

Minutes for September 19, 2019 Beckwourth Fire District

1. **Board Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM by Daniel Smith.**
2. **Roll Call: Board Members:** Daniel Smith - here, George Bundy - absent, Denise Downs - here, Donald Ball - here, Dwight Ceresola - here. **Board Secretary:** Patty Venable, **Fire Chief:** Bret Russell, **Fire Fighter/ Engineer:** Floyd Meyers, **Fire Fighter/Safety Officer:** Jennifer Langston **Public:** Tom Cooley, John Reynolds.
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited by all.
4. **Approval of Minutes** for the Board Meeting held August 15, 2019. Don Ball **motioned to approve minutes, as transcribed, from the meeting held on August 15, 2019** and Dwight Ceresola seconded. Daniel – yes, George – absent, Denise – yes, Donald – yes, Dwight – yes. **Motion passed without objection.**
5. **Approval of the Account Revenues, Receivables, Expenditures, and Balance Sheets** for the months of July 2019 and August 2019. Denise **motioned to approve the Account Revenues, Receivables, Expenditures, and Balance Sheets for the months of July and August 2019**, Don Ball seconded, all in favor. **Motion passed without objection.**

Monthly Budget Updates for Board: No comments or concerns at this time.
6. **Public Comment:** none
7. **Consent Agenda Items:** none
8. **Chief's Report:** The **Firefighter Muster** turned out well. This was the first time Beckwourth participated in this event and we received 3rd place overall, 3rd place in the bucket brigade and 1st place on the human hose clamp. We received 3 plaques for our efforts. Our new **fire engine #9424** is looking sharp with our decals, numbers and lettering. It is about 80% outfitted and it should be running by next week thanks to the efforts of Floyd Meyers and Ruben Villa. Our Type 1 fire engine #9423 was called to the front lines of the **Walker Fire** for structure protection for a full two weeks. We spent 4 days doing structure protection at the fire line with the basecamp located in Taylorsville. We were then, personally requested to provide airport rescue/fire fighting for the helicopters flying in and out of Nervino Airport. We had to outfit that engine with extrication equipment and a separate foam unit. That was not an easy task, but we accomplished it by securing the extra equipment from neighboring fire districts. A rep from LN Curtis has come out several times to get the **compressor** up and running. He is trying to determine if it is an electrical problem or a starter problem. If it's an electrical problem the company that did that work will correct the problem for free, if it's a starter issue, those are not very costly, around \$200-\$300. Our **3 new firefighters** have completed their wildland classes, their rookie task book, and one has completed his EMR. This coming Sat. there will be a **Fire Chief's Assoc.** meeting, but Bret will not be able to attend. He will send a representative from Beckwourth, though.
9. **Secretary's Report:** Patty thanked the Chief for his ability to look for opportunities, i.e. a new compressor for the station, and now she wanted to share that the **Chief received 2 new BK radios** from a gentleman from OES who stopped by the station during the Walker Fire. The Chief has the ability to form positive relationships, and partnerships with people everywhere, and because of that our department benefits. The **Cub Scouts of Beckwourth** chose our department as their Hometown Heroes this year and dropped off a big box of popcorn to thank us for all we do for the community. They especially wanted to thank the team who worked on the Walker Fire. Patty let the Board know that she will **not be at the next Board meeting** in October, but the Chief will take her role as Board Secretary.
10. **Discussion and Possible Action: Draft MOU from the City of Portola** – Chief Russell introduced the Mayor of Portola, Tom Cooley. The Chief and the Mayor have had multiple conversations regarding consolidation of fire

districts in eastern Plumas Co. A meeting was held at our Station, and after that the City of Portola drafted an MOU. The Chief invited Tom Cooley to speak about this matter. The Mayor said he is wearing two hats right now, he just finished his year as chair of the Plumas Co. LAFCO, and they have been concerned about the number of special districts in the County, 58 which may be the highest in the State. It may be necessary to hire a consultant to look at the economic value and quality of service between the various fire districts. The City of Portola had their attorney draft this MOU as a starting point. It is hoped each district in the MOU would put together an Ad Hoc Committee and meet with the other Ad Hoc Committees and report back to their Boards. The City of Portola is not taking the lead on this or taking control of it but is in support of looking at this matter. They have done a lot of research in other Counties, and spoken with some who have experienced big fires, and they all believe it is better to be proactive when it comes to fire, and not reactive after a catastrophe has happened. Bret reiterated that we are in support of this. EPRFPD is in support also, they had a few minor changes to the wording in the MOU. Denise noted a typo which was noted and changed. Our Board is in support of an Ad Hoc Committee and suggested the Chief and a Board member would be good. Daniel asked the public their thoughts and John Reynolds, from Grizzly Ranch spoke up. His only concern was whether they would receive the same level of service that they receive now. Daniel agrees it needs to be equitable. Denise **motioned to sign the MOU regarding Reorganization of Fire and Emergency Services and form an Ad Hoc Committee**, Don seconded. Daniel – yes, George – absent, Denise, - yes, Donald – yes, Dwight – yes. **Motion passed without objection.**

11. **Discussion and Possible Action: Complaint from a local customer to Chief** – a member of the public brought to the Chief’s attention that he believes someone tried to set his house on fire. The Chief went to his home and looked at the scene and told the homeowner that he would report it to the Plumas County Sheriff’s Dept. The individual called the Chief multiple times because the Sheriff’s Office was not responding fast enough, in his opinion, and he wanted to know what the Chief was doing because he did not feel he was doing enough. The Chief explained to him that he had spoken with the Chairman of the Board, also and was not doing anything secretive. The individual came to the station several times, one of which Daniel Smith was present. Daniel explained that he told the individual that this was not a fire department issue but a law enforcement issue. Daniel then asked Patty to document this, per our policy, and that would be all that we can do.
12. **Discussion and Possible Action: Declare Engine #9422 surplus** – Since this engine is an open cab, it is not compliant with today’s regulations. The Chief is asking the Board to authorize him to begin appropriate disposition. The Chairman asked all the Board members if they agreed to surplus #9422, and all unanimously agreed. Daniel – yes, George – absent, Denise – yes, Don – yes, Dwight – yes.
13. **Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of revised Public Record Request Form.** At the last Board meeting, when this item was brought before the Board, Patty was asked to have our attorney provide us with a current Public Record Request Form since ours did not have all the necessary information. This form was presented to the Board for changes/comments. Dwight suggested we may want to have a fee schedule showing costs for copying, or for photographs, etc. so that the requestor knows what they will be charged. The rest of the Board agreed. Patty will put that together.
14. **Discussion and Possible Action: Policy and Procedure 2010 and 2010a.** There was much discussion that under 2010.3.1 Shifts consist of: has completely changed and needs to be reworked. The Mechanic on Call position needs to be retitled and/or rewritten. It was felt that this item should rollover to next month with copies of the Job Descriptions attached. Under the Attachment Policy 2010a which consists of many statutes, it was felt that this needs to be reworked also and perhaps leave the statute references out since they change often. Daniel and Patty will work on this and bring it back next meeting. Both Policies are **rolled over**.
15. **Division Chiefs’ Report:** none.
16. **Battalion Chiefs’ Report:** none
17. **Safety Officer’s Report:** The Safety Committee did a walk-thru of Station 1 on August 19th. We need to surplus many items and reduce our clutter in the bays. The park looks good, Ruben cut branches back from the apple tree, and we are all aware of the dry rot on the outside of the building that needs repair/replacement. Patty added that we need to do something with the stuff that has piled up on the north side of the pod. Either surplus it, take it to

the dump, and in general clean up along there, which includes weed whacking. Daniel brought up the wastewater treatment plant that is under construction at Grizzly Ranch and the **confined space** work they had to do there. Daniel had originally offered to the department the chance to get some confined space training but the Walker Fire happened at the same time, so it was not possible. They had 3 permit required confined space issues. Their contractor did an awesome job, and it was unfortunate we were not able to be involved. In the future Daniel will continue to look for those opportunities.

18. Directors Reports: none

19. Old Business: The **Ethics Training** took place but there was no **Harassment Training** offered that day. Patty received an email that the deadline is extended to January 1, 2021 to complete your Harassment Training.

20. New Business: NEXT MEETING DATE: **October 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.** Denise wondered if we are getting any calls from insurance companies asking if we are still ISO? She has had neighbors approached by insurance companies. Bret said we are still a 4 out of 6, but he has heard that this is going away. John Reynolds said it is not a zip code issue but more geography/terrain. There is a meeting coming up in Graeagle tomorrow night for homeowners wanting more information about fire insurance. If our area has Firewise status that helps.

21. Adjournment: Adjourned at 8:00 p.m. **Denisce motioned for an adjournment and Daniel seconded. All in favor, motion passed.**

I, PATTY VENABLE, SECRETARY OF THE BOARD, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF SAID **BOARD MEETING** OF THE BECKWOURTH FIRE DISTRICT HELD ON **September 19, 2019** ARE CORRECT AS RECORDED.

Patty Venable, Secretary of the Board

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' APPROVAL SIGNATURES: Minutes for September 19, 2019.

Daniel Smith: _____ Date: _____

George Bundy: _____ Date: _____

Denisce Downs: _____ Date: _____

Donald Ball: _____ Date: _____

Dwight Ceresola: _____ Date: _____