

Ebbetts Pass Fire District



MINUTES

Board of Directors

June 21, 2022

APPROVED 07/19/2022

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: Denny Clemens
Jon Dashner
Scott McKinney
Pete Neal

Director absent: Michael Barr

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson, Rodney Hendrix, Cheryl Howard
Dan Bredbenner, Will Koelzow, Eric Riddle
Nick Landuyt, Glenn Verkerk, Aaron Baker

Others present via Zoom Meeting: Aaron Downing
Public present: Dana Nichols, Dolly Jacobson

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 that it seemed the District would carryover the goal of nearly \$4.2 million for reserve. He noted that the PSPS grant-funded replacement generator for Sta. 3 had arrived and plans were to install it after the PSPS season this summer/fall.

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

Chief Johnson reported there had been several overtime shifts with having injured personnel along with normal vacation and he wanted to thank those stepping up to work the overtime keeping the District operational. He reported that six applicants would be testing on June 28th. He also noted that he would be inviting Jeff Gardner to attend a Board meeting to recognize his positive outcome life-saving effort that occurred right after he received his EMR certification.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Clemens & Neal)

Chief Johnson reported that Fire Prevention Officer Joan Lark has gained some success at the courts adding that she was there at the court this morning trying for more success at penalizing non-responding parcel owners.

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

Battalion Chief Aaron Downing was able to show the Board the newly built E435 that the Committee members (Sean Bitner, Bryn Buhler, Shea Buhler, and Aaron Downing) were presently in Wisconsin to conduct the final inspection. He walked around the engine showing various cab areas, compartments, and tools.

5. Scheduled Items5.1. California DHCS: Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Program (GEMT)

Chief Johnson reported that he had included the letter for the Board's information and noted that this was one occasion where the District had received more after a GEMT audit had been conducted.

5.2. Public Provider Ground Emergency Medical Transportation IGT Program (PP GEMT IGT)

Chief Johnson reported this correspondence included information about the new form of GEMT which was reportedly similar to the IGT process which would begin the first quarter of 2023 and would end the QAF program which the District had been having to contribute to and not receive anything from it.

5.3. Citizens' Initiative to Increase Sales Tax by 1% for Calaveras County Fire Services

Chief Johnson invited Dana Nichols to present his information on the proposed initiative for a 1% sales tax to support Calaveras County Fire Services. Mr. Nichols then presented information on the five proponents for the citizens' initiative and how it only requires a majority affirmative vote whereas any brought to the voters from governmental entities requires a 2/3rds affirmative vote.

Dana Nichols utilized his Powerpoint presentation for hitting the highlights of the initiative. He noted the locations of fire stations in Calaveras County noting the varied crew sizes and training levels among the fire districts. He overviewed the previous years of tax revenue within Calaveras County for an estimate of the proposed revenue to be generated and then discussed the allocation method to the fire departments. He answered the various questions from the Board members and asked for individual's support over the coming months.

5.4. EPFD Fire Ban: Review and Consideration of District-wide Fire Ban

Chief Johnson reported that he had included the information from Truckee Fire Protection District which does a fire ban shutting down ember-producing fire as soon as CalFire declares no door-yard burning (usually in June) each year through fire season. He noted that to regulate would be a huge undertaking by the District that could be done with an ordinance and setting up enforcement personnel.

Mr. Clemens said that he would like to see no warming, cooking, or ceremonial fires on Red Flag Days. He thought that the homeowner associations could send out information quickly when the Red Flag Days occur.

Speaking for the Firefighters Local 3581 and Ebbetts Pass Firefighters Association, James Crabtree wanted to be on the record and said that neither supported a District-wide ban associated with CalFire's annual fire season.

Mr. Neal asked the Committee members to continue to discuss it further.

5.5. Calaveras Local Agency Formation Commission Ballot for Independent Special District alternate Representative on LAFCO

Mr. Dashner noted his willingness to serve on LAFCO and asked the Board members for their support by voting for him. Mr. Clemens made a motion to vote for Jon Dashner, Ebbetts Pass Fire Protection District. Mr. McKinney seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.6. EPFD Signature Authorization for Calaveras County Auditor-Controller

Chief Johnson noted this was the annual signature authorization for approval of Claim Transmittals and Transfers for the District. Mr. Barr made a motion approve the Board members as signatory for the Calaveras County Auditor-Controller's Office. Mr. McKinney seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.7. Policy Update/Draft Begin 30-day Review: Policy 6110 & 6130

Chief Johnson noted that with the approval of the MOU with the labor group a few of the policies needed to be re-tooled. He added the union would also receive copies of these policies during the review period for their comments also. Mr. Barr made a motion to begin the 30-day review for revision of Policies 6110 and 6130. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.8. Resolution 2022-02: Authorizing End of Fiscal Year Interclass Budget Transfers by the Calaveras County Auditor's Office

Mr. Dashner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-02 which authorizes the Calaveras County Auditor's Office to make appropriate interclass budget transfer to overdrawn expense accounts in order to close the fiscal year.

Mr. McKinney seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.9. SDRMA Proposed Bylaw Revisions

Chief Johnson reported that the information had been included for the Board's information regarding the Special District Risk Management Authority, a JPA that the District participates in.

6. **REPORTS**

6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson reported the Arnold Independence Day Parade was scheduled for Saturday, July 2, on the highway this year. He asked anyone who was interested in participating in the parade to contact Glenn Verkerk for making necessary arrangements. He also noted that workers were needed for the EPFFA Annual BBQ.

Chief Johnson reported that he had attended the County Board of Supervisors budget meeting and advocated for Prop 172 and TOT funds for fire districts.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson noted the citizen's sales tax initiative would be voted on in November and also overviewed the results of the June elections for Calaveras County.

6.3. Administrative - EMS

Chief Johnson noted that with the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency transition treasuring in Calaveras County, hopefully, there may be a more rural service model for actions there.

7. **COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1. Board Members

Mr. Barr noted his pleasure with the firefighters' presence at the Board meeting when it is something that is important to the community.

7.2. Firefighters Association

Glenn Verkerk reported that the EPFFA had decided to save nearly \$2,000 on the cost of printing and mailing for its fundraiser this year. He noted that they still very much appreciate the Arnold Angels' willingness to help and the Association would be continuing to evaluate the costs and savings with using such an organization of volunteers.

Glenn Verkerk reported that the recent Memorial Day Beer Booth made \$3,200.

7.3. Employees' Group
None

7.4. Public Comments
None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Dashner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard
District Secretary