

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of February 6, 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, Commissioner Phillips, Fire Chief/District Secretary Click, Deputy Chief LoParco and Executive Director Paden-Lilly.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Fire District Physician was added to old business.

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 January 16, 2024, as presented. A second was provided by Commissioner Phillips, and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2024 transactions #179 through #246. The transactions total \$201,638.77. General Fund \$192,899.58; Special Operations Group Fund \$6,180.72; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$2,238.89, and TCRA Fund \$319.58. Commissioner Phillips 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.

REPORTS

Commissioners

- Commissioner Carpenter reported that he attended the EMS Council and Tri-County Commissioners meeting.
- Commissioner Jenkins reported that he has been attending the weekly team building sessions and has been enjoying them.

Commissioner Carpenter inquired as to whether any additional information has been received regarding the Colorado incident in which two paramedics were found guilty of negligence. In response, Chief Click stated that if our regions protocols are followed, there should be no similar issues. During the recent MPD meeting, a lawyer addressed the Colorado incident. The discussion was recorded and will be made available to anyone who wishes to listen.

Fire Chief

Chief Click introduced the four newly hired Firefighter/EMTs; Tess Alder, Jennifer Browning, Zack Tamburello and Kaven Tucksen. Their onboarding process began on February 1, and they will be assigned to a shift in March.

He then reported:

- Benton #2 has returned the transport and dozer they have been using since theirs broke down.
- While Benton #4 is short-staffed and currently undergoing its three-year audit, the administrative staff continues to assist them.
- An official 90-day termination of the host agency agreement was given to the Southeast Washington Special Operations Group (SEWSOG) by the Fire District.
- He participated in legislative day in Olympia. While this is a short session, the WFCA continues to support bills that affect the fire service.
- He attended the BCES and Strategic Advisory Team meeting.
- He attended the Leadership Tri-Cities event with other area Fire Chiefs.
- The final team building workshop in a series of five will take place tonight. We hope to have the presenter back to provide updates throughout the year, as the training has been invaluable.

Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief LoParco reported:

- He participated with the Incident Management Team (IMT) for the funeral service in Walla Walla. Three members participated as part of the IMT, one engine helped respond to calls, and one engine was part of the procession. It was an excellent experience to see how an IMT can support and organize this size of event.
- He is working on the new crew scheduling software and onboarding new hires.
- The next safety meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12.

Battalion Chief(s)

Battalion Chief Gutzmer reported that recruit academy is finishing up with hazmat awareness and operations. Lieutenant Masha Sells has been providing a majority of the coordination and training. The hands-on training will be this Saturday.

Training

Captain Nicholls reported:

- He too participated with the IMT during the Walla Walla Fire Department line of duty death funeral.
- He met with KFD Chief Michael and Chief Click to discuss the training tower project. The bid advertisement will go out on Sunday.
- New applicant testing will be held on February 17 with 30 new applications. Wildland Academy will start on April 9.

Maintenance

Firefighter/Mechanic Ball reported he has finished structure service and will roll into wildland service.

OLD BUSINESS

Collective Bargaining Agreement

The final 2023-2025 Benton #1 Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 1296 Collective Bargaining Agreement was presented to the Board. Following a discussion, Commissioner Phillips made a motion to approve the 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

CBDR Lease Agreement

Following a review of the current agreement, Commissioner Carpenter noted that propane gas costs are not specifically addressed. Chief Click mentioned that he recently spoke with CBDR Board members, and they are eager to sell the building located on the Station 160 property to the Fire District. As soon as they provide the original build costs, he will be able to proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Engagement Letter

The Board was presented with an Engagement Letter between the Fire District and CSD Attorney's at Law to provide legal services. Following the Executive Session, Commissioner Jenkins made a motion to sign the agreement. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Fire District Physician

The Board was presented with a Consultant Agreement between the Fire District and Pro Care Occupational Health to provide medial evaluations and administrative consulting services. Following a discussion, Commissioner Phillips made a motion to sign the agreement. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Carpenter called a 15-minute executive session at 4:55 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to discuss the performance of a public employee. The Executive Session was continued at 5:10 p.m. for an additional 10 minutes and at 5:20 for an additional 10 minutes. The meeting was called back to order at 5:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will occur on February 20.
- The Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for April 20.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Approved by:

Submitted by:

Scott E. Carpenter, Board Chair

Lonnie E. Click, District Secretary

