



# 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 September 19, 2022 at 6:30 PM

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

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairperson Graham.
- 2. Roll Call:** Director Sankey, Director Mitrevics, Director Rudolph and Chairperson Graham were present in person. Director Sutcliffe was in attendance via Zoom. Chairperson Graham objected to Director Sutcliffe actively participating via Zoom without having been agendized as attending remotely. Director Sankey objected, stating that he had spoken with the attorney and Director Sutcliffe can actively participate in the meeting. Board discussion ensued. Director Sankey made a motion to proceed with the meeting with Director Sutcliffe participating via Zoom from the fire station parking lot due to illness. Director Rudolph seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Sankey – Aye, Sutcliffe – Aye, Mitrevics – Aye, Rudolph – Aye, Graham – No. At this time, Director Sankey objected to Chairperson Graham voting on a motion. Director Sankey cited Brown Act and District Bylaws, and “policy 3000, 1000.2”. Chairperson Graham argued that “policy 3000” has not been voted on by EPRFPD’s Board of Directors. Director Sankey further stated that “policy 3000” had been voted on and adopted by Plumas County as an ordinance and that Plumas County has authority over EPRFPD. Chairperson Graham again argued that “policy 3000” has not been voted by EPRFPD’s Board. Director Sankey stated that Plumas County is the presiding, overriding body and Plumas County overrides what EPRFPD does. Further argument ensued between Chairperson Graham and Director Sankey. Chairperson Graham adamantly disagreed that EPRFPD’s Board is required to follow Plumas County “policy 3000” and its ordinances. At this time, Chairperson Graham asked that the Board choose a new Chairperson. Director Sankey nominated Director Rudolph. Chairperson Graham stated that whoever takes over must be computer literate and know how to operate Zoom. Director Sankey then nominated himself. Director Mitrevics seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Sankey – Aye, Sutcliffe – Aye, Mitrevics – Aye, Rudolph, Graham – abstain. The motion carried. Director Graham then handed the running of the meeting over to the new Chairperson, Kevin Sankey.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge was recited by all.
- 4. Public Comment:** At this time, Chairperson Sankey spoke and stated that his actual service as Board Chair would officially begin next month. Chairperson Sankey stated that he has several motions to amend tonight’s agenda. He asked Director Sutcliffe to review them and present the motion. Chairperson Sankey called for a 5 minute break at 6:40 to allow Director Sutcliffe to review the proposed amendments to the agenda. The meeting resumed at 6:46 PM.  
Member of the public, Ashlee Sims provided public comment regarding the Firefighters Association and the Fishing Derby. She provided all Board Members with a copy of the Fishing Derby flyer.

Member of the public, Teresa Whitfield provided all Board Members with copies of EPRFPD's founding articles and also asked questions regarding bicycle donation requests and the Firefighters Association.

Director Sutcliffe spoke and stated that she had reviewed all of the changes to the agenda as proposed by Chairperson Sankey. She proceeded to read off multiple proposed changes. Secretary Martinez stated that she could not understand all of the requested changes and asked for clarification. Chairperson Sankey will provide her with further details. Chairperson Sankey then asked Director Sutcliffe if she was making a motion, and she replied yes. Chairperson Sankey went on to state that it was a motion to re-order the agenda and asked for a second to the motion. Board discussion ensued and Chairperson Sankey handed out a proposed new agenda to all Board Members. He stated that the new agenda would be largely the same, with a few modifications; the actual wording of item 6.12 being one. He proposed that the word "deny" be struck. Item 6.11, going to 2 meetings per month had been voted on back in June and not approved. Director Graham stated that an item can be revisited. The District has been having a lot of Special Meetings lately and having 2 meetings per month would elevate that. If there is no District business to address, the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting can always be cancelled. She objected to the proposed changes to the agenda stating agendas should be followed as posted to the public. Further Board discussion ensued. Director Rudolph made a motion that the LESSG item be addressed first (Item 6.4). The motion made by Director Sutcliffe was not seconded. Director Sutcliffe seconded Director Rudolph's motion to take Item 6.4 first. Roll Call Vote: Sutcliffe – Aye, Mitrevics – Aye, Rudolph – Aye, Graham – No. The motion passed.

**5. Consent Items: a) Minutes Regular Meeting June 20, 2022 b) Minutes Special Meeting July 25, 2022:**

Director Graham made a motion to approve the consent items. Director Mitrevics seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Sutcliffe – Aye, Mitrevics – Aye, Rudolph – Aye, Graham – Aye. The motion passed.

- 6.4 Rejoin Local Emergency Services Study Group (LESSG):** Cary Curtis from Gold Mountain and Tom Cooley provided an update on the progress of the LESSG. Cary Curtis stated that this progress update is being given in hopes that it would open up dialog about EPRFPD's Board decision to no longer participate. At the conclusion of the update, Ms. Curtis asked that the Board please provide its decision whether or not to rejoin the Study Group within 10 days. Chairperson Sankey asked for any public comment at this time and there was none. Director Rudolph made a motion that EPRFPD rejoin the LESSG. Further Board discussion ensued with respect to the financial cost to the District. Director Rudolph again stated his motion. Director Graham seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Sutcliffe – Abstain, Mitrevics – Aye, Rudolph – Aye, Graham – Aye. The motion passed.

Director Graham made a motion that the Board look at the budget and negotiate with the Study Group and come up with an affordable buy back in amount. Director Sutcliffe seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Sutcliffe – Aye, Rudolph – Aye, Mitrevics – Aye, Graham – Aye. The motion passed.

Director Graham made a motion to form an Ad Hoc Committee and nominate Directors Graham and Mitrevics to work with the LESSG, look at what the District can afford, and report back to the Board with their findings. Director Mitrevics seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Sutcliffe – Aye, Mitrevics – Aye, Rudolph – Aye, Graham – Aye. The motion passed.

Cary Curtis and Tom Cooley volunteered to assist the Board and the Ad Hoc Committee and asked to hear back from the Board by September 30, 2022. Chairperson Sankey asked that a Special Meeting be arranged for September 26, 2022 at 10:00 AM. The Secretary will prepare and send out the agenda.

**6 Regular Calendar:**

- 6.1. Update on Budget and Warrants:** Secretary Katy Martinez informed the Board that warrants from August 12, 2022 through September 16, 2022 totaled \$10,885.85 and the balance is \$203,404.34.
- 6.2. Dixie Fire settlement final payment from PG&E:** Secretary Martinez advised the Board that the final payment of \$35,000 was received. Director Graham made a motion to accept the \$35,000 and place it in Contingencies. Director Mitrevics seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Sutcliffe – Aye, Mitrevics – Aye, Rudolph – Aye, Graham – Aye. The motion passed.
- 6.3. Resolution 2022-012 Final Budget Fiscal Year 2022/2023:** Director Mitrevics made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-012. Director Graham seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Sutcliffe – Aye, Mitrevics – Aye, Rudolph – Aye, Graham – Aye. The motion passed.
- 6.4. Rejoin Local Emergency Services Study Group (LESSG):** This item was addressed earlier.
- 6.5. Insurance Update:** Secretary Martinez provided the Board with information regarding the District’s current insurance carrier, Allied, pulling out of the California market. Direction was given to the Secretary to keep the Board updated on future developments.
- 6.6. Chief and Secretary Recruitment:** Recruitment is ongoing and this item will remain on future agendas.
- 6.7. Resolution 2022-013 Change District Board Meeting Frequency to Twice a Month:** Board discussion ensued. Meetings will continue once a month at this time.
- 6.8. AB38 Defensible Space Inspections:** Director Rudolph will continue to monitor this item and update the Board at a future meeting.
- 6.9. Chief’s Report – Calls for Service in the months of June and July and August:** June calls in District = 21: July calls in District = 16. August calls in District = 19. Station and vehicle inventories are ongoing. Chief Frank’s transition notes are in progress.
- 6.10. Plumas County Mutual Aid Agreement for Emergency Services Agreement:** Chief Frank informed the Board that the final Mutual Aid Agreement is expected soon and it will need to be signed quickly once it is received. He will keep the Board updated.

**7. Next scheduled Regular Board Meeting:** October 17, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

- Items 6.11 thru 6.14 will be carried over to a future meeting.

**8. Adjournment:**

Chairperson Sutcliffe motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Director Graham seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Director Sutcliffe – Aye, Director Mitrevics – Aye, Director Rudolph – Aye, Director Graham – Aye. The item passes.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Katy Martinez, Secretary

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Kevin Sankey, Chairperson

**APPROVED AND SIGNED AT EPRFPD’S 02/20/2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**