Clemens).

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 4.1. Finance Committee (Directors Dashner & Barr)

Chief Johnson reported that the fiduciary consultant that the District had used, CalMuni Advisors, had offered a video regarding financing options that may be present for the District for its five-year plan that included construction of a new

Station 3. He added that he would distribute it to the Board when the video or link was received. He continued with reviewing the District's fiscal position which was close to the previous month's report as the IGT funds had been received and a good month of ambulance revenue.

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

Chief Johnson reported the District's safety record had been discussed along with the District's standing after the recent Covid-19 worker's compensation cases adding that all the staff had recovered. He also reported that the committee was working with Local 3581 in negotiations.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Clemens & Neal)

Chief Johnson reported that Fire Prevention Officer Joan Lark was working toward a meeting for lot cleaners that will be held in March this year. He also noted that he and Joan were working on ordinance language with Nossaman to apply citation fees.

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

Mr. Neal reported they had met with District personnel and reviewed engine build progress. He also suggested more shadowing with the proposed lettering logo.

BC Downing reported on the repair status of District apparatus. He reported that the new BC pickup had arrived and was being readied to send to EVO for radio systems installation. He reported the new UTV was ready for badging and some lights. The directors asked about the track repairs and BC Downing responded that it was all covered under warranty.

5. Scheduled Items

5.1. SDRMA: Workers' Compensation Experience Modification Factor (EMOD)

Chief Johnson briefly described the EMOD as it related to the District's worker's compensation premium amounts and noted that he had included the letter for the Board's information.

5.2. Calaveras Public Power Agency (CPPA): Fiscal Year 2022/23 Rates

Chief Johnson reported that the electricity rates would be going up for the District with an estimated \$2,800 increase for the upcoming fiscal year.

5.3. Dept. of Health Care Services: Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) Refund

Chief Johnson reported there was another request for refund from the GEMT program. He noted that the funds had been received in the past when the District had needed them but now the District was having to refund several overpayments that were determined following fiscal year audits. He added that later in the agenda was a request to increase the budget item for refunds mostly due to all the GEMT refunds having to take place this fiscal year.

5.4. Braun Northwest Inc: New Ambulance Build Proposal

Noting previous discussion regarding the supply chain issues and inflation of various items, Mr. McKinney made a motion to order one each 2023 North Star 153-1 Ambulance as per the Proposal dated 1/25/22. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Barr, Dashner, Neal, McKinney; ABSENT: Clemens).

5.5. Auditor-Controller's Office: Request for 2021-22 Budget Adjustment Account 5612

Mr. Barr made a motion to transfer \$91,210.00 from District Reserves to Expenditure Account 5612 Refunds. Mr. McKinney seconded; motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Barr, Dashner, Neal, McKinney; ABSENT: Clemens).

5.6. Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2021: Salary Adjustment Fiscal Year 2022-23

Chief Johnson noted that the inflation rate for 2021 was the highest it has been in 40 years. He reminded the Board members that the current MOU allowed for negotiation for over 5%. After some discussion, Mr. McKinney made a motion to table discussion regarding the COLA. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Barr, Dashner, Neal, McKinney; ABSENT: Clemens).

6. **REPORTS**6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson reported there was a FDAC Certificate of Achievement in Fire District Leadership class scheduled for February 26-27 in Murphys if anyone was interested in attending.

Chief Johnson reported the citizens' initiative for sales tax to support fire agencies in Calaveras County was still underway and continuing to look for signatures for the ballot measure.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson reported the Legislature and Governor had approved the SPSL (Supplemental Paid Sick Leave) for employees that were sick or had sick family members retroactive to January 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022. He noted administrative staff had begun to apply the hours among the staff.

6.3. Administrative - EMS

Chief Johnson reported that he continued to follow the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency transition closely.

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

Mr. Barr thanked all those involved in negotiations for their proactive efforts in light of the larger inflation factor.

7.2. Firefighters Association

Chief Johnson noted the kids with the Alicia Ann Ruch spring ski trip were to be here in March.

7.3. Employees' Group

None

7.4. Public Comments

None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McKinney made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Barr, Dashner, Neal, McKinney; ABSENT: Clemens).

10:05 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard
District Secretary