

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of July 20, 2021.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Christenson 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. In attendance at this meeting were Commissioner Christenson, Commissioner Couch, Commissioner Jenkins, Fire Chief/District Secretary Click, Deputy Chief LoParco, and Executive Director Paden-Lilly.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence received log and correspondence sent was reviewed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve the minutes dated July 6, 2021, as submitted. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Fund Transaction Details**

Presented to the Board were 2021 transactions #1421 to #1593. The transactions total \$255,842.34. General Fund \$57,710.05; electronic fund transfers \$121,200.93; federal payroll tax payment \$43,020.88; retirement systems transfer \$25,836.51; WA Support Registry \$1,341.00; Hazmat Fund \$2,149.98; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$2,040.76; SCBA Fund \$849.93; MPD Fund \$372.30; and Bond Project Fund \$1,320.00. 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 Revenue and Expenditure Reports**

The budget revenue and expenditure reports were reviewed.

**EMS Report**

The EMS and Ambulance Collection Statistics Report was reviewed.

**REPORTS**

**Fire Chief**

Chief Click reported:

- The management and labor groups met last week to review the latest proposal of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The proposed agreement was approved by both sides, and it now goes back to the Union for a final vote.
- Since July 7, Washington State has seen nine fire mobilizations so far; that's about six weeks early for this time of year. There are currently 22,000 firefighters battling fires in Oregon and Washington.

- He is in Asotin County assigned to the Lick Creek Fire with his Type I Incident Management Team. He plans to travel home tomorrow.
- Fire chiefs from around the area discussed the proposed BCES cost formula amendment via a conference call. Chief Johnson of West Benton Fire and Rescue is working on a tiered formula that will take the assessed value of each agency into account.

### **Deputy Chief**

Deputy Chief LoParco reported:

- Over the past few weeks, Station 160 has been experiencing a water supply issue. The Washington State Patrol has confirmed that their well has collapsed and is no longer useable. As a temporary solution, an outhouse and portable wash station have been placed at the location, and the crews are going to Station 110 to shower or decontaminate. He has been in touch with the City of Kennewick to discuss whether the District could tie into the City water system that has been established for the US395/Ridgeline interchange project. The City Deputy Public Works Director feels that a water service saddle to extend a service line to the location is doable and will provide cost estimates.
- He is waiting to hear back from the labor group regarding the Captain Eligibility Test scoring and the rule of three hiring practice when there are not three qualified candidates.

### **Battalion Chief**

Battalion Chief Gutzmer reported he plans to attend a meeting tomorrow with area fire chiefs and the Benton County Sheriff's Office regarding House Bill 1310; Concerning Permissible Uses of Force by Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers. The bill provides strict definition on legal use of force except when necessary to make an arrest, prevent an escape or protection against an imminent threat and will change the way emergency crews respond to certain mental health related dispatches.

### **Training**

Captain Nicholls reported:

- A written and agility test was held on July 10 for new applicants. There were 12 attendees and eight will move onto the interview process tomorrow evening.
- Two firefighters have joined the resident program and are working on their required training.
- Those who wish to attend the Washington Fire Commissioners Association conference in 2021, may now register.

### **Labor Representative**

Captain Bibe thanked management for the time given on the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The contract will be presented to the Union for a final vote.

### **Maintenance Department**

Maintenance Supervisor Schoenwald reported that regular maintenance is ongoing.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Facility Bond Project**

Deputy Chief LoParco met with the A&E firm and the project schedule seems to be on track. Landscaping should begin next week, and they anticipate that part of the steel structure will be in place before the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

### **COVID-19 Impacts**

The number of COVID-19 cases in the US has been rising recently, particularly with the delta variant. Deputy Chief LoParco reported that there have not been new directives issued by the Governor or L&I. The District is operating status quo; non-vaccinated members must continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing. All other mask wearing mandates while driving and/or responding will remain in place.

In response to the uptick in fires, Chief Click mentioned that fire mobilization management teams are reverting to the full COVID-19 directives issued last season.

### **2022 Budget Preparation**

After a discussion, the board decided to schedule a special meeting in August to begin the budget preparation process for 2022.

Commissioner Couch made a motion that a special board meeting be held on August 12 to conduct a workshop on the budget for 2022. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on August 3, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.
- A Special Board Meeting will be held on August 12, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.