

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of January 2, 2024.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Carpenter called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Benton County Fire District No. 1 to order in-person and via video-conference at 4:00 p.m. at 1811A S. Ely St. Kennewick, Washington. In attendance at this meeting in-person were Commissioner Carpenter, Commissioner Jenkins, Fire Chief/District Secretary Click, Deputy Chief LoParco and Executive Director Paden-Lilly. Commissioner Phillips attended remotely via video-conference.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received log and correspondence sent was reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the regular minutes of December 19, 2023, as presented. A second was provided by Commissioner Carpenter, and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2023 transactions #2664 through #2690 and 2024 transactions #1 to #6. The 2023 transactions total \$21,495.21. General Fund \$19,880.54 and Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$1,614.67. The 2024 transactions total \$23,622.24 for the General Fund. Commissioner Jenkins made a motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The voucher registers are attached to these minutes and constitute a part thereof.

REPORTS

Commissioners

Commissioner Carpenter mentioned that he had received an email related to the two Colorado paramedics who were found guilty of negligent homicide in a patient's death. The incident occurred when police officers had the patient restrained and the paramedics injected too large a dose of a sedative. The email raised the issue of whether the District should respond to these types of incidents and what the potential liabilities are. Chief Click agreed to investigate the situation further.

Fire Chief

Chief Click reported:

- He checked with the vendor refurbishing the water tenders after Commissioner Carpenter inquired about the costs associated with painting them red, and there was no extra charge for painting them red.

- A Chiefs meeting was held last week to discuss the possibility of changing the current radio system from VHF to 800 megabyte. Currently, the police department utilizes 800 megabyte, while fire agencies utilizes VHF. The Chiefs are still awaiting a final decision on this matter.
- Interviews have been conducted with the final two candidates, and the firefighter eligibility list is now complete.
- In light of the increasing costs and production time of type 1 engines and the upcoming emissions standards, it is important for the Board to discuss whether they wish to purchase gas-powered engines or whether it is feasible to refurbish current equipment or switch to battery-powered engines.
- A collective bargaining negotiations meeting is scheduled for this Friday.

Training

In the wake of the holiday break, Captain Nicholls has been catching up on year-end items.

Maintenance

Firefighter/Mechanic Ball reported that he has E1112 in for annual maintenance and will be working through all structure apparatus first. Followed by wildland.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Resignation

Chief Click announced that Firefighter/EMT Urrego has accepted a lateral position at another fire agency. He will resign on January 22. This departure creates a vacancy that must be filled, and the current eligibility list will be used.

BVFF Annual Remittance

The 2024 Board for Volunteer Firefighters' Pension/Disability Remittance Form was presented to the Board. Commissioner Carpenter signed approving the document.

Recording Board Meetings

Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to start recording board meetings again. The board had previously suspended the recording of their meetings at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic when they were not held in person. Legal counsel informed the board that there is no regulation that explicitly requires recording of meetings. However, if board meetings are recorded, they are required to be archived. After discussing the matter, the motion failed due to a lack of a second.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Commissioner meeting will occur on January 16.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Approved by:

Submitted by:

Scott E. Carpenter, Board Chair

Lonnie E. Click, District Secretary