

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of December 20, 2022.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Couch 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 1811A S. Ely St., Kennewick, Washington and via Zoom video-conference. In attendance at this meeting were Commissioner Carpenter, Commissioner Couch, Fire Chief/District Secretary Click, Deputy Chief LoParco, and Executive Director Paden-Lilly. Commissioner Jenkins was excused.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence sent and correspondence received log was reviewed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to approve the December 6, 2022, minutes as submitted. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Fund Transaction Details**

Presented to the Board were 2022 transactions #2508 to #2640. The transactions total \$244,127.07. General Fund \$46,673.96; electronic fund transfers \$119,834.10; federal payroll tax payment \$42,600.25; retirement systems transfer \$27,971.91; WA Support Registry \$1,291.00; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$829.70; SCBA Fund \$4,739.33; Joint Agency Fund \$186.82. Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Couch 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.

**Budget Amendment Resolution**

The Board was presented with Resolution No. 2022-11 amending Mobilization budget line items in the following manner:

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<i>Revenue</i>		
342 21 00 01 – Fire Services, State	\$65,000	\$139,086
342 21 00 02 – Fire Service, State (Pers)	\$75,000	\$89,561
342 21 00 03 – Fire Service, State (Eqp)	\$25,000	\$48,866
342 21 00 05 – Fire Service, Federal (Pers)	\$5,000	\$2,495
342 21 00 06 – Fire Service, Federal (Eqp)	\$10,000	\$2,508
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$180,000</i>	<i>\$282,516</i>
<i>Expenditures</i>		
522 20 10 30 – Mobilization Wages	\$95,000	\$127,600

522 20 20 30 – Mobilization Benefits	\$10,000	\$22,170
522 21 49 10 – Reimbursable Fire Supp	\$5,000	\$1,200
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$120,000</i>	<i>\$150,970</i>

After a discussion, Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-11; Budget Amendment. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion and the motion passed.

## **REPORTS**

### **Commissioners**

Commissioner Couch mentioned that the SEWSOG meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and he plans to attend. He also attended the CBC Advisory Board meeting, everything seems to be going well with the change to days only for the EMT program.

### **Fire Chief**

Chief Click reported:

- There is going to be an opening of the BCES Interlocal Agreement. Chief Click is reviewing the benefits of signing the agreement. In regard to BCES, Benton 1, 2, and 4 have only one vote combined. Some agencies have signed user agreements rather than signing onto the Interlocal Agreement. These agencies do not have to pay annual maintenance fees.
- The City of Richland Badger South Fire Station is set to open Spring 2024. The District will have to review what will need to be dispatched on the east end of the District.
- He virtually attended a Wildland Stake Holders meeting on November 30.
- He and Deputy Chief LoParco met with the Fire Training Center staff along with Kennewick Fire Chief Michael and Deputy Chief Heffner to discuss budget and future planning.
- Area Fire Chiefs held a meeting in Connell, including agencies from North Franklin County. It was a good meeting.
- A recent court ruled in Mason County that compensated volunteers were employees. This ruling may affect the way the District currently pays volunteer members.

### **Battalion Chief(s)**

Battalion Chief Gutzmer reported that the IFSAC Practical Exam was postponed due to weather conditions. It has been rescheduled to January 20. The second night of extrication training was also postponed due to weather conditions.

### **Maintenance Department**

Mechanic/Firefighter Ball reported that he is working on Type I apparatus service. The Hughes Fire Equipment representative is still researching possible solutions for the Westmark apparatus pump issues.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Collective Bargaining Agreement (2021-2022)**

Chief Click notified the Board that he has not heard from the Labor Group regarding the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that expires on December 31, 2022. Union Vice President Bibe stated that they are aware of the upcoming expiration date, however based on wording in the CBA they plan to extend the agreement for an additional year.

The CBA states the following:

#### **Section 1.7 Length of CBA**

The Local agrees with the Employer to execute a two-year successor bargaining agreement to run from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022. If both parties agree to the content of the bargaining agreement during a time of review, a one-time, one-year extension may be added to the agreement. This would extend the agreement through December 31, 2023.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Resolution 2022-10; Set 2023 Board Meeting Dates**

Resolution No. 2022-10 was presented to the Board. This resolution sets the 2023 Board of Commissioner meeting dates for the Regular Meetings to be held at 4:00 pm at a meeting location to be determined. The 2023 Regular Board Meeting dates are as follows:

Tuesday, January 3, 2023	Tuesday, May 2, 2023	Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Tuesday, January 17, 2023	Tuesday, May 16, 2023	Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Tuesday, February 7, 2023	Tuesday, June 6, 2023	Tuesday, October 3, 2023
Tuesday, February 21, 2023	Tuesday, June 20, 2023	Tuesday, October 17, 2023
Tuesday, March 7, 2023	Wednesday, July 5, 2023	Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Tuesday, March 21, 2023	Tuesday, July 18, 2023	Tuesday, November 21, 2023
Tuesday, April 4, 2023	Tuesday, August 1, 2023	Tuesday, December 5, 2023
Tuesday, April 18, 2023	Tuesday, August 15, 2023	Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to sign the resolution. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **Elect 2023 Board Chairperson**

The Board agreed that Commissioner Jenkins would be the Chairperson in 2023, and Commissioner Couch Vice-Chair.

### **2023 Committee Assignments**

- Special Operations Board – Commissioner Couch
- EMS Council – Commissioner Carpenter
- Safety and Health Committee – Commissioner Jenkins
- Board of Trustees – Commissioner Jenkins

### **2023 WFCA Health Care Program Application**

The 2023 Washington State Fire Commissioners Association Employer Application Form for the medical insurance was presented to the Board. Commissioner Couch signed the form.

### **Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) Program**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) released an information bulletin regarding applicable federal cost principles for GEMT. In response to the bulletin, the Washington State Health Care Authority intends to submit Medicaid State Plan Amendment 22-0035 to remove from allowable costs the costs associated with treatment by eligible Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) providers when that treatment does not result in transportation to a hospital emergency room. Previously the District was allowed to include hours spent on treatment-no-transport (TNT) incidents in the cost analysis for medical transport costs. In 2021, the District billed for 160 TNT calls out of 724 billable EMS calls in 2021.

### **Chaplain Services Network Contract**

After a discussion, this item was tabled to the next board meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

District Resident Scott Clemenson introduced himself and distributed his resume and letter of interest in the upcoming fire commissioner position vacancy.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A regular Board of Commissioner meeting will be on January 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at the Fire Training Center.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.