

APPROVED

The Board Meeting of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, in-person and virtually, beginning at 1:00 PM.

East Fork Fire Protection District Board Present:

John Bellona, President, District 1
Barbara Griffin, Director, District 2 (online)
Bernard Curtis, Director, District 3
Nathan Leising, Director, District 4 (online)
Mike Sommers, Secretary, District 5

Staff:

Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief
Larry Goss, Deputy Chief of Business Management (online)
Amy Ray, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal
Michael Shockey, Deputy Chief of Emergency Operations
Brad Driscoll, Division Chief/Risk Management
Holly Megee, Director of Administrative Services
Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO (online)
Mark Forsberg, District Legal Counsel
Erica Amatore, Clerk to the Board

Additional attendees that addressed the Board:

Peggy Ristorcelli, Sheridan Firewise Community Outreach (sent in letter)
Renea Louie, Board Chair & Director, Douglas County Business Council
Shawnyne Garren, Douglas County Recorder
Jacques Etchegoyhen, Vice Chair, East Fork Embers Foundation
Matt Kruse, EFFPD Battalion Chief
Paula Montanucci, Representative for Bruce L. Cable, CPA Firm
Kevin May, EFFPD Captain & President of the IAFF Local 3726 Union
Joey Loehrer, CEO, Battle Born Medevac
Cindy McGee, Director of Security for Clear Creek HOA
Ron Elges, Douglas County Undersheriff
Kara Easton, Douglas County Emergency Manager
Adrian Marquez, EFFPD Firefighter/Paramedic
Heiko Kaftan, Douglas County Resident
Heather Bushey, Douglas County Resident
Brooke Sullivan, Douglas County Resident & Business Owner
Joe Haire, Douglas County Resident
Zac Hogan, Douglas County Resident
Chris Lang, EFFPD Volunteer Liaison
Jennifer Summers, Douglas County Resident (sent in letter)
Kevin Nyberg, CCFD Interim Fire Chief (sent in letter)
Scott Gorgon, EFFPD Retired Deputy Chief & Douglas County Resident

CALL TO ORDER

Board President John Bellona

INITIAL MEETING BUSINESS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Secretary Mike Sommers led the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)

At this time, public comment will be taken on those items that are within the jurisdiction and control of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors or those agenda items where public comment will not be taken as a public hearing is not legally required.

Public Comment may be limited to three minutes per speaker, which will be decided by Board President or other presiding officers in his/her absence. If you are going to comment on a specific agenda item that the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors will act on, please make your comments when the item is considered and is open for public comment.

For members of the public not able to be present when an item on the agenda is heard, Speaker/Comment Cards are available in the lobby at the entrance to the meeting room. These cards should be completed and given to the District Fire Chief or designee.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

Renea Louie, Board Chair & Director, Douglas County Business Council, stated she is happy to bring good news to the Board. She has been working with Jacques Etchegoyhen, Vice Chair of the East Fork Embers Foundation and Shawnyne Garren, Douglas County Recorder, to form a foundation to serve East Fork Fire Protection District. The foundation consists of 5 Board Members: Renea Louie, Jacques Etchegoyhen, Shawnyne Garren, retired United States Marine Corps Major General Neil "Rick" Nelson and Shannon Harris with the Carson Valley Swim Center. Director Louie is honored to support the first responders in the community. The goals of the foundation include: raising funds, gathering resources and enabling the EFFPD to improve services and equipment. Chief Ernst and Chief Goss have agreed to be stakeholders so they can guide and lead the foundation to raise money and get necessary grant funds.

Jacques Etchegoyhen stated it is an honor to be part of the East Fork Ember's Foundation and is looking forward to accomplishing wonderful things for the District.

Shawnyne Garren stated she is honored to be part of the East Fork Embers Foundation and is looking forward to supporting the East Fork Fire Protection District in any way she can.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if the Board of Directors could get a quarterly report from this foundation and/or schedule a visit with a Board Director at a Board Meeting.

Renea Louie noted she would get a quarterly report to the Board of Directors and would be happy to meet with them as well.

President John Bellona read into record a letter sent in from Peggy Ristorcelli from the Sheridan Firewise Community Outreach. She is concerned about wildfire hazards in the Sheridan Acres community. Her public comment is posted on the EFFPD website under public comment in the Board of Directors section.

Public comment closed.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

The Administrative Calendar handled as follows:

1. The President will read the agenda title into the public record.
2. Staff will introduce the item and provide a report, if any.
3. The applicant, if any, will have an opportunity to address the Board.
4. The Board will then discuss the item. Once the Board has concluded their discussion, public comment will be allowed.
5. Public comment will be allowed and is limited to three minutes per speaker.
6. Once public comment is completed, the Board will then ask any follow-up questions and act.

Agenda items listed as a “presentation” with no action listed, public comment is not legally required and must be made at the beginning of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. For Possible Action. Approval of proposed agenda. The East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors reserves the right to take items in a different order to accomplish business in the most efficient manner, to combine two or more agenda items for consideration, and to remove items from the agenda or delay discussion relating to items on the agenda. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

Director Curtis asked to move items #9 and #10 to earlier in the meeting.

Legal Counsel Forsberg stated he has concerns with moving those items because the public was noticed when they would be heard. Everyone wishing to speak may not all arrive in time to address the Board.

Director Curtis said he understood and removed his request to change the agenda sequence.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the meeting agenda for August 19, 2025.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Mike Sommers
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the draft meeting minutes of the June 17, 2025, meeting of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the draft meeting minutes of the August 19, 2025 meeting of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Barbara Griffin
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Items appearing on the Consent Calendar are items that can be adopted with one motion unless an item is pulled by a District Director or a member of the public. Members of the public who wish to have a consent

item placed on the Administrative Agenda shall make that request during the public comment section at the beginning of the meeting and specifically state why they are making the request. When items are pulled for discussion, they will automatically be placed at the beginning of the Administrative Agenda or may be continued until another meeting. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items A-M

FINANCE

- A. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to accept the report on general ledger cash balances as of July 31, 2025. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)
- B. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to approve the receipt and filing of the list of accounts payable checks issued and cash disbursements/automatic withdrawals in July 2025 per NRS 474.210. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)
- C. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to approve payroll expenses paid in July 2025 per NRS 474.210. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)
- D. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to approve the Procurement Card Transactions paid for in July 2025 per NRS 474.210. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)
- E. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to approve the East Fork Fire Protection District's ambulance billing bad debt write-offs for the period of June 2025 in the amount of \$114,155.68. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)
- F. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to accept the report on state consolidated taxes collection and distribution as of May 2025. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)
- G. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to approve payment in the amount of \$29,276.85 to the Deputy Chief of Operations, Larry Goss, \$3,582.71 to District Fire Chief, Alan Ernst and a payment in the amount of \$476.45 for Medicare tax, which reflects extraordinary time spent as Incident Commander for the June 2025 Conner Fire and July 2025 Safety Officer Complex for White Sage Fire in AZ, per Policy 650.16-Reimbursement Compensation for FLSA Exempt Employees. (Julie Andress, CFO/Director of Finance)
- H. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to award a one (1) year contract to First Due, a system for integrated data management across

multiple District functions, as well as ePCR and RMS software, for the devices, accessories, software, and warranty options at a total additional cost not to exceed \$15,500 annually and a one-time \$6,450 start-up fee. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief)

- I. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to award a one-year contract to Marshall Billing for the independent hosting of all medical billing software, at an additional cost of \$4.28 per trip plus a \$7,500 implementation fee, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute all necessary documents. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief)
- J. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to award BLD Consulting a twenty (20)-year contract to develop a data reviewer tool that will provide access to historical RMS and ePCR data, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief)
- K. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between East Fork Fire Protection District and the Genoa Volunteer Fire Department, Station 3, concerning the long-term custodianship and display of a historically significant fire engine and authorize the District Fire Chief to sign the MOU for the life of the agreement. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief)
- L. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to authorize the District Fire Chief to sign the Wildland Fire Protection Program (WFPP) Agreement between the State of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) and the East Fork Fire Protection District (EFFPD) for a two-year period at a cost not to exceed \$85,256 per year. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief)
- M. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of G2 Fire Station Alerting System from US Digital Designs or USDD (Honeywell) to include (station control units, touch screen displays, network switches, dorm room remotes, ramp up lighting and speakers, and associated hardware) at all five career staffed stations at the cost of \$258,590.75 not including associated install cost. (Larry Goss, Deputy Fire Chief, Business Operations)

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve Consent Calendar items 3 a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Mike Sommers
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

4. For Presentation Only. Budget Summary for month ending July 2025. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 5 minutes.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst stated:

- 8% into the fiscal year budget
- Received GEMT revenue from last fiscal year

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if there is anything being looked at or finalized for the final augmentation or is it still as is from the last Board meeting.

Chief Ernst noted it is still the same; with nothing new to add at this time.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS & DONATIONS

5. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to accept the donation of \$3,925 from Bruce Cable, C.P.A., A.P.C., to dedicate the funds to iPad charging and mounting equipment, to outfit brush trucks and to authorize a letter of appreciation from the Board President. (Matt Kruse, EFFPD Battalion Chief) 5 minutes.

Battalion Chief Matt Kruse presented the donation from Bruce Cable, C.P.A., A.P.C. in the amount of \$3,925 to the District. Battalion Chief Kruse stated this donation will aid the District in purchasing new iPads for all the brush trucks to allow mapping and other software capabilities. Battalion Chief Kruse expressed his gratitude for this generous donation to the District.

Paula Montanucci, representative for Bruce Cable stated on behalf of Bruce Cable, they appreciate all the fire department is doing for the community daily and keeping everyone safe. This donation was his pleasure.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

Motion to accept the donation of \$3,925 from Bruce Cable, C.P.A., A.P.C., to dedicate the funds to iPad charging and mounting equipment, to outfit brush trucks and to authorize a letter of appreciation from the Board President.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Mike Sommers
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

6. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve a five-year Lease Agreement, commencing September 1, 2025 through September 1, 2030, between the East Fork Fire Protection District and East Fork Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 3726, for the use of the top floor of the building located at 1604 US Hwy 395, Minden, Nevada, at a monthly rental rate of \$850, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute the agreement. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 10 minutes.

Fire Chief Ernst stated this agreement is something he has been working on with the Union. It was his understanding the Union previously utilized Station 1 when it was owned by the Town of Minden. The District owns the title to Station 1 now and the Union is requesting to rent it. Fire Chief Ernst noted a market analysis was completed to determine the value of the upstairs space the Union is requesting to rent. Upstairs has a separate entrance and can be secured from the interior of the station as its own separate space. Fire Chief Ernst stated the space is in need of some renovations and the Union is committed to doing the renovations along with proposing a monthly rent rate of \$850. Fire Chief Ernst concluded he confirmed with both the Town of Minden and Douglas County and they both support the recommendation.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if the rent for this space at Station 1 can be put towards the capital fund and continue to improve capital assets.

Fire Chief Ernst noted yes, this can be put towards capital assets.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

Kevin May, Union President stated the location is great and he's looking forward to using the space upstairs at Station 1 to serve the community. He knows the space needs a little bit of work, but he is happy to do the renovations. President May thanked the Board of Directors for considering this request.

Public comment closed.

Motion to approve a five-year Lease Agreement, commencing September 1, 2025 through September 1, 2030, between the East Fork Fire Protection District and East Fork Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 3726, for the use of the top floor of the building located at 1604 US Hwy 395, Minden, Nevada, at a monthly rental rate of \$850, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute the agreement. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 10 minutes.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Mike Sommers
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

7. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between East Fork Fire Protection District and the Nevada Division of Forestry regarding the transfer of surplus State-owned vehicles to East Fork Fire Protection District including four 4-wheel drive pickup trucks, two crew carriers, one small SUV, and one porta potty trailer. (Larry Goss, Deputy Fire Chief, Business Operations) 10 minutes.

Deputy Fire Chief Larry Goss stated this came about when working with Captain Tracy Connelly while they were realigning the initial phases of the District's Fuels Crew. The Nevada Division of Forestry offered vehicles to East Fork Fire. These vehicles will serve as support vehicles for stations and for wildland assignments.

President John Bellona commended Deputy Chief Goss about the great job he has done in getting rid of all the old, outdated fleet in the District.

Deputy Chief Goss stated the vehicles from NDF will be more reliable for heavier duty assignments.

Fire Chief Ernst added the District normally rents vehicles yearly for off-duty assignments, but with the vehicles from Nevada Division of Forestry, the District will no longer need to rent vehicles, which will save the District money.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if the District has possession of the vehicles currently.

Deputy Chief Goss stated the District doesn't have them yet. When they are received, the District Mechanic will inspect all vehicles before the District accepts and enters into the agreement.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

Captain Tracy Connelly stated he has been working with Deputy Chief Goss on this. He hasn't seen the vehicles yet but has talked to NDF's fleet manager and all the vehicles have been very well maintained. Captain Connelly added these vehicles will give the District more opportunity for single resource off-district assignments. The Crew Carriers will give the District some possibility for a future hand crew, as well as a possible chipping truck for a fuels reduction program.

Public comment closed.

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between East Fork Fire Protection District and the Nevada Division of Forestry regarding the transfer of surplus State-owned vehicles to East Fork Fire Protection District including four 4-wheel drive pickup trucks, two crew carriers, one small SUV, and one porta potty trailer.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Mike Sommers
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

8. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve and authorize the District Fire Chief to execute the Cooperative Agreement between East Fork Fire Protection District and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District in accordance with NRS 277.045, providing mutual aid, automatic aid, and assistance by hire between the two agencies. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 15 minutes.

Fire Chief Ernst stated he is happy to bring this agreement forward. East Fork Fire has always had a long-standing relationship with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District assisting each other on incidents, but there has never been a formal agreement in place. Chief Ernst added this agreement would memorialize the opportunity to have both automatic aid and mutual aid resources from either agency to support each other. Chief Ernst concluded Truckee Meadows Fire has been a trusted partner with East Fork Fire on many large incidents as East Fork Fire has been for them.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked Chief Ernst if there is any anticipation of time variance since Truckee Meadows Fire is "up the hill."

Fire Chief Ernst stated he is aware of the travel time for Truckee Meadows Fire. This is factored into the incident commander's decision making when requesting their resources.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

Motion to approve and authorize the District Fire Chief to execute the Cooperative Agreement between East Fork Fire Protection District and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District in accordance with NRS 277.045, providing mutual aid, automatic aid, and assistance by hire between the two agencies.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Barbara Griffin
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

9. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the Aeromedical Services Agreement between the East Fork Fire Protection District and Rural Medevac Alliance, Inc. (Battle Born Helicopter) for the provision of aeromedical flight services, including co-location at Station 12, co-staffing with firefighter/paramedics, and related operational support, and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute all necessary documents. There is no net fiscal impact because all costs will be reimbursed to the District by Rural Medivac Alliance Inc through this agreement. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 15 minutes.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated when he was hired as the Fire Chief six months ago, one of his commitments to the Board of Directors and the community was to be innovative and find positive solutions to fiscal limitations and services. He is excited to present his proposal on the partnership between East Fork Fire Protection District and Rural Medevac Alliance, otherwise known as Battle Born.

District Fire Chief Ernst presented a Power Point presentation.

Public-Private Partnership Proposal
Presented by Alan Ernst, Fire Chief
East Fork Fire Protection District

- **Introduction**

The East Fork Fire Protection District and Rural Medevac Alliance, Inc. (Battle Born Helicopter) are pursuing a unique public-private partnership. This

collaboration aims to enhance emergency response capabilities within the district through co-staffing of a dedicated medical helicopter at Station 12.

- **Partnership Overview**

Fire Chief Ernst noted the discussion of a medical helicopter being present at Station 12 started before he was hired and was discussed by Retired District Fire Chief Tod Carlini.

Fire Chief Ernst introduced Joey Loehrer, CEO, Battle Born Medevac and advised he will be helping with the presentation. Chief Ernst stated he's been working with Joey Loehrer for the past 8 months and has met with the community in different various forms of the need for both medical and fire services within the community. The Northern Nevada Fire Chiefs have been conversing for a while about the lack of air resources available for all the surrounding communities. Fire Chief Ernst stated he has met with Care Flight on a few occasions and is extremely committed to the partnership and relationship that East Fork Fire has with Care Flight.

- **Benefits to the Community**

Fire Chief Ernst stated he briefed Care Flight's leadership on this proposal and wants Battle Born to be an additional service to the community. It is not to replace any service already existing. Chief Ernst noted he also met with the Douglas County Business Council and the Governance Committee about the need for additional resources in our community.

- **Rapid medical response to rural and remote areas**

Chief Ernst stated there have been several incidents over the years when the closest air ambulance is not available due to several factors: committed on another emergency, weather permitting, staffing issues, mechanical issues, routine maintenance, etc. Chief Ernst stated an additional helicopter in our community would be a force multiplier for the District and could deliver a needed service for medical and initial air attack for fire incidents. He stated the District can request aircraft from California and NDF, but there have been several times those aircraft have also been committed to other incidents and not available.

- **Increased training opportunities for firefighter paramedics**
- **Search and rescue assistance in challenging terrain**
- **Initial attack firefighting capability**
- **Improved ambulance availability and reliability**

Chief Ernst noted on the recent Connor Fire incident, the District waited almost 6 hours before the first aircraft was available. He noted having initial attack capability, even with this smaller Type 3 helicopter with a smaller

bucket, the District would have had the initial opportunity to douse the small lightening strike.

- **Strategic Location at Station 12**

- Station 12 will serve as the operational hub for the Battle Born Helicopter.
 - The co-location allows for:
 - Seamless coordination between ground and air units
 - Rapid launch capabilities
 - Centralized staging for emergency response resources

- **Agreement**

Chief Ernst highlighted the additional staffing placed on the helicopter, is not taking any staffing away from current apparatus. The District will be adding 3 additional personnel to the helicopter and it will be reimbursed to the District from Battle Born.

- Long term relationship
- 5-year agreement with automatic extension
- Rural Medevac Alliance LLC will cover all expenses for 3 firefighter paramedic positions for the District
- Renovations at Station 12
- Expanded Community services

- **Conclusion**

- This partnership represents a forward-thinking approach to emergency services in Douglas County and surrounding areas. By leveraging combined resources and expertise, East Fork Fire Protection District and Rural Medevac Alliance can deliver faster, more effective, and more reliable emergency responses to our communities.

Joseph Loehner, President and CEO of Royal Medivac Alliance Incorporated, DBA Battle Born Medivac provided a summary of his background. He started this company officially in June 2024 with one helicopter in Yerington, NV. CEO Loehner stated he has been in the industry for 10 years, first as a paramedic and then became a registered nurse. He noted he has worked for other surrounding medical helicopters in the area and continuously ran into frustrations with how business was conducted so he set out to start his own company.

CEO Joseph Loehner noted:

- Battle Born is a for-profit business; easiest way to start a business, in his opinion
- His focus is to expand healthcare access to rural communities in Nevada

- Battle Born has not made a profit yet and it may be several years before it does
- Short-term goal: find a way to access communities that don't currently have enough resources
- Ultimate goal is to build an organization that can be flexible enough to meet the needs of the community in which we serve
- This process started well over a year ago with discussions with Retired District Fire Chief Tod Carlini
- East Fork Fire Protection District is a part of this community, and they run an effective health care system. Rural Medevac Alliance wants to integrate into an existing, effective system
- Battle Born is completely in-house, except for billing, which is outsourced and has its own operating certificate; owns and operates the aircraft themselves
- Battle Born has their own FFA license to fly their aircraft; they do not pay contractors to be pilots
- Battle Born has final authority over who is hired as pilots, who is hired as mechanics, how the aircraft are managed, how safe they are, and how and when they fly
- Started the process of achieving a FAA Part 133 certificate, which will allow firefighting
- Once the contract with East Fork Fire is approved, Battle Born can move forward with purchasing the equipment for the aircraft and submit it to the FAA for final review and approval
- The equipment for the aircraft to conduct firefighting for East Fork Fire is going to cost about \$150,000 capital expense
- Safety is the upmost concern for their aircraft
- Taxes are paid on the aircraft for the county in which they operate
- Flight neighborly is followed per FAA guidelines that essentially says, when possible, when it's allowed and when it's safe, the attempt is to mitigate noise impact on the community
- 2 aircraft currently operate out of Yerington; an AS350B3 and an AS350B2, both EMS configured
- Paperwork was signed two days ago for an almost brand new B3 Echo aircraft: more weight capability and power
- Implemented county-wide membership in Lyon County and Mineral County, founded by a third-party company called SB Energy and means residents in these counties do not receive a bill outside of what their insurance covers for the transport. The desire is to implement this same membership for the residents in Douglas County
- East Fork Fire is an agency in this region that provides the best reputation, provides the highest trained paramedics, and would allow Battle Born to continue that reputation by providing a high level of care and high-quality service

- Battle Born is bearing the costs of staffing for East Fort Fire, as well as the associated training and remodeling rooms at Station 12 and the helipad
- This is an investment for the future, though it is roughly half a million-dollar investment up front, CEO Loehner is looking at the significant benefits to the community in the next 10 years

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if the mechanics are A and P licensed.

CEO Joseph Loehner stated yes, the mechanics are Part 135 operators and are legally required by the FAA to inspect the aircraft very regularly.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked when B and C checks are being completed, is there a plan for a backup helicopter.

CEO Joseph Loehner stated yes, there is a plan in place. Battle Born is contracted with Part 145 stations across the country. Battle Born pays for mechanics to come on-site and perform the 750-hour inspection of the aircraft. CEO Loehner stated there is always a spare aircraft available during the inspection.

District Fire Chief Alan Ernst noted if the aircraft is unavailable due to maintenance or repairs, East Fork Fire will have the benefit of staffing an ambulance and still have additional resources for the community.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked how this agreement with the equipment will fit into a mutual aid agreement with the District for an out-of-district response.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated as an air ambulance resource, the whole area is their region so they can respond over the region as necessary. Chief Ernst added for the firefighting capability initially, it will be for Douglas County only because of the responsibility of everything. The initial attack operations will have other aircraft overseeing. It will be at the commander's discretion to release Battle Born and they will continue to be available for medical response.

CEO Joseph Loehner added, to be clear, the County is not getting billed for firefighting services. He noted if an insurance agreement is created, there may be potential other counties are billed, but the goal is their home counties, which are Lyon County and Douglas County, would not be billed for those services.

Director Bernard Curtis asked CEO Joseph Loehner who the other co-owner of Battle Born is.

CEO Joseph Loehner stated there are four owners technically in the corporation. There are four owners that hold shares in the company; however,

he is the largest individual shareholder. Two of the owners fly regularly and another owner is a Physician Assistant who also flies regularly.

Director Bernard Curtis asked if everyone gets a background check.

CEO Joseph Loehner stated, yes, everyone must pass a background check. It is legally required, and Medicare requires it, which is a large percentage of patients on a regular basis.

Director Nate Leising asked if the FAA is on board with a qualified helipad being placed at Station 12.

CEO Joseph Loehner stated he is getting a position statement from their attorney to give to East Fork's legal counsel, so everything is clear. He noted East Fork Fire owns Station 12 property and if the District gives permission to land on it, that suffices as permission. He noted the position statement will state language to support this.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated the District is very cognizant of the population surrounding Station 12. He met with Pastor Glenn at Sierra Lutheran High School, he was very supportive of the Battle Born helicopter.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

Cindy McGee, Director of Security for Clear Creek HOA, stated she supports additional staffing at Station 12 and is looking forward to the opportunity to work with East Fork Fire and potentially create a landing pad in Clear Creek Tahoe. She stated this is a large community and there have been times when the need for paramedics or fire response was needed, and it takes quite a bit of time to get to their location. She is in full support of Battle Born, as well as working to get a landing pad in their community.

Ron Elges, Douglas County Undersheriff, stated he is speaking on behalf of Sheriff Dan Coverly to give his full support to Chief Ernst on the addition of an air ambulance to the valley. He is also looking forward to any kind of search and rescue squad operations East Fork Fire could aid the Sheriff's department with.

Kara Easton, Douglas County Director of Emergency Management, stated the Emergency Management team is in support of the Battle Born helicopter. She noted, their job is to act when things go bad and emergencies happen, and an added resource will be an asset to the County.

Adrian Marquez, Douglas County resident and EFFPD Paramedic, stated Battle Born is a huge asset to our County, and he is in favor of the Battle Born helicopter. He doesn't see a downside.

Renea Louie, Board Chair & Director, Douglas County Business Council, stated The Business Council is in high support of additional resources for the residents and community members in Douglas County. She stated faster and more reliable response, redundancy during crisis, diverse equipment and capabilities including the brand-new capability for water, the cost management, new opportunities and expanded services and availability for faster response are all things they are in support of. She noted she is very grateful for Care Flight and all they have done in our community as well, but to have an additional service in our area is a blessing.

Heiko Kaftan, Douglas County resident, stated the following:

- It's too good to be true to have a helicopter that will provide their own financial means to place a helicopter at a fire station with no cost to the community
- The company is relatively new and just started 1 year ago
- Battle Born currently doesn't have a Part 135 Certificate
- Royal Medivac Alliance, LLC is funded by SB Energy, which is a publicly owned company by Japanese private equity
- The location of Station 12 is across the street from Home Depot and Costco and next to Sierra Lutheran High School and surrounded by lots of new housing subdivisions, which makes it not a rural location anymore and will cause noise disturbance
- Recommend new residents to the area surrounding Station 12 should be made aware there will be a helicopter in their area
- If a partnership with East Fork Fire was desired with an ambulance provider, why was there not a bidding process for this
- It's not exclusive to Battle Born, there are several aircraft ambulance services out there that can do the same things

Joey Loehner, CEO of Battle Born Helicopter, stated Heiko Kaftan misspoke and he wanted to clarify for the record that Battle Born is not funded by SB Energy. The membership that covers Mineral County was funded by SB Energy; Battle Born is not directly funded by them. He stated he wanted to correct the statement from Heiko Kaftan about the Part 135 Certificate; Battle Born Helicopter does have a Part 135 Certificate. Battle Born doesn't have a Part 133 Certificate yet, but they will be able to achieve it as soon as the check ride is complete and the equipment is approved and purchased.

Heather Bushey, Douglas County resident, stated she has concerns regarding the Battle Born helicopter. She read her concerns into the record. Her public comment letter is available on the East Fork Fire website under public comments in the Board of Directors section for the August meeting.

Joey Loehner, CEO of Battle Born Helicopter, stated he wanted to correct the comments made by Heather Bushey about it not being stated that Battle Born will provide a flight nurse. Battle Born has a contract that specifically states

they must operate within the bounds of legal requirements of the state of Nevada. This wasn't stated because it is written in the contract.

Joey Loehner, CEO of Battle Born Helicopter, also wanted to clarify Heather Bushey's comments about the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS) accreditation. He appreciates her concern about this, but Battle Born is nationally accredited by National Accreditation Alliance of Medical Transport Applications, LLC (NAAMTA), which is considered by the state and by Centers of Medicare Services as an equivalent to accreditation to CAMTS. Battle Born is not legally able to apply for the CAMTS accreditation until they have existed for 3 years. CEO Loehner stated they intend to apply for this accreditation once they hit their 3-year mark.

Brooke Sullivan, Douglas County resident, business owner and previous Emergency Room employee, stated her family owns a cattle ranch in Smith Valley and if someone is having a heart attack or other medical emergency, there is a need to get there fast. She stated when she worked in the ER, she facilitated air ambulance transfers and there were several times she was told "no" by Care Flight and Cal Star because they were too busy, not staffed appropriately or had equipment down. She personally does not see a con to having another helicopter unit in the area to assist with emergencies. She is struggling with hearing the negative feedback, because until you are in the room with a grandparent, parent or child of someone who needs immediate help, you can't deny the need for more resources. She concluded that having another asset in our community is not a negative thing and we need more resources in our area.

Joseph Drago, Executive Director for Care Flight, stated Care Flight has been around for 25 years serving the community. He supports the need for aerial firefighting and has a history and background with Part 133 public-private partnerships. He noted there is, at some point, cost to taxpayers or reduction in firefighting services, from his perspective. He stated Care Flight has CAMTS accreditation, the highest level of critical care provided by paramedics and nurses, highest level of safety with pilots, and things of that nature so he believes Care Flight can do this all as an established provider as well. He concluded that regardless of the outcome, their dedication is to the community and to respond when needed.

Zac Hogan, Douglas County resident and taxpayer, stated he has concerns regarding the Battle Born helicopter. He read his concerns into the record. His public comment letter is available on the East Fork Fire website under public comments in the Board of Directors section for the August meeting.

Joey Loehner, CEO of Battle Born Helicopter, stated he wanted to correct two factual inaccuracies made by Zac Hogan. Battle Born Helicopter deals with the Director of Safety as it is FAA required and they have a fully FAA compliant SMS Manual, which is voluntary. The second correction is Battle Born has a

FAA Part 135 Operator that maintains complete operational controls of the aircraft all the time as 14 CFR-Part 4135 regulations.

Zac Hogan, Douglas County resident and taxpayer asked if a District staff member gets taken off the helicopter that is not under their control, will the taxpayers be required to fork out the \$2,500 if they decide they're deemed not safe to be on scene.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated when EFFPD firefighters and paramedics are assigned to Battle Born Helicopter, they are working under Battle Born's medical direction so there will not be any confusion of which medical direction to take. East Fork Fire is completely following the CBA and the labor group and if there is ever a problem with attitude or behavior, disciplinary action will be taken. There will be additional staff that will be trained to staff the Battle Born Helicopter, and they will not be subject to the \$2,500 reimbursement.

Heiko Kaftan, Douglas County resident, stated he has an aviation related clarification to mention. He is not sure if he is the only helicopter pilot in the room, but Care Flight could have 4 helicopters sitting in Douglas County and there are just going to be days when a helicopter cannot fly due to weather restrictions. There may be times when an Emergency Room calls for a helicopter right away, and it cannot always happen.

District Fire Chief Ernst noted, as he specified earlier, if an issue occurs that would keep Battle Born from flying, there will be an extra ambulance available and in-service.

Kevin May, President of the East Fork Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 3726 Union, noted his full support of the Battle Born Helicopter. He stated it is unique to hear that firefighters in the area have concerns. He represents 80 plus firefighters in the District, and they have been given ample opportunities to meet and express their concerns with CEO Joey Loehner, the District, and the Labor Group. He noted the local firefighters are very confident and comfortable with the decision of bringing Battle Born on. Captain May read the rest of his public comment letter into record. His public comment letter is available on the East Fork Fire website under public comments in the Board of Directors section for the August meeting.

Jeff Prather, CEO of Carson Valley Health (CVH), attended the meeting online and stated his support for the Battle Born Helicopter. Carson Valley is on the path to becoming the first level 4 trauma center in the state of Nevada. He noted over the course of 15 years in his position of CEO for a rural healthcare facility, health is one of the things that is apparent when you need resources in a rural area, and you need it now. It takes an exorbitant amount of time to get resources in rural areas. CEO Prather stated that as CVH is on the road to becoming a level 4 trauma center, it is more imperative that we have an opportunity locally to support our community. He noted there is a Care Flight

pad located at Carson Valley Health, and it is not always occupied, so that tells him there is always opportunity for another aspect to be utilized within the surrounding counties. CEO Prather concluded he is thankful for all the discussion and communication he has had about this with District Fire Chief Ernst.

Matt Nightingale, District Fire Chief of Smith Valley Fire Protection District, attended the meeting online and stated his support for the Battle Born Helicopter. He wanted to reiterate what District Fire Chief Ernst stated earlier about this is not being a replacement for other services, it is another asset to be placed in the region and will help not only the immediate community, but those communities farther out as well. He has seen a tremendous change with Rual Medevac in response times and ultimately the number one goal is to get patients to definitive care when they need it. District Chief Nightingale stated being out in Smith Valley, transport times are large and long, so having more helicopters in the area can get more critical patients to definitive care. He concluded there has been a lot of discussion on complaints and issues, but CEO Joey Loehner is completely transparent. He sends District Chief Nightingale emails every day on status and crew, and they have each other's personal cell numbers to answer any questions at any time and he cannot say enough about Battle Born and being a young company; Battle Born is here for the right reasons and he appreciates them.

Kevin Lawson, Assistant Chief/Special Operations for Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District, attended the meeting online and spoke on behalf of District Fire Chief Scott Lindgren for Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District. Assistant Chief Lawson stated they are in full support of this key, strategic asset that will not only benefit the residents of Douglas County, but also the region. He believes critical care and expediting patient care is an additional resource for everyone in the surrounding areas. He concluded Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District is in full support of the Battle Born Helicopter and would like to see it be approved.

President John Bellona read into record a comment letter sent in by Jennifer Summers, a Douglas County resident. Jennifer and her husband Sean Summers have concerns about the Battle Born Helicopter being placed at Fire Station 12. Her public comment letter is available on the East Fork Fire website under public comments in the Board of Directors section for the August meeting.

Fire Chief Jeffrey Bushnell of Esmeralda County Fire Department attended the meeting online and stated his support for the Battle Born Helicopter. He stated the concerns he has heard are unprecedented and he is saddened to hear of anyone that would prevent an added resource to their community. Chief Bushnell stated the private-public partnership being presented is phenomenal and an exemplary opportunity for the region at Battle Born's expense. He concluded their fire department uses Care Flight, Mercy Air, Sierra Life Flight

and now Battle Born and it doesn't matter who responds, as the upmost priority is to get critical patients transported immediately. He urged the Board to not only vote in favor of Battle Born but be determined as a Board to think ahead and open the door to set a precedent for private-public partnerships across all of Nevada and for EMS all around.

President John Bellona read into record a comment letter sent in by Joe Haire, a Douglas County resident. Joe Haire is concerned about the Battle Born Helicopter being placed at Fire Station 12. His public comment letter is available on the East Fork Fire website under public comments in the Board of Directors section for the August meeting.

Chris Lawrence, Fire Chief of Mineral County Fire, attended the meeting online and stated his support for the Battle Born Helicopter. He stated Mineral County Fire has been dealing with Battle Born since their inception and CEO Joey Loehner is great. Chief Lawrence stated they have never had an issue with Battle Born, and the crew members are amazing. He thinks it is a great opportunity for Douglas County to not only have this resource for EMS, but also for fire attacks. Chief Lawrence stated Battle Born's response time has been amazing compared to other air services and this is a great asset to Douglas County and the surrounding areas.

Nick Way, Fire Chief for Bridgeport Fire Protection District, attended the meeting online and stated his support for the Battle Born Helicopter. He stated he wants to echo what all the other Fire Chiefs have said about Battle Born being an amazing opportunity, not just for Douglas County, but for the entire region. Chief Way noted you can never have too many helicopters and he supports this amazing opportunity.

Bryan Bullock, Fire Chief of Mono County EMS, attended the meeting online and stated his support for the Battle Born Helicopter. He noted CEO Joey Loehner has brought positiveness to their area, and the response time is very quick compared to other air services. He concluded that he understands that Care Flight has been around for a long time and he appreciates Care Flight, as he used to work for them, but having an extra service within the area is very beneficial to everyone in the region. He believes it holds weight that East Fork Fire and Chief Carlin are in support of this, and it should be extremely considered.

President John Bellona read into record a comment letter sent in by Kevin Nyberg, Interim Fire Chief for Carson City Fire Department. Chief Nyberg is in full support of the Battle Born Helicopter. His public comment letter is available on the East Fork Fire website under public comments in the Board of Directors section for the August meeting.

Secretary Mike Sommers complimented District Fire Chief Ernst and his staff for doing what the Board is directing by bringing solutions for improving the Standard of Cover.

Director Bernard Curtis asked Legal Counsel, Mark Forsberg, if Battle Born is a restraint of commerce or a trade issue?

Legal Counsel, Mark Forsberg, stated no, there are many places in the NRS where public-private partnerships are approved, and private partnerships can be for-profit entities.

Director Bernard Curtis stated he doesn't have an issue with Battle Born, he just wanted to ask the question and make sure open meeting law wasn't an issue.

Legal Counsel, Mark Forsberg, stated he did not hear anything so far that would constitute an open meeting law violation. He noted the way public entities and public bodies work, most of the time, unless you are in a body that's a zone-type body with specific requirements that change things, you don't have more than one meeting. The only requirement is to post an agenda in a timely manner and move on. Legal Counsel, Forsberg, noted there are circumstances when changes are made to an ordinance or fire code regulations, and the law requires multiple meetings or a business impact statement, but the Battle Born Helicopter is not any of these.

Director Bernard Curtis asked Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg if he sees any unfair practices that would be a problem for East Fork Fire.

Legal Counsel, Mark Forsberg stated he does not see any issues on the labor side.

Director Bernard Curtis asked Legal Counsel Forsberg if he sees any issues with accreditation.

Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg noted it has come up a lot about accreditation with respect to nursing staff, this is beyond his authority to require, but it is required. He stated that even if it is not in the contract, it is a hybrid and it is very challenging to comply with FAA regulations, and he is not worried about it at all.

President John Bellona stated there have been a lot of meetings about getting a helicopter previously with retired Fire Chief Tod Carlini and retired Deputy Chief Scott Gorgon before District Fire Chief Ernst even got to East Fork Fire. He noted those meetings involved a lot of stakeholders, such as Care Flight and surrounding hospitals so these meetings were not done in a vacuum. President Bellona stated the Business Council was involved as well, as a service group, so he is just trying to make note of how transparent this process has been.

President John Bellona asked District Fire Chief Ernst if he felt he was transparent during this process.

District Fire Chief Ernst noted he was as transparent as he could have been with negotiating the contract in good faith following certain practices that were necessary. Fire Chief Ernst stated he briefed Board members with one-on-one potential proposals, impacts, labor impacts, etc. Fire Chief Ernst concluded he went out in the community and described the need for the Battle Born Helicopter as an additional service to the community and received tremendous levels of support.

President John Bellona stated there have been statements made about not going out for bid. He is not sure how this process would have gone out to bid and stated Battle Born is paying East Fork Fire, East Fork Fire is not paying Battle Born.

President John Bellona asked Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg if there is a requirement to have a bidding process for someone to give East Fork Fire money?

Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg stated in this case there isn't a requirement for a bidding process. He noted this was a concern of his at the beginning because there are many places in NRS that authorize public-private partnerships, and each one has different quirks that must be met. Some require the need for solicitation or proposals, but none of those statutes apply in this case.

Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg noted a fair question to ask would be does NRS 332 that governs local public purchasing apply to this situation. He stated there are two possible reasons it doesn't apply; NRS 332 only requires a public entity to go out for bid if a contract is more than \$50,000 a year and this has been ascertained to be a zero-cost contract with no fiscal impact to the District. The second reason is the argument that this is a professional service, but professional services are defined as services that require licensing or a high level of skill to deliver. In this instance, East Fork Fire is providing medical care and high-level skills with pilot licensing and regulations. Legal Counsel Forsberg stated all these things are exempt from NRS 332.

President John Bellona read into record a comment letter sent in by Scott Gorgon, retired Deputy Fire Chief for East Fork Fire and Douglas County resident. Retired Deputy Chief Gorgon is in full support of the Battle Born Helicopter. His public comment letter is available on the East Fork Fire website under public comments in the Board of Directors section for the August meeting.

Director Nathan Leising stated he appreciated all the comments from the public and he believes Battle Born is a good thing for the community. He noted

when there is competition, it makes people think about other options and things that can be done to enhance services for the community and surrounding areas. Director Leising noted Care Flight has been around a long time and is a great asset, but there is a need for more medical air services as Douglas County, and the surrounding areas are continuing to grow.

Director Barbara Griffin echoed what Director Leising said about the public having great questions and concerns and she felt they were all addressed. She appreciated Director Curtis' questions to legal counsel. Director Griffin noted the area is growing and the traffic from Carson to Minden is horrendous. She concluded we are not replacing a service, but enhancing services to the constituents and she is in support of this positive opportunity.

Public comment closed.

Secretary Summers stated he would make the motion to approve with the additional caveat "the District keeps a copy of Battle Born's current 135 certificate and when received, their 133 certificate, as well as copies of the FAA annual or interim manual audits with responses to any questions".

Director Bernard Curtis stated he will second the motion. Director Curtis noted for the record, there were over 7 Fire Chiefs that were in favor of the Battle Born Helicopter, and all were essentially concerned about public safety and medical care in rural areas. He noted Undersheriff Ron Elges and Sheriff Dan Coverly are in full support because it has possibilities for the Sheriff Department as well.

Motion to approve the Aeromedical Services Agreement between the East Fork Fire Protection District and Rural Medevac Alliance, Inc. (Battle Born Helicopter) for the provision of aeromedical flight services, including co-location at Station 12, co-staffing with firefighter/paramedics, and related operational support, and the District keeps a copy of Battle Born's current 135 certificate and when received, their 133 certificate, as well as copies of the FAA annual or interim manual audits with responses to any questions and authorize the District Fire Chief to execute all necessary documents. There is no net fiscal impact because all costs will be reimbursed to the District by Rural Medivac Alliance Inc through this agreement.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Mike Sommers
SECOND BY:	Bernard Curtis
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

Secretary Mike Sommers thanked East Fork Fire staff and Chief Ernst for bringing forward methods to improve the Standard of Cover, protecting lives and helping people in need.

10. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to approve the Meet and Confer Agreement between the East Fork Fire Protection District (EFFPD) and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 3726 regarding the labor impacts of the partnership with Rural Medivac Alliance LLC (Battleborn Helicopter). The fiscal impact is \$30,681, in which the District will be reimbursed by Rural Medivac Alliance LLC. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 20 minutes.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated this item occurs any time East Fork Fire enters any agreement that has a labor outcome. He noted this agreement is being brought to the Board for a vote on the labor agreement being impacted, which is covered financially by the Meet and Confer Agreement and by Battle Born and Rural Medevac Alliance. If approved, this will serve as the conferred agreement. The labor group will take it to their meeting, for a membership vote. At that point, it will be ratified.

Legal Counsel Mark Forsberg asked if this agreement would be an amendment to the collective bargaining agreement.

District Fire Chief Ernst stated yes, this will be an amendment to the collective bargaining agreement.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

Motion to approve the Meet and Confer Agreement between the East Fork Fire Protection District (EFFPD) and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 3726 regarding the labor impacts of the partnership with Rural Medivac Alliance LLC (Battleborn Helicopter). The fiscal impact is \$30,681, in which the District will be reimbursed by Rural Medivac Alliance LLC.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Barbara Griffin
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	

11. For Presentation Only. Reports/updates from East Fork Professional Firefighters Association concerning the various assignments and

committees they may be a member of, liaison to, or meetings/functions they have attended. No action will be taken on these reports/updates. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

IAFF Union President Kevin May noted:

- The Union participated in the Nevada Cowboy Experience, a partnership between the District, the Union, the Sheriff's Office and other organizations in the community, to provide a western cowboy experience to young men in the community
- The Cadet Program is almost ready to officially launch as Kevin May, other members of the Union, Chief Driscoll and Chief Goss have worked very hard to put it all together
- The Union has been tasked to create Engineer, Engine Company and Truck Manuals, which are guiding documents for the organization. They have taken over a year to complete, but the Union wanted to make sure they were correct
- The Union has been active in recruitment for the District and have had members sit through lateral and new hire interviews
- Changes in PPE – new traditional, leather-style helmets have been approved; composite helmets will still be available, or leather-style helmets can be purchased by the employee if desired. Both helmets will be the new “traditional” style helmets
- Apparatus changes and looks have been approved and 1 new rescue is currently in-service
- PPE and apparatus changes are all completed with committees made up of members who have all worked hard with Administration to get it done

12. For Presentation Only. Reports/updates from East Fork Volunteer Firefighters Association concerning the various assignments and committees they may be a member of, liaison to, or meetings/functions they have attended. No action will be taken on these reports/updates. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

Chris Lang, President of the East Fork Volunteer Association noted:

- Open House was held at Station 8 and a donation was set up for the East Fork Fire Burn Fund
- In the last 36 months, \$11,000 has been donated to victims of fires in Douglas County
- Residents of the Sheridan and Foothill area attended the open house, totaling almost 200 attendees
- With the funds raised from the open house event:
 - Covering the outlay on the last fire in Foothill
 - Assist Station 3 with their museum renovations
 - Move Engine 1 from Station 8 to Station 3; Engine 1 will be placed in a glass casing for display in the museum at Station 3
 - Help fund the Explorers Program
- Volunteers assisted Mechanic Dustin Weisz with pump testing

- Tonight at 6:00 PM, several volunteers are looking forward to being trained on the new water tender, which should be placed in service soon
- The volunteer fire station events have brought community members together and seek opportunities for community-related projects
- Career staff from Station 14 were present at the Station 8 Open House, which was neat to observe their interactions talking with community members and letting the kids crawl through the Engine

Secretary Mike Sommers stated he was present at the Station 8 Open House and there was a lot of information on defensible space distributed to the community. Secretary Sommers noted a lot of people signed up to have their properties inspected in the Sheridan area for fire prevention. He concluded the event was very enjoyable.

13. For Presentation Only. Reports/updates from District Board Members and the Fire Chief concerning the various assignments and committees they may be a member of, liaison to, or meetings/functions they have attended. No action will be taken on these reports/updates. (John Bellona, President) 10 minutes.

Legal Counsel, Mark Forsberg noted:

- No report

Brad Driscoll, Division Chief/Risk Management noted:

- Safety Topic for July was the Wall Bombs Supermarket Fire
- 1 work-related injury in July that did not require medical attention
- 1 serious accident reported in July; a vehicle backing accident that has been reported to insurance and being evaluated

Secretary Mike Sommers stated the loss injury report has been worked on diligently to review and work on overdue open claims. He thanked Chief Driscoll for working on this.

Michael Shockey, Deputy Chief of Emergency Operations noted:

- Call volume is consistent with last month at almost 700 calls
- Seeing an uptick in fires occurring both structurally and wildland and the support East Fork Fire has received from the surrounding agencies has been amazing
- The Battalion Chiefs worked well together and kept the last structure fire in Foothill contained to the structure itself; this was a very complicated fire with the structure fully involved, which was very impressive to accomplish
- The Fuels Crew philosophy of sending one crew out off-district and having one crew stay in the District is happening and working well
- One Fuels Crew is off on a pre-position in Truckee, CA

- The East Fork Fire staff are talented and have created 3 different task books on how engine companies operate on fires, when truck company work needs to be done, and what it takes to become an Engineer for the District
- Congratulated the Battalion Chiefs on their focus to evaluate and train their staff using the new task books

Holly Megee, Director of Administrative Services noted:

- Recruitment has been busy with 4 new lateral firefighters starting September 2nd and last Thursday and Friday firefighter recruitment took place with 19 applicants; 10 will move forward to the Fire Chief interview that is anticipated for next week

Amy Ray, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal noted:

- Prevention is benefiting from the approval of the First Due Contract; it will allow for an investigation module, invoice permitting and community connect
- Community Connect will allow the Prevention Department to reach out to the community and send out prevention messages, allow residents to sign up and provide information to East Fork's staff, for example, residents can provide gate codes or advise staff if they have an animal at their residence

Secretary Mike Sommers noted:

- No report

Director Barbara Griffin noted:

- Wished President John Bellona a Happy Birthday

Director Nathan Leising noted:

- Wished President John Bellona a Happy Birthday
- Apologized, he couldn't be at the meeting in person as he is finishing a 2-week assignment in Arizona on the Bronco Fire

District Fire Chief Ernst acknowledged Director Leising on his career of 55 years fighting fires. He noted Director Leising mentioned to him that the Bronco Fire assignment will be his last for his career. Chief Ernst concluded it is amazing to dedicate 55 years to a fire career.

Director Bernard Curtis noted:

- No report

President John Bellona noted:

- He took second place in People's Choice at the International Chili Cookoff

District Fire Chief Ernst noted:

- No report

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)

President John Bellona opened public comment.

No public comment.

Public comment closed.

ADJOURNMENT

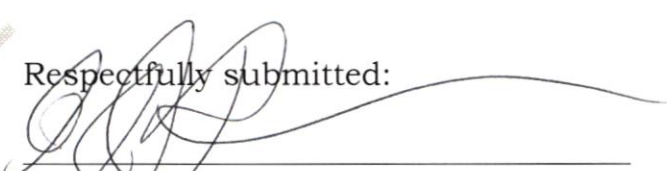
14. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to adjourn the East Fork Fire Protection District Board Meeting. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.

MOTION to adjourn; carried.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOTION BY:	Bernard Curtis
SECOND BY:	Mike Sommers
AYES:	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
NAYS:	
ABSENT:	


There being no further business to come before the Board, at 3:32 PM the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



John Bellona, President
East Fork Fire Protection District

ATTEST:



Erica Amatore, Clerk to the Board
East Fork Fire Protection District