



**Beckwourth Fire District  
Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
September 20, 2023 06:30 PM  
180 Main St Beckwourth, 96129  
<https://www.beckwourthfire.com>**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Larry Smith.

**A. Roll Call**

Present: Chair Larry Smith, Vice Chair Daniel Greenwood, Director Alyson Ceresola, Director Tyler McGarr, Director Rachel Brothers

Staff Present: Chief Bret Russell, Board Clerk Heather Grant, Bookkeeper Carol Logan, Captain Ruben Villa, Captain Bruce Lackenbauer, Captain Kurt Flewell

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Lead by Chair Larry Smith

**2. Public Comments**

~A member of the public brought a concern over his neighbor blocking an easement that is used as a turn around for fire engines. He asked that a member of the department assess the situation and offer an opinion.

~A member of the public gave an update on Measure E & F outreach. A meeting was hosted at Grizzly Ranch with great turnout and a lot of support. The President of Fire Wise was in attendance. The next meeting is scheduled for 9/26 at the Veterans hall in Portola. there will be pizza and beverages offered. There will be numerous experts there to answer any questions that anyone has. All are welcome to attend.

**3. Consent Agenda**



A. Approval of August 16, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

B. Approval of Account Revenues and Expenses, Balance Sheet, Expenses by vendor detail, Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual for August 2023

Director Tyler McGarr motioned to approve. A second was made by Vice Chair Daniel Greenwood. The roll call vote:

Aye Chair Larry Smith Aye Vice Chair Daniel Greenwood Aye Director Alyson Ceresola Aye Director Tyler McGarr Aye Director Rachel Brothers

**4. Department Staff Reports**

**A. Chief's Report**

Chief Bret reported out as follows

~August call log was 52 responses, 10 in Division 1, 35 in Division 2, 1 in Division 3, & 6 Mutual Aid

~Eastern Plumas Fire is now in the hands of the County Supervisors, the influx of calls to Portola has been very demanding on resources. Chairman Smith commented that their failure highlights the need for the consolidation. LAFCO had given them a year to get their department in order, and within half that time, they shut down.

~Our strike team returned from the Happy Camp fire, they reported it was a good assignment and they all learned a lot and everything went well.

~Ruben Villa and Rudy Hoyos attended the Fly-In Breakfast in Beckwourth, it was a good event and he thanked them for their excellent show of community support.

~Extra recognition to Captain Villa for going above and beyond with in support of Portola High School, students requested fire apparatus be involved in the Homecoming parade- Ruben has arranged for multiple agencies to attend, and he, Jack Bertken, and Brian Attama made banners for the fire engines.

~Announcing the "ABC" program. Acting Battalion Chief positions to be filled on a one month basis to enable each applicant to gain experience leading up to the possible consolidation. Chair Smith inquired what the purpose of the position is. Chief Russell explained that the position helps to create and chain of command and increase span of control.

~ Good progress is being made on building inspections using the APX program, spearheaded by Brian Attama and Ruben Villa, after inspection, property owners are provided a report detailing any recommendations or violations.

~Beckwourth responded to two local fires, one in Portola in USFS boundaries, BFPD had fire contained by the time Forrest Service arrived on scene.

The second fire was in Blairsden at Gumbas and the Bakery, Chief Russell recognized Captain Flewell for his tactical suggestions and advanced fire fighting skills, and was instrumental in their ability to save the Blairsden House building.

Additionally, the mutual aid with Graeagle fire was seamless and went beyond expectations. BFPD has an excellent mutual aid relationship with Graeagle Fire and it is very much appreciated and relates into effective response.

~

#### B. Secretary's Report

The secretary had nothing to report.

#### C. Department Staff Reports

Commending Captain Villa for getting BFD involved in community events.

### 5. **Directors Reports**

A. There was no report from Directors.

### 6. **Report on hydrant water use from Grizzly Ranch**

A. No use to report from the fire hydrant at Grizzly Ranch.

### 7. **Fire Protection Contract Discussion**

A. US Forest Service 2023/2024 Contract

No progress or word on the Forrest Service Contract.

### 8. **Resolution 2023.09 Compensation of Strike Team Crew Members On Return From Incident.**



Director Tyler McGarr motioned to approve. A second was made by Vice Chair Daniel Greenwood. The roll call vote:

Aye Chair Larry Smith Aye Vice Chair Daniel Greenwood Aye Director Alyson Ceresola Aye Director Tyler McGarr Aye Director Rachel Brothers

### 9. **Sealed Bid Submissions For Military Generators**

The winning bid out of four received was for \$5000. Winner was notified. All other bidders were contacted and checks either returned or shredded.

### 10. **Landscaping at Station 2** Director Rachel Brothers motioned to readdress this line item in spring, when the work would be most likely to be done. A second was made by Vice Chair Daniel Greenwood.

The motion passed with the following vote:

4 **In Favor**   1 **Opposed**  
    **Abstained**       **Absent**

Forrest Service has offered to install landscaping at Station 2, they will provide all labor and maintenance, with BFD being responsible for material costs only. Majority of the Board agreed to revisit this item as spring approaches, and after a contract has been signed.

**11. Future Agenda Items**

- ~ Contract for fire protection services with City of Portola
- ~Forrest Service Agreements
- ~Discussion on Landscaping at Station 2 depending on contract progress.

**12. Next Board Meeting**

The next regular Board of Directors Meeting to be held October 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

**13. Closed Session**

- A. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 - Public Employee Performance Evaluation - Fire Chief

Adjourned to Closed Session at 7:31pm after a 5 Min recess.

Chief Bret Russell announced his resignation, and that he was offered and accepted an assignment in a different district.

The Board accepted his resignation, effective 9/27/23 at which time Kenny Osburn will take over as Interim Chief as appointed by the Board of Directors Vote.

Closed Session Adjourned at 8:05 PM

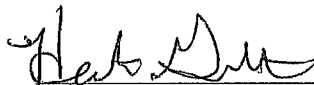
Vice Chair Daniel Greenwood motioned to approve. A second was made by Director Tyler McGarr. The roll call vote:

  Aye   **Chair Larry Smith**     Aye   **Vice Chair Daniel Greenwood**     Aye   **Director Alyson Ceresola**     Aye   **Director Tyler McGarr**     Aye   **Director Rachel Brothers**

**14. Adjournment**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 pm.

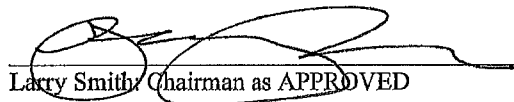
I, HEATHER GRANT, CLERK OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BECKWOURTH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON THE 18 DAY OF October, 2023 ARE CORRECT AS SUBMITTED.



Heather Grant: Clerk of the Board

10/18/23


Date



Larry Smith, Chairman as APPROVED

10-18-23

Date:



Daniel Greenwood, Vice Chairman as APPROVED

10/18/23

Date:



Rachael Brothers  
Director as APPROVED

10/18/23

Date: