

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of June 1, 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 Couch, Fire Chief/District Secretary Click, Deputy Chief LoParco, and Executive Director Paden-Lilly. Commissioner Jenkins arrived at 4:10 p.m.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Budget workshop was added to new business.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence received log and correspondence sent was reviewed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve the May 18, 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 #1108 to #1133. The transactions total \$26,865.25. General Fund \$22,144.84; Hazmat Fund \$4,051.89; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$568.43; and Joint Agency Fund \$100.09. Commissioner Christenson 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.

**REPORTS**

**Commissioners**

Commissioner Christenson reported:

- As a Hazmat Board member, he is assigned to the Governance Committee and has been working on updates to the Articles of Incorporation.
- He attended the WFCA Webinar regarding Labor Negotiations, and he found it interesting and beneficial. He plans to attend another webinar tomorrow regarding COVID in the Fire Service.

**Fire Chief**

Chief Click reported:

- He received a test for COVID-19 after coming down with symptoms and was positive even after being fully vaccinated for over four months. He is happy to be out of isolation and is feeling better.
- He attended a virtual BCES Board Meeting last week.
- The Fire Chiefs Conference was held virtually last week. Multiple people from our agency were able to sit in on the webinars.
- He attended a virtual Fire Defense Committee meeting. The 2021 Wage and Equipment Rates were approved.
- With the warmer weather forecasts starting tomorrow, dispatches will be upgraded to Natural Cover Fire (NCF) Level 2 for responses.
- The labor group returned their counterproposal of the bargaining agreement.

## **Deputy Chief**

Deputy Chief LoParco reported:

- The two temporary wildland employees started today and will work Monday through Friday day shift, with every other Friday off.
- The station bay flooring is being striped.
- He attended the virtual Fire Chiefs Conference and found the webinars very informative.

## **Battalion Chief(s)**

Battalion Chief Gutzmer reported that the wildland academy hands on day will be held on June 12.

## **Labor Representative**

Captain Bibe reported that the labor group has submitted the revised proposal and they hope to meet mid-June to continue negotiations.

## **Maintenance Department**

Maintenance Supervisor Schoenwald reported:

- The Maintenance Department has been working on regular maintenance and floor striping the stations.
- There was an irrigation leak at the Arrowhead Facility that flooded the basement causing a musty smell in the building. Evergreen Lawn and Tree Care fixed the irrigation problem and fans have been placed in the basement to help the drying process.

## **Other**

Executive Director Paden-Lilly reported that the Commissioner computer tablets have arrived and are being set up by the IT Company. They should be ready for use in the next few days.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Facility Bond Project**

The Station 170 project continues. Chief Click is working with the A&E firm to address the elevation discrepancy. They anticipate pouring concrete around June 11. Staff discovered that the construction crew was laying the incorrect flooring and that issue has been addressed.

### **COVID-19 Impacts**

Deputy Chief LoParco has drafted an updated COVID-19 memo and has sent it to the COVID Task Force for review. L&I has issued requirement changes regarding fully vaccinated workers, but the District will remain status quo for now and continue requiring face masks.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SAO Data Sharing Agreement**

Executive Director Paden-Lilly presented a Data Sharing Agreement with the Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO). Due to a new bill that was passed by the Legislature this year, data sharing agreements are required for all state and local governments that share data (SB5432; Concerning Cybersecurity and data sharing in Washington State Government). After a discussion, John Christenson made a motion to authorize Executive Director Paden-Lilly to sign the SAO Data Sharing Agreement. Gregg Couch seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

### **Resolution 2021-05; Sale of Surplus Vehicle**

Resolution No. 2021-05; Sale of Surplus Vehicle was presented to the Board. The resolution authorizes the sale of Vehicle ID #158; 1992 Pierce Lance Aerial. Commissioner Couch made a motion to sign the resolution and Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

### **WADNR Interagency Agreement**

Chief Click presented an Interagency Agreement between the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WADNR) and Benton County Fire District #1. The agreement is for the Fire District to

provide employees, equipment, material and/or services in support of wildfire or other emergency response and to establish WADNR's payment and reimbursement procedures to the Fire District providing resources and/or equipment. District members cannot participate on Type 1 or 2 Incident Management Teams without this agreement in place.

The Washington State Fire Commissioners Association and Fire Chief's Association requested Attorney Brian Snure review the document and provide a Memorandum summarizing the changes in the agreement. Attorney Snure's memo states that the agreement does improve the operating capabilities of the fire service with the WADNR. The agreement has provisions for all-hazard (non-wildfire) incident dispatching of personnel and equipment, provides for the payment of volunteers through the casual hire process and ensures the dispatching of personnel that participate with incident management teams.

After a discussion, Commissioner Christenson made a motion to authorize Chief Click to sign the WADNR Interagency Agreement. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion. Commissioner Couch was opposed. The motion carried.

### **Budget Workshop**

Commissioner Couch recommended that the Board conduct a workshop in preparation of the 2022 Budget preparation. The Staff reported that budget preparation generally begins in September and the final version is to be submitted to the County by the end of November. Last year a meeting was held virtually to thoroughly review the budget. Commissioner Couch will get with Chief Click and Executive Director Paden-Lilly to discuss options.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on June 15, 2021.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.