

Ebbetts Pass Fire District



MINUTES

Board of Directors
September 19, 2023

APPROVED 10/17/2023

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: Jon Dashner
Scott McKinney
Pete Neal
Denny Clemens (via Zoom Meetings joining approx. 8:40)

Director absent: Michael Barr

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson
District Secretary Cheryl Howard
Battalion Chief Rodney Hendrix
Captain James Crabtree
Engineer Jim Eaves

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 3-0 (AYES: Dashner, McKinney, Neal; ABSENT: Barr, Clemens).

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

4.1. Finance Committee

4.1.1. **Proposed Final Budget Fiscal Year 2023-24**

Chief Johnson noted items included in the budget: worker's comp, new website, AFG grant for PPE, VFA grant for wildland fire equipment, ambulance remount including chassis, LED lights for Sta. 4, placement of new generator at Sta. 3. He

reported there had not been any public comment received since proposed final budget had been published.

Mr. Dashner made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-6 Adopting the Final Budget and an Appropriations Limit for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 3-0 (AYES: Dashner, McKinney, Neal; ABSENT: Barr, Clemens).

4.2. Personnel/Safety Committee

Chief Johnson reported that there had not been any new injuries among the staff. He added that Firefighter-Paramedic Kyle Salyer had completed his training taskbook and was sending for his Firefighter I certification from the State Fire Marshal.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee

Chief Johnson reported that even though there had not been an actual committee meeting there had been action by the County Board of Supervisors to reinstate the Calaveras County Tree Mortality Program which was important since more beetle-kill trees were becoming apparent. He added that a new Auxiliary member, Jan Jakubit, was interested potentially in working with Joan Lark in the unimproved lot inspection program.

4.4. Apparatus/Equipment Committee

No news yet on delivery of the chassis order that had been placed by the District.

5. **SCHEDULED ITEMS**

5.1. Ridgeline Municipal: CalPERS 2022 Actuarial Reports / Impacts

Chief Johnson reported that Dmitry Semenov had presented information to the Finance Committee regarding the District's current PERS UAL and the interest issue in addition to the information included within the Board's packet. He recommended the District pay the minimum 2023 ADP to avoid negative amortization which totaled \$139,200. Chief Johnson reported that Dmitry Semenov had also recommended making additional UAL payments in order to maintain the District's goal of 95% fund target for its pension plans. Chief Johnson added that this potential payment of approximately \$900,000 did not need to be made until after the new calendar year in coordination with District cash-flow needs. Following some discussion, Mr. Neal made a motion to pay the ADP of \$139,200 to PERS this month. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 3-0 (AYES: Dashner, McKinney, Neal; ABSENT: Barr, Clemens).

5.2. Health Management Associates: CY 2022 Inter Governmental Transfer (IGT) Projections

Chief Johnson reported the email from Margaux Mc Fetridge condensed the details of the IGT with a total contribution set at \$775,701. Once the handling fee was added, the total to be contributed would be \$930,842. The Net New Revenue to the District would be an estimated \$1,571,421. Chief Johnson recommended the Board hold off its short term investment process at this time and he would continue to report to the Board on the IGT progress.

5.3. HELIX Environmental Planning Agreement

Chief Johnson reported that the total cost for the planned NEPA in order to obtain the land from the USFS for a new Station 3 was currently \$29,640. He noted that the cost for HELIX had not been included in the budget and he planned to true up with the budget as year-end neared. Mr. Dashner made a motion to make the expenditure to HELIX Environmental Planning as quoted. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 3-0 (AYES: Dashner, McKinney, Neal; ABSENT: Barr, Clemens).

5.4. Resolution No. 2023-7 Commending Battalion Chief Matt O'Donnell

Chief Johnson gave a brief history of Battalion Chief Matt O'Donnell's actions at the incidents for which Calaveras County is honoring him and noted that was why he had prepared the resolution. Mr. Neal made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-7 to Recognize and Commend Matt O'Donnell for His Swiftwater Rescues and Lifesaving Actions. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 3-0 (AYES: Dashner, McKinney, Neal; ABSENT: Barr, Clemens).

5.5. Local 3581 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): Single Item Additional Request

Chief Johnson reported that this agenda item had been continued from the Special Meeting as a single item addition to the MOU. Mr. Neal made a motion to table discussion to the next regular meeting when all Board members could be present. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 3-0 (AYES: Dashner, McKinney, Neal; ABSENT: Barr, Clemens).

5.5.1. Closed Session was not held.

5.6. Policy Review

Chief Johnson reported that the Draft Policy 6800 Personnel – Physical Medical Exam had been unchanged from the Special Meeting of the Board. He added that Policy 6730 Personnel – Drug and Alcohol Abuse – Testing Circumstances had been sent to the District's attorney for review.

5.7. Bret Harte Union High School District Thank-you for Fire Engine Donation

Chief Johnson noted that it was a nice letter send by the school district and he already knew that the teens were excited about the training the engine provided them.

6. **REPORTS**

6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson noted that Cheryl Howard continued responding to information requests by the GEMT auditor and the District's financial auditor. He noted activities were ongoing for the current phase of the burn building. He also reported that the District had responded to many medical aid incidents and there was a structure fire at Gann's Meadow which was a total loss but not a fault of the responding agencies.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson reported HR3725 regarding lowering the Medicare age for first responders from 65 to 57 was still under consideration with no real change yet.

6.3. Administrative - EMS

No report.

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

Mr. Neal noted that he was sorry for the delay but he had felt strongly that the full Board should be considering the personnel policy items.

7.2. Firefighters Association

No report.

7.3. Employees' Group

None.

7.4. Public Comments

None.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Dashner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard
District Secretary