

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of April 6, 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

Washington State Department of Health Agreement was added to old business.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received log and correspondence sent was reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jenkins made a motion to approve the March 16, 2021, minutes as submitted. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2021 transactions #631 to #692. The transactions total \$389,566.00. General Fund \$91,508.81; Hazmat Fund \$7,012.25; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$2,964.81; SCBA Fund \$960,63; Joint Agency Fund \$1,400.00 and Bond Project Fund \$285,719.50. 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 Expenditure Reports

The budget expenditure reports were reviewed.

REPORTS

Commissioners

- Commissioner Christenson reported:
 - He purchased a carbon dioxide meter that will evaluate the indoor air quality to help protect against the transmission of COVID-19. He and Deputy Chief LoParco tested the Fire Training Center and found the indoor air quality was within the acceptable range.
 - He reported on the WFCA Legislative Report. SHB 1168; DNR Wildfire Response and Forest Health Funding appears to be passing in the Legislation. It would create a dedicated account of an expected \$125 million every two years to boost wildfire response, accelerate forest restoration and support community resilience. It also bolsters local fire districts with additional funding for training, equipment, and personnel.

Fire Chief

- Chief Click reported:

- He attended the Benton County Emergency Services (BCES) Executive Board meeting. A discussion was held regarding the current shortage of dispatch personnel. The Dispatch Center is short 6.5 emergency dispatchers. They are preparing for the VHF radio communications project; the BCES Board will be the governing body for the VHF System. The Tri-County Fire Chiefs are looking into grant funding that could go towards the VHF project and they are redefining the VHF system user fee calculation to better meet all agencies budgetary needs.
- He met with Kennewick Fire Chief Michael regarding EMS transports, ambulance rendezvous and reciprocity for ambulance billing. There is a reciprocity agreement in place for the Cities and some of the Fire Districts, however District #1 is not yet a part of that agreement. The area Chiefs will continue to work on the agreement.
- He attended a Washington Fire Defense Meeting. Fire mobilizations were discussed, as well as the mobilization declaration for the Benton County Vaccine Site. With fire season arriving soon, the vaccine site will be modified to free up personnel for fire protection activities.
- He met with Washington Department of Transportation regarding the Ridgeline Project. The City is bringing water to that location, which will be much closer to the intersection of Bofer Road and Ridgeline. This may help with getting water to Station 160 more cost effective. The District currently pays the Washington State Patrol a monthly water service cost share and maintenance fee.
- Two applications have been received for the vacant commissioner position and we are expecting a third application. The applications will be distributed to the commissioners for review and decision at the next board meeting.
- Deputy Chief LoParco reported:
 - The Safety Committee has begun facility inspections; starting with Station 160. A few issues were identified, and they are working with the maintenance department for resolution.

Labor Representative

- Captain Bibe reported that the labor group is holding a special meeting to clarify any questions and they hope to reconvene negotiations soon after.

Maintenance Department

- Maintenance Supervisor Schoenwald reported that the Maintenance Department is working on Spring apparatus service, dozer service, and ladder truck. Hughes manufacturing is sending a mechanic over to complete a few issues that have been identified on the ladder truck.

Other

- Executive Director Paden-Lilly reported that two hose bibs in the maintenance shop were leaking and required replacement. Riggle Plumbing was called and will complete the repair.

OLD BUSINESS

Apparatus and Facility Bond Project

The ladder truck was received on March 31. Training took place on April 1-3 and the ladder is scheduled to go in service no later than May 3, 2021.

The Station 170 construction project continues. Chief Click received information from the contractor that there has been a change with the expected project completion date. The project was to be complete by August 30, however the metal building manufacturer states that the metal will not be delivered now until September 10, 2021, due to 'unprecedented volumes beyond anything ever experienced in its entire history.' It seems that the increase in the price

of lumber has impacted the metal industry, as people switch from wood to metal as a more inexpensive option. The contract states that there will be a \$1,000 penalty assessed for each day extension. The A&E contract and construction contract has been sent to the attorney for legal opinion.

COVID-19 Impacts

Deputy Chief LoParco reported that the District continues COVID-19 business as the County transitions from Phase 2 of the Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery to Phase 3

Washington State Department of Health Agreement

The Interagency Agreement between the State of Washington Department of Health (DOH) and fire agencies has been modified to reflect a change in how payments are processed. Originally the State DOH wanted the Local DOH jurisdiction to process payments to reimburse agencies supporting the Benton Vaccine Site. The new agreement will identify the State agency as the payor. Chief Click will sign the finalized agreement so that the District can be compensated for the personnel and equipment that has been assigned to the vaccine site.

NEW BUSINESS

Maintenance Department Retirement

Maintenance Supervisor Schoenwald plans to retire this year. The staff has been researching whether to operate the Maintenance Department with one mechanic rather than two, based on current apparatus and equipment. Many of the new vehicles require service and repairs to be outsourced due to complicated electrical systems. Chief Click is recommending that a Firefighter/Paramedic be hired in preparation of the staffing vacancy. After discussion, Commissioner Christenson made a motion to hire a Firefighter/Paramedic prior to the retirement of Maintenance Supervisor Schoenwald. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

MPD Office Agreement

Executive Director Paden-Lilly presented a Lease Agreement between Fire District #1 and Columbia Basin College to provide office space at the Medical Science Center for Medical Program Director (MPD) Dr. Hodges and MPD Assistant Misty Ferrell. The MPD originally leased office space at the Arrowhead Facility, which is no longer available. After a discussion, John Christenson made a motion to authorize Executive Director Paden-Lilly to sign the Lease Agreement between Fire District #1 and Columbia Basin College. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

New Member Application

A Support Services application for Irelia Rojas-Salamanca was presented to the Board for review. Commissioner Christenson made a motion to approve the Support Services application and Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

District resident Scott Carpenter commented that the ambulance billing rates were not posted on the District's website.

Commissioner Christenson made a motion to begin posting all Resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners to the District's website. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on April 20, 2021.
- The next Hazmat Board meeting will be on April 21, 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Approved by:

Submitted by:

John E. Christenson, Chairman

Lonnie E. Click, District Secretary