

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of August 20, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Houchin called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Benton County Fire District No. 1 to order at 9:00 a.m. at 7511 W. Arrowhead Ave., Kennewick, Washington. In attendance at this meeting were Commissioner Houchin, Fire Chief/District Secretary Click and Financial Manager Paden-Lilly. Commissioner Jenkins and Commissioner Morris were excused. Without a quorum of the Board present, no business may be conducted, and no decisions may be made.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED LOG

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

Budget Revenue and Expenditure Reports

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

EMS Report

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

REPORTS

Commissioners, Chiefs and staff reported the following:

- Chief Click reported:
 - He has been researching ambulances that are for sale; looking for a used, low mileage unit that is in good condition.
 - The Primary Election results listed so far show that the Levy Lid Lift passed with 56% and the Bond Measure failed to reach a super-majority with 54%. The Bond Measure will be forwarded onto the General Election in November.
- Maintenance Supervisor Schoenwald reported that E1113 is experiencing retarder issues.

- Public Information Officer Baker reported that the Benton-Franklin Fair and Rodeo is this week and crews will be participating in staffing the Life Safety House.
- Captain Bibe reported that crews are working on getting new resident members up to speed.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resident and New Member Agreements

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

District Resident Scott Carpenter stated that he had contacted the elections office regarding the number of registered voters in the District. Based on that information, out of the 11,000 registered voters of the Fire District, 2,386 voted on Lid Lift or 21.69% and 2,297 voted on the Bond Issue or 20.88%. He stated that it is true that over half of those that voted, did approve both issues. But can you really say that this constitutes a majority support? He would like to see more transparency when discussing figures when putting it in the paper or on the District's website.

Mr. Carpenter asked how the Safer Grant is coming and how many people would it fund. Chief Click stated that the Safer Grant Application has not been awarded yet and if awarded, it would fund four positions.

Mr. Carpenter asked if the Bond does not pass, where are you going to put the ambulances and personnel. Chief Click stated that they would stay where they are at currently. Station 120 and 160 would continue to provide 24-hour coverage. The plan is to purchase one ambulance to start with and it would be placed at Station 160.

Mr. Carpenter placed the following Public Records Request: How much money have you spent on consultants and lawyers regarding the EMS Levy and Bond Issue. He would like to see all expenses associated with the ballot issues. All the expenses for consultants, lawyers, to help on the ambulance proposition last year and still paying a consultant this year. Is this an ongoing bill that the taxpayers are having to fund? He stated that it doesn't seem to be working, as less people voted in the primary than last year's primary.

Chief Click reported that the ambulance and the Bond Issue have never been discussed in the same conversation. The Bond is about keeping the Fire District in pace with growth, expansion, development, increased calls, etc. Call volume is up by 5-10% from last year. The current ladder truck is a 1992. These are things that the Insurance Rating Bureau takes into consideration. Station 150 is where the populous is. Fifty-six percent of the Fire District's calls come from the East of the District while over 50% of the remaining calls come from the Rancho Reata and Badger Canyon area and we are lucky to get one member to respond to Station 140 during the workday. Station 150 still has no volunteer members and that is where

the growth and development is. Keeping pace with the growth and development is what the bond is about... that is what the station remodel is about.

The ambulance is a totally separate issue outside of the bond. He has called around the State and found that many agencies do a fee-based transport service. Last year the District responded to 909 medical calls and of those approximately 95% were patient transports. The agencies that have ambulances are the agency getting the revenue for that service, not Benton I. The District should continue to be better, stronger and plan for the future. Many District members want to provide the service to our taxpayers and our citizens, rather than turning patients over to another agency to do the transport.

Kennewick City Resident Dean Brouillette asked if the ambulance service would be BLS or ALS. Chief Click answered that right now it would be BLS. Mr. Brouillette suggested the District is honest with the citizens up front and more bonds and levies will pass.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on September 3.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.