



Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District

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MINUTES

For the Regular Meeting of the Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District's Board of Directors held at 141 Delleker Rd., Portola, CA 96122 On November 15, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Board Members: Chairperson Jeanne Graham, Director Lydia Acosta, Director Kevin Sankey,
Director Angelina Sutcliffe and Director Audrey Mitrevics

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairperson Graham.
2. **Roll Call:** Director Sankey, Director Sutcliffe, Chairperson Graham, and Director Mitrevics were all present. Director Acosta was absent.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge was recited by all.
4. **Public Comment:** None
5. **Consent Items:**

a. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting October 20, 2021

b. Resolution 2021-009, continued remote meetings

Director Sutcliffe made a motion to approve the consent items. Director Mitrevics seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Director Sankey – Aye, Chairperson Graham– Aye. Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Mitrevics - Aye. All items pass.

6. Regular Calendar

6.1 Answers from questions during public comment October 20, 2021:

Director Graham read aloud direction provided from legal counsel regarding two questions from the public at the last board meeting. A member of the public asked if recording of Zoom meetings is required. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.5, any member of the public may record the meeting by either audio or video. The board is not required to video record via Zoom or any other means. The second question asked was if the board is required to ask for additional public comment after directors discuss an agenda item. This is not required. The item will be presented, and then we will ask if there is any public comment. When there is no one wishing to comment, public comment will be closed and the item brought back to the board for discussion. The board will discuss, including asking questions of staff and/or the presenter, the board can call on an individual member or other public to ask specific questions if needed. The board will then provide direction and or make its decision.

There was no public comment and board discussion ensued. The board agreed to continue to conduct meetings as we have been.

6.2 Update on Budget and Approve Warrants:

Outstanding warrants total \$68,417.67. Deposits total \$54,364.03. Current budget balance is \$108,971.13.

6.3 Direction on Fire Recovery Request for Modification of Billing Practices:

Director Graham presented a letter from Fire Recovery requesting modification of billing practices. Board discussion ensued. Director Sankey made a motion to direct Fire Recovery to change our billing practices to direct billing. Director Sutcliffe seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Director Sankey – Aye, Chairperson Graham– Aye, Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Mitrevics - Aye. The item passes.

6.4 Close District Account at Plumas Bank:

Chairperson Graham explained that since having Cal Card credit card for a few months, and it has proven to work, the accounts at Plumas Bank are no longer needed for wildfire deployment and general purchases. She recommended that the board vote to close the accounts at Plumas Bank.

Board discussion ensued. Director Sankey made a motion to approve closing the Plumas Bank accounts. Director Mitrevics seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Director Sankey – Aye, Chairperson Graham– Aye, Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Mitrevics - Aye. The item passes.

6.5 Update from and direction to Director Kevin Sankey on negotiations with C Road’s water tender use on Office of Emergency Services (OES) fires:

Director Sankey informed the board that negotiations with C Road are ongoing and EPRFPD and C Road representatives have not reached an agreement.

At this time Director Sankey asked for a 5 minute recess

The meeting was called back into open session by Director Graham at 6:57 PM

Board discussion ensued.

Direction was given to Director Sankey to proceed with negotiations and report back to the board.

6.6 Chief’s Report:

Chief Frank was in attendance via Zoom. There were a total of 24 calls in the month of October: In district: (12) medical calls (1) structure fire (3) smoke checks (2) vehicle accidents (2) public assists and (1) campfire. Out of district there were 3 calls: (1) medical aid at C Road (1) vehicle accident at Gold Mountain and (1) fire alarm at Gold Mountain. Chief Frank informed the board that the Bendix radios have been ordered and will arrive in January of 2022. Equipment update: #9872 needs rear wheel seal repairs. Chief Frank has spoken with the repair shop and the truck can be inspected and the extent of work needed can be determined in December. The repairs are estimated to be in the range of \$850 to \$1,000. The ladder truck will be picked up by the fire department out of Illinois soon.

6.7 Grants. Updates on Hose and SCBA Safety Grants. Status update from staff on the two outstanding grants. (1) Hose and (2) SCBA. Board to make a decision to move forward or back out of open grants, and any related issues:

Chairperson Graham informed the board that the hose grant was not awarded. Jeanne said she was initially going to say that we had heard rumors that the SCBA grant had been approved, however, on Wednesday, December 10, she received a call from Chief Frank saying that he had received a phone call from the acting Chief of Long Valley Fire asking why we (EPRFPD) were not at the demo on Saturday for the SCBA’s? Then on Friday, around 7:00 PM, John Fatheree sent an email to her and Lieutenant Turner saying that there would be demos of the Scott SCBA’s tonight (November 15) and demos of the Drager SCBA’s on November 22, to decide which one would be purchased. Jeanne stated that due to unplanned and unknown expenses at the time of application for the grant was submitted, she does not believe that EPRFPD can afford to continue with the grant and she recommends that EPRFPD formally withdraw from the grant.

A member of the public spoke in favor of EPRFPD accepting the grant.

Board discussion ensued and questions were asked of Chief Frank regarding SCBA's, their certification dates, etc. Debate was had regarding expiration dates for EPRFPD SCBA's.

At this time, the board agreed to take a break to pull one of the SCBA's out of a truck and inspect it.

Chairperson Graham called the meeting back into open session at 7:21 PM

Chairperson Graham stated that more research was needed on this item. Director Sankey demanded that a vote be held now and made a motion that EPRFPD stay in the grant. Board discussion ensued. Director Sankey again made a motion that EPRFPD stay in the grant. Director Mitrevics seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Director Sankey – Aye, , Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Mitrevics – Aye, Chairperson Graham– Abstain. The item passes.

6.8 Receive update from staff on COVID-19:

Captain Frank was in attendance via Zoom. There are no new updates on COVID-19 procedures at this time.

Direction was given to staff to continue to follow any updates.

6.9 Direction to Staff regarding a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy:

Direction was given to the secretary to keep this item on future agendas for follow up.

6.10 Update from staff on status of Forest Service requests on 2021 contract and any related issues:

Chief Frank informed the board that he spoke with Joe Waterman today and he is attempting to set up a meeting for right after Thanksgiving with the parties involved but there has been no resolution at this time.

Direction was given to Chief Frank to stay on top of this and report back to the board with any developments.

7. Closed Session:

7.1. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of Case: John Fatheree v. Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District, et al Case No.: CV20-00176

Chairperson Graham moved the meeting into closed session at 7:29 PM

7.2. Report out from closed session:

Chairperson Graham called the meeting back into open session at 8:10 PM.

There is no reportable action from closed session.

8. Request for future agenda items: Next scheduled Regular Board Meeting January 17, 2022 at 6:30 PM:

9. Adjournment: Director Sutcliffe motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Mitrevics seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Director Sankey – Aye, Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Mitrevics – Aye, Director Graham - Aye. The item passes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM

ATTEST:

Katy Martinez, Secretary

Jeanne Graham, Chairperson

APPROVED AND SIGNED AT EPRFPD'S 12/13/2021 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING