

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of March 16, 2021.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Christenson called the virtual regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Benton County Fire District No. 1 to order at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom video-conference. In attendance at this meeting were Commissioner Christenson, 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 Jenkins made a motion to approve the minutes dated March 2, 2021, as submitted. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Fund Transaction Details**

Presented to the Board were 2021 transactions #441 to #597. The 2021 General Fund transactions total \$283,632.48. General Fund \$92,695.14; electronic fund transfers \$111,178.16; federal payroll tax payment \$39,925.13; retirement systems transfer \$26,224.75; WA Support Registry \$1,341.00; Hazmat Fund \$3,509.86; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$1,268.53; SCBA Fund \$411.32; MPD Fund \$1,309.08; and Bond Project Fund \$5,769.51. Commissioner Christenson 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.

**EMS Report**

The EMS and Ambulance Collection Statistics Report was reviewed.

**REPORTS**

**Commissioners**

Commissioner Christenson reported:

- He attended the Snure Webinar related to Fire Service Employment Law.
- He met with Deputy Chief LoParco at the Fire Training Center to review the configuration of the meeting room to meet the Miscellaneous Venues Guidance.
- He met with Maintenance Supervisor Schoenwald who provided a tour of the facility and the fire station.
- The Hazmat Board is continuing to update the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as they transition to a Special Operations Group.

- He received an email back from the National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC) thanking the Fire District for supporting the Special District's Provide Essential Services Act. The NSDC was unable to get funding set-aside in the legislation but will continue to work on it.

### **Fire Chief**

Chief Click reported:

- The Ladder truck final inspection is going well. A few items have been identified that need to be addressed before taking delivery. The plan is to offer training to District members on March 29-31 and place it in service within 30 days.
- The new rescue truck (R1143) is in service as the breathing support apparatus.
- He completed a walkthrough at the Arrowhead Facility with the tenants that recently moved out, to identify any repairs or touch ups that need to be complete by the former tenants.
- He attended a COVID vaccine site planning meeting last Friday. Washington State will be transitioning to Vaccine Phase 1B Tier 2 on March 17 and the Kennewick site will extend their hours to 5:00 pm.

### **Deputy Chief**

Deputy Chief LoParco reported that the safety committee will begin station inspections this Thursday.

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

Battalion Chief Gutzmer reported:

- Recruit academy will begin in-person training starting the end of April in preparation for IFSAC FF1 and FF2 training.
- He, Captain Copland, and Captain A. Fryer are conducting oral interviews this week.

### **Labor Representative**

- Captain Bibe reported that the negotiating team is compiling feedback from the labor group and will meet later this week. They hope to submit another bargaining agreement proposal soon.

### **Maintenance Department**

Maintenance Supervisor Schoenwald reported that the Maintenance Shop is working on getting the new Rescue truck in service and performing regular apparatus maintenance.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Apparatus and Facility Bond Project**

Chief Click, Captain Bibe, and Mechanic/Firefighter Ball are in Wisconsin this week conducting the inspection and receiving training on the new Ladder truck.

The Station 170 construction is progressing. The main objective has been installation of the footings of the bay floors and some work has been done on the sleeping quarters over the past few weeks.

### **COVID-19 Impacts**

Deputy Chief LoParco reported that the District continues COVID-19 business as usual. He will begin researching guidelines associated with the State moving to Phase 3 of the COVID-19 Recovery Plan on March 22.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Commissioner Position #1**

With the recent loss of Commissioner Jerry Morris, there is a vacancy on the three-person Board of Commissioners. A Vacancy Announcement for the position of Fire Commissioner was presented. District residents that are interested in serving on the Board are encouraged to complete an application and submit to the Fire District by April 9, 2021. The announcement will also be placed on the District website, Facebook page, and in the newspaper. The Board plans to make a decision at the April 20, 2021, regular board meeting.

### **Resolution No. 2021-04; Surplus of Property**

Resolution No. 2021-04 was presented to the Board. The resolution authorizes the release of surplus hose and equipment to the Michoacán Mexico Fire Department, in as-is condition. The equipment is much needed and will allow the Mexico Fire Department to provide improved emergency services to its citizens. After a discussion, Commissioner Christenson made a motion to sign the resolution. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

District resident Scott Carpenter asked questions regarding the Station 170 budget and septic system and inquired as to why training container boxes were being used at the Fire Training Center, rather than the training tower.

District resident Linda Carpenter commented about the proposed Benton County wind and solar farm to be built in the Horse Heaven Hills. She inquired about the funding the Fire District might receive, should the project be approved.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on April 6, 2021.
- The next Hazmat Board meeting will be on March 17, 2021.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.