
**BIG BEAR FIRE AUTHORITY
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
DECEMBER 1, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Big Bear Fire Authority was called to order by Chairman Green at 5:09 p.m., Tuesday, December 1, 2020, via Teleconference pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20.

OPEN SESSION

Moment of Silence: Observed

Board Members Present: Chairman John Green
Vice Chairman David Caretto
Director Bob Jackowski (arrived at 5:14 p.m.)
Director Bill Jahn
Director Rick Herrick
Director Karyn Oxandaboure
Director Randall Putz
Director John Russo
Director Larry Walsh
Director Al Ziegler

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Fire Chief Jeff Willis
Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Mike Maltby,
Board Secretary Dawn Marschinke,
Senior Finance Officer Kristin Mandolini,
Authority Counsel Joseph Sanchez

OPEN SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

The Fire Authority's Administrative Office will be closed on the following dates:

- Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25, 2020, in observance of Christmas and will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, December 28, 2020.
- Thursday and Friday, December 31, 2020, and January 1, 2021, in observance of New Year's, and will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2021.
- Monday, January 18, 2021, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. day and will reopen on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition for Years of Service on the Board of Directors
 - Director Bill Jahn
 - Director Bob Jackowski

Speaker: Fire Chief Jeff Willis

EMAILED PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Board Secretary Dawn Marschinke reported she had received one email before the deadline; it is as follows:

- From Matt Fonda:

The idea of not exploring all options for fire protection is not in the best interest of the community. The fire department is operating with as few as 12 firefighters on per day and the low cost model that they are working towards would decrease the number down to nine. This staffing is worse than when both departments were separate and providing service independently. These levels are critically low and put the community at risk.

On most days in Sugarloaf the staffing on trash trucks equals the staffing on a fire truck. Two man staffing is dangerous, ask about the recent fire in Sugarloaf, and despite the short term fixes by fire admin adequate staffing of equipment is happening no time soon.

Is local control so important that you would put the residents you were elected to represent at risk to maintain it. See what options there are with an RFP, the staffing levels could drastically improve for the same or less cost, or maybe they couldn't, but right know we don't know. There is a great chance the county could provided much better staffing and new equipment at a reduced price and without fp5.

Do not turn your back on the residents and visitors of this valley by not exploring all possible options for fire protection.

DIRECTORS' GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Herrick acknowledged Director's Jahn and Jackowski's contributions to the Fire Authority. He commented that we went through some very interesting times with the Fire Protection District and the Fire Authority. We have come a long way. Director Jahn's leadership has been phenomenal, as well as Director Jackowski's input that has been incredible. He is a businessman and has done things as a business-person. He wants to say personally, thank you very much for the work you have done for the Fire Department.

Chairman Green thanked Director's Jahn and Jackowski. He stated that we have been through a lot together. There have been a lot of changes since we first started this. He does not think the Department would be where it is without the input from both of them.

CHIEF'S REPORT

None

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Speaker: Kristin Mandolini, Senior Finance Officer

The year-to-date Financial Report through October 2020 was presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

FA1. Approval of Demands – Check Issue Date 09/01/20 through 10/31/20 in the amount of \$1,924,818.35

FA2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the October 6, 2020 Regular Meeting of Big Bear Fire Authority

Item was pulled from Consent.

FA3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the November 19, 2020 Special Meeting of Big Bear Fire Authority

FA4. Receive and File Big Bear Fire Department Monthly Activity Reports for September and October 2020

FA5. Big Bear Fire Authority FY2019-20 Audited Financial Report

Board consideration to accept, receive and file FY2019-20 Audited Financial Report.

Item was pulled from Consent.

Action: Motion by Director Jahn, seconded by Vice Chairman Caretto to approve the remainder of Consent Calendar as follows:

AYES: Ziegler, Caretto, Herrick, Jackowski, Jahn, Oxandaboure, Putz, Russo, Walsh, and Green
NOES: None

ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

FA2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the October 6, 2020 Regular Meeting of Big Bear Fire Authority

Director Walsh had a correction for the Minutes of October 6, 2020. Under Director's General Announcements, third paragraph, change "diesel engine" to "diesel generator."

FA5. Big Bear Fire Authority FY2019-20 Audited Financial Report

Board consideration to accept, receive and file FY2019-20 Audited Financial Report.

Director Herrick had questions about pension liability that he would talk to staff about offline.

Action: Motion by Director Herrick, seconded by Vice Chairman Caretto to approve Items FA2 Minutes as corrected, and FA5 as follows:

AYES: Walsh, Ziegler, Caretto, Herrick, Jackowski, Jahn, Oxandaboure,
Putz, Russo, and Green
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

NEW BUSINESS

BIG BEAR FIRE AUTHORITY DISCUSSION ITEMS

FA6. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Big Bear Fire Authority and the Big Bear Professional Firefighters' Association, I.A.F.F. – Local 935

Board consideration of approving the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Big Bear Professional Firefighters Association and the Big Bear Fire

Authority with an effective date of January 1, 2021 and an ending date of December 31, 2023.

Speaker: Fire Chief Jeff Willis

Action: Motion by Director Jahn; seconded by Director Ziegler to approve staff recommendation approving the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between The Big Bear Professional Firefighters Association and the Big Bear Fire Authority with an effective date of January 1, 2021 and an ending date of December 31, 2023.

Staff responded to questions from board members. Board members provided comment.

Comment was made by a board member that after three years our firefighters will be on par with other comparable agencies when comparing 2020 contracts. However, in three years, when comparing new 2023 contracts, they will likely be underpaid again.

Said motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Russo, Walsh, Ziegler, Caretto, Herrick, Jackowski, Jahn,
Oxandaboure, Putz, and Green
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

FA7. Paid Time Off (PTO) Accrual Adjustments for Flight Nurses and Flight Paramedics and Ambulance Operators

Board consideration of approving the proposed increase in Paid Time Off (PTO) accruals for ambulance operators and flight personnel, sufficient to support these non-safety employees working 24-hour shifts.

Speaker: Senior Finance Officer Kristin Mandolini

Action: Motion by Vice Chairman Caretto; seconded by Director Ziegler to approve staff recommendation increasing PTO accruals for ambulance operators and flight staff effective December 5, 2020.

Staff responded to questions from board members. Board members provided comment.

Said motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Putz, Russo, Walsh, Ziegler, Caretto, Herrick, Jackowski, Jahn, Oxandaboure, and Green
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

FA8. Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for All-Risk Emergency Fire and Medical Services for Big Bear Fire Authority

Board consideration of approving the Administrative Committee recommendation of the draft RFP.

Speaker: Chairman John Green

Action: Motion by Vice Chairman Caretto; seconded by Director Jahn to approve the Administrative Committee's recommendation to table the Request for Proposal (RFP) in its current form.

Staff responded to questions from board members. Board members provided comment.

Board members agreed that the draft RFP would be tabled, but would be available for consideration and updating, if in the future the Ambulance/Operator Staffing Model did not prove as successful as necessary. This Model allows the Department to work within its available revenue, as was the public message from the vote on Measure I.

Concern was expressed that if we do not issue the RFP, the community may have the false impression that another agency could do it better or cheaper. However, until the Department has the opportunity to fully develop the Ambulance Operator Model, going after two divergent outcomes could ultimately be harmful to the Ambulance Operator Model as the message being sent to personnel could be confusing.

Said motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Oxandaboure, Russo, Ziegler, Caretto, Herrick, Jahn, and Green
NOES: Putz, Walsh, and Jackowski
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

FA9. Fire Authority Board Reorganization - Selection of the Chair and Vice Chair

Board nominations and selection of Chair and Vice Chair, who will serve for a period of one year.

Speaker: Chairman John Green

Chairman Green called for nominations for Vice Chairman to serve for a period of one year.

Action: Director Herrick nominated Vice Chairman Caretto to serve as Chairman for a period of one year; seconded by Director Putz and was approved by the following vote:

AYES:	Jahn, Oxandaboure, Putz, Russo, Walsh, Ziegler, Caretto, Herrick, Jackowski, and Green
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Chairman Caretto called for nominations for Vice Chairman to serve for a period of one year.

Action: Director Ziegler nominated Director Green to serve as Vice Chairman for a period of one year; seconded by Director Oxandaboure and was approved by the following vote:

AYES:	Jackowski, Jahn, Oxandaboure, Putz, Russo, Walsh, Ziegler, Caretto, Herrick, and Green
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A Fire Authority Administrative Committee Meeting was held on November 24, 2020, represented by Chairman Green, Vice Chairman Caretto, Director Herrick, and Director Ziegler.

DIRECTORS' CLOSING COMMENTS

Director Jahn thanked his fellow board members for their support over the years. He stated that we have come a long way and he could not be more pleased with the progress. He enjoyed working with everyone. He also thanked the Fire Chief and staff. He looks forward to following the Department's successes.

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Director Ziegler said that when he looks back through the years to when this Department was born and he looks at the people at both ends of the jurisdiction, they got along so well, they did such a great job of running this bus.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Fire Authority at this session, Chairman Caretto adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.


Dawn E. Marschinke, Board Secretary

SAVED AT THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021