

# Ebbetts Pass Fire District



## MINUTES

Board of Directors  
November 17, 2020

APPROVED 12/19/2020

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, Joan Lark  
Battalion Chief Aaron Downing  
Engineer-Paramedic Glenn Verkerk  
Firefighter-Paramedic Pete Ryan  
Firefighter-Paramedic Randayn Forrest  
Firefighter-EMT Alex Baker

Others present: No electronic requests for joining in the meeting.  
Media present: None

2. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES/COMMENT** No comments

- 5.1 **Ebbetts Pass Personnel Committee:** Consideration of Paramedicine School Sponsorship  
President Barr moved this item forward for discussion so the personnel present who had to leave could. Alex Baker requested sponsorship by the District to attend Paramedic School. He had attended summer school at Modesto Junior College and passed the course by 93% so he is now eligible for paramedic school. The training in Stockton would last 7 months and Sacramento State conducts a 22-week course. Alex told the Board members that he has been with the District for 20 years and plans on staying with the District for another 20-25 years. The cost would be between \$13,000 and 15,000.

After a short discussion, a motion was made by Mr. McKinney and seconded by Mr. Dashner to approve the request to pay for Alex Baker's paramedic school costs up to \$15,000. The Board directed Chief Johnson and Alex Baker to work out the details. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Mr. McKinney made a motion to approve the Consent Items as presented. Mr. Dashner 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 \$360,000 in the account as of the end of October which is good news that the District had not transitioned to a loan basis with the County as yet this fiscal year. There was a meeting with Cal Municipal regarding methods to reduce interest on CalPERS unsecured liability. Chief Johnson said they will be looking at options to save money.

**4.2. Personnel Committee (Directors Dashner & McKinney)**

Chief Johnson stated that there have been no new injuries. There has been one Covid-19 exposure with a transported patient. Dr. Orman had complimented our staff on doing a great job.

**4.3. Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Barr & Clemens)**

Chief Johnson reported that EPFD Ordinance 2020 was in the 30-day review process on the Board of Supervisor's Consent Agenda.

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

Battalion Chief Aaron Downing gave a report on equipment noting the fleet is being readied for winter and hydrant snorkels are in place in many locations. He reported the new ambulances are doing well although Engine 435 will need its engine to be rebuilt as it is leaking oil.

**5. Scheduled Items****5.1. EPFD Personnel Committee: Consideration of Paramedicine School Sponsorship  
(Discussion and motion covered at beginning of meeting.)****5.2. EPFD: Recommendation for Documents Destruction**

Chief Johnson reported that the items 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. Neal made a motion to approve the destruction of the items listed as ready for destruction dated 11/06/20. Mr. McKinney seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

**5.3. Purchase of 2000 Ford F-450 Squad/Rescue from Murphys Fire Protection District**

Chief Johnson stated that the Murphys Fire Protection District Board authorized selling the vehicle to Ebbetts Pass Fire District for \$22,000. After a short discussion, Mr. Dashner made a motion to purchase the 2000 Ford F450 Squad Rescue from Murphys Fire Protection District for \$22,000. Mr. Neal seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

**5.4. Resolution 2020-9: Resolution Declaring Vehicles Surplus**

Battalion Chief Downing briefly reviewed each vehicle that has been recommended to have the Board declare as surplus:

- 1) Pickup/Ambulance is in poor condition-- recommends selling it for \$1.00.
- 2) Suburban needs work and may not pass smog inspection but has new tires that cost \$1,000 so he recommends requesting that amount.
- 3) Engine 424 is in good shape but it is too small for all the equipment needed to be placed on it; he suggests a minimum bid of \$3,500.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Dashner and seconded by Mr. Neal to approve Resolution No. 2020-9 Declaring Items Surplus. Motion passed (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.5. EPFD Policy Update: End 30-day Review.

Noting that he had not received any comments over the past 30 days, Chief Johnson presented the following policy revisions for approval:

Policy 5040: Budget Preparation  
Policy 5050: Accounting Procedures  
Policy 5060: Expense Authorization  
Policy 5070: Purchase Procedures

Mr. Clemens questioned the wording on Policy 5060.04. noting that he would like to remove “under penalty of perjury”. That sentence would then read, “Batch approval includes the following specification: the items included...” The rest of the Board members concurred. Mr. McKinney made a motion to approve Policy Nos. 5040, 5050, 5060 as amended per the discussion, and 5070. Mr. Dashner seconded; motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

5.6. Thank You Letter from Amador Fire Protection District  
Letter was included in Board packet.

5.7. Letter from Leslie Davis: Low Land Value Exemption Criteria Proposed

Chief Johnson presented the letter and back-up material he had received from Leslie Davis, Calaveras County Tax Assessor. She is proposing changing the tax exemption for unimproved property from \$2,000 to \$10,000. She said it is not cost effective to tax parcels and items with a value of under \$10,000. Chief Johnson recommended the District send a letter to the Board of Supervisors that we are not in support of the change.

Mr. Dashner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clemens, to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors stating our opposition to the change suggested by Leslie Davis. Motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Barr, Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Neal).

**6. REPORTS****6.1. Administrative Report**

Chief Johnson reported the staff is transitioning for snow.

**6.2. Legislative Report**

Chief Johnson congratulated the three Directors who ran unopposed. He noted the cannabis initiative passed by 64% but does not think there is any provision for fire districts to get any money from it. Mr. Clemens asked if we would be able to put something on the ballot to get some of the money and Mr. Barr asked about the cost associated with it. Chief Johnson responded there were costs to placing ballot measures but he would look into the cost and feasibility of putting that on the ballot. Chief Johnson noted Proposition 19 had passed and there is a small provision for fire services to receive some money from that.

**6.3. Administrative - EMS**

Chief Johnson reported American Legion Ambulance was awarded the contract for the North and South Ambulance Zones. The District was currently trying to implement the placement and monitoring of automated vehicle devices in the two newest ambulances.

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

Mr. Clemens congratulated staff for their professionalism. Mr. Dashner complimented BC Downing for all the work he has done on the fleet. Mr. Neal agreed and said he is proud to be newly elected. Mr. Barr thanked staff and for being there in support of Alex Baker today.

**7.2. Firefighters Association** – Glenn Verkerk said that the holiday festivities have been postponed and they hope to be able to have something later. They did not do a raffle this year but did receive at least \$500.00 in unsolicited donations. The Firefighters Association appreciates the support of the Board.

**7.3. Employees' Group** – Glenn Verkerk stated that the Employees' Group appreciates the working relationship with the board. The Union's President, Chuck Hatcher, appreciated being involved with the Cal-Muni discussion.

**7.4. Public Comments**

None

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Dashner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Clemens seconded; motion passed unanimously. 10:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Lark  
Acting Recording Secretary