

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of July 2, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Houchin called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Benton County Fire District No. 1 to order at 5:30 p.m. at 30004 S. Finley Rd, Kennewick, Washington. In attendance at this meeting were Commissioner Houchin, Commissioner Jenkins, and Financial Manager Paden-Lilly. Commissioner Morris was excused due to illness and Fire Chief/District Secretary was absent due to an Incident Management Team assignment in Alaska.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED LOG

The correspondence received log was reviewed.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT

The correspondence sent was reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING ON RENEWAL OF FIRE LEVY AND BOND

Chairman Houchin opened the public hearing on renewal of fire levy and bond. A newsletter was presented with information regarding the two ballot measures. In August, Benton #1 is asking voters to renew the fire levy to \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed property value (AV) for another six years and asking citizens for a replacement bond to continue funding facility renovations and apparatus replacements. In the last two years, the Fire District has paid off two such bonds averaging 11 cents per \$1,000 of AV. This bond would last for 20 years and be an estimated 10-cents per \$1,000 of AV.

Scott Carpenter requested information as to why the District is continuing to take steps towards providing ambulance service after the EMS Levy did not pass.

Commissioner Houchin stated that the Board of Commissioners believes the District needs to provide medical transport for the Community and will continue the process of implementing those services for the betterment of our citizens.

Mr. Carpenter made a comment regarding the calculation of the \$3,000,000 bond at 10-cents per \$1,000 AV for 20 years. The Board did not have the exact figures available, however it was agreed that the bond would include interest.

With no further questions from the public, Chairman Houchin closed the public hearing.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2019 transactions #1082 through #1113. The transactions total \$109,544.69. General Fund \$93,237.08; electronic payroll transfers \$3,940.79; federal payroll tax payment \$1,382.62; Hazmat Fund \$9,533.05; Training Center Operating Fund \$1,157.93 and SCBA Fund \$293.22. After a discussion, Commissioner Houchin 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 Report

The budget expenditure report was reviewed.

REPORTS

The staff reported the following:

- Captain LoParco reported:
 - Recruit testing took place last Saturday. There are 15 new Benton I applicants and a total of 38 students.
 - The Washington State Patrol has reenacted their Basic Firefighter Training Reimbursement program which reimburses agencies for up to 200 hours of training per member at \$3 per hour.
- Public Information Officer Baker reported that a crew staffed the first aid tent during the mini boat race event over the weekend and a crew will staff a Car Show in Columbia Park on July 13.
- Battalion Chief Taylor reported:
 - He received a fireworks complaint from a homeowner who has horses that are disturbed by the noise. He supplied them with a phone number to contact dispatch and will try and do drive-bys throughout the evening.
 - The Safety Meeting was cancelled due to the Toothaker fire. Kip Baum resigned as Health and Safety Officer (HSO) and B/C Taylor will be filling in until the position can be permanently filled.
 - He has begun the process of reviewing reimbursement policies for volunteers and resident volunteers.
- Battalion Chief Gutzmer reported that most stations will be staffed on July 4 and Engine 1133 will be staffed at Columbia Park.
- Captain Copland reported that the Annual Tri-City Fallen Firefighter Memorial is July 4. The ride begins at Kennewick Fire Station 61 and travels to Athena, Oregon to Paul Bjorklund's gravesite. The ride is in honor of all area firefighters who have given their lives in the line of duty.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resident Firefighter Agreement

Commissioner Houchin made a motion to approve Resident Firefighter Agreement for Jaime Arreola. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Carpenter shared his opinion on how the Board dealt with Commissioner Sleater's absences until his passing. Chairman Houchin agreed that the situation was unfortunate, however the Board has an obligation to its citizens and must follow State law requirements.

John Christenson introduced himself and shared that he is running for Commissioner. He feels the work that the Fire District does is very important and will try and help with passage of the upcoming levy and bond propositions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on July 16 beginning at 5:30 pm at Station 140.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.