



Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District

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MINUTES

For the Special Meeting of the Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District's Board of Directors held at 141 Delleker Rd., Portola, CA 96122 On October 20, 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:** The secretary read aloud comments received from members of the public.
5. **Consent Items:**

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

Director Sankey 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. The item passes.

6. Regular Calendar

Director Graham informed the Board that the District's ISU Insurance policy renewal was received and she would like to add this as an emergency item to be discussed. All board members agreed to add this as an emergency item to the agenda.

6.1 AB-361, Resolution 2021-008:

A member of the public spoke and asked questions. Board discussion then ensued. Director Mitrevics made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-008 Confirming the state of emergency under government code section 8625, recognizing continued measures to promote social distancing, and re-authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the district for the period October 20, 2021 through November 20, 2021. Director Sutcliffe seconded the motion.

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

6.2 ISU Insurance Renewal – Emergency Added Item:

Chairperson Graham informed the board that the districts insurance renewal was received and the premium has tripled. There was no forewarning from our insurance agency to expect such an increase and she would like a board member to volunteer to contact our agent and find out what caused such an increase and determine whether or not there are ways to lower the premium. Director Mitrevics volunteered to contact the agent and report back to the board.

6.3 Update on Budget and Approve Warrants:

Outstanding warrants total \$9,284.81. Deposits total \$9,482.88. Current budget balance is \$99,370.02.

6.4 Update from staff on status of AED at Sierra Valley Grange and placement of AED at Diamond S Ranch:

Captain Frank informed the board that she and Chief Frank picked up the AED from the Sierra Valley Grange and she will be meeting with Ken Smith to arrange placement of the unit at the Diamond S Ranch.

6.5 Fire Study Group:

a. In-depth discussion on Fire Study group, our constituents' concerns, and determination of Boards position. Carried over from August 16, 2021 and September 20, 2021 meetings.

A member of the public spoke and stated their opposition to EPRFPD's continued participation in the Fire Study Group. Director Sankey stated that he would like to hear any update related to agenda item (b) before continuing to discuss item (a).

b. Receive update from and provide direction to Chairperson Graham and Director Sutcliffe on information from the Fire Study Group September 28, 2021 and October 14, 2021 meetings.

Chairperson Graham informed the board that she was able to attend the beginning of the meeting on September 28 and that the two requests for proposal responses were reviewed and the group selected Plan West based on their presentation. Upon the opening of the bid received, it was realized that the bid was for an amount greater than was budgeted. Daniel Smith was tasked with contacting Plan West to negotiating the fee. Director Sutcliffe stated that the remainder of the meeting dealt with updating MSR's. She voiced that she felt the bid opening and choosing of the winning bid was strange to her. Chairperson Graham then provided an update from the meeting held on October 14. Daniel Smith presented the study group with clarification on the bid received from Plan West and the amount of the bid. Board discussion ensued. Director Sutcliffe added that during the September 28 meeting, she informed the group that EPRFPD believes that the meetings should be open to the public via Zoom and was told that they would speak with their legal counsel about it. Chairperson Graham stated that a cease and desist letter was received with respect to the Fire Study Group. The letter has been posted on our website and given to our legal counsel.

Back to item 6.5 a:

A member of the public spoke and again stated their opposition to the Fire Study Group.

Board discussion ensued.

Director Sutcliffe made a motion to withdraw from the Fire Study Group. Director Mitrevics seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Director Sankey – Aye, Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Mitrevics – Aye, Director Graham – No. The item passes with one no vote.

Direction was given to the secretary to send written notice of EPRFPD's withdrawal from the Fire Study Group.

6.4 Chief's Report:

There were a total of 12 calls in the month of September: (8) medical (2) lift assists (1) smoke check (1) propane stove explosion (this call was downgraded). Two new firefighter applications are being processed. The Firefighters Association has voted to purchase 3 new Bendix radios for the department. These radios can be used while deployed on wildfires. Thank you to the Firefighters Association! Chief Frank asked the board for direction on two items. Due to age, 3, 8 foot suction hoses need replacement on #9873. He is in the process of finding the best price. At this time he has been quoted \$280 per hose. He is also looking for direction from the board regarding a possible switch to a program called lamResponding from our current vendor eDispatch for emergency call dispatch. The Plumas County

Sheriff is in the process of switching to lamResponding and Chief Frank explained that there would be a cost savings as well as other additional features.

Direction was given to have the request for hose replacement and call dispatch placed on the next agenda and for him to research both items further, with an emphasis on finding hose that is in stock.

6.5 Update from staff on COVID-19:

Captain Frank advised that there have been no updates received and she will continue to monitor this.

6.6 Direction to staff regarding a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

Board discussion ensued.

Chairperson Graham stated that this item will continue to be on future agendas as we await information from the Governor.

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

A member of the public spoke with a question regarding public comment procedures.

Chief Frank informed the board that there have been a couple of meetings with Joe Waterman but there has been no resolution on this matter.

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

7. Request for future agenda items: Next scheduled Regular Board Meeting November 15, 2021 at 6:30 PM:

A member of the public again asked that the district ask our legal counsel for clarification on asking for public comment after board discussion on any agenda item, as opposed to prior to board discussion.

8. Adjournment: Chairperson Graham motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Sankey 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 7:41 PM

ATTEST:

Katy Martinez, Secretary

Jeanne Graham, Chairperson

APPROVED AND SIGNED AT EPRFPD'S 11/15/2021 REGULAR BOARD MEETING