

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of August 17, 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 4:20 p.m. via Zoom video-conference. The meeting was delayed until a quorum was present. 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 was unexcused.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Maintenance department retirement/paramedic hire was added to old business.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received log and correspondence sent was reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve the minutes dated August 3, 2021, as submitted. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2021 transactions #1645 to #1807. The transactions total \$279,337.10. General Fund \$51,967.30; electronic fund transfers \$140,437.19; federal payroll tax payment \$54,331.94; retirement systems transfer \$29,200.14; WA Support Registry \$1,341.00; Hazmat Fund \$59.50; Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$995.80; MPD Fund \$372.28; and Bond Project Fund \$631.95. 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

There was no EMS and Ambulance Collection Statistics Report.

REPORTS

Commissioners

Commissioner Christenson plans to attend the Southeast Washington Special Operations Group Board Meeting (Formerly Hazmat Board) tomorrow.

Fire Chief

Chief Click reported:

- He is currently assigned to the Middle Fork Complex in Oregon with the Incident Management Team.
- There are a record number of fires going on in eight western states, with very little resources available.

- The District has a few single resources assigned at a fire in Lake Chelan and one in Naches. The Seasonal crew is assigned to the Walker Creek Fire.

Labor Representative

Captain Bibe reported that the Union body voted unanimously in favor of the proposed contract.

Maintenance Department

Maintenance Supervisor Schoenwald reported:

- The maintenance truck is in the shop for oil pump and water pump issues.
- The shop is working on water tender service.
- The Westmark truck has returned from the repair shop.
- They have begun putting new door emblems on the trucks.
- They are getting the Old No. 1 fire truck ready for the Fair Parade this weekend.

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Bond Project

Deputy Chief LoParco met with the Contractor today. The flooring is done, and the project is ready for appliances. Landscaping should begin soon, and work should begin on the metal building the first part of September.

COVID-19 Impacts

On August 9, 2021, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 21-14 mandating that public health workers must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 18, 2021. Deputy Chief LoParco sent out a memorandum to all members regarding the Proclamation and information received from the Washington State Fire Commissioners Association and the Fire District's legal counsel regarding the applicability of the Proclamation to District members. The following items were addressed in the memorandum based on Proclamation 21-14:

- District members who provide any type of health care must receive either the single dose vaccine or the last shot of the 2-dose series of vaccinations by October 4, 2021.
- Members must return to wearing masks in District facilities, when outside in a group and always when in apparatus.
- No visits to local fitness centers, gyms, etc.
- Training will continue; however, personnel will need to wear masks when not in SCBA and return to practicing six-foot social distancing.

Station 160 Water

Deputy Chief LoParco reported that the City of Kennewick has decided that they will provide two 2" water lines; one to the Fire District and one to the Washington State Patrol property. They will supply the line and the two agencies will pay for water. The contractor quoted an estimate of \$270,000 to complete the project; \$135,000 split between both agencies. After a discussion, Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve Deputy Chief LoParco to pursue the emergency water project moving forward with a monetary cap of \$150,000 and any deviation or excess of the set amount will need to be presented to the Board for approval. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Collective Bargaining Agreement (2021-2023)

The Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2021-2023 between Benton County Fire District #1 and Benton #1 Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 1296 regarding wages, hours and working

conditions has been accepted by both management and labor. After a discussion, Commissioner Christenson made a motion to execute the final Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2021-2023. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Five Year Plan

The updated Five Year Plan was distributed to the Board for review and to provide comments.

Maintenance Department Retirement/Paramedic Hire

Deputy Chief LoParco has worked with Union Representatives to develop a Memorandum of Understanding adding language to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement regarding offers of conditional employment (employment where future certification is required to maintain employment.) The document was presented to the Board for review. After a discussion, Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding 2021-01 between Benton County Fire District #1 and Benton #1 Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 1296, regarding conditional employment for advanced EMT paramedic positions. Commissioner Christenson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

75th Anniversary Open House

Executive Director Paden-Lilly reported that the Open House has been scheduled for September 25, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. She and Deputy Chief LoParco will be meeting with the marketing firm to create 'Save the Date' information and future marketing ideas. The 75th Anniversary Challenge Coins have arrived, and they turned out well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on September 7, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.