

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 19, 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 6:00 p.m. at 1811A S. Ely St. Kennewick, Washington. In attendance at this meeting in-person were Commissioner Jenkins, Commissioner Phillips, Chief/District Secretary LoParco, Deputy Chief Nicholls, Volunteer Battalion Chief Gutzmer and Captain Bibe. Commissioner Carpenter attended via video-conference.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received and sent was reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jenkins made a motion to approve the regular minutes of November 5, 2024. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2024 transactions #2340 to #2415. The transactions totaled \$120,989.36. General Fund \$119,615.19, and Custodial Funds \$1,374.17. Commissioner Jenkins made a motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Budget Revenue and Expenditure Report

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to approve the financial report. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

EMS Report

The Commission reviewed the EMS report.

REPORTS

Commissioner Carpenter reported:

- A. The next EMS meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2024..
- B. The November 2025 Tri-County Fire Commissioners meeting will be hosted by the District.

Fire Chief LoParco reported:

- A. The foundation has been poured on the new Administrative Building.
- B. Chief attended the Hazmat meeting and they are still deciding on a host agency.

C. Chief will be signing paperwork for the pumpers tonight.

Deputy Chief/HSO Nicholls reported:

- A. Attended SAT meeting on 11/7. Discussion focused on current staffing at SECOMM, upgrades to the microwave system, status of the radio system upgrade project, and the BCES independence process including rewrite of the ILA.
- B. Attended Southeastern WA IMT3 seasonal closeout and AAR meetings in Ellensburg, 11/18-19. The season went well. Annual training planned for the Tri-Cities area in the April of 2025.

Volunteer Battalion Chief Gutzmer reported:

- A. He will be attending the live fire academy on Saturday at Walla Walla County Fire Protection District No. 5 (Recruit School).

Captain Bibe reported:

- A. He has been reviewing yearly training.
- B. Will be participating in a Radiation drill on November 20, 2025.
- C. Labor Management scheduled for November 20, 2024.

Mechanic/Firefighter Ball reported:

- A. He was not present so Chief LoParco reported a tender has broken down. Repairs have been completed. Mechanic/Firefighter Ball is working on the new tender and type 1 engine.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. It was moved by Commissioner Phillips that the Board approve the candidate list for the Logistics/Facility Maintenance position. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenkins and passed.
- B. Captain Bibe requested that the Board approve interim Firefighter agreements with Gavin Hartzell, Noah McLeon and Soren Baney. It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins that the Board approve these agreements. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips and passed.
- C. The Board was informed that the Red Cross wants to rent space from the District. Commissioners advised to continue negotiations and will continue discussions at a future regular board meeting.
- D. At 6:18 p.m. the Chairman announced a public hearing to entertain public comment on the 2025 budget and 2025 tax levy. There were no citizens present wishing to comment. The Board discussed possible amendment to the 2025 Budget. At 6:22 p.m. the public hearing was closed and the open meeting reconvened.

- D. At 6:18 p.m. the Chairman announced a public hearing to entertain public comment on the 2025 budget and 2025 tax levy. There were no citizens present wishing to comment. The Board discussed possible amendment to the 2025 Budget. At 6:22 p.m. the public hearing was closed and the open meeting reconvened.
- E. It was moved by Commissioner Phillips that Resolution No. 2024-20 relating to the 2025 budget be adopted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenkins and passed.
- F. It was moved by Commissioner Jenkins that Resolution No. 2024-21 relating to the increase in the tax levy to be collected in 2025 be adopted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips and passed.
- G. It was moved by Commissioner Phillips that the District approve the Employer Application for 2025 medical and dental through the Washington Fire Commissioners Association to provide that the District offer PPO-100, PPO-300, PPO-750, PPO-Plus, and HD medical plans and the PPO Incentive Plan Plan w/o Orthodontia dental plan for full time employees with the District contributing per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenkins and passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on December 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Approved by:



Scott E. Carpenter, Board Chair

Submitted by:



Heidi Ellerd, District Secretary