
**BIG BEAR FIRE AUTHORITY
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
April 19, 2023**

A Special Board Workshop of the Big Bear Fire Authority was called to order by Board Chair Mote at 4:34 p.m., Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 41090 Big Bear Boulevard, Big Bear Lake, California.

OPEN SESSION

Board Members Present:

- Board Chair Bynette Mote
- Vice Chair Bob Rowe
- Director John Green
- Director Rick Herrick
- Director Perri Melnick
- Director Randall Putz
- Director Kendi Segovia
- Director Larry Walsh
- Director Al Ziegler – Arrived at 5:09 p.m.

Director Green participated in this meeting remotely from 74711 Dillon Road, Desert Hot Springs, Space 244, CA 92241.

Board Members Absent: Director John Russo

Others Present:

- Jeff Willis, Fire Chief
- Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Mike Maltby
- Director of Business Services Kristin Mandolini
- Interim Board Secretary Chardelle Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Mote confirmed with Director Green that audio was working, the teleconference site was open to the public, and the agenda was posted for public viewing.

Moment of Silence: Observed

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Vice Chair Rowe

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Preliminary Draft Budget Discussion

Speaker: Chief Jeff Willis and Kristin Mandolini, Director of Business Services

Chief Willis stated this is a balanced budget with monies going into reserves. He mentioned this budget does have an increase for all sectors within the budget.

Captain Dykesten presented a PowerPoint that reviewed the increase in fleet replacement vehicles and equipment to be purchased in the 2023-2024 budget. The Battalion Chief vehicle has increased by 21% and the future ambulance for purchase has increased by 22%. The department is applying for grants through Assistance for Firefighters.

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

Director of Business Services Mandolini presented the draft preliminary budget. Significant changes to the proposed budget included property tax revenue, forecasted by HDL Cohen, at \$12.9 million. This is 6% higher than last fiscal year. Service charges are budgeted at \$5.3 million, an increase of 11% from the previous fiscal year. She mentioned this increase is primarily due to the projected fire hazard abatement program revenues at \$380K, as well as an anticipated increase in the ambulance fees paid to the department due to the participation in the Public Provider Ground Emergency Medical Transport Intergovernmental Transfer Program (PP_GEMT IGT). She stated the department is expecting to receive an additional \$588K in fees received for services, but it comes with a cost in the amount of \$190K in fees with a projected net around \$400K.

For expenses, salary and benefits are 3% more than last year. Mandolini states there is no change to the Full Time Employee (FTE) chart.

Total numbers in the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 are revenue of \$19,338,528, expenses of \$19,266,073, resulting in an increase to fund balance of \$72,455.

It was requested to separate the fire prevention budget from the operational budget, rather than having all revenue and expense included within the operations budget.

A recess was taken at 5:55 p.m. and returned to regular session at 6:05 p.m.

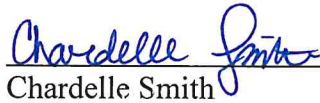
Director Segovia stepped out of the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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

Jon Bidwell, Big Bear Professional Firefighters Association President: addressed the Board thanking them for their hard work and thanked Mandolini for meeting and discussing the budget in detail. He stated the association has the same fear regarding sustainability within the organization and they are worried that based off of trend, they have lost firemen on the floor, funds from airship along with tax revenue, and yet the department is still poor. He mentioned the association appreciates the detailed look at the budget and they are also looking into the budget. He suggested looking into other department budgets.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Fire Authority at this session, Board Chair Mote adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.



Chardelle Smith
Interim Board Secretary

APPROVED AT THE MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2023