

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of April 20, 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

May 4 Board Meeting 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 minutes dated April 4, 2021, as submitted. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2021 transactions #714 to #847. The 2021 General Fund transactions total \$617,848.60. General Fund \$130,310.98; electronic fund transfers \$113,860.86; federal payroll tax payment \$40,591.38; retirement systems transfer \$25,907.93; WA Support Registry \$1,341.00; Hazmat Fund \$7,012.25; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$3,275.28; Training Academy Fund \$103.70; SCBA Fund \$960.63; MPD Fund \$3,792.65; and Bond Project Fund \$290,691.94. 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:

- Maintenance Supervisor Schoenwald gave him a tour of the new ladder truck.
- The Washington Fire Commissioners Association is advertising their Spring Webinar Series; PIO's in the Fire Service on May 12, Labor Negotiations on May 19 and COVID-19, the Fire Service, and Pandemic Response Lessons Learned on June 2. He is interested in attending all three webinars.
- He attended last months Hazmat Board Meeting and will attend tomorrow.

Fire Chief

Chief Click reported:

- The Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB) was on site last week to evaluate the fire protection capabilities of the Fire District as they relate to fire insurance ratings. He hopes to have a draft report at the next Board meeting.
- He has Incident Management Team (IMT) zoom meetings this week for each of the Type 3, 2, and 1 teams.
- He is assigned this week as an Incident Commander at the mass vaccine site at the fairgrounds.

Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief LoParco reported:

- He recently sent out a COVID procedures update as a reminder to all members to follow procedures. There are currently no members infected with the virus.
- He will be reviewing and planning interviews for hiring this year's two Wildland seasonal employees.
- The next safety committee meeting is scheduled for May 4, and the agenda will be to review Event Reports and documenting accident/injury trends.

Training

Captain Nicholls reported:

- A lift on COVID restrictions has allowed for more in-person training, which he is preparing for and making sure all safety precautions are taken.
- Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention (EVIP) cards have been completed and distributed.
- He continues to gather information for personnel to update Incident Qualification Cards (Red Cards.)
- They have been rotating personnel through the drill ground to train and familiarize them on the new ladder truck.
- He has been working on reports requested by the WSRB and for the last two days he has been participating in Type 3 IMT training via zoom.

Labor Representative

Captain Bibe reported that the labor group is holding a special meeting this evening to educate members on the current contract so negotiations can move forward.

Maintenance Department

Maintenance Supervisor Schoenwald reported that the Maintenance Shop is working on getting the new Ladder truck outfitted and in service.

OLD BUSINESS

Apparatus and Facility Bond Project

The ladder truck is on schedule to be in service May 3.

Construction work continues at the Station 170 project. Crews have been working on the living quarters, landscaping, and reconnecting the irrigation system. A letter was received from the Contractor requesting to move the substantial completion date from August 30 to December 2, due to the delay in metal supplies for the fire apparatus structure. The Architect and Engineering firm has notified the District of an issue with the land grade between the apparatus structure and the living quarters. Chief Click is sending these issues to legal counsel for review and advice.

COVID-19 Impacts

The District continues COVID-19 business as usual. COVID-19 challenges our first responders immensely and the toll on mental health is significant. We need to make sure to recognize the signs of burnout and stress and provide coping techniques for our members.

Commissioner Christenson inquired as to how many District members have been vaccinated. Medical providers and vaccine sites are not allowed to provide patient information to our agency, so if members do not specifically notify us that they have received the vaccination, there is no way to keep an accurate accounting. Commissioner Christenson suggested that the District considers paying members to get the vaccine as an incentive.

Commissioner Christenson made a motion to pay members \$100 as an incentive to get the COVID-19 vaccination. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Commissioner Position #1

A special meeting was held prior to this meeting to allow the Commissioners to evaluate the candidate qualifications for appointment to elective office. After a discussion, Commissioner Christenson made a motion to appoint Gregg Couch as Commissioner Position #1 to fill the unexpired vacancy of Commissioner Jerry Morris. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer Member Applications

The following Volunteer Member applications were presented to the Board for review:

Jennifer Asmus	Colby Hays	Korissa Rhoads
Adrina Caballero	Morgan Hanson	Ariel Smith
Jose Carreon-Cervantes	Christopher James	Eric Storer
Scott Critchfield	Jeremy Marceau	Kaven Tuckson
James Franz	Kyler Mortenson	Brennan Williams
Ayesha-Pumehana Hall	Titus Petty	
Kyle Hall	Nicholas Powers	

Commissioner Jenkins made a motion to approve the 19 volunteer member applications. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

May 4 Board Meeting

There is a conflict for the meeting room at the Fire Training Center (FTC) on May 4. A class is scheduled to run until 5:00 p.m., so the meeting room will not be available as an alternate location for the public to view the virtual Board meeting. After a discussion, Commissioner Christenson made a motion to change the May 4 meeting time to 5:30 p.m. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

District resident Gregg Couch thanked the Board for the appointment to Commissioner Position #1.

District resident Linda Carpenter requested the names of all the candidates for Commissioner Position #1. Chairman Christenson stated that applications were received from Scott

Carpenter, Gregg Couch, Zane Gibson, and Randy Nelson. Ms. Carpenter also requested clarification of the EMS and Ambulance Collection Statistics Report.

District resident Scott Carpenter inquired about ambulance billing and questioned whether a Commissioner plans to be present at the FTC location during virtual meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on May 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
- The next Hazmat Board meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.