

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of June 7, 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 1811 A 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

Tri-Tech Program was added to old business and Surplus Property 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 May 17, 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 #1079 through #1131. The transactions total \$90,474.54. General Fund \$82,576.21; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$2,902.12; and Project Fund \$4,996.21. 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 attended yesterday's EMS Council meeting.
- Commissioner Couch reported:
 - He attended last month's Special Operations Board Meeting.
 - He commented on last week's special meeting regarding strategic planning; he was impressed with how well prepared the staff was and he is looking forward to next year's budget.
 - The Tri-County Commissioners Association will be offering college scholarships again this year. Individuals may apply as long as someone in their household is associated with a fire agency.

Fire Chief

Chief Click reported:

- He attended a Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group (PNWCG) meeting.
- He attended a Fire Training Center budget planning meeting. If feasible, both agencies plan to contribute additional capital funding in 2023.
- He and Deputy Chief LoParco attended the Washington State Chief's Conference in Wenatchee. The main topic of discussion was mental health issues within the fire service.
- He attended a Fire Defense Committee meeting while in Wenatchee. The 2023 Wage and Equipment Rates were approved, and the agreement has been approved following Attorney Snure's review.
- He met with Medical Program Director Dr. Hodges to review the EMS Oversight and Continuing Education that he has been conducting since February. He will continue to monitor the District's EMS program through the end of this year.
- He attended a Type 3 Incident Management Team meeting. There is a lot of discussion related to the lack of members, availability and/or lack of interest to participate. The Emergency Management Commission is looking into the issue due to the concern of inadequate resources during wildland season. This issue is a problem throughout the Country.
- The Southeast Washington Fire Commissioners Association meeting will be on June 10. It will be hosted by Columbia County in Dayton.

Deputy Chief

- Regional work continues on redefining the scope of the SeWAG group.
- After receiving grant funds Nutrien and William's Pipeline, he reached out to other area industries to see if they might have grant programs available to support fire agencies.

Battalion Chief(s)

- Battalion Chief Gutzmer reported that 12 new Wildland Recruit Academy students have completed their training and an additional 5 students will complete their training following a makeup day.

Training

Captain Nicholls reported:

- He has been working on Incident Qualification Cards (Red Cards) over the last two weeks; he is about 98% complete.
- The Lieutenant Promotional testing concluded on Saturday. There was a good turnout, and it went well. He plans to deliver the final results to Chiefs by the end of this week.
- The HVAC has failed at the Fire Training Center, and they are getting quotes for repair.

Maintenance

Firefighter/Mechanic Ball reported that E1111 will be going in to the dealer tomorrow to work on a transmission shift issue.

Other

Executive Director Paden-Lilly distributed a draft of the Summer District Newsletter to be mailed out to all residents and an invitation to the July 2 Station 170 Open House and Dedication.

OLD BUSINESS

Station 160 Water Supply

Deputy Chief LoParco reported that the water system should be connected and flowing within the next day or two.

BCES Board

Chief Click reported that the BCES Board is moving forward with hiring a civilian Executive Director. BCES is recommending investing approximately 1.2 million dollars into the Intergraph CAD software to maintain stability and keep it operational until making the transition to Tyler CAD.

Wildland Engine Replacement

While at the Fire Chief's Conference, Chief Click and Deputy Chief LoParco seen an apparatus that is very similar to the District's current Type 5 apparatus. They are being manufactured in Medford, Oregon by Cascade Fire and Equipment. They were very impressed with the quality of the vehicle and the price quote was lower than others they have researched. After the conference they participated in a virtual tour of the companies shop and how everything is built onsite. Chief Click will send the commissioner information on the apparatus.

Horse Heaven Wind Farm

Chief Click spoke with a Benton County representative at the last BCES Board meeting who provided an update on the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Farm. The proposal is still ongoing but has not been finalized yet.

Tri-Tech Program

Chief Click received the final Tri-Tech Program agreement from the Director of Tri-Tech Skills Center, and it has been forwarded onto Attorney Snure for review. He and Executive Director Paden-Lilly will finalize the costs associated with hiring a lateral employee.

NEW BUSINESS

Columbia Basin Dive Rescue (CBDR)

A letter was received from CBDR requesting to change the current location of their truck and boat from the CBDR building located on the Station 160 property to Station 130. Station 130 would provide for a quicker response due to its proximity to waterways. Chief Click does not have an issue with their request though, the current agreement will have to be modified.

Surplus Property

Resolution 2022-05; Authorizing the sale of surplus district vehicles was presented to the Board. The resolution authorizes the sale of Apparatus #115; 2003 Ford F350 – VIN#1FDWX33P23ED86262. After a discussion, Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-05; Authorizing the sale of surplus district vehicles. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

District Resident John Christenson announced that he was running for State Representative. He also mentioned that he plans to listen in on the City of Kennewick Council meeting tonight because the Fire Chief has proposed a \$500 fine and increased enforcement for illegally setting off fireworks in the city.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on June 21, 2022.
- The next SE WA Special Operations Board meeting will be held on June 15, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.