

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of February 18, 2020.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jenkins called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Benton County Fire District No. 1 to order at 4:00 p.m. at 7511 W. Arrowhead Ave., Kennewick, Washington. In attendance at this meeting were Commissioner Christenson, Commissioner Jenkins, Commissioner Morris, Fire Chief/District Secretary Click, and Financial Manager Paden-Lilly.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED LOG

The correspondence received log was reviewed.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT

The correspondence sent was reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2020. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2020 transactions #230 through #382. The transactions total \$230,198.94. General Fund \$70,804.47; electronic fund transfers \$100,579.90; federal payroll tax payment \$34,523.95; retirement systems transfer \$22,760.09; and Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$1,530.53. Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The voucher registers are attached to these minutes and constitute a part thereof.

Budget Revenue and Expenditure Reports

The budget revenue and expenditure reports were reviewed.

EMS Report

The EMS Collection Statistics Report was reviewed.

REPORTS

Commissioners

- Commissioner Christenson and Chief Click attended the Tri-County Commissioners Association meeting at Benton #2. A presentation was given by Chief Whealan regarding HB 2585 that would modify state statutes to allow L&I to eliminate or reduce penalties for workplace safety violations if the deviation from the safety rules was done to prevent an imminent death or serious injury.

- Commissioner Christenson also attended the Hazmat Board meeting on February 12. The Board continues to work through the process of transitioning from the Tri-County Hazmat Board to a Quad-County Special Operations Board.
- Commissioner Christenson is registered to attend a seminar in Spokane this weekend for Newly Appointed Commissioners with Attorney Brian Snure.

Fire Chief

- Chief Click welcomed new employee Firefighter/Paramedic Jake Simpson. His first day was February 10.
- The ambulance transport application has been submitted to the State Department of Health and a letter has been emailed to the Regional EMS Council representatives.
- He has received the final specifications and a quote for a rescue/breathing support vehicle. He will give it a final review and it will be forwarded on for purchasing.
- Captain Nicholls is working on two grant applications. One is a regional training center grant for burn props and the second application is for Fire District communications equipment.
- He reviewed the Legislative bills that are currently being monitored by the Washington Fire Commissioners Association.

Battalion Chief(s)

- Battalion Chief Gutzmer reported that the IFSAC Hands-on day was held with all recruits passing successfully. He is still waiting on the written test results.

Training

- Captain Nicholls reported that 13 new recruits went through the written test and 15 participated in physical agility testing. The next phase will be oral interviews and physical fitness exams.
- He has been spending a lot of time with onboarding the four new hires and coordinating with Captain Henderson to work through the process of getting the new ambulance outfitted and ready for emergency response.

Maintenance Department

- Mechanic/Firefighter Ball reported that the rescue truck is still out of service and the ladder is currently in the shop out of service for at least another week to replace valves. Chief Click mentioned that he has asked Administrative Assistant Ewing to pull all the invoices associated with the rescue truck, as the repair shop has continued to replace parts but not fix the vehicle.

Labor

- Captain Bibe reported that Captain Henderson is working on a schedule for touring emergency departments for familiarization in preparation of ambulance transports. He will be sending the schedule out to all members soon.

Other

- Financial Manger Paden-Lilly shared that she and Administrative Assistant Ewing will be travelling to Spokane this evening to attend a two-day conference relating to the District's accounting software.
- Commissioner Jenkins mentioned that the Irrigation District is threatening to take over Cox farmland in Badger Canyon through eminent domain in order to create a major reservoir for future customer's water supply.

OLD BUSINESS

2020 Budget Revision

A revised version of the 2020 Budget was presented to the Board. Changes were made to various revenue and expenditure accounts based on accurate tax levy information received from the

County. After a discussion, Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve the revised 2020 Budget. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Employment Contract

The non-uniformed employees have chosen not to continue collective bargaining of wages, benefits, and working conditions with Local #4362. Chief Click felt it prudent to make a promotion within the administrative staff and presented an employment contract with Billie Paden-Lilly for the position of Executive Director of Business Operations. Commissioner Morris made a motion to accept the Employment Contract with Billie Paden-Lilly. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Policy 3700 – Public Records

The District was recently made aware of a public record request made by the Freedom Foundation to the Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) for retiree information. The Washington State Council of Fire Fighters (WSCFF) and many other Union representatives obtained a temporary injunction to prohibit the disclosure of certain employee information. The Freedom Foundation then started requesting information from employers instead of DRS to avoid the injunction. The WSCFF and other unions obtained permission from the Courts to add employers, which included Benton County Fire District #1 as a defendant in the litigation to be subject to the temporary injunction. To date, the Fire District has not given the Freedom Foundation any employee information. Attorney Brian Snure will file a Notice of Appearance on behalf of the Fire District and does not intend to take any further action in the matter unless further developments require further action.

Chief Click presented an updated version of Policy 3700 – Public Records based on current RCW. After a discussion, Commissioner Morris made a motion to approve Policy 3700 – Public Records. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on March 3.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.