

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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 June 19, 2019, at Black Forest Fire Station One, such meeting duly posted for public notice.

A quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice Chair McMorran, beginning with the pledge of allegiance.

Directors present: R. McMorran/J. Hinton/R. Nearhoof/D. Hoffpauir/N. Dowden
Directors absent: None
Also present: Chief Langmaid/Chief Rebitski/D. Arkowski/fire department personnel/Local 4502 representatives/community members/OCN reporters

Roll Call: All directors were present.

An added agenda item was the swearing in of new fire fighter Aaron Clymer by Chair McMorran.

Minutes A motion was made and seconded to approve the board meeting minutes for the May 15, 2019 regular meeting; upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Financial Reports Treasurer Hinton reported the district currently has \$1.475 million; the annual bond payment has been made; the new engine has been paid in full. Several building maintenance issues need to be addressed and a large expenditure for bunker gear is needed. Mr. Hinton requested three years of data showing ending and beginning balances and revenue and expenditures in the last three months and beginning three months of each year to illustrate money flow. He noted that the district is often denied grants because of the cash on hand. The last significant tax revenue will be received in July. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the board approved the financial report; motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Report Given by Chief Langmaid. A written report was prepared by Chief Langmaid and a copy is attached to the minutes.

Response/Service

- 81 responses in the last month

EMS

- The results of the ambulance grant request will be known soon.
- AMR will be informed of coming changes soon regarding mutual aid. Specifically, BFFRPD will not send an ALS ambulance to the city because city fire is capable of covering these calls.
- The flycar experiment will be suspended with a view towards a different iteration of this.

Apparatus

- New engine has been delivered and training on this vehicle is in progress, which is a lengthy process.
- Daily vehicle and equipment inspections are occurring, with many issues arising which are being prioritized for repair scheduling.

Facilities

- The exhaust removal system in the building is inadequate and a high priority for the health of employees and community members who use the facilities. Two replacement systems have been researched. PlymoVent is the industry standard at a cost of \$115,850 for both stations and presented a lower bid than a competitor.
- The IT system has been upgraded, and the IT room cannot be cooled sufficiently for this equipment. The cost of a stand-alone air conditioning unit for this room is \$5,000.
- The leaks occurring in the concrete patio have been quoted for a four-year fix or a permanent fix, with a difference in cost of about \$3,500.

Training

- Extensive training on new engine underway.
- A new online training platform will begin this week.
- Interviews to fill the Training Captain position will begin this month, with seven applications

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received.

Other

- Staffing update: A lack of minimum staffing standards exist, with two instances of staffing dropping to 3 people.
- The part time program does not provide stable and consistent staffing. Those participating have other jobs and personal responsibilities that are destructive to their health. Chief Langmaid believes the district is better served by hiring an additional FTE for each shift at a cost of \$179,000. This figure includes salary, pension costs, and insurance but does not cover holiday pay or mandatory overtime which incur pension expense. Bunker gear is an added expense, but it occurs only every 7 to 8 years.
- The Chief advised that the staff has been extremely busy and instrumental in accomplishing many program improvements. He praised the efforts of the employees, noting that standards have risen, and the community is better served. He also asked the board to consider a separation of district policy vs. department policy concerning employee guidelines.

After further discussion of the exhaust removal system and other pending expenses, **A motion was made to purchase the PlymoVent exhaust system at a cost of \$120,000 to include the \$115,850 equipment cost plus additional funds for connection expenses; motion was seconded; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Concerning the possibility of three new full-time staff, discussion ensued on merits of hiring paramedics vs. cost of sending employees to paramedic school which is \$10,000. Further discussion on financial matters included Chief Langmaid explaining that transparency requires that he adhere to approved budgets and the purchase of all budgeted items or clarifying why not. Budgets are strategic plans and identify areas that need updating and problems arise if the budget plan is not followed. After years of noncompliance with approved budgets, a great deal of catch-up is now required. The board needs to be kept informed of operations to ensure they will not be under a false impression that all directives are being followed. Chair McMorran requested that costs for hiring three paramedics and accomplishing maintenance issues be prepared for the July board meeting. Regarding the SAFER grant, preliminary items are in place for administration purposes, and funds may be released by July or August. SAFER personnel may be any type.

Old Business Chief replacement process: Substantial financial changes are occurring in the administration of the district due to the mill levy increase, and more clarity on department needs are apparent due to the efforts of the interim chief. The budget process for 2020 will begin shortly and Chief Langmaid will add greatly to that exercise. **A motion was made to continue PJ Langmaid's employment until further notice, with the board revisiting the chief selection process in August, keeping Mr. Langmaid in the position at least through September 2019; motion was seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

New Business Colorado Special District Property and Liability Pool Repayment Agreement: This program assists fire departments with costs related to cancers and heart disease, which have an inordinately higher risk among fire fighters. All fire agencies in the state participate in the agreement. **A motion was duly made to approve the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District's participation in the Colorado Special District Property and Liability Pool Repayment Agreement; motion seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

Inclusions of property within the fire district: Chief Langmaid advised that many properties in the northern portion of El Paso County are not within any fire district and are probably paying higher insurance rates due to this. He questioned whether they should be notified of this and encouraged to join a fire district to reduce insurance costs and ensure a more rapid fire response. A related matter is the attempt to exclude properties in the southern portion of the BFFRPD that are paying fire taxes to both the city and to Black Forest. The property owners need to contact their city council member and demand action. Chief Langmaid will attempt to publicize this.

Reports on Workshops and Meetings Mr. Hinton learned from Commissioner Holly Williams that the subject of an impact fee will not be considered per Commissioner Mark Waller and resistance from the Home Builders Association. Ms. Williams wants to meet with Messrs. Hinton and Langmaid and others to study possible resolution. The Chief will post information on the impact fee stalemate on the department website.

Correspondence None.

Public and Local 4502 Comments Public admiration of the new engine.

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Future Meetings The next regular meeting will be held on July 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm. and a fire department open house on July 13th.

Adjournment There being no further business, **and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried,** the board adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Arkowski, Secretary