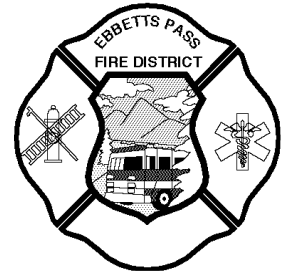


# Ebbetts Pass Fire District



## MINUTES

Board of Directors

May 18, 2021

APPROVED 06/15/2021

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: Michael Barr  
Denny Clemens  
Jon Dashner  
Scott McKinney  
Pete Neal

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson  
District Secretary Cheryl Howard  
Battalion Chief Rodney Hendrix  
Chuck Hatcher, Rodney Rodr, Jim Eaves, Josh Hotchkiss

Others present via Zoom Meeting: Dmitry Semenov, CalMuni Advisors LLC

Media present: None

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

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

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

- 5.1. Discussion/Action Regarding Refinancing of the District's  
Outstanding CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL)

The Board's consensus was to move this agenda item discussion in consideration of the meeting's Zoom attendee. Chief Johnson reported on the next steps of the Board toward

saving some costs with regard to refinancing the District's CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability. He noted that Dmitry Semenov from CalMuni Advisors was available to answer any questions the Board may have and he continued by noting some of the choices the Board had which would make the savings possible for the District. He overviewed the choice of 15-, 20-, and 25-year term; whether private or public placement; and whether the District wanted to contribute an amount at the beginning of the refunding term. Dmitry Semenov explained that private placement actually meant a loan from a bank whereas public was a bond issuance. Mr. Semenov also noted that the payment date to CalPERS was required by the end of July.

Mr. Barr reported that the Finance Committee recommended the 20-year term with private placement. Following much discussion, Mr. McKinney made a motion to proceed with the refunding of the CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability by financing by private placement for a 20-year term with a caveat of the possibility of paying it off earlier at the 15-year term should the District finances allow it. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

Chief Johnson reminded the Board members that there had been discussion that the District would consider paying the nearly equivalent amount that the District would have paid for the recently ordered fire engine instead of where the Board had decided to finance the engine purchase. Mr. McKinney then made a motion to pay down the CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability by \$800,000. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

Mr. Semenov explained that they would send out the proposal to a wide group of banks that were used to dealing with governmental loans and he anticipated they would receive 3 to 5 proposals which were usually competitive rates. The proposals would be reviewed and selection made of the winning bid. He added that he would stay in contact with Chief Johnson over the next month as more decisions may need to be made by the Board but he anticipated that the need for special meetings would be minimized.

Mr. Semenov left the Zoom Meeting following this discussion and the Board thanked him for his information.

#### 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### 4.1. Finance Committee (Directors Barr & Dashner)

Chief Johnson reported the committee had discussion the UAL proposal in addition to the ambulance rates that were being presented later in the agenda.

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

Chief Johnson reported that Firefighter-Paramedic Josh Hotchkiss had completed his year of probation but as his family was unable to be present at this meeting his badge pinning was being postponed. FFP Hotchkiss said that he hoped to have his 5-year-old son pin him at the next meeting of the Board.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Clemens & Neal)

Chief Johnson reported on a few building projects in the Arnold area and then reported on his recent discussion with Mike Johnson of CalTrans and CalTrans fuels reduction crew which would initially start near Red Tail Hawk and continue along the highway through Arnold by July 4<sup>th</sup> and then continue work along the highway up in the high country later in the summer.

Chief Johnson reported that the Fire Prevention Committee had recommended that the Board send a letter to Calaveras County and to CalTrans about the build-up of fuels along area roadways. He had included letter drafts for the Board's review. The Board members' consensus was the letters were good and to have the Board President sign and send the letters.

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

Chief Johnson reported on the recent Pierce engine inspection trip by Aaron Downing, Shea Buhler, Bryn Buhler, and Sean Bitner; and he noted the timeline for the build-up of the engine anticipating a potential delivery date near the end of December.

5. Scheduled Items5.2. County of Calaveras Auditor-Controller: EPFD Preliminary Budget FY 2021-22

Chief Johnson reported that administrative staff had prepared a preliminary budget for the next fiscal year and he briefly reviewed the budget preparation details included in the Board's packet. Following some discussion, Mr. Neal made a motion to accept the Preliminary Budget detail for fiscal year 2021-22 as presented. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.3. EPFD Ambulance Rate Adjustment for Fiscal Year 2021-22

Chief Johnson reported that the current ambulance contract allows a cost-of-living adjustment annually and BC Rodney Hendrix had been working with Jennifer Gentry of Wittman Enterprises to follow industry standards for the billing process. BC Hendrix reported that they had applied the same COLA percentage that the Sheriff's Office did for the annual increase of the dispatch fee. He reported that three items had been left off the transport rate listing that had been included in the Board's packet—Oxygen \$250.00, Wait Time \$64.00, and Medications 128.00. He added that Cheryl Howard had prepared a corrected Ambulance Transport Rates for Fiscal Year 2021-22 which had been given to the Board. Mr. Dashner made a motion to adopt the Ambulance Transport Rates for Fiscal Year 2021-22 as presented. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

#### 5.4. Policy Revision and Introduction

##### 5.4.1. Policy 6540: Personnel Promotions

###### Policy 6550: Personnel Promotion – Procedures

Chief Johnson commented that there were just revisions of existing policies which better defined District practice. Mr. Neal made a motion to approve Policy 6540 and Policy 6550 regarding Personnel Promotions as presented. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

##### 5.4.2. Debt Management Policies

Chief Johnson noted that the debt management policies had been crafted the UAL consultants and he hoped the Board had reviewed them over the past month. He had received no comments or requests for change.

###### Resolution 2021-4: Approving and Adopting a Debt Management Policy

Cheryl Howard noted that the proposed resolution as included in the Board's packet needed a few corrections:

Paragraph 6 line 1: addition of "Policy 1200:"

Section 2 line 2: addition of "Policy 1200:"

Section 2 line 3: correction of date to "May 18"

Passed and Adopted: correction of date to "18<sup>th</sup> day of May"

Mr. Dashner made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-4: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Ebbetts Pass Fire Protection District Approving and Adopting a Debt Management Policy as corrected. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

###### Resolution 2021-5: Adopting an Unfunded Accrued Liability Management Policy

Cheryl Howard noted that the proposed resolution as included in the Board's packet needed a few corrections:

Section 2 line 2: addition of "proposed Policy 1210:"

Section 2 line 4: correction of date to "May 18"

Passed and Adopted: correction of date to "18<sup>th</sup> day of May"

Mr. Dashner made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-5: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Ebbetts Pass Fire Protection District Adopting an Unfunded Accrued Liability Management Policy as corrected. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

## 6. **REPORTS**

### 6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson reported there had been many fire starts since the start of this year's fire season. BC Hendrix reported on the fire the previous day near Avery Sheep Ranch Road.

Chief Johnson reported that the District's Covid-19 plan had relaxed to having a single layer of shirt when responding to a patient. If responding to any suspected with Covid-19, full protections would be remain in effect.

Chief Johnson reported that the burned storage containers for burn training should be arriving shortly and BC O'Donnell was working on their installation.

Chief Johnson also reported that both West Point and San Andreas Fire Protection Districts had passed their special taxes in their elections.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson reported on the 4290 revision which was an emergency pieces of legislation for the State.

6.3. Administrative - EMS

Chief Johnson reported that the MVEMSA Director Lance Doyle had stepped down from his position. Cindy Murdaugh had accepted the position temporarily and Stanislaus County had determined for a one-year continuance in the LEMSA so it order to continue as a five-county-member LEMSA.

7. **COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1. Board Members

Mr. McKinney noted that the CalFire prevention sign had not been replaced on the Utica Grade. Chief Johnson commented that he would check into it.

Mr. Clemens asked if there had been any progress on the County not allowing the cooking/warming/spiritual fires. Chief Johnson responded that he had not heard anything more regarding that but he had heard there was an effort by the County to put in place an emergency moratorium on fireworks for this year.

Mr. Dashner congratulated Firefighter-Paramedic on his one-year anniversary with the District.

Mr. Dashner thanked all those who had been working on the UAL refunding as he thought it was a monumental move by the District. Mr. Clemens added that he was happy with the Board trying to be smart with taxpayer money.

7.2. Firefighters Association – Chief Johnson reported that the Association was working toward getting a letter mailed out telling area residents and property owners that the Association remained active although there were currently no plans for a Memorial Day beer booth nor an Independence Day BBQ.

7.3. Employees' Group – Chuck Hatcher reported that morale was at an all-time high and thanked the Board for the inclusion of personnel in the running of the District.

7.4. Public Comments  
None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McKinney made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed unanimously. 10:24 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard  
District Secretary