

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of May 3, 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, Fire Chief/District Secretary Click, Deputy Chief LoParco, and Executive Director Paden-Lilly. Commissioner Jenkins was excused.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Horse Heaven Wind Farm and Tri-Tech Program was added to old business and wildland engine replacement 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 April 19, 2022, minutes as submitted. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2022 transactions #858 through #889. The transactions total \$290,378,98. General Fund \$288,264.34; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$1,952.75; and MPD Fund \$161.89. 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 Expenditure Reports

The budget expenditure reports were reviewed.

EMS Report

The EMS and Ambulance Collection Statistics Report was reviewed.

REPORTS

Commissioners

- Commissioner Carpenter mentioned that he received notice of the next Tri-County Fire Commissioner's Association meeting. It is being held on May 14 at West Benton Fire and Rescue in Prosser at 9:00 a.m.
- Commissioner Couch reported that he attended last months Special Operations Board Meeting.

Fire Chief

Chief Click reported:

- The last BCES Board meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. He attended a couple Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group (PNWCG) meetings over the last few weeks. One with the Incident Commanders group and one with the Eastern Washington Wildfire Group.

- The WADNR Agreement is still being reviewed and is anticipated to complete soon.
- The Annual Columbia Park Fishing Pond for Kids Fishing Day was held on April 22 and 23, and crews provided First Aid stations on the south and north sides of the fishing pond in Columbia Park.
- He met with Kennewick Fire Chief Michael and drove around discussing urban interface issues and how to approach wildland fires in those areas.
- The District responded to a fatality residential structure fire last week that has since been identified as a homicide case.
- He and Deputy Chief LoParco took the administrative staff to lunch last week in honor of Administrative Professionals Day.
- At the weekly Fire Chiefs meeting, Reinke and Associates gave an update on the BCES Strategic Plan and reviewed issues that are being experienced with the new law enforcement data system.

Training

Captain Nicholls reported:

- Multi-Company Operations regional training is still in process at the Fire Training Center.
- Crews will be assisting the Tri-Tech Program again on May 6 and 12 with SI30 Exercises and Wildland Engine Ops.
- Wildland Refresher Training (RTI30) is underway at the stations.
- He has been programming radios and pagers due to the addition of the new fire station.
- The Resident Program has seen some reorganization with the opening of the new station. There are currently six members in the Resident Program.
- He currently has eight applicants for the next round of Recruit testing in July. The current Recruit Academy session is half-way through, and the field exercise day is scheduled for the end of May.

Maintenance

Firefighter/Mechanic Ball reported that he has been assisting with various projects associated with opening the new station. The Westmark truck should be back from the repair shop this week.

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Bond Project

Chief Click reported that Station 170 officially opened on May 2. Crews have been responding and are getting settled into the new location. The landscape company has been onsite installing irrigation.

Station 160 Water Supply

Deputy Chief LoParco reported that the delayed parts are still scheduled for delivery the middle of May. He is hoping the Contractor has an update by the next board meeting.

IFB22-01 – 3/4 Ton 4x4 Trucks

Commissioner Carpenter raised the issue of rising fuel costs and costs associated with operating 3/4-ton trucks. Following a discussion, Chief Click and the Board agreed that fuel costs should be factored into future vehicle purchases.

Budget Workshop

Executive Director Paden-Lilly shared information on a possible venue to hold the Budget Workshop. The Board approved the location; the special board meeting will take place on June 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Horse Heaven Wind Farm

Chairperson Couch inquired as to if there had been any questions from members about the impacts of the Horse Heaven Wind Farm. Chief Click has not received any inquiries or questions about the project.

Tri-Tech Program

Chief Click mentioned that the Tri-Tech Program Director has requested that the Tri-County Fire Commissioners Association vote on which agency they would support to sponsor the Tri-Tech Fire Program in an effort to document the selection process.

NEW BUSINESS

Resident Firefighter Agreement

A Resident Firefighter Agreement for Soren Baney was presented to the Board. Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Wildland Engine Replacement

Chief Click reviewed a quote from Weis Fire and Safety Equipment based on HGAC Cooperative contract pricing for the purchase of a Type 5 fire engine. The equipment is budgeted for 2022, however delivery is estimated for March/April 2023. The Apparatus Replacement Schedule identifies a need to purchase one Type 5 in 2022 and one Type 5 in 2023. These engines are similar to the District's current Type 5 engines; however, the price is lower through this manufacturer. He is considering possibly ordering two this year for delivery in 2023 through this contract, to avoid further delivery delays. He will research further and try to see a Weis apparatus in person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

District Resident John Christenson inquired as to if crews are responding out of Station 170 yet. Chief Click responded that crews began responding on May 2 from that location. He also commented on planning and preparation for wildland fires. He would like to visit Station 170 and discuss wildland fires in further detail with Chief Click.

District Resident Angela Carr inquired as to staffing numbers, response times and personnel qualifications at the new fire station. Chief Click recommended she come by the Station, and he would further review with her.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on May 17, 2022.
- The next SE WA Special Operations Board meeting will be held on May 18, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.