

Ebbetts Pass Fire District



MINUTES

Board of Directors

April 18, 2023

APPROVED 05/16/23

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 Secretary Mike Barr called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson
District Secretary Cheryl Howard
Battalion Chief Rodney Hendrix, Aaron Downing
Shea Buhler, Jim Eaves, Glenn Verkerk,
Alex Baker, Nate Attaway, Sean Bitner, Will Koelzow,
Spencer Hickok

Public present: none

Others present via Zoom Meeting: Randayn Forrest

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Clemens made a motion to approve Consent Items 3.1. and 3.2. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, Neal; ABSENT: McKinney).

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1. Finance Committee

Chief Johnson reported that the finances remained good with nearing the last few months of the fiscal year. He noted the soon-coming IGT funds along with the IGT deposit return. He added that with this month's station loan payment there remained 3.5 years (7 more semi-annual payments). The County Offices had pushed the requirement for this year's submittal of the Preliminary Budget into May.

4.2. Personnel/Safety Committee

Chief Johnson reported there had been a minor injury with a small laceration that had been easily addressed with medical care and no lost time. He reported that Firefighter-Paramedic Mark Prozorov has accepted the contingent job offer and is starting the physical and other requirements for full-time hire.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee

Chief Johnson reported the Community Wildfire Preparedness Day has been scheduled for Saturday, May 6th. He also noted Fire Prevention Officer Joan Lark had a successful lot clearers meeting back in March.

4.4. Apparatus/Equipment Committee

Battalion Chief Downing reported on the status of the fleet starting with the newest loader being sent to Pape Machinery for the high-flow installation, E432 would soon have its brakes, new Kussmaul auto chargers for the Quantum engine and ambulance U3508, and the UTVs were undergoing servicing and track removal for the summer response. He added that the ordered new ambulance continued to be waiting for its chassis but it was scheduled for September installation and painting. He was exploring the possibility of remounting the box from the oldest (U3508) of the Braun NW ambulances but he was currently waiting for an estimate of costs.

5. **SCHEDULED ITEMS**5.1. USDA: Comments on the Stanislaus National Forest Hazard Tree Management Project

Chief Johnson reported that this item had been included for the Board's information and allowed for a 30-day comment period regarding the felling and removal of hazardous trees adjacent to roads, trails and other sites within the Stanislaus National Forest. The Board members noted that removal of hazardous trees was good.

5.2. FDAC: Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement of Fire Risk Management Services

Chief Johnson reminded the Board members that the District participated in the FDAC EBA Joint Powers Authority for the dental, vision, and life group insurance for the staff. He reported that the proposed resolution was to amend and restate the agreement joining it with the workers' compensation JPA which had been called FASIS. The new JPA is to be called Fire Risk Management Services Joint Powers Authority (FRMS). Mr. Dashner made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-2 Authorizing Participation in and Approving the Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement of the Fire Risk Management Services Joint Powers Authority. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, Neal; ABSENT: McKinney).

5.3. SDRMA: 2023-24 Workers' Compensation Renewal Estimate

Chief Johnson reported that, as a self-insured entity operating through SDRMA, the costs of previous year's industrial injuries have caught up once again through increased premiums. He noted the estimated renewal contribution is \$229,277 for fiscal year 2023-24.

5.4. EPFD Ambulance Service: 2023-24 Ambulance Billing Rate Adjustment

Chief Johnson reminded the Board members that the ambulance contract allows for an annual cost-of-living increase for the District's ambulance service. The CPI was determined and presented for Board approval in the resolution. After some discussion, Mr. Dashner made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-3 Adopting Ambulance Transport Rates for Fiscal Year 2023-24. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, Neal; ABSENT: McKinney).

5.5. Calaveras Public Power Agency: Rate Increase

Chief Johnson reported that the District's per KWH electricity cost increased from 11 to 20 cents in January. He added that the District may want to revisit the addition of solar to help offset increasing costs.

5.6. New Type I Fire Engine Building Proposal: Review a possible action regarding the Purchase of a new Type 1 Fire Engine for Station 3

Battalion Chief Aaron Downing gave information regarding the specifications for a new wildland urban interface (WUI) fire engine for deployment at Station 3 in Hathaway Pines. Short list of specs: WUI, 27' length, 500 HP, 4WD, 750-gallon water tank, 24' extension ladder. He noted the Option A for 100% pre-payment had a Grand Total Purchase Price of \$1,151,220.58.

After noting the various option choices from the manufacturer had been included for the Board's information, Chief Johnson reported that the terms of the grant were that only 25% of grant could be used for down payment so EPFD would have to come up with nearly the full amount down if Option A were chosen. He noted the options were as follows: Option A 100% Pre-Payment, Option B Chassis Pre-Payment, and Option C Payment at Time of Delivery or Pickup. Following much discussion, Mr. Dashner made a motion to accept the Product Proposal for one Pierce Manufacture, Inc. 4X4 Enforcer Type 1 Fire Engine under the Option C Payment at Time of Delivery or Pickup. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, Neal; ABSENT: McKinney).

5.7. Consumer Price Index (CPI) Adjustment: Fiscal Year 2023-24 Salary Schedule Cost-of-Living Adjustment

Firefighter Sean Bitner presented the Board members with copies of estimates of various COLA percentages and noted that the Local would like a COLA of 8%.

5.7.1. Closed Session started at 10:15.

5.7.2. Open Session re-opened at 10:41 and Mr. Barr reported that the Board members present had unanimously decided to approve a 5% cost-of-living increase to the salary schedule for fiscal year 2023-24.

6. **REPORTS**6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson reported the crews were gearing up for spring weather with working on the stations' curb appeal including painting lines.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson noted Bertha Underhill, local advocate for the sales tax support for Calaveras County fire entities (potentially Measure A again), was wanting to meet with Mr. Barr. Mr. Barr reported he had been unavailable the previous week but was arranging to meet with her.

Chief Johnson noted there were only a few interesting items of legislation at this time.

6.3. Administrative - EMS

Chief Johnson congratulated Alex Baker for achieving Paramedic certification.

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

Each Board member noted the good work being done by the line staff during incidents. Mr. Clemens commented that he would like to see Station 3 with a captain and engineer in the future.

7.2. Firefighters Association

Nate Attaway reported the fundraiser envelope stuffing should be underway shortly by the Arnold Angels as they were currently still waiting for the printed items.

7.3. Employees' Group

Rodney Hendrix commented about the Union still desired Captain ranks at Station 3.

7.4. Public Comments

None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Dashner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 4-0. 10:53 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard
District Secretary