

## (Corrected) EPPOC Minutes, April 3rd, 2019

1. Meeting Called to Order: Chairman **Eric Davis** at 0930.

2. Roll Call was taken by Sign-up Sheet.

3. **OPEN FORUM:**

A. PG&E: It was noted that PG&E was re-evaluating trees to be cut. This issue has been confused by local residents removing "yellow Xs" and sometimes marking other trees for removal. Work has begun that removes logs from the area. End of June was said to be a goal. If you have questions, contact PG&E directly. <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7267/PGE--Debris-Removal-72116?bidId=>, or call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.

4. **LAW ENFORCEMENT:** **Joel Burnett**, local Sheriff, noted his concerns:

A. Chain Control is in effect. Chains must be at least carried in the vehicle.

B. Vacationers mean Strangers. Call the Sheriff if you are in doubt.

C. Neighborhood Watch can be set up aided by the Sheriff's Office.

D. Current manning includes 4 deputies (2 on Midshift).

5. **FIRE CHIEF:** **Mike Johnson** reports that Measure A is ready with preparation.

A. **Measure A**, to be included in the mail-in balloting beginning APRIL 8th, is a necessary and needed tax increase to support an ailing Fire Department and Medical Response facility. 2/3 Yes from the voters is required to pass. May 7th is the last date for accepting Votes. A Town Hall meeting will occur at Independence Hall, 6 pm, on APRIL 10th to discuss the Measure A provisions, their justifications, and costs to the taxpayer. The benefits of a passing vote are large to any home owner and resident/visitor with a medical emergency. This area has the finest trained teams and equipment to meet most emergencies imaginable. (and some not imaginable.)

6. **CALFIRE Battalion CHIEF:** Landon Haack took the time to explain the following.

A. **Fire Evacuation Plan.** What began as an Ebbetts Pass area project quickly became a County Wide plan with many more people involved. Signage to direct people will not be provided. It is suggested that with community education the evacuations will be more orderly, more sequential, and more effective.

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B. **FUEL REDUCTION:** Gov. Newsom issued an Executive Order giving the State and CalFire funding for fuel reduction work. 35 Projects throughout the state have been identified as priority projects. Calaveras County was not included for one of these projects, due to our current saturation of fuel reduction projects. Some of the additional funding is expected to provide an extra 13 Fire Engines plus 130 Fire Fighters. This addition breaks down to about 2 to 2.5 firefighters per Administrative Unit after the 13 engines are staffed and distributed.

C. **VIP INSPECTIONS:** This program only exists in Calaveras County. There will be more training provided to the VIPs, covering the building construction components of the DATA SHEET. We will be continuing the VIP program and are moving forward with those who choose to participate. The DATA SHEET and associated inspection documents will not likely be altered in the near future. Citations have been made, but some property owners will choose to pay the penalties rather than clean up a potential fire source.

D. **SPRING STAFFING:** On April 15<sup>th</sup> we will be bringing on about 78 of our seasonal firefighters that will be staffing 15 engines and Copter 404 starting April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will put one engine staffed in all TCU fire stations.

7. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Eric Dave chose to request a hands-vote to contribute \$40 to purchasing new Nameplate holders. The motion was seconded and passed a majority vote.

8. **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** Supervisor Merita Callaway noted several civic opportunities:

A. **Murphys Drive/Blagan Bridge** Project will have a Town Hall meeting at Independence Hall, April 17, at 5 pm.

B. Support the Hemp moratorium as State regulations do not allow cities/counties to have land use regulation as we do for Cannabis, and since it also has the same odor, it needs to be mitigated.

C. **Butte Fire** (2015) settlement from PG&E of \$20 million, support the funds going to the location of the fire; this includes an estimate of \$14.6 million for impact to the roads.

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D. **Building Eyesores** on Hwy 4 that are so noticeable for their Decay and Poor Representation of our towns are now subject to Code Enforcement. This is a higher level of pressure, but does not guarantee knock-down and removal.

9. **CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #3: Bertha Underhill** our water guru reports:

A. **Tulies** from White Pines Lake that had been cleaned months ago from the west end are piled high at the Ball Park. This is potential fertile soil to be utilized by growers of all ages and professions. This soil is available for free pick up (not delivery).

B. **Hunter's Water Treatment Facility** will have some down time to renovate the large filters priced at \$250K. This money had been ear-marked.

C. **Reach 1**, from Avery to Forest Meadows, will begin in April weather permitting and will take to Summer of next year to complete. This project awarded to Mazinko for \$6.7M will interrupt traffic as it has to cross the Hwy 4 in at least 5 places. Traffic will be closed to one lane on some occasions.

**CCWD Joel Metzger** questioned the meeting with possible concerns. Those proposed were:

- 1.) Allowance for Fire and Emergency situations.
- 2.) Effect on traffic during impact times.

It is understood that the larger pipe will increase reliability, service, and improved fire emergency management.

10. **COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (COG): Tim Muetterties** reported "house cleaning".

11. **ARNOLD RIM TRAIL: Steve Lauterbach** reported that activities are stepping up "Rain or Shine". Check out the happenings at [www.Arnoldrimtrail.org](http://www.Arnoldrimtrail.org).

12. **GUEST SPEAKER: Sonja Conklin**, Air Med Care Network (AMCN), spoke of the extreme costs of medical evacuation without coverage. In the Ebbetts Pass area, PHI has been the popular choice for helicopter rides to San Andreas or Sonora. PHI has been flying out of Columbia to below Avery for 911 calls of serious inflictions. It was reported that PHI has filed for Bankruptcy and is now looking to

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get out of the Medic Evac business. The costs for such evacuation have risen to typically **\$52K**. Even after Insurance has kicked-in, the bill left to the patient is **\$18K** as a national average. Medicare may pay for up to 80%...unless "ground transportation" was available. In such cases, Medicare will Dis-Approve and then any Secondary Insurance will also follow. This leaves the patient with the full **\$52K** bill.

AMCN has grown considerably in the past few years, thus increasing service to remote areas such as Ebbetts Pass and all across the Nation. REACH has purchased CALSTAR and now flies out of Stockton, Modesto, and S. Lake Tahoe. Two Plans are immediately available, that of Air Evacuation to a Hospital and "Fly-U-Home" which is an additional plan that covers Multiple airlifts should the first or second hospital not have the facilities you need. All attention is given to that "Golden Hour" in which death or permanent injury results without proper care. You are encouraged to contact AMCN as soon as possible to discuss these plans in the many facets and discounts for Seniors or association with the EPFD. There are over 3 million annual members with 322 Air Bases nation-wide. In the absence of an alternative service with such offerings, and with national service where ever you Vacation, it seems worth investigating.

Contact **Sonja Conklin** who can answer your questions at 530-648-6455 or on-line at [www.AMCNrep.com/Sonja-Conklin](http://www.AMCNrep.com/Sonja-Conklin). Rates are \$85 per household (less \$10 for Seniors or EBFD) for Emergent coverage and \$219 (less \$20 for Seniors) for Emergent plus "Fly-U-Home" per household. (A household is defined as a household of any number of members of the same mailing address.)

13. **Fuel Reduction:** Pete Pedelford, local hero, talked of a ring of fuel breaks encompassing from Dorrington to Murphys. Unfortunately, we were out of time.

ROBERT BRAGG,

EPPOC Secretary