

Ebbetts Pass Fire District



MINUTES

Board of Directors

August 21, 2018

Approved 09/18/18

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, Scott McKinney and Thomas Sullivan.

District personnel present: Fire Chief Mike Johnson, Cheryl Howard
Aaron Downing, Rodney Hendrix
Shea Buhler, James Crabtree, Peter Ryan
Bryn Buhler, James Eaves, Rodney Rodr, Glenn Verkerk
Sean Bitner, Daniel Bredbenner, Will Koelzow, Ken Sherfey
Alex Kuhn

Others present: Michael Barr
Shannon Downing
Family Members of Rodney Hendrix, Peter Ryan, and Bryn Buhler

Media present: Charity Maness, Calaveras Enterprise

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

- 4.2.1. Promotional Recognition: Badge Pinning of Engineer Bryn Buhler, Captain Peter Ryan, and Battalion Chief Rodney Hendrix
Board President McKinney decided to move this item forward in the agenda.

Chief Mike Johnson introduced Bryn Buhler. He then noted some of the responsibilities of the Engineer position including equipment and tool readiness, apparatus operation and safety of emergency responders, and providing the water lifeline to firefighting personnel. He gave Bryn an opportunity to speak and she noted it had been a long road to the position and she thanked all those firefighters and officers that had helped her prepare. Bryn then had her husband, Shea Buhler, pin on her Engineer badge.

Chief Johnson then had Pete Ryan come forward and he noted a few of the qualities for a Captain. He noted the captain exercised supervisor responsibility in the fire service being charged with crew oversight and safety at the very place where the boots meet the ground. He commended Pete noting that he would be mentoring and grooming many persons to become fully qualified firefighters. Pete's wife, Teglene, then pinned the Captain's badge onto Captain Pete Ryan.

Chief Johnson then asked Rodney Hendrix to come forward. Chief Johnson noted that the new role for Rodney Hendrix as a Battalion Chief added to his responsibilities and was a much more global view with having to think of the next emergency and not just the one he was currently on. There would be complex incidents and other challenges but he believed Rodney would meet them very well. Battalion Chief Rodney Hendrix asked his mother to pin his new Battalion Chief badge on him.

A 2-minute recess was called in order to allow family members to leave if they wanted.

3. **CONSENT ITEMS**

3.1. Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve Consent items 3.1 and 3.2. Mr. Dashner asked about the replacing of the downed light pole and Chief Johnson replied that the insurance payment had already been received in 2017-18 but the invoice for the work had not arrived until the new fiscal year 2018-19. Chief Johnson also noted that the money had already been received for the work. Mr. Dashner seconded; the motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Sullivan).

4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

4.1. Finance Committee (Directors Dashner & McKinney)

Chief Johnson reported the County Auditor had not yet supplied the tax revenue for fiscal year 2018-19. He added that there should be a revenue increase and that he planned to present the budget for Board approval during its September meeting.

Mr. Sullivan requested to have on the next month's Finance Committee and Board agendas a topic for discussion regarding the CA Dept of Forestry clearance laws on all lots above 4,000 feet in elevation.

4.2. Personnel Committee (Directors McKinney & Sullivan)

No report.

4.3. Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Clemens & Sullivan)

Chief Johnson reported that a County 5-point checklist for setback was reportedly available but he has not seen it yet.

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

Chief Johnson reported that the District's Fleet Manager was preparing options for utility vehicle replacement.

5. Scheduled Items:

- 5.1. Board Vacancy: Review Applicant Information and Appoint to Fill Board Vacancy
Chief Johnson reported that the notices regarding the vacancy on the District's Board of Directors had been posted in several places around the District. There had been only one person that had expressed interest, prepared the responses to the questionnaire, and turned it in. He noted that Mike Barr's response had been included in the Board's packet for their consideration. Mr. Dashner made a motion to accept and appoint Michael Barr to the EPFD Board of Directors. Mr. Sullivan seconded; motion passed 4-0 (AYES: Clemens, Dashner, McKinney, Sullivan). Mr. Barr then joined the Board.
- 5.2. Calaveras County Dispatch Service Contract: Rate Escalation FY 2018-19
Chief Johnson noted that this was letter sent to notify the District of the increased rate during this fiscal year. He added that the first quarter of 2019 was when it was scheduled for the districts to see a draft of the guidelines for dual dispatching. He also noted the difficulty of talking with the Sheriff's Office on the radio.
- 5.3. EPFD Commendation for Outstanding Performance – Bart Rush, EPFD Chaplain
Chief Johnson noted that he was thankful for all of the District staff during the preparation and organizing of the Memorial for Dan Leary yet he would like the Board to consider a commendation for Chaplain Bart Rush. The consensus of the Board was to approve the signing and sending of the commendation letter.
- 5.4. Calaveras County Board of Supervisors Proclamation Honoring the Service of Dan Leary to the Ebbetts Pass Fire Protection District and the Greater Arnold Area
Chief Johnson noted that he had included the Board of Supervisor's Proclamation for the Board's information. Mr. McKinney added that the original was being framed for Dan's wife Tess along with one for the Moose Lodge.
- 5.5. Thank You Cards from Dan Leary's Family Thanking the District for his Service
Mr. McKinney noted the letters and thanked the District's personnel and staff for their work for Dan Leary's Memorial.

6. REPORTS

- 6.1. Administrative Report
Chief Johnson reported that the Parrots Fire on August 5th had raised attention levels for similar high threat areas. He noted that top CalFire personnel filling key pieces for the initial attack on the fire helped greatly with its seemingly quick ending.

He noted that he was in the process of vetting folks for the open firefighter position and working to make contact with the persons on the eligibility list.
- 6.2. Legislative Report
Chief Johnson noted the Legislature had returned to session August 6th. One of the bills being considered was AB2118 which looks to reform GEMT/IGT public

healthcare subsidies. Another is SB523 which was to remove governmental agencies from the payer mix reallocation pool. Yet another is SB845 water tax that was a hot topic of discussion at the recent EPPOC meeting.

6.3. Fire Prevention

Chief Johnson noted that Joan Lark was in the process of writing citations.

6.4. Administrative - EMS

Chief Johnson noted that a new style of industry-standard narcotics safe was being examined for installation in the new ambulance. He also noted that Engineer Bryn Buhler was working closely with a grant opportunity for defibrillators for the District's five ambulances.

7. **COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1. Board Members – Mr. Barr thanked everyone for their support on his appointment to the Board of Directors.

Mr. Dashner thanked everyone for their efforts toward the Leary Memorial and noted that all the comments he had heard regarding the event had been positive.

7.2. Firefighters Association – Glenn Verkerk reported that this year had been the second highest gross receipts for the annual raffle fundraiser. He added that the barbeque had went well and thanked the Board members for their support and their work at Association events.

7.3. Employees' Group – Rodney Rodr thanked the Board members for their support.

7.4. Public Comments – Charity Maness of the Calaveras Enterprise asked for notification regarding the District's Finance Committee meetings as she would like to attend.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Barr seconded; motion passed unanimously.
9:54 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Howard
District Secretary