

# Ebbetts Pass Fire District



## MINUTES

Board of Directors  
November 15, 2022

APPROVED 01/24/2023

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 Pete Neal called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Directors present: Michael Barr  
Denny Clemens  
Jon Dashner (arrived at 9:02)  
Scott McKinney  
Pete Neal

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson  
District Secretary Cheryl Howard  
Battalion Chief Rodney Hendrix

Public present: Kamron Dirks, QI Coordinator, Mountain Counties EMS Agency

Others present via Zoom Meeting: Chuck Nicholson, Nicholson & Olson CPAs  
Marvin Pescador, Nicholson & Olson CPAs  
Dimitri Semenov, Ridgeline Municipal Strategies

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

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

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

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

4.1. Finance Committee (Directors Dashner & Barr)

4.1.1. Financial Audit Fiscal Year 2021-22: Nicholson & Olson

Chuck Nicholson began a brief overview of the fiscal year 2021-22 financial audit by noting the included Communication to Those Charged with Governance which contained points dictated by professional standards. He further discussed the issue that PERS is always one year behind in its reports and pointed to page 9 and the Net Position at the end of the year.

Having no questions, the Board members thanked Mr. Nicholson for the report and then Mr. Barr made a motion to accept the annual financial audit for fiscal year 2021-22 as presented. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, Neal, McKinney).

4.2. Personnel/Safety Committee (Directors Dashner & McKinney)

Chief Johnson reported that it had been another injury-free month for the District along with a significant snowstorm. He added that the two probationary firefighters continued working through their taskbooks and noted that Alex Baker was half-way through his preceptor portion of his paramedic licensure.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Clemens & Neal)

No report.

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

Chief Johnson reported that the decals had been installed on the other vehicles.

5. Scheduled Items5.1. Ridgeline Municipal Strategies, LLC: Agreement for Financial Consulting Services

Chief Johnson reported that the committee had discussed the consulting piece for working with strategies for dealing with financial issues. Chief Johnson then introduced Dimitri Semenov noting that the District had worked with him during the PERS UAL financing during 2021.

Mr. Semenov said that CalPERS is one year behind in its reporting as was said by Mr. Nicholson during his report to the Board. He noted CalPERS significant loss of 6.8% in 2022 which impacts a significant shortfall for retirement planning. He noted that over the past year he has developed a uniform framework to review and implement steps for the financial implications of the CalPERS unfunded accrued liabilities and other retirement issues impacting special districts. His proposed model helps to keep the costs low for the varied entities. After asking the Board members for any questions that he could answer, he left the meeting.

Chief Johnson reported that he had received proposals for similar financial assistance which varied from a computer program for a cost of \$5,000 per year to another similar to Ridgeline which was quoted at \$1,700. The Board members discussed the familiarity with having already worked with Mr. Semenov in the past

noted the advantage of having someone to keep abreast of current financial happenings. Mr. Clemens made a motion to approve the contract with Ridgeline Municipal Strategies, LLC. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, Neal, McKinney).

5.2. CalFire Cooperative Fire Protection Grant Agreement

5.2.1. Resolution 22-6 Approving Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection Agreement #7GF22137  
Chief Johnson reported that Engineer Bryn Buhler had again been successful in achieving another Rural Fire Capacity (RFC) grant. This grant is for hose with the cost being split 50/50 with the District and the Board of Directors needs to approve the resolution. Mr. Barr made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-6: Approving the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Agreement #7GF22137. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, Neal, McKinney).

5.3. SDRMA: No Paid Worker's Compensation Claims in 2021-22

Chief Johnson noted that he was very happy to present this letter to the Board of Directors.

5.4. Policy Update

5.4.1. Policy 6040 Personnel—Authorized Benefits 2022

Chief Johnson reported the 30-day review period has concluded with no further revisions. He reminded the Board that the policy clarified uniform financing. Mr. Clemens made a motion to approve Policy 6040: Personnel—Authorized Benefits. Mr. McKinney seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, Neal, McKinney).

5.4.2. Policy 6520 Personnel—Personal Appearance: Uniform Standards

Chief Johnson reported this was the beginning of the 30-day review of the policy regarding uniform standards. One comment made by the Board members was to revise the Class A to be required at the end of the probationary period.

5.5. Thank You Letter from Carolyn Nelson

The Board members liked the sentiments voiced by Carolyn Nelson.

5.6. Discussion and Possible Action to Hold the December Board Meeting

Mr. Barr noted that the December regular meeting of the Board was just days away from Christmas this year. Following some discussion, Mr. Dashner made a motion to hold the next regular meeting in January. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, Neal, McKinney).

6. **REPORTS**

6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson reported the Awards Dinner was to be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and he thanked Mr. Dashner for supplying the wine for the dinner. Chief Johnson then

noted the year-to-date ambulance revenue being \$429,000 which was approximately 56% of the projected amount for the year.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson reported there remained ballots to yet be counted for the Citizen's Initiative Measure A so the fate of the measure was not known.

6.3. Administrative - EMS

Chief Johnson reported that American Legion Ambulance was actively recruiting medics with a \$20,000 sign-on bonus due to the medic shortage. He added that made him even more thankful that the District was fully staffed at this point in time.

Chief Johnson briefly reported on the Public Provider Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (PP GEMT) which will include quarterly placement of funds in order to drawdown the PP GEMT payments.

Chief Johnson then asked if Kamron Dirks wished to make any comments. Kamron Dirks then reported that the Mountain Counties EMS Agency continues to adapt to its new scope and was moving back to in-person QI (Quality Improvement) meetings.

7. **COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1. Board Members

Mr. Barr reported that he was thankful to the residents who supported the District. Mr. Clemens wished everyone happy holidays. Mr. Neal noted it had been a busy year with a lot accomplished.

7.2. Firefighters Association

Battalion Chief Hendrix noted the awards dinner on December 3 would also be a brief meeting of the Association.

7.3. Employees' Group

None

7.4. Public Comments

None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Dashner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard  
District Secretary