



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 April 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Board Members: Vice Chairperson Angelina Sutcliffe, Director Teresa Whitfield,
Director Donna Carpenter and Director Dave Rudolph

1. Call to Order:

- a. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Vice Chairperson Sutcliffe. Director Carpenter was absent.
- b. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment

3. Consent Items:

- a. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting February 19, 2024
- b. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting March 25, 2024

There was no public comment.

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

Roll Call Vote: Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Rudolph – Aye, Director Whitfield – Aye.

The motion passed.

4. Regular Calendar:

4.1: Update on Budget and Warrants: Secretary Katy Martinez advised the Board that there was a tax deposit received on February 19, 2024 in the amount of \$39,553.36. Warrants for the period of February 16, 2024 through April 11, 2024 totaled \$61,407.40 leaving a balance of \$98,653.44. There was no public comment.

4.2: Brown Act Training: Director Sutcliffe advised that a link to the Brown Act training video was sent to all Board members. Director Sutcliffe stated that she found the training beneficial and important, the portion addressing “daisy chain” emails especially so. Directors’ Sutcliffe, Rudolph and Whitfield have all completed the training and Katy will follow up with Director Carpenter to confirm her completion. There was no public comment

4.3: Discussion regarding resuming in-person Board meetings: Director Sutcliffe stated that now that the prevalence of COVID has reduced, the Board should discuss resuming in-person Board meetings. Cary Curtis provided public comment in support of researching the use of the platform “Civengage” and also pointed out that another reason other District’s stopped using Zoom was due to connectivity issues. Board discussion ensued. There was no other public comment. Director Rudolph made a motion that the Board resumes in-person meetings beginning May 20, 2024. Director Whitfield seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Rudolph – Aye, Director Whitfield – Aye.

The motion passed.

4.4: Receive updates from ad hoc committees:

a. Annexation Status: Director Sutcliffe stated that she and Cary Curtis visited various County departments to see if there was anything specific they need from us to ensure that when our application is submitted, everything goes smoothly. They also checked in with Jennifer at LAFCO. Cary has been very helpful to us working on the Resolution. Hopefully the Resolution will be complete within the next week and then we can put out a 21 day protest hearing notice and get the application sent off to LAFCO. A 50% reduction in fees was negotiated with LAFCO. Cary has worked on developing a plan for our services; the mapping is being done by GIS through the LESSG. Jennifer is tentatively looking at a Certificate of Completion by September or October with full annexation by November 1. Angie and Cary discussed with LAFCO and the County that hopefully with the Resolution, the new Beckwourth Peak Fire District would take control of EPRFPD's finances, bill paying and doing inventory. This would allow EPRFPD's Board to concentrate on the annexation process and paperwork. Cary elaborated that the County recommended that the District begin the process of pulling the District's financials from the County. There was no public comment.

b. Department Inventory: Director Rudolph shared that he and Katy have been working on arranging a date to meet with Acting Chief Osburn to begin the inventory. Different possible dates have been discussed and Kenny has stated that he is waiting on a release from their legal counsel before setting a date. Cary Curtis provided public comment and stated that the legal piece of it is that Chief Osburn is having a "hold-harmless" agreement completed which would basically hold Beckwourth Fire not liable if they come across something where they say "oh, this isn't right" or "this particular piece of equipment is not complete", that there is no liability on Beckwourth Fire Department. Director Rudolph expressed that he thought Beckwourth was looking for a release of liability related to potential injuries while the inventory was being done. Cary explained that no, it was more of an accountability thing. Director Rudolph stated that he would be here during the inventory in order to hold everyone accountable. It was pointed out by the secretary that when EPRFPD took on the servicing of the City of Portola, C Road and Gold Mountain, we didn't demand a "hold-harmless" agreement, inventories were just performed. Cary stated that if Beckwourth Fire does draw up an agreement, it would be prudent to have our legal counsel review it. There was no other public comment. Board discussion ensued. Director Sutcliffe suggested that rather than either District spending further monies on legal fees related to reviewing agreements or documents, it be stipulated in the Resolution that Beckwourth Peak Fire District will have access to all EPRFPD stations and equipment, and asked could the inventory process be put off until then to avoid more legal fees. The subject of liability, workers compensation and exactly what needs to be inventoried were all discussed.

c. Contract Negotiations: Director Sutcliffe and Director Whitfield provided an update. There has been no response from Graeagle Fire to EPRFPD's offer to discuss possible compensation for their responses to calls for service within our District. Director Whitfield stated that they met on March 30 with Kenny at the Beckwourth Fire station because there was a power outage in Delleker. Bullet points were drawn up and adhered to during the meeting to ensure that everyone was on the same page. It was agreed that Kenny would add a column to the calls for service spreadsheet that would detail whether a call was for medical, fire, or if a call was canceled. It was also agreed that EPRFPD would provide information on any recent tax deposits received from the County. It was agreed that once Director Whitfield received the updated spreadsheet from Kenny, she would compare that information with the Sheriff's office dispatch information in order to validate the data on the spreadsheet. Teresa further stated that Kenny was going to include in his April 1 business meeting, department equipment needs and access to EPRFPD equipment as a means of bartering, the use of those items, as a way to compensate for the invoice presented to EPRFPD. Kenny would take this information to his Board for discussion.

Everyone at the table was in agreement that neither District would be involving attorneys for other things, such as reconciliation of either MOU's or contracts for the calls because this further depletes both District's budgets. Further discussion ensued regarding the appropriate level of response to calls with regard to number of personnel and/or equipment responding as well as the type of call. This was somewhat debated between Director Whitfield and Cary Curtis. The fact that Beckwourth Fire is receiving money from Eastern Plumas Health Care for responding to medical calls was discussed and Director Whitfield stressed that she will be meticulous when evaluating the invoice received from BFD and that EPRFPD is not being wasteful when it comes to spending. It was agreed that the inventory is important and will give the new fire district a better start. Director Whitfield expressed that she has not received the updated spreadsheet from Chief Osburn. Further discussion ensued and this item will remain on the agenda for further updates and discussion. There was no further public comment.

5. Next scheduled Regular Board Meeting May 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

6. Adjournment: Director Whitfield made a motion to adjourn. Director Rudolph seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Director Sutliffe – Aye, Director Whitfield – Aye, Director Rudolph – Aye.

The motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM.

ATTEST:

Katy Martinez, Secretary

Angelina Sutliffe, Vice Chairperson

APPROVED AND SIGNED AT EPRFPD'S 05/20/2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING