

Ebbetts Pass Fire District



MINUTES

Board of Directors

May 15, 2018

APPROVED 06/19/2018

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00A.M. by President J. Scott McKinney and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Directors present: Denny Clemens, Jon Dashner, Dan Leary, and Scott McKinney. Directors absent: Thomas Sullivan.

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson, Intern Paxton Fassbender
Battalion Chief Rodney Hendrix, Engineer Jim Eaves

Others present: None

Media present: None

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

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

3.1. Mr. Dashner made a motion to approve Consent items 3.1 and 3.2. Mr. Leary seconded. The motion passed 5-0 (AYES: Clemens, Dashner, Leary, McKinney, ABSENT: Sullivan).

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 4.1. Finance Committee (Directors Dashner & Leary)

Chief Johnson reported that he had researched ambulance billing vendor options with the departure of Novato FD and formal discussion as later in the agenda. He also noted that it was the last 6 weeks of the fiscal year and he had slowed spending to just the more critical items.

- 4.2. Personnel Committee (Directors Leary & Sullivan)

Chief Johnson stated that they had no meeting this month.

- 4.3. Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Clemens & Sullivan)

Chief Johnson reported there had been no meeting this month but added that there

had been a good turnout from members of the public at the Wildfire Preparedness Day on May 5th. He noted that there had been a pier fire district from Tuolumne County who had attended and was able to see the success of the interagency event.

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

Chief Johnson noted that while there had not been a meeting this month, he wanted the Board to know that Battalion Chief Aaron Downing and Firefighter-Paramedic Bryn Buhler were at the pre-build meeting happening today and would be returning tomorrow.

5. Scheduled Items:

5.1. Ambulance Billing Services: Quotes for Ambulance Billing Services

Chief Johnson reported that there were two vendors to review for ambulance billing services. He noted that both entities met the District's needs regarding knowledge of the following billing intricacies: resident zero out-of-pocket program, pre-stabilization fee, ground emergency medical transport and intergovernmental transfer governmental reimbursement program, and ESO Solutions epcr program. He believed that either company should prove no impact to our line staff on how we currently do business.

Chief Johnson presented the proposal from Wittman Enterprises who were proposing charging \$25 to \$27 per PCR to process billing. He added that they were based in Sacramento and have several clients that are California fire-based EMS entities such as Sacramento Metro Fire District and Sacramento City. He noted that they also had the endorsement of the North Lake Tahoe Fire Chief Mike Schwartz, and our collection vendor Financial Credit Solutions.

Chief Johnson then presented information on Systems Design West who proposed a rate of \$24 per PCR plus any applicable postage to process billing. He noted there were based in Washington State. They were performing billing services for North Shore Fire District near Clear Lake California. North Shore FPD does endorse this company although they have just started with them.

Chief Johnson noted that he had discussed with Brian Dickson the advantage of continuing with a California-based operation may be beneficial with all the California law changes. They also thought the ability to meet with company representatives face to face within a few hours' drive might be worth the slightly higher fee.

Mr. Dashner made a motion to approve the selection of Wittman Enterprises as outlined in their proposal. Mr. Leary seconded; motion passed unanimously. (AYES: Clemens, Dashner, Leary, McKinney, ABSENT: Sullivan).

5.2. Calaveras LAFCO Proposed Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget

Chief Johnson noted the proposed budget for next fiscal year has been presented by LAFCO and was under review with a final budget hearing is set for May 21. If there

is any interest in providing any input, please let him know and he will forward appropriately.

5.3. Calaveras Public Power Agency: Power Rates Fiscal Year 2018/19

Chief Johnson reported that the Calaveras Public Power Agency was spreading some good news regarding its rates. Beginning July 1, 2018, the District should anticipate a half cent per KWH reduction.

5.4. Notice of General District Election and EPFD Resolution Calling General Election

Chief Johnson reported that it was already time for another Board member election with Directors Leary and McKinney up for re-election. The process begins with approval of the consolidation to include this election with the General Election in November and Resolution calling for a general district election. Mr. Dashner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2018-2: Resolution Calling General District Election. Mr. Leary seconded; motion passed unanimously. (AYES: Clemens, Dashner, Leary, McKinney, ABSENT: Sullivan).

6. **REPORTS**

6.1. Administrative Report

Chief Johnson noted that Engineer Glenn Verkerk will be conducting an Engineer test over the next month to establish a new promotional list which will go into effect July 1st remaining viable for two years. He then reported that Calaveras County has made movement toward increasing the TOT by utilizing a consulting company which may then recommend the likelihood it could pass at what rate.

Chief Johnson also noted there was some good news with a partial grant award on this year's Office of Traffic Safety grant application. He added that our District, Altaville FPD, Angels FD, Copperopolis FPD and Murphys FPD have been awarded \$100,000 of a total \$230,000 to update some extrication airbags and replacement extrication tools with discussion meetings as to who will receive what will be scheduled soon.

6.2. Legislative Report

Chief Johnson reported that SB 1079, if passed, would allow for advance payment to non-profits awarded Forestry Grants awarded through Cal FIRE. He also noted that fire districts were still watching the D-RISC movement supported by FDAC and Cal Chiefs for State funding for prepositioning local government resources during high wildland threat times up and down the state.

6.3. Fire Prevention

Chief Johnson noted that the Board members may hear about changes in the reporting side of the VIP program managed by CAL FIRE. Some areas will be using the new Collector Application this year while other areas will have one more year with paper reports. He added that Joan Lark is continuing to inspect lots and utilize various CalFire VIP programs whenever possible. He noted that permit burning went into effect May 1st although it could be sunsetted for fire season at any time depending on the dryness and heat of our weather.

6.4. Administrative - EMS

Chief Johnson noted that the main EMS item had been the billing vendor change which had been covered earlier in the meeting.

7. **COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1. Board Members – Each member gave positive feedback and expressed thanks towards the EPFFA and the on-duty crew.

7.2. Firefighters Association – None

7.3. Employees' Group –None

7.4. Public Comments – None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Dashner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Leary seconded; motion passed unanimously.
9:45am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paxton Fassbender
Acting Secretary