

# Ebbetts Pass Fire District



## MINUTES

Board of Directors

August 15, 2023

APPROVED 09/19/2023

1. The meeting was called to order with additional accommodation for the public through the use of Zoom Meetings at 9:00 A.M. Board President Scott McKinney 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 Aaron Downing  
Fire Prevention Officer Joan Lark

Public present: none

Others present via Zoom Meeting: none

2. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENT**  
None

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

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

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### 4.1. Finance Committee

Chief Johnson briefly overviewed the District's financial position noting it was ending the prior fiscal year with close to over \$5.8 million. He reported that the committee members had received a presentation from Optimized Investment Partners regarding investing for higher returns and they had agreed to do a cash flow model at no charge.

### 4.2. Personnel/Safety Committee

Chief Johnson reported that Firefighter-Paramedic Kyle Salyer was now working toward his Firefighter 1 certification and would soon complete his probationary year.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee

Chief Johnson reported the Calaveras County Fire Chiefs Association approved the Calaveras County Agreement for provision of the Fire Marshal and it is to be considered by the Board of Supervisors next month. He briefly outlined activities with regard to overnight occupancies in commercially zoned areas.

Fire Prevention Officer Joan Lark reported that she has done close to 600 unimproved lot inspections since April with three citations issued. She added that several reinspections will be done in September.

4.4. Apparatus/Equipment Committee

Battalion Chief Aaron Downing thanked Mr. Neal for his repair work and paint on the new engine adding that it looks as good as new.

5. **SCHEDULED ITEMS**5.1. Health Management Associates: Independent Contractor/Consulting Agreement for Fiscal Year 2023/24

Mr. Neal made a motion to approve the contract with Health Management Associates for fiscal year 2023-24 and authorize the Fire Chief to sign the document. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.2. California Dept of Healthcare Services (DHCS): Public Provider Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (PP-GEMT) Program Managed Care and Fee For Service

Chief Johnson reported this was the agreement to participate in the program for the entire year. Mr. Neal made a motion to contract for the transfer program PP-GEMT as proposed and authorize the Fire Chief to sign the contract. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.3. Braun Northwest: Ambulance Remount Proposal (Updated)

Mr. Barr made a motion to approve the Braun North West Remount Proposal dated August 1, 2023, and authorize the Fire Chief to sign the contract. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.4. CalPERS Retirement System: Preliminary 5.8% Investment Return for 2022-23 Fiscal Year

Chief Johnson reported this was provided for the Board's information as the return was 1% less than CalPERS targeted return amount.

5.5. California Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection: Volunteer Fire Capacity (VFC) Program Award

Chief Johnson reported that Bryn Buhler had again been successful in her grant writing with the District receiving a grant for structure and wildland fire fighting equipment for \$25,211.10 with 50% from the District.

5.5.1. CALFIRE Cooperative Fire Protection Grant Agreement5.5.2. EPFD Resolution No. 2023-5: Approving the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Agreement #7GF23308

Mr. Barr made a motion to approve the Cal Fire Cooperative Fire Protection Grant Agreement and adopt Resolution No. 2023-5: Approving the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Agreement #7GH23308. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.6. Employee Medical Benefit Rates for Calendar Year 2024: Rate Comparison

Chief Johnson reported the SDRMA rates had increased 12% for 2024. He had contacted FRMS (formerly FDAC Employee Benefits Administration) for a quote and had not received any reply. He reported that the amount quoted from the IAFF Health & Welfare Trust would save the District about \$48,000 annually with providing similar coverage as the current plans except those with Kaiser would have to change their medical plans. Mr. Barr made a motion approve the change of group medical insurance to IAFF Health & Welfare Trust as quoted. Mr. Clemens seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.7. Chess Mountain Tree Service and Snow Removal: Snow Removal Invoice for Station 2

Chief Johnson reported that last year the District had paid \$3,500 and the only other bid received had been \$10,000. He noted the \$5,000 bid for this year with the hourly additional charge with be dependent on this winter's conditions. Mr. Barr made a motion to renew the snow removal contract with Chess Mountain Tree Service and Snow Removal as per Invoice INV-0001479. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.8. Ebbetts Pass Fire District: 30-Day Review Period Extension  
Draft Policy 6800 Personnel – Physical Medical Exam

Chief Johnson asked that this item be again tabled while it was undergoing legal review.

5.9. Ebbetts Pass Fire District: New Station 3 Land Acquisition Update

Chief Johnson reported that he had sourced Helix to do the NEPA.

5.10 Fire Agency Insurance Risk Authority: Adjusted Premium 2024

Chief Johnson noted that the adjusted premium had been issued due to there being an extra zero in the amount to insure the newest engine so that has been corrected and a refund to be issued to the District.

6. **REPORTS**6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson reported Matt O'Donnell was working on a cooperative response plan for the Calaveras Dome area. He added that the District had received another grant for fire shelters, tools and headlamps for approximately \$14,000.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson reported briefly on his recent attendance at a Board of Supervisors meeting on tree removal and resurgence of pine beetle activity.

6.3. Administrative - EMS

No report.

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

Mr. Clemens reported that he thought the District's direction was good and was fiscally responsible.

7.2. Firefighters Association

No report.

7.3. Employees' Group

None.

7.4. Public Comments

None.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Barr made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0. 10:08 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard  
District Secretary