

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of March 15, 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, Commissioner Jenkins, Fire Chief/District Secretary Click, Deputy Chief LoParco, and Executive Director Paden-Lilly.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Horse Heaven Wind Farm was added to new business.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received log and correspondence sent was reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to approve the February 15, 2022, minutes as submitted. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2022 transactions #450 to #599. The transactions total \$246,117.94. General Fund \$56,566.71; electronic fund transfers \$113,468.91; federal payroll tax payment \$42,094.46; retirement systems transfer \$27,096.07; WA Support Registry \$1,291.00; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$767.26; SCBA Fund \$4,642.65 and Joint Agency Fund \$190.88. Commissioner Carpenter 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.

Budget Revenue and Expenditure Reports

The budget revenue and expenditure reports were reviewed.

REPORTS

Commissioners

Commissioner Carpenter reported that the EMS Council meeting is scheduled for April 11 at 1:30. Commissioner Couch reported that the Special Operations Board meets tomorrow at 12:30.

Fire Chief

Chief Click reported:

- The State Chiefs and the Fire Defense Committee continue to work on the DNR Agreement and hope to have a final version within the next couple of weeks.
- The Greater Columbia Behavioral Health, LLC, as well as the Benton Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee may be able to provide funding for behavioral needs in our community. Fire Chief Chad Michael has been selected to represent the Benton County Chiefs with these groups.
- He reviewed the current Legislative Report.

- He met with Local 1296 President and Vice President to discuss modifications to the vacation selection policy and the Tri-Tech Program position.
- He has been researching whether the County is accurately assessing outstanding indebtedness due for Fire District bonds in areas that recently annexed.

Battalion Chief

Battalion Chief Gutzmer reported:

- A Recruit hands-on day was held in preparation for the Hazmat Ops testing that was held last Saturday.
- IFSAC testing will be held this Saturday and will be the completion of the 2021 Recruit Academy session.
- Wildland Recruit Academy will begin in April.

Training

Captain Nicholls reported on classes held at the Fire Training Center:

- The NFPA class held at the Fire Training Center went very well.
- The Captain's Promotional Exam was held last weekend.
- The NWCG S230/231; Crew Boss/Engine Boss class will be held this weekend.

Labor

Vice President Bibe reported that Local 1296 passed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the vacation selection policy and voting will take place next week.

Maintenance Department

Mechanic/Firefighter Ball reported that the ladder truck is back in service, and everything is operating well. The repair that was done to the Westmark truck did not solve the problem, so they continue researching.

Other

Executive Director Paden-Lilly shared that Darnell Schoenwald, the wife of recently retired Tim Schoenwald, unexpectedly passed away on March 11. Our thoughts are with the entire Schoenwald Family at this difficult time.

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Bond Project

Chief Click reported the following Station 170 updates:

- The lockers and desks have been installed in the living quarters.
- The contractor is going to install the countertops tomorrow.
- The emergency shower in the apparatus bay has not been moved yet.

COVID-19 Impacts

Deputy Chief LoParco reported that the COVID-19 task group would meet immediately following this meeting and will send emails out to District members regarding updated rules.

Apparatus Replacement Schedule

Chief Click, Battalion Chief Gutzmer, and Mechanic/Firefighter Ball met with the Pierce Manufacturing Representative to develop specifications for the fire apparatus. The Board reviewed the updates to pricing and lease terms. It was noted that there was a sales tax discrepancy, and Chief Click will contact the Representative to correct the error.

Tri-Tech Program

Chief Click met with the current Tri-Tech Program Instructor and Principal. The current instructor, a Kennewick Fire Department employee, would like to remain in the position. Kennewick Fire Department no longer is interested in hosting the position. The Tri-Tech Skills

Center is a State funded program hosted by the Kennewick School District. Tri-Tech will reimburse the host agency for 100% of the total cost of employee compensation. No labor issues are foreseen if the Fire District agrees to host the position. Tri-Tech should have a draft agreement ready for the next board meeting.

Station 160 Water

Deputy Chief LoParco reported that a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to go over last-minute issues and they plan to break ground next week.

NEW BUSINESS

MPD Services

Commissioner Carpenter inquired as to what the annual assessments covered for the Fire District to host the MPD Fund and other custodial funds. Chairperson Couch requested Commissioner Carpenter come up with a list of items that can be discussed in further detail at the upcoming budget workshop.

New Member Applications

A volunteer member application for Shane Thomas and a support service member application for Addison Singley was presented to the Board for review. Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to approve the applications and Commissioner Couch seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Horse Heaven Wind Farm

Chief Click shared information regarding the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project. The Board discussed the pros and cons of the project in relation to the Fire District. Chairperson Couch requested staff and members to put together a list of questions regarding the project and submit it to Chief Click, who can compile a list.

PUBLIC COMMENT

District Resident John Christenson made comments regarding receiving the draft meeting minutes, HBI 329, the Greater Columbia Accountable Community of Health (GCACH) and new rules related to fireworks in Benton County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A regular Board of Commissioner meeting will be on April 5, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.
- A retirement party for Tim Schoenwald will be on March 31, 2022, at the Fire Training Center between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.