

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of February 1, 2022.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Carpenter called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Benton County Fire District No. 1 to order at 4:04 p.m. at 1811A S. Ely St. Kennewick, Washington and via Zoom video-conference. In attendance at this meeting were Commissioner Carpenter, Commissioner Jenkins, Fire Chief/District Secretary Click, Deputy Chief LoParco, and Executive Director Paden-Lilly. Commissioner Couch connected via Zoom at 4:10 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Apparatus replacement schedule was added to new business.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received log and correspondence sent was reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jenkins made a motion to approve the January 18, 2022, minutes as submitted. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2022 transactions #171 through #208. The transactions total \$78,002.64. General Fund \$68,701.06; Hazmat Fund \$1,654.50; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$1,840.73; and Training Academy Fund \$5,806.35. Commissioner Jenkins 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 Expenditure Reports

The budget expenditure reports were reviewed.

Executive Director Paden-Lilly reported that the County Resolution declaring assessed valuation for 2022, was received and the assessed valuation was approximately 680 million less than any of the three preliminary values provided by the Assessor's Office. An email has been sent to the Assessor's Office to verify the difference between final values and predicted values.

The State Auditor's office has completed their three-year financial and accountability audit. They have requested that an Exit Conference be scheduled. There were no audit findings or management notes identified, just a few minor exit notes.

REPORTS

Commissioners

- Commissioner Carpenter plans to attend the EMS Council meeting on February 7.
- The Washington Fire Commissioners Association (WFCA) Spring Seminar, set for April, appears to have a different topic than the Annual Conference in October. All three Board Members would like to attend the April 2 Seminar in Spokane.

Fire Chief

Chief Click reported:

- He attended a Fire Defense Committee meeting last week. There was significant discussion regarding covid issues and whether Federal Resources can be utilized on State Mobilization due to different vaccine mandates. The Committee is reviewing the Mobilization Plan and making a few adjustments to Prepositioning language and updating the Wage and Equipment Rate Guide.
- The Washington Legislature is finishing up its fourth week. The WFCA reported that two high priority bills SB5565; Allowing Fire Districts and Regional Fire Authorities to carry out certain treasurer functions and HBI735; Modifying the standard for use of force by peace officers have passed their respective houses with strong bipartisan support and the WFCA continues to advocate for Volunteer Fire District Grants with HBI929. Another Bill of interest is HBI891; Rangeland Fire Pilot concerning a rangeland fire protection association pilot project.
- At the last Tri-County Chief's meeting a presentation was given by the Greater Columbia Behavior Health, LLC regarding funding that they have received to expand their resources to assist with mental illness/drug abuse 911 emergencies.

Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief LoParco reported:

- The Station 160 water line project is moving along; the Contractor is waiting on the County to release the plans to the City.
- A Health and Safety Meeting will be held in the next couple of weeks.
- The area Deputy Chiefs are working on updates to the Regional Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) and the SeWAG group is reviewing original Charter documents.

Training

Captain Nicholls reported that as part of the FTC Five Year Plan they have begun outreach to bring in outside agencies to rent the facility. The FTC is completely booked out for every Saturday within the next few weeks.

Maintenance

Mechanic/Firefighter Ball reported that the Ladder truck is out of service due to rear brake issues. It appears to be a warranty issue and Hughes Fire Equipment has ordered parts and will be performing the repairs.

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Bond Project

Chief Click met with Siefken & Sons Construction, Inc. who submitted a letter regarding the liquidated damages of \$15,000, covering the costs for each day the project continued past the agreed-upon date of completion. Siefken and Sons Construction, Inc. is asking for a contract extension of 15 days at no additional cost due to labor and material shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief Click stated the original date of completion was originally set for September 2 and an extension was granted to December 2. It was determined that the Board had no interest in removing the liquidated damages of \$15,000.

COVID-19 Impacts

Deputy Chief LoParco reported that the District continues COVID-19 business as usual. As the virus makes its rounds, a few personnel have been infected, but staff continues to do a great job following all Protocols and protecting themselves.

Policy and Procedure Updates

After a discussion and review of Policy 1400; Accidents – Vehicle and Personnel and Policy 4600; Electronic Fund Transfers, Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve Policy 1400 and 4600 as submitted. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and motion passed with all in favor.

Tri-Tech Program

Chief Click met with Kennewick Fire Chief Michael and the Kennewick School Principal regarding the Tri-Tech Firefighting Program and the Kennewick Fire Department (KFD) employee that currently instruct and facilitates the program. The current employee has options of either working directly for the School District, going back to KFD fulltime or possibly becoming a Benton #1 uniformed employee. They will meet again this Thursday along with the KFD employee. Chief Click mentioned that the District has hired 36 volunteer members in the past 10 years from that Program. 12 members have gone onto be hired as a fulltime firefighter at other agencies.

BCES Board

Chief Click attended a BCES Board meeting last Thursday. The group was surprised by the resignation of City of Richland's Police Chief. Leaving the City without a police chief and BCES without a director. The Board approved the expanded scope and fees associated with having Reinke and Associates complete a Strategic Plan for BCES in addition to the Tyler CAD/RMS integration project. A discussion was held regarding placement of a new communication tower on the west end of Red Mountain that is currently in the planning phase.

NEW BUSINESS

Apparatus Replacement Schedule

Chief Click reported that new fire apparatus builds are taking 22-24 months at this time. Because the District has four Type I engine that are scheduled to be replace in the next four years, he is researching possible funding options that are available for purchasing fire apparatus rather than asking taxpayers to fund the purchase. He presented information from Pierce Manufacturing regarding their lease program, and he will continue to research other avenues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

District Resident John Christenson made comments regarding an increase in interest rates, access to meeting minutes, and the COVID-19 Omicron variant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on February 15, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.