

BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular meeting of June 20, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Phillips 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 and via video-conference. In attendance at this meeting were Commissioner Carpenter, Commissioner Phillips, 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

There were no additions to the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence received log and correspondence sent was reviewed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A clerical error was noted in the minutes of the June 6, 2023, meeting by Commissioner Carpenter. Commissioner Carpenter moved to approve the June 6, 2023, minutes as corrected. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fund Transaction Details

Presented to the Board were 2023 transactions #1157 to #1309. The transactions totaled \$262,694.29. General Fund \$45,017.90; electronic fund transfers \$137,399.65; federal payroll tax payment \$49,195.37; retirement systems transfer \$27,731.38; WA Support Registry \$1,291.00; Special Operations Group Fund \$33.74; and Fire Training Center Operations Fund \$2,025.25. Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to approve the vouchers. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The voucher registers are attached to these minutes and constitute a part thereof.

As a result of discovering that Archbright membership dues are being billed on a monthly basis, Executive Director Paden-Lilly noted that transaction 1101 for \$3,040 has been voided.

Budget Revenue and Expenditure Reports

The budget revenue and expenditure reports were reviewed.

REPORTS

Commissioners

Commissioner Carpenter mentioned that he had received an email outlining the Medical Program Director's duties and responsibilities.

Fire Chiefs

Chief Click reported:

- Wildland fire season has arrived in the Columbia Basin with a roar! Benton County had a multi-fire State Mobilization fire last week and Walla Walla County had a State Mobilization fire yesterday.

- Information Officer Kochenauer will be meeting with area media tomorrow to provide information on the importance of having a defensible space around structures.
- The HR Consultant was onsite last week for two days to start the 8-week project.
- He was contacted by the Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S. (Community Action for Responsible Environmental Stewardship) regarding the proposed Horse Heaven Wind and Solar Project. The group has asked him to write a letter explaining the obstacles of fire suppression near windmills. The Board is in favor of him writing a letter explaining windmill fire suppression operations.
- He received a letter from Benton County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson regarding Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT.) The letter states that PILT and USFWS Refuge Revenue Sharing Act (RRSA) funds received in Benton County are not earmarked by the federal government for specific uses. Benton County deposits these monies into its General Fund for the provision of public services on untaxed lands. Since Benton County Fire District #1 is a separate governing entity with its own taxing authority, Benton County does not distribute any of the PILT funds received to the Fire District.
- He and Deputy Chief LoParco will be out of town starting Thursday through Sunday. During their absence, Battalion Chief Gutzmer will have the delegation of authority.

Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief LoParco reported:

- A redesign of the fire danger signage is being done to replace the outdated ones that are over 20 years old.
- The first new staff truck should be back from Spokane after communication and lighting installation, and the second truck will follow.
- Refurbishment of the first water tender is set to begin in the next week or so.

Training

Captain Nicholls reported:

- He has a meeting next week with Chief Click and Chief Michael to discuss the training tower fuel conversion project.
- The first part of last week he was assigned to the fire in Finley, then transitioned to the Command Post as an Incident Commander (IC) trainee. He is hoping to have his IC task book signed off by the end of this year.

OLD BUSINESS

2024 Budget/Strategic Planning Meeting

Executive Director Paden-Lilly polled the group prior to the meeting and the consensus was to hold the special meeting on July 14. The Board would like to hold it at the same facility as last year.

NEW BUSINESS

Correspondence Log

Commissioner Carpenter noticed that Benton County advertised for bids to provide quickseal emulsified asphalt fog oil. Fire District #1 Station 120 is listed as one of three locations where the material will be delivered in the bid document. His correspondence log does not show Benton County asking for permission to deliver the materials to the Fire District. It was confirmed by the staff that Benton County had not requested approval to use Station

120. Following a discussion, the Board requests that Chief Click contact Benton County Public Works.

Collective Bargaining Agreement

The International Association of Firefighters, Local 1296 sent a letter requesting to begin negotiating a successor contract to the 2021-2022 Collective Bargaining Agreement. After a discussion, the Board was interested in initiating a meeting with President Blashill and Vice President Bibe to begin negotiations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Jenkins called a 10-minute executive session at 4:55 p.m. per RCW 42.30.140 relating to collective bargaining issues and negotiations. The meeting was called back to order at 5:05 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next Board of Commissioner meeting will be on Wednesday, July 5 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.