BIG BEAR FIRE AUTHORITY
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
February 10, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Big Bear Fire Authority was called to order by Board Chair Rowe at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, Friday 10, 2026, at 41090 Big Bear Boulevard, Big Bear Lake, California.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Moment of Silence:	Observed
Pledge of Allegiance:	Led by Director Rowe

ROLL CALL

Present:	Board Chair JoKay Rowe Vice Chair Kendi Segovia Director Rick Herrick Director Charles Hicks Director Perri Melnick Director Randall Putz Director Bob Rowe Director Larry Walsh Director Al Ziegler
Absent:	Director John Russo
Also Present:	Luke Wagner, Fire Chief Sherry Wentz, Interim Board Secretary Nicholaus Norvell, Assistant Authority Counsel Adriana Ochoa, Special Legal Counsel

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Chair Rowe made the following announcement:

The Fire Authority's Administrative Office will be closed:

- Monday, February 16, 2026, in observance of President's Day and will reopen on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

DIRECTORS' GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Directors offered no announcement.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Rowe opened the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

Jon Bidwell, President of the Big Bear Firefighters Association, presented a brief overview and intent of the Joint Powers Agreement, leadership challenges, and Citygate findings on costs and revenue streams. He proposed the creation of a fire district. He doesn't support seeking County services until exhausting other local solutions and until after the elections due to the potential impacts to the Board.

Patrice Duncan thanked the Big Bear Lake Fire Protection District for the retention of Citygate to develop a compressive fire service report based upon the needs of the community. She commented on several of the report's recommendations, including a need to revise the current Joint Powers Agreement, a reduction of Board Members, various funding options, stating many of the recommendations had been previously proposed by the Strategic Planning Committee, but not supported by the Board. She agreed it is prudent for the Authority to seek an annexation of fire service proposal by San Bernardino County, noting each member agency should not act independently. She also commented on the next election's impact on the Fire Authority's Board.

Dan Gulbranson stated CSD (Community Services District) should get out now, cited his various reasons, noting Big Bear Lake having advantages. He commented on foolish projects being untaken by the City of Big Bear Lake

Chair Rowe closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT

There was no Chief's Report.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

There was no Finance Officer's Report.

FIRE AUTHORITY CONSENT CALENDAR

FA1. Approval of Demands – Check Issue Date 12/1/2025 through 12/31/2025 in the amount of $1,145,572.69.

FA2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the January 13, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Big Bear Fire Authority.

The public offered no comments.

Directors Hicks suggested looking into the possibility of seeking reimbursement for costs associated with Ambulance Operators meal reimbursements.

Action: On motion by Director Rowe, seconded by Director Walsh, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following vote:

AYES:	Herrick, Hicks, Melnick, Putz, Rowe, Walsh, Segovia, Ziegler, Chair Rowe
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Russo
ABSTAIN:	None

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no Public Hearings.

NEW BUSINESS

BIG BEAR FIRE AUTHORITY DISCUSSION ITEMS

FA3. Discussion Regarding Review and Possible Direction to Initiate Amendment to Joint Powers Authority Agreement; Further Discussion of Fire Services Review.

Fire Chief Wagner introduced the report and announced Citygate Associates Project Director Stewart Gary and Special Counsel Adriana Ochoa were available via Zoom to respond to questions.

Daniel Gulbranson commented on the disparity of funding sources between agencies, service impacts by resorts, and use of resources between the east and west ends of the area.

The Board agreed the subjects of its discussion are not based on the quality of its fire service's performance, but business concerns associated with its organizational sustainability. Subjects discussed included past funding struggles, agreement amending options, seeking service proposals, service annexation options, Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCo) role, and a potential dissolving of the JPA.

Action: On motion by Director Melnick second by Vice Chair Segovia the Board, in an effort to explore all service options, directed that each respective agency solicit a Request for Proposal for fire services from San Bernardino County Fire Department based upon its own agency's constituent's emergency service level needs and at what costs, by the following vote:

AYES:	Herrick, Hicks, Melnick, Putz, Rowe, Walsh, Segovia, Ziegler, Chair Rowe
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Russo
ABSTAIN:	None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

DIRECTORS' CLOSING COMMENTS

The Directors offered no closing comments.

CLOSED SESSION PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

Jon Bidwell, President of the Big Bear Professional Firefighters Association, commented on the Association's formal labor negotiations complaint filed with the California Public Employment Relations Board (Big Bear Professional Firefighters Associate v. Big Bear Fire Authority Unfair Practice Charge No. LA-CE-1857-M). Stating several of Labor's negotiation items had no financial impacts associated with them.

CLOSED SESSION

1. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**
   Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2): One (1) potential case

2. **PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**
   Title: Board Secretary

3. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6)**
   Agency Designated Representative(s): Luke Wagner, Fire Chief
   Unrepresented Employee: Board Secretary

4. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6)**
   Agency Designated Representative(s): Luke Wagner, Fire Chief
   Employee Organization: Big Bear Professional Firefighters' Assoc., IAFF, Local 935

5. **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (GOVERNMENT CODE § 54954.5)**
   Position: Fire Chief

At the hour of 6:29 p.m., Board Chair Rowe adjourned to Closed Session.

At the hour of 7:30 p.m., Board Chair Rowe adjourned Closed Session.

At the hour of 7:30 p.m., Board Chair Rowe re-opened Regular Session, with no public present.

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Attorney Norvell stated there were no reportable actions from Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Fire Authority at this session, Board Chair Rowe adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Sherry Wentz
Interim Board Secretary