

Minutes for March 18, 2021 Beckwourth Fire District

- **Board members attended this meeting via teleconference as permitted by California Governor Newsom Executive Order N-29-20 and in person. Members of the public were able to join the meeting via Zoom live streaming. Board Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Daniel Smith.**
- **Roll Call: Board Members:** Daniel Smith – here, Denise Downs – present, Gay Miller – here, John Randall – here, Daniel Greenwood -- here. **Board Secretary:** Regina Martinez, **Fire Chief:** Bret Russell.
- **The Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited by all.
- **Approval of Minutes** for the Board Meeting held on February 18, 2021. Denise Downs **motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 18, 2021** and Gay Miller seconded. Daniel – yes, Denise – yes, Gay – yes, John – yes, Daniel G.-- yes. All in favor, **motion passed without objection.**
- **Approval of the Account Revenues, Receivables, Expenditures, and Balance Sheet** for the month of February 2021. Regina shared with the Board of Directors the Monthly Expense Report through February 28, 2021. John made the motion to approve February financials, Denise seconded the motion. All in favor.
- **Public Comment:** Brian Attama shared that he is happy to be a part of the BFD Team. He made a request of the Board to contact the Eastern Plumas Rural Fire District (EPRFD) Board of Directors to request his turnouts from them. He stated that EPRFD has requested a member of the Beckwourth Board make contact with them so the request may be added to their next agenda.

Daniel Smith: We are aware of the situation and have followed up with Lauren Knox (City Manager). She is contacting them and a resolution is being worked on.

The following firefighters came to the Board Meeting to show support for Chief Russell and the Department. Bruce Lackenbauer, Kenny Osburn, Floyd Meyers, Gabriel Gutierrez, Scott Hiatt, Melissa Klundby, David Morgan, Ruben Villa, Don Bliss, Robert Mendoza, Connor Thompson, Scott Thompson, and Brendon Pratt.

Bruce Lackenbauer: Thanked Chief Russell, Regina and the board for all the time and work being put forth towards the department.

Kenny Osburn: Retired from Truckee and welcomes the opportunity to be a part of BFD, and is very happy for all the training opportunities. The people have been great to work with. Daniel Smith response: Welcome aboard.

Floyd Meyers: Regarding Facebook page; In his opinion the page is being used for posting mis-information to the public and other fire departments bordering Plumas county concerning Beckwourth Fire, Chief Russell and the Board of Directors with the intention of giving the department and support staff a “black eye”. He further stated that Chief Russell and the Board of Directors have been completely transparent and “above board” always with the “best interest of the District, its citizens, and visitors to Plumas County in mind”. He also provided numerous examples of changes being implemented that are resulting in monetary savings to the District. He ended his comment by extending an invitation to anyone with questions or that want to learn more to attend Monday night training or to complete an application to volunteer.

Daniel Smith Response: Everyone is always welcome to attend Board meetings. Participation is important and encouraged. Transparency is important. We except that everybody has an opinion. While we may not agree with all opinions, it’s important to respect those opinions. We have to do this so we can accomplish things as we move forward.

Gabriel Gutierrez: RE: Facebook group. Comments on page paint a negative picture and “didn’t have any validation behind them”. He doesn’t want the community to have any doubts about the services the department provides. These comments were made without any attempt to mitigate her concerns with the department first.

Jennifer Langston: Expressed her concerns regarding various vehicles and equipment owned by the Department. RE: Facebook post. Stated the commenting on Facebook “was my opinion” and that “we, as tax payers will be funding the Portola department”.

Scott Hiatt: RE: Facebook post. Disagreed with the negative comments toward the department.

Daniel Smith: Reiterated that everybody has a right to express their opinion. He stated that many of the examples brought up by Jennifer simply haven’t happened and no decisions have been made. He further stated that in “no way is Beckwourth Fire paying for the City of Portola. The department is tracking the budget/expenses and is right on track. He further clarified that “we’re doing this to be more efficient and save money, not to spend more money.” Each board meeting will include a report on the Portola expenses.

Bruce Lackenbauer: Provided a positive comment on the walk-through done at the Southside Fire Station. He felt that Portola has “gone above and beyond with their budget” making improvements on the building and equipment that the district will now not have to use any budget for.

Melissa Klundby: Introduced herself. Really enjoying her experience so far and appreciate Chief Russell and his vision for the district.

David Morgan: Introduced himself. Stated it’s been an enjoyable experience being part of BFD and he’s learned a lot.

Debbie Hiatt told the group that she has been working on starting up the Beckwourth Fire Auxiliary. They will be having a meeting on April 6th at 5pm at the Main Station.

Ruben Villa: Many employees often volunteer their time to the district without getting paid. The public doesn’t see that but they do it because they want to help.

- **Consent Agenda:** none
- **Chief’s Report:** Chief Russell shared that the Department, Training Captain Osburn has been busy with trainings at the Portola South Station. Division Chief Lackenbauer has completed ice rescue training. There was a multi company spot drill at Joy Way. Beckwourth Fire and Sierra Valley Fire Department attended. Discussion is taking place for a structure fire training in Beckwourth. Chief Russell shared that the BFD Auxiliary is off to a good start. They will be using the support unit (old ambulance) to be on scene if support is needed, such as meals and drinks. The Chief stated that the SCBA packs have been picked up in Henderson, Nevada. The equipment was purchased by the Chief out of his personal funds, the cost was \$50.00. Henderson Fire was gracious to help Beckwourth get the needed equipment. For the month of February BFD had 4 calls, 3 medical and 1 fire. Portola Division had 26 calls, all medical. BFD had 2 mutual aid calls, 1 for EPRFD and 1 for SVFD. Chief reminded the group that he will be attending a Fire Investigation Academy in Fresno on 3/23-4/1/2021 and 4/5-4/14/2021. There is a plan in place for coverage in his absence.
- **Secretary’s Report:** Regina reported on the February financials. Regina shared that there was no water usage to report for Station 2, Grizzly Ranch. Regina also shared the pricing to purchase QuickBooks and their support. Discussion took place about accounts that are past due for payment from the County.
- **Discussion and Possible Action: Separate Beckwourth Fire District finances from Plumas County.** Chief shared that he had spoken with Roberta from Plumas County Finance Department. She told Chief that the department was short staffed, and that they had a limited number of resources. There was no resolution given to the concerns of the Chief.

- **Discussion and Possible Action: Purchase of Type III Wildland Firetruck.** Chief Russell reported that he has had numerous discussions with the Division Chiefs, Captains, and Board members to determine if this was the right vehicle for our department. As of now, he had not heard back from Truckee Meadow Fire Department yet about moving forward with the purchase of their Firetruck. Discussion took place about the purchase of a new fire truck and the history of the Boards decision to move forward with the purchase.

Daniel Smith commented on the changes that have been implemented in the past two years regarding budgeting for the future of the department, including a Reserve Capital Improvement Program, a Repair and Replacement Program and an Operations Emergency Reserve Program.

- **Update of: Portola City Council Liaison:** Gay reported she attended the meeting and had nothing to report.
- **Update of: Local Emergency Services Study Group:** Daniel gave a lengthy explanation of the study group and their goals. There will need to be a feasibility study done and the cost is expected to be between \$30,000 to \$50,000. Sierra Valley Fire Department has decided to remain a part of the study group. A Resolution will be added to next month's BFD Agenda for Board approval.
- **Update of: Report on Coronavirus:** Brendon Pratt, Safety Officer attends all Monday night trainings and BFD is following COVID-19 CDC Guidelines.
- **Update of: Report on water use from Grizzly Ranch:** Reported earlier by Secretary.
- **Division Chiefs' Report:** Bliss, no report. Lackenbauer, reported on recent training which included wild land fire training. He requested that the following topic be added to the next agenda; donating the departments old SCBA's to another department. Also, he reported that Plumas Bank gives donations to the community and with the department having four stations, we could ask for a donation. Daniel Smith said that he would reach out to Plumas Bank.
- **Battalion Chiefs' Report:** none.
- **Safety Officer's Report:** Brendan reported that there have been no injuries or accidents to report. He reported that the RMAP has been submitted to Golden State Risk Management Authority for review. Brendan reported that last year BFD received a premium reward and that he is hoping to receive on again this year. Also, he stated that a request has been submitted to OSHA to come do a walkthrough of all the fire stations.
- **Directors Reports:** Denisce thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication. She stated that feedback on taking over Portola Fire and Emergency Service has been positive and favorable with the Portola residents. Denisce reported that Plumas Sierra Rural Electric also has a donation fund, and they will match up to \$500 if we submit a written request.
- **Meeting adjourned from Open Session to reconvene in Closed Session.**
- Report on Closed Session. Daniel shared that there is nothing reportable from Closed Session as no decisions were made.
- **Old Business:** none
- **New Business:** none
- **Adjournment:** Daniel adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

I, REGINA MARTINEZ SECRETARY OF THE BOARD, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF SAID **BOARD MEETING** OF THE BECKWOURTH FIRE DISTRICT HELD ON **March 18, 2021** ARE CORRECT AS RECORDED.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' APPROVAL SIGNATURES: Minutes for March 18, 2021.

Minutes approved by the Beckwourth Fire District Board of Directors on April 15, 2021.

Daniel Smith:	_____	Date:	_____
Denisce Downs:	_____	Date:	_____
Gay Miller:	_____	Date:	_____
John Randall:	_____	Date:	_____