

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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### MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BLACK FOREST FIRE/RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Board of Directors of the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District held a regular board meeting on October 21, 2020, such meeting duly posted for public notice.

A quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Nearhoof.

Directors present: R. Nearhoof/N. Dowden/J. Hinton/D. Hoffpauir

Directors absent: J. Abendschan

Also present: Chief Langmaid/DC Rebitski/D. Arkowski/fire department personnel/OCN reporter  
Natalie Barszcz/Community Members/Carrie Geitner

**Roll Call:** Director Abendschan was absent. **A motion was made and seconded to excuse Mr. Abendschan's absence; motion carried unanimously.**

**Carrie Geitner:** Ms. Geitner is a candidate for the District 2 seat on the Board of County Commissioners and was invited to meet the fire district board at this meeting. Board members advised Ms. Geitner that there have been communication problems with county commissioners, and they are hoping for more openness and constructive discussion on matters such as impact fees and fire codes, especially as they relate to new construction. Another issue is the City of Colorado Springs annexing Black Forest Fire District property, which reduces tax revenue to the District. Ms. Geitner assured the board that she is a problem solver and will have conversations with the other commissioners on matters of importance to fire districts. She suggested a meeting of all interested parties to begin the process of addressing the issues. When asked what her guiding principles would be as a county commissioner to the governance of the community, Ms. Geitner responded that she embraces limited government and ensuring that citizens have self-governance. She affirmed that some government is necessary, but that citizens should be part of the decision process, noting in particular that water requirements must be properly considered. She was thanked for attending the meeting.

**Minutes** **A motion was made and seconded to approve the board meeting minutes for the September 9, 2020 regular board meeting; upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

**Financial Reports** Treasurer Hinton reported budget expenditures are currently 6% under budget, nearly all budgeted revenues have been received, with no large expenditures expected this month. It was noted that only 27% of the bunker gear line item has been spent, and this is due to the chief delaying some expenses due to covid-19. All employees have acceptable equipment and PPE. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial report; the motion carried unanimously.**

**Chief's Report** Given by Chief Langmaid. A written report was prepared by Chief Langmaid and sent to all directors. A copy is attached to the minutes.

#### Administrative:

- Finance – a financial officer has been hired who is the wife of a BFFPD fire fighter and very experienced in finance and payroll operations.
- Budget – the 2021 budget is nearly complete and was presented to the directors on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Personnel – all empty career positions have been filled and the orientation of volunteer EMS personnel has begun.

#### Logistics:

- Facilities – garage door repairs are complete and other areas are being addressed.
- Communications – the BFFR radio template is under review; the Getac MDCs have been received and they are being configured.
- Fleet – the primary engine (2006 Rosenbauer) is OOS, needing extensive maintenance; the type 6 brush trucks have returned from deployment and are being serviced.

#### Operations:

- Calls are lower than usual, but there has been a noted increase in positive coronavirus patients.
- Training - Work continues on the training center and multi-agency drills will begin in November. Training has focused on water supply and wildland and the goal is for every

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- firefighter and fire officer to obtain Driver Operator Pumper certification.
- Deployment - Crews have been rotating to assist the State with the Cameron fire.

### Planning

- Fire Marshal Division – EPSO will investigate arson but fire districts must determine origin and cause. Personnel are available to conduct these investigations.
- EPSO still has Stage II Burn Ban in effect.
- EDARP notifications continue to be received, especially in the southeast portion of the District. Such development increases revenues but are at risk of annexation by the City.

### Other

- Shield 616 was a success and an event will be held at Station One on Nov. 12.

### Old Business

- RFPs for Type 1 Engines and Tactical Tenders: The posting of RFPs is to determine the interest of multiple vendors in the project and the projected costs. After proposals have been prepared by the vendors they will be given to the board for review. The board will decide which proposals appear to have the most value before any vendor is chosen. A motion by the board now will begin the process of researching the best vendor, but will not approve the disbursement of any funds. The Directors examined the RFPs, asking for clarification of several points in the documents. **A motion was duly made to grant Chief Langmaid authority to publish the RFPs; the motion was seconded; the motion was carried unanimously in a vote.**

**New Business** The 2021 budget for the District was presented for discussion. All Directors had printed copies and it was also projected on a screen. The Chief advised that there are many areas to be considered due to economic variables now and the unknown future of the economy due to the coronavirus. Individual line items were discussed, with explanations where needed. Some of the highlighted areas include whether or not deployments will be continued; the possible sale of fixed assets; the inclusion of three new hires; increased health insurance costs; increased pension benefit costs; issues related to exclusions and annexations. Treasurer Hinton stated he has reviewed the entire budget and is comfortable with it. He noted that 2021 is the final payment on the GO bond, the budget is based on 14.5 mills, and is a zero-based budget. The budget will be presented for public review at a budget hearing at the November board meeting, and will be finally approved at the December meeting.

**Reports on Workshops and Meetings** None.

**Correspondence** None.

**Public and Local 4502 Comments** None.

**Future Meetings** The next regular meeting will be November 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. and the December meeting will be on December 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**Executive Session** **Chairman Nearhoof made a motion to go into executive session, per §24-6-402(4)(e) to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiation, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators. The motion was seconded, and upon a vote, the board approved the motion to enter executive session.** The board adjourned into executive session at 9:10 p.m.

The board reconvened in open session at 9:59 p.m. The board adhered to the parameters of the executive session and did not stray from the reason for the session. No motions or actions were taken in the executive session.

**Adjournment** There being no further business, **and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried,** the board adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Arkowski, Secretary