



# White Mountain Fire Protection District



Board of Commissioner Meeting  
25470 Hwy 6, Benton, CA 93512  
Wednesday February 21, 2024 at 6:30 PM

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 06:33 PM

Board members present: Jarret Phillips, Matt Yount, Robin Picken, Geraldine Cady (absent), Bruce Vidal (absent).

Chief Doonan: Present

District Sec/Treasurer: Jo Ann Morgan-present

**Public comment:** None.

**Minutes:** Matt Yount made a motion to approve the minutes from June 28, 2023; Special Meeting August 8, 2023; Special Meeting November 21, 2023 and Annual Meeting January 6, 2024. Robin Picken 2<sup>nd</sup> **Motion passed 3-0**

**Fund Balances:** Secretary/Treasurer Jo Ann Morgan presented the **Fund Balances, ESCB** \$ 3,069.47, Fire Fund **335** \$ 127,895.98, Reserve Fund **336** \$ 5,652.55 and EMS fund **338** \$ 153,283.12 a total of \$ 289,901.12. The ESCB new public funds account with updated EIN is open. Jo Ann adjusted the date for the Command Vehicle to reflect it in current budget 23-24.

**USDA Rural Facilities Grant: Tabled**

**Explorer Program: Tabled**

**Strategic Plan review: Tabled** Dave commented the census needs to be updated and have the board review and update. Robin will look into updating the census.

**Snowplow: Tabled**

**Alternative Heating System: Tabled** Discussion on options, keeping our current system going adding an alarm system to avoid freezing. Jarret will contact Bishop Heating for options.

**Budget Review:** We are behind in approving the budget due to negotiating EMS program with Mono County so in reviewing the budget keep in mind we are already  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through the fiscal year. Going forward the budget will be submitted on a timely basis. The budget, agendas, and minutes being posted on our website. It is a requirement for Special Districts. Chief Doonan went line by line through the budget divided by Fire and EMS. He explained that currently we have carried over from previous periods but will be including reserves in the budget, so this doesn't

happen. All the funds will be allocated. EMS billing is in the budget although we ceased billing in October 2023 due to the Medicare question. Medicare has come to the facility and inspected but are still waiting for the green light. An EMS Coordinator has been included in this years budget because of the need for accountability for the EMS program to keep records on EMT credentials, EMS drugs, ambulance inspections and CPR certifications. Our Ambulance billing contract service provider will charge us 15% of what they collect. Insurance expenses have increased significantly so we might consider shopping for more affordable liability insurance. Vehicle maintenance has evened out. Uniforms and PPE will be separate budget items going forward. Community Outreach will move over to our Volunteer Association leaving our budget minimal but enough to cover CPR public training and the Fire Prevention week at the school etc. Leases cover Life Pak Monitor, finishing in 2027, Water Tender, finishing in 25-26 FY, Ambulance finishes in 25-26 FY, Extrication Tools are done this year and Command Vehicle is done in 24-25 FY. New Asset list was presented to support Equipment and Capital Purchases budget line items. The FEMA Grant Match will not happen in this budget year so this can be reallocated to reserves or stay in the next fiscal year budget so when we apply for the grant the funds are available. Reserves take a 2/3rds vote to reallocate because these are restricted funds. The reserves in the current budget are just a proposal. Robin will draft policies for reserves.

R Picken made a motion to approve the 23-24 FY Budget, M Yount 2<sup>nd</sup>      **Motion passed 3-0**

**Resolution for Fire/EMS billing: Tabled**

**Fire Recovery USA** will not service our department due to size.

**District Treasurer:** Jo Ann Morgan obtained the required Surety Bond of \$ 100,000 for the board to appoint her as District Treasurer.

R Picken made a motion to appoint Jo Ann Morgan as District Treasurer within the appropriate salary indicated on the approved budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M Yount.      **Motion passed 3-0**

**Proposal to rename the fire station:** This proposal came from a member of the Benton community to rename the fire station in honor of a past member of the department. Instead of coming to the board they went to the county. The board discussed and is not in favor. They considered the possibility of having memorial plaques to honor past department members.

**Future Board Meeting Schedule:** The board discussed adopting monthly meetings as stated in our bylaws. Currently the bylaw say meetings are on Mondays.

R Picken made a motion to update our current bylaws to reflect a standing meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the fire station. M Yount 2<sup>nd</sup>.      **Motion passed 3-0**

**Medicare billing:** discussed earlier.

**Replacing Commissioner:** Bruce Vidal will be stepping down as commissioner. This opens up the need to recruit a new commissioner. Jo Ann will post the vacancy for 15 days then the board can appoint a new commissioner.

**FEMA AFG Grant:** Chief Doonan will apply.

**Staff reports:**

**Chief Doonan:** Calls are down. Chief Doonan asked Loren Kitts to report on a recent call on Hwy 6. Discussion on the need for an additional response vehicle to keep the station free of snow and a new snow blower.

**Future Agenda Items:** Music festival discussion,

**Next meeting:** March 20, 2024 at 6:30 PM

A motion was made by M Yount to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by R Picken. **Motion passed 3-0**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM**