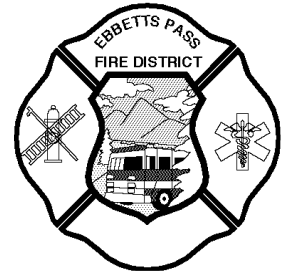


Ebbetts Pass Fire District



MINUTES

Board of Directors

August 18, 2020

APPROVED 09/15/2020

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. by President Mike Barr and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Directors present: Michael Barr, Denny Clemens, Jon Dashner, Scott McKinney, and Pete Neal.

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson, Cheryl Howard
Battalion Chiefs Aaron Downing and Rodney Hendrix
Captain Shea Buhler

Others present: None and there were no electronic requests for joining in the meeting.

Media present: None

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

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

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

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 4.1. Finance Committee (Directors Dashner & McKinney)

Chief Johnson reported that the Directors had the first snapshot of the new fiscal year information whereas next month the Board would be considering the final budget for 2020-21. He noted that the County Auditor Office had yet to show the rollover information from the previous fiscal year.

- 4.2. Personnel Committee (Directors Dashner & McKinney)

Chief Johnson reported the District experienced yet another 30 days without injury. He added that it was especially good with noting the number of days there were firefighters out on strike team assignments fighting fire and with the added layer of PPE for medical aids in the current high heat weather cycle.

Battalion Chief Hendrix reported that there had been ten candidates that had undergone the District's testing process. Three candidates had been asked for Chief's interviews with the top two being chosen and beginning the background investigation process. He added that he hoped to have them hired in October.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Barr & Clemens)

Chief Johnson reported there had not been a meeting and the District's Fire Ordinance should be returned soon by County Counsel.

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

Battalion Chief Downing reported that the new ambulance had arrived along with the Fremont engine which had been polished to a nice shine. He commented that Mr. Neal had volunteered to help install lettering on it.

BC Downing and Captain Buhler briefly explained the height difference between a 2WD and 4WD engines with the latest exhaust requirements in addition to an option for an EZ Trac AWD which would not require such a high climb into the engine for firefighters. He noted that there would be much investigation by the staff for an engine.

BC Downing invited the Board members to view the recently acquired engine from Fremont.

5. Scheduled Items

5.1. Cal Fire Notice of Award for Volunteer Fire Assistance Program Grant

Chief Johnson reported that radios were continually evolving with gaining larger capacity and more features. He reported that Engineer Bryn Buhler had yet again achieved another grant in the amount of \$39,000 for changing over the District's radios to the latest technology that could be afforded. Mr. Neal made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-7 Approving the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Agreement #7GH20035 and authorizing Fire Chief Johnson to sign the Agreement. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.2. Assistance to Firefighter Grant Award for Replacement of Cascade Air Compressor

Chief Johnson reported that Bryn Buhler had achieved a "micro grant" for the District for replacement of the cascade air system which the District has had for around 30 years. He would probably be presenting more information next month for Board action but he wanted to congratulate Bryn on her latest success.

5.3. SDRMA 2021 Health Benefits Program January 1, 2021, Premium Increase

Chief Johnson reported that the Board's Packet included information regarding the total increase of nearly \$45,000 for the medical insurance premium for full-time employees of the District. He noted that it was a bit of a selling point for oncoming hires that were seeing much higher pay elsewhere in the state. Following some discussion, Mr. Clemens made a motion to absorb the increase in medical insurance

premiums for the full-time employees. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.4. CSDA Virtual Workshops and 2020 Education Allowance Fund Application

Chief Johnson reported that there were several virtual workshops available should any of the Board members be interested in attending and possibly even a scholarship available which would pay for their attendance. He asked the interested Board members to contact him if they are interested.

5.5. PG&E Transaction Summary Letter

Chief Johnson reported that activity at the site for the pad for community resiliency project was well underway but would not be finished for approximately 1-1/2 weeks due to delivery issues for a part of the project. Once it arrives, the work would be completed and ready for this year's PSPS events.

5.6. EPFD Draft Policy 5042: District Reserve Funds – Begin 30-day Review

Chief Johnson encouraged the Board members to carefully review the drafted document for possible adoption at the September regular meeting.

6. **REPORTS**

6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson reported there had been an increase in the area for Covid-19 positive individuals. He also noted that E436 was deployed at the Loyalton Fire.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson noted the Legislature continued in summer recess.

6.3. Administrative - EMS

Chief Johnson reported he had completed the annual report to Mountain-Valley EMS Agency. He noted with the change of contract there was a 4-tiered system designating ambulance response within the District: urban, suburban, rural, and wilderness. He reported that he had met with the Calaveras Sheriff regarding our dispatch agreement to discuss the dispatch fee required by the Sheriff's Office.

7. **COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1. Board Members

Mr. Clemens asked that everyone continue to be safe.

Mr. Dashner recommended that the Board send a letter to Bryn Buhler thanking her for her continued efforts toward obtaining grants for the District.

7.2. Firefighters Association – Chief Johnson reported that the EPFFA President Will Koelzow had prepared a letter which was currently being printed for this year's fundraiser efforts. He added that the Arnold Angels had volunteered to stuff the

envelopes yet they would do so individually to minimize exposure for the Coronavirus.

- 7.3. Employees' Group – Battalion Chief Hendrix thanked the Board for its support of continuing to pay the medical premium increased cost and noted it was a huge bonus for the employees.

- 7.4. Public Comments
None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McKinney made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed unanimously. 10:09 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard
District Secretary