

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of February 21, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received log and correspondence sent was reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to approve the February 8, 2023, minutes as submitted. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2023 transactions #228 to #380. The transactions total \$295,551.78. General Fund \$92,209.30; electronic fund transfers \$125,575.31; federal payroll tax payment \$43,875.52; retirement systems transfer \$27,852.30; WA Support Registry \$1,291.00; Special Operations Group Fund \$2,580.61; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$1,566.20; Tri-County Recruit Academy Fund \$204.62; SCBA Fund \$194.05; and MPD Fund \$194.87. 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.

REPORTS

Commissioners

Commissioner Carpenter reported he and Chief Click attended the Tri-County Commissioner's Association meeting on Saturday.

Fire Chief

Chief Click reported:

- He received notice from Ford that the F250 pickups are in production and are scheduled to be built the week of March 13.
- There was a significant power outage in the Tri-Cities last night, affecting some stations. Upon responding to a call at Station 110, crews noticed that the apparatus doors were unpowered. Crew members began pulling out the apparatus after manually opening the bay doors, but failed to notice that the door arm was hanging lower than the door. As a result,

the bay doors, ladder rack, side bay heater, and pike pole were damaged. The repairs will require the services of garage door and HVAC companies. Chief Click mentioned that some of the Fire Stations are 60+ years old. Fire Stations 110 and 120 were opened in 1961, and Station 130 in 1958 and are barely able to accommodate the height of modern-day fire apparatus. He stressed the importance of planning and projecting the District's facility needs for the next 10-25 years.

- After spending three days in Olympia during legislative week, he reviewed the bills that the Washington Fire Commissioners and Chiefs Associations are monitoring.
- Benton #4 passed an EMS Levy in 2022, but the County Treasurer failed to collect in 2023. They are working with Attorney Snure and the County to try and resolve the issue.

Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief LoParco reported:

- He is working on staff evaluations and implementation of the Vector scheduling program.
- The end of the year Safety Committee review meeting was held last night.

Training

Captain Nicholls reported that new applicant written, and agility testing will be held this Saturday. The District should see 25-30 new candidates.

Maintenance Department

Mechanic/Firefighter Ball reported that he met with the North Tech Equipment Repair representative, and he is 90% sure that they have a fix for Engine 1111 (#165).

Other

Information regarding the final 2023 Tax Levy Certification was distributed by Executive Director Paden-Lilly. Since last year, the District's assessed value (AV) has increased 13%, resulting in a 9% increase in tax revenue. The Tax Levy collection rate decreased from \$1.50 per 1,000 AV to \$1.43 per 1,000 AV. With the growth of the Fire District in the last decade, AV has almost doubled, and tax revenue has doubled with the passage of two voter approved levy lid lifts.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Position I

A total of two applications have been received for the upcoming Commissioner Position I opening. Upon discussion, the Board requested that legal counsel be consulted to determine when the appointment can be made, and if applications must be accepted past the deadline posted in the vacancy announcement.

NEW BUSINESS

Land Donation

Developers of Seal Springs Estates offered to donate five acres of land in the Finley area to the Fire District. Chief Click provided Commissioner Carpenter with additional information on where the land is located, so he could look at it. A discussion by the Board led to the conclusion that the land would not be beneficial to the Fire District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

District Resident Trevor Phillips commented on the fire station that received garage door damage during the power outage.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on March 7 at 4:00 p.m.
- The Annual Awards Banquet is being held on March 11.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.