

Ebbetts Pass Fire District



MINUTES

Board of Directors

October 20, 2020

APPROVED 11/17/20

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. by Board President Michael Barr and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Directors present: Michael Barr, Denny Clemens, Jon Dashner, Scott McKinney, and Pete Neal.

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson, Cheryl Howard
Battalion Chief Rodney Hendrix
Engineer-Paramedic Chuck Hatcher
Firefighter-Paramedic Raymond J. (RJ) Schulze

Others present: Cal Trans representatives: Mike Johnson, Chris Baker, and Glen
No electronic requests for joining in the meeting.

Media present: None

2. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENT** – Mike Johnson and Chris Baker reported on plans for vegetation management along Highway 4 and intersecting roadways.

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

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

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 4.1. Finance Committee (Directors Dashner & McKinney)

Chief Johnson reported that the District still had \$415,801 in the accounts as of the end of September which is good news that the District had not transitioned to a loan basis with the County as yet this fiscal year. He added there had been higher than normal payroll runs due to involvement with the mutual aid system. There would be a presentation possibly next month on financial strategies from Cal Municipal regarding methods to reduce interest on CalPERS unsecured liability. The financial auditor was currently working on the 2019-20 fiscal year audit.

4.2. Personnel Committee (Directors Dashner & McKinney)

Chief Johnson introduced Raymond “RJ” Schulze and asked him to tell a bit about himself. The Board members welcomed him. Chief Johnson noted that Spencer Hickok will be starting on October 21st.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Barr & Clemens)

Chief Johnson noted there was nothing to report since the possible approval of the Ordinance 2020 was later in the agenda.

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

Chief Johnson reported the Pierce Quantum was now in service. Engineer Hatcher then shared some observations regarding its use. Chief Johnson reported the new engine specification process was still underway.

Chief Johnson reported that planning for the next fiscal year had included a planned new squad capital outlay. However, Murphys Fire Protection District had placed in surplus status a 2004 Ford F450 with a fire buildup with only 32,000 miles. Staff had reviewed the unit and though it would meet the District’s needs. BC Hendrix reported that he had the unit weighed and there was room to add equipment and still be under the unit’s weight capacity. The general consensus was to make an offer to MFPD for the purchase of the squad.

5. Scheduled Items5.1. SDRMA: SB-1159 COVID-19 Presumption Law

Chief Johnson reported that he had included this for the Board’s information regarding the COVID-19 Presumption Law and the action required if an employee tested positive.

5.2. EPFD: Recommendation for Documents Destruction

Chief Johnson reported that the item presented to the Board for destruction met the Policy 1060 timeline of 7+ years and he recommended the Board approve the destruction of the listed documents. Mr. McKinney made a motion to approve the destruction of the items listed as ready for destruction dated 10/9/2020. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.3. Calaveras Public Power Agency: Voting for At-Large Board of Directors Position

Mr. Dashner made a motion to vote for Michael Johnson of Ebbetts Pass Fire District and send the ballot accordingly. Mr. Clemens seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.4. Ordinance 2020: End Review Period--Approve/Deny Forwarding for Ratification

Chief Johnson reported that he had not received any public comments regarding the proposed ordinance although there had been recommendations on various levels to add a burn ban on private lands. Mr. Dashner made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020 as presented and to send it to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors for

ratification. Mr. Clemens asked to amend the motion to include the correction on Appendix “B” Item 11 to read “3 – 4 inches” instead of “34 inches.” Mr. Dashner concurred. Mr. McKinney seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal). The Board instructed Chief Johnson to forward the document in order to have it ratified.

The Board members noted they would like to continue discussion regarding amending the Ordinance to include some form of banning cooking/warming fires during times of high fire danger.

5.5. EPFD Policy Update: Begin 30-day Review

Chief Johnson reported that these policies included updates to match current practices.

6. **REPORTS**

6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson reported there had not been an increase of COVID-19 in our area. He noted there had been discussions regarding postponing the annual awards dinner restaurant having limited capacity to host diners due to COVID-19 restrictions.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson noted most everything was waiting on the results of the upcoming elections.

6.3. Administrative - EMS

Chief Johnson reported on the latest information regarding Calaveras Fire JPA activity for presenting a response to the RFP for the Calaveras North and South Ambulance Zones.

7. **COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1. Board Members

Mr. Dashner complimented Chief Johnson for keeping the Board apprised of activities in the District and the County.

7.2. Firefighters Association – Battalion Chief Rodney Hendrix reported that the Association hoped to have the Awards Dinner later in the new year. He also reported that the annual raffle fundraiser had been canceled for this year but should be ready to be sent out in 2021.

7.3. Employees' Group – None

7.4. Public Comments
None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard
District Secretary