



# 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 January 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chairperson Sankey.

- 1. Roll Call:** Directors Sankey, Sutcliffe and Graham were all present. Director Mitrevics was absent.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge was recited by all.
- 3. Public Comment:**

Member of the public, Ashlee Sims commented on the recent LESSG meeting she attended and asked for an update on EPRFPD's Board's progress on policies and procedures. At the close of public comment, Chairperson Sankey informed the Board that there are a few corrections to tonight's agenda, specifically; item 5.7 will be removed due to Interim Chief Turner's absence, items 5.2 and 5.8 will be presented by Director Graham and the final Plumas County Mutual Aid Agreement was received and signed. Chairperson Sankey stated that over the past weekend he had received Captain Elaine Frank's written resignation and the Board has accepted it and Captain Frank will be missed and she has been an asset to the department over the years.

- 4. Consent Items:**

None

- 5. Regular Calendar**

**5.1 Correspondence:** Secretary, Katy Martinez shared with the Board, a thank you letter from the City of Yreka, a notice from GLRID regarding water and sewer rates increasing as well as a letter from Gold Mountain CSD terminating services effective January 1, 2023. Katy told the Board that Ashlee Sims had visited the station over the Holidays and gifted the book "Roberts Rules of Order" to the District. Thank you, Ashlee.

**5.2 Update on C Road Discussions:** Debbie Thompson from C Road's Board of Directors was present via Zoom and stated that her Board has been expecting to hear from this Board regarding negotiations on the use of their water tender on wildfires. Chairperson Sankey proposed that a vote on a 50/50 split (minus any vehicle maintenance costs) of future wildfire monies be held and that an ad hoc committee be formed at the next meeting to continue negotiations with Debbie and Eric to agree upon an equitable split of past earnings, as the original contract with C Road did not address the usage of the water tender on wildfires.

**5.3 Gold Mountain AED(s)/ Equipment Update:** Director Graham informed the Board that everything has been returned to Gold Mountain and she confirmed this with Bill Robinson. Elaine Frank spoke via Zoom and stated that Interim Chief Turner asked that she stay on as Administrative Captain and also asked her to present information at tonight's meeting on items 5.2, 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8, which she is prepared to do. Ms. Frank pointed out that Director Graham's statement that everything has been returned to Gold Mountain does not include AED's. Director Graham agreed that she misspoke; she was referring to all gate clickers and other equipment. Chairperson Sankey thanked Elaine for taking on the work of preparing to present information tonight, but declined that she do so. Director Graham asked that Gold Mountain AED update be on the next agenda.

**5.4 LAFCO Update for Sphere of Influence (SOI) and Municipal Service Review (MSR):** Director Graham stated that she attended the LAFCO meeting and learned that EPRFPD is basically "on probation". There were some very specific items from the first MSR report that LAFCO would like us to address and show a plan of how the District is going to move forward. New SOI maps have been drawn up by LAFCO indicating new spheres of influence for Beckwourth Fire, Sierra Valley Fire, Portola and Gold Mountain. These new maps show EPRFPD's SOI being completely surrounded by the proposed new district. If the new district is not approved by voters, new maps will need to be redrawn. EPRFPD is on the agenda for LAFCO's next meeting and Jeanne will contact Jennifer this week to let her know how this Board's reaction to the information she presents tonight. Jeanne asked that LAFCO delay their vote until we see whether or not the new district is approved by the voters, they chose not to delay. Board discussion ensued and Chairperson Sankey directed Director Graham to make a formal request that LAFCO put something in writing to the District detailing their position so that EPRFPD can forward it to our attorneys for review. Director Graham and Director Sutcliffe will both attend a meeting with Jennifer next week.

Public Comment: Ashlee Sims spoke via Zoom regarding concerns, as well as some praise, related to EPRFPD's response to the SOI/MSR reports as well as multiple criticisms of Director Graham.

**5.5 Update on Budget and Warrants; November 14, 2022 through January 12, 2023:** Secretary, Katy Martinez informed the Board that warrants totaled \$37,442.85 and the balance is \$159,511.74. Director Graham recalled that a few months ago the Chief was debating whether or not to renew with eDispatch. Katy explained that she went ahead and renewed for 6 months so that coverage would not lapse. Interim Chief Turner will be asked to provide an update on the performance of eDispatch prior to the next renewal in July.

**5.6 Chief and Secretary Recruitment:** Public Comment: Ashlee Sims commented that she had submitted an application and resume for the secretary position and has not been contacted. Director Sankey explained that the position is still open and recruitment is ongoing.

**5.7 Monthly Report from Interim Chief, Todd Turner:** Item removed from agenda.

**5.8 Funding Request for Engineer Training from Interim Chief Turner in the amount of \$3,000:** Director Graham explained that this is a 2 part class. Originally there were 3 attendees but that has now been reduced to 2 and the new cost would be \$1,800. Board discussion ensued. Public Comment: Elaine Frank spoke and informed the Board that the Firefighter's Association does not have the funds to pay for the classes. Director Graham made a motion to approve up to \$3,000.00 for the 1A and 1B classes with the stipulation that all attendees have all of the qualifications required for the classes complete and that the commitment for repayment paperwork is signed. Director Sutcliffe seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote: Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Sankey – Aye, Director Graham – Aye. Motion passes.**

**5.9 AB2449 Remote Attendance Rules:** Director Graham read AB2449 aloud and outlined how adopting AB2449 would affect remote meeting attendance by Directors. Board discussion ensued. Director Graham made a motion that AB2449 not be adopted at this time and that it be revisited annually. Director Sutcliffe seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote: Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Sankey – Aye, Director Graham – Aye. Motion passes.**

**5.10 Funding Request for Computer Upgrades:** Director Graham informed the Board that all of the District’s computers were used when purchased and have reached the end of their lifecycle, as well as the Wi-Fi router. Jeanne would like the Board to have this need front of mind when considering the budget. Katy will prepare a list of all computers to present to the Board so that replacement priority can be assessed.

**6. Board Director Vacancy:** Katy informed the Board that she had one gentleman express interest, emailed him the application, but has not received a response. The vacancy remains open.

**7. Future Agenda Item(s) Request from Board Members: Next Regular Board Meeting is February 20, 2023 at 6:00 PM.** Chairperson Sankey asked that a closed session for employee review of Interim Chief Turner be on the agenda. Ashlee Sims asked that an update on policies and procedures be on the next agenda.

**8. Adjournment:**

Chairperson Sutcliffe motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Director Graham seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote: Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Sankey – Aye, Director Graham – Aye. Motion passes.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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**Katy Martinez, Secretary**

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**Kevin Sankey, Chairperson**

**APPROVED AND SIGNED AT EPRFPD’S 04/17/2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**