

## **APPROVED**

The Board Meeting of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board was held on Tuesday, July 17, 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  
Bernard Curtis, Director, District 3  
Nathan Leising, Director, District 4  
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  
Mark Forsberg, District Legal Counsel (online)  
Erica Amatore, Clerk to the Board

### **Additional attendees that addressed the Board:**

Gary Thurm, Engineer, Three Castles Engineering  
Peggy Ristorcelli, Sheridan Acres Resident  
Dennis McDuffee, Real Estate Agent, Intero Real Estate  
Kevin May, IAFF Union President (online)  
Chris Lang, EFFPD Volunteer Liaison

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Board President John Bellona

## **INITIAL MEETING BUSINESS**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Nathan Leising 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.

Gary Thurm, owner of Three Castles Engineering, read a prepared statement into record voicing his concerns for plan review fees. His statement is posted on the East Fork Fire website for review. Mr. Thurm requested the Board to allow Dennis McDuffee to speak under public comment when he arrived.

Peggy Ristorcelli, Sheridan Acres resident, read a prepared statement into record voicing her concerns about fire access and fire safe community. Her statement is posted on the East Fork Fire website for review.

President John Bellona stated public comment will be closed for now, but when Dennis McDuffee arrives, he will allow additional public comment.

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.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

MOTION to approve the meeting agenda for July 15, 2025.

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

### **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 June 17, 2025 meeting of the East Fork Fire Protection District Board of Directors.

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

### **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-F**

**FINANCE**

- A. For Possible Action.** Discussion and possible action to accept the report on general ledger cash balances as of June 30, 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 June 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 June 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 June 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 April 2025 in the amount of \$8,905.98. (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 April 2025. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO)

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.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOTION BY:</b>	Mike Sommers
<b>SECOND BY:</b>	Nathan Leising
<b>AYES:</b>	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSENT:</b>	

**4. For Presentation Only. Budget Summary for month ending June 2025. (Julie Andress, Director of Finance/CFO) 5 minutes.**

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress stated:

- The backup provided in the Board packet shows the budget performance report through the end of June
- 60 days remain in the fiscal year to account for expenditures and revenue
- Still waiting on GEMT (ground emergency medical transport) funds
- Capital outlay will be rolling forward into the current fiscal year

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if the liquidation from the older capitol assets is sitting in miscellaneous funds for now.

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress stated yes, that is correct.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if the funds have been received from capital assets and reflected in the current backup report.

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress noted the funds haven't been received yet, but once they are, along with the GEMT funds, it will bring the percentage up from the current 61%.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked what the percentage of revenue will be once we have received all outstanding funds.

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress stated she doesn't have that percentage right now, but she will get that information and report back to Secretary Sommers.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if this budget summary included all sales tax.

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress stated, yes, it includes all sales tax.

Fire Chief Ernst explained the District has sold one Type 1 Engine for \$20,000, a Water Tender and the old Ladder Truck for \$16,910. There are two pending sales of Type 3 Engines for \$6,000 and \$4,000. This will be a total of \$46,910 for the District. Fire Chief Ernst concluded there are two Type 1 Engines, an Ambulance, and a Suburban that will be going to auction today as well.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

**5. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to allow the District's Administration to purchase a new Braun ambulance from Red Sky EV, according to current specifications, with a purchase price not to exceed \$400,000, and to include and encumber costs within the FY 25/26 Budget. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 15 minutes.**

Fire Chief Ernst stated an opportunity was presented to the District from Braun to purchase a demo Ambulance. This Ambulance is very similar, almost exact, to the District's specifications. It was delivered on Sunday so the apparatus committee could review it.

Fire Chief Ernst noted the District was about \$10,000 short for a new Ambulance, however, with the GEMT revenue, it will bring the budget up several hundred thousand dollars more. Between the GEMT funds and the bond funding, Chief Ernst stated he is requesting approval to purchase this Ambulance.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if it was a demo ambulance and what year it is.

Fire Chief Ernst stated yes, it is a demo and the model year is 2024.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if the ambulance had any documented hours on it.

Fire Chief Ernst noted very few hours. He explained his request is for approval to purchase the ambulance, which will go through a final inspection before the final purchase and signing.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

Motion to approve the purchase of a new Braun ambulance from Red Sky EV, according to current specifications, with a purchase price not to exceed \$400,000, and to include and encumbered costs within the FY 25/26 Budget.



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

President Bellona reopened public comment, as requested, to allow Dennis McDuffee to provide his remarks.

Dennis McDuffee, Real Estate Agent, Intero Real Estate, read a prepared statement into record voicing his concerns for plan review fees. His statement is posted on the East Fork Fire website for review.

Public comment closed.

**6. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to authorize the District's Administration to extend the services of Anthony Seghieri, an independent contractor to serve as Grant Manager for an additional six-month period, at a cost not to exceed \$46,800; and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute all necessary documents and contracts. (Alan Ernst, District Fire Chief) 15 minutes.**

Fire Chief Ernst noted this request is to continue the employment contract with Anthony Seghieri, retired Chief Officer with Nevada Department of Forestry. Chief Seghieri approached East Fork Fire about wanting to help the community and work with the District. The District conducted a trial period to see how it would go.

Fire Chief Ernst stated he was happy to report since March of 2025, Chief Seghieri has strengthened the District's wildlife resistance through long-term planning, inter-agency coordination, and increased grant funding. Chief Seghieri has made significant progress and has been a regional player in allowing East Fork Fire to have a fully functioning and self-sustaining wildland fire fuels program. Chief Seghieri has also been responsible for helping secure over \$850,000 in grant funding from Nevada Department of Forestry.

Fire Chief Ernst concluded the funds Chief Seghieri has secured will be supporting fuels reduction projects, the Foothill landscape program expansion, and securing 4 instead of 2 fuels crew members for seasonal positions.

Fire Chief Ernst stated Chief Seghieri has applied for a \$350,000 WUI grant that is still in progress and he is currently developing a five-year strategic plan that will be essential in the future for applying for grants and project work. Chief Ernst requested the Board to extend Chief Seghieri's contract for 6 additional months.

President Bellona stated with the numbers provided, Chief Seghieri is paying for his position.

Director Barbara Griffin noted the District is also attaining some important grants.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if the initial contract the District had with Chief Seghieri was through an LLC.

Fire Chief Ernst and Director of Administrative Services Holly Megee both noted his employment was not through an LLC.

President John Bellona opened public comment.

There was no public comment.

Public comment closed.

Motion to authorize the District's Administration to extend the services of Anthony Seghieri, an independent contractor, to serve as Grant Manager for an additional six-month period, at a cost not to exceed \$46,800; and to authorize the District Fire Chief to execute all necessary documents and contracts.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOTION BY:</b>	Barbara Griffin
<b>SECOND BY:</b>	Nathan Leising
<b>AYES:</b>	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSENT:</b>	

**7. 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.**

No report.

**8. 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.**

Report provided at the end of the meeting.



**9. 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

Director of Finance/CFO Julie Andress noted:

- Met with auditor to discuss annual FY 24/25 engagement
- Submitted annual fiscal report for the year
- Quarter 4 economic survey is complete
- Indebtedness report is complete

Division Chief/Risk Management, Brad Driscoll noted:

- 2 injuries were reported; 1 injury didn't require medical follow-up
- 2 vehicle accidents; 1 backing accident and 1 related to the Connor Fire

Secretary Mike Sommers asked Chief Driscoll if he had any update on the District's report for loss claims from 7710 Worker's Compensation.

Division Chief/Risk Management, Brad Driscoll stated he obtained a little bit of information from our 7710 representative, but not enough to generate a report. He stated the District had a high frequency and high cost of claims 3 years ago. If the District has 2 average years, there is a possibility the rate will come down because the high year will fall off.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked if Chief Driscoll has had any meetings with 7710 on handling and managing the current open claims.

Division Chief/Risk Management, Brad Driscoll stated himself and Director of Administrative Services Holly Megee have met with the 7710 representative about the open claims. Of the 14 claims, 4 are predicted to fall off immediately and a couple of the 10 remaining open claims will more than likely be long-term.

Secretary Mike Sommers asked what the estimated amount of reserves is set aside for those claims.

Division Chief/Risk Management, Brad Driscoll stated he doesn't have that number at this time, but he will look into it and report back to Secretary Sommers.

Secretary Mike Sommers stated we should continue to track the reserves set aside for these claims because it will affect the District's mod factor.

Division Chief/Risk Management, Brad Driscoll stated he will start adding this to the reports; a full loss claims report and status of open claims.

Deputy Fire Chief of Emergency Operations, Michael Shockey, noted:

- 618 calls for the month of June
- Major incident: Connor Fire which burned a little over 17,000 acres
- Training Captains worked with line staff on basement fire tactics at Station 14's training center

President John Bellona asked if the District got involved with a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) on the Connor Fire.

Chief Shockey stated, yes, FMAG was approved for this fire.

Secretary Sommers asked if the fire was still under investigation.

Fire Chief Ernst noted, yes, the fire is still under investigation with the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Director of Administrative Services Holly Megee noted:

- Lateral recruitment application period closed on June 22
- 115 Firefighter and 19 lateral applications so far
- Lateral Firefighter interview process will be held on July 22

Secretary Mike Sommers asked what the targeted start date will be for employment.

Fire Chief Ernst stated as soon as possible as there are currently 3 vacancies to fill. He stated he is very happy with the number of applications received and he attributes the efforts to the social media work that has been done with the District.

Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Amy Ray noted:

- Prevention has started annual school inspections in the District.

Deputy Chief of Business Operations Larry Goss, noted:

- Thanked the Board for the approval of the new ambulance
- Remount of another ambulance should be ready and in service next month
- Water Tender currently at the Siddon's shop in Reno and should be back in service shortly
- Station 6 and Station 3 are currently becoming habitable with IT putting some equipment in place
- Contract signed for preventative maintenance on air conditioners and generators in the District

- Explorer Program has been approved and green light has been given for the group to start meeting

Secretary Mike Sommers noted:

- No report

Director Barbara Griffin noted:

- No report, but would like the Chief to pass on to people providing public comment that it's inappropriate to criticize staff in front of the Board in a public meeting.

Director Nathan Leising noted:

- No report

Director Bernard Curtis noted:

- No report

Fire Chief Alan Ernst noted:

- It has been about 6 months since he took office and the District is making a lot of positive changes. Chief Ernst read a prepared statement into record highlighting the District accomplishments during his first 180-days. This statement is on the District website for review.

President John Bellona noted:

- The code issue has been a problem for quite some time, even before Chief Ernst started. He is happy to see Chief Ernst and Chief Ray working together to find a solution.
- He enjoyed listening to the public comment about Sheridan Acres and fire access. He stated the wildland program has been in place forever in that area along with all the people that live there. His opinion is it's going to be hard to change their minds.
- August 16 – National Chili Cookoff at 11:00 at the Minden Mill in Minden.

Chris Lang, President of the East Fork Volunteer Firefighters Association, arrived. President John Bellona asked Mr. Lang if he would like to provide a report to the Board.

Chris Lang, Volunteer President stated:

- Station 3 had a successful 4<sup>th</sup> of July event; it provided 400 chicken dinners.
- Station 8 has an open-house event on August 16 from 10:00 am – 2:00 PM. Raising money for the Burn Fund, the Explorer Program, and Station 3's museum expansion.
- Stated he was proud of the volunteer turnout on the Connor Fire assignment.

Director Bernard Curtis thanked Volunteer President Chris Lang for his time and dedication to fighting the Connor Fire.

**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT** (No Action)

President John Bellona opened public comment.

No public comment.

Public comment closed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

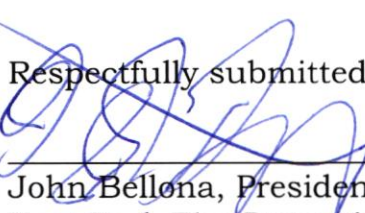
**10. For Possible Action. Discussion and possible action to adjourn the East Fork Fire Protection District Board Meeting. (John Bellona, President) 5 minutes.**

MOTION to adjourn; carried.

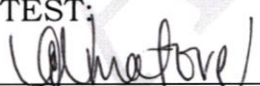
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOTION BY:</b>	Nathan Leising
<b>SECOND BY:</b>	Barbara Griffin
<b>AYES:</b>	Bellona, Curtis, Griffin, Leising, Sommers
<b>NAYS:</b>	
<b>ABSENT:</b>	

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 2:11 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