

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 March 23, 2021, such meeting duly posted for public notice. Meeting had been postponed from March 17, 2021 due to a snowstorm.

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

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

Directors absent: None

Also present: Chief Langmaid/J. Rebitski/D. Arkowski/fire department personnel/Community Members

Roll Call: All directors were present.

Minutes A motion was made and seconded to approve the board meeting minutes for the February 17, 2021 regular board meeting; upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Financial Reports Treasurer Hinton reported there is \$806,842 on hand, with reserves funded. All transactions for the month were reviewed and are in order. The financial system has been changed from a cash method to an accrual method, as required by government rules. **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 – Property tax receipts have begun coming in, with prioritization of purchases.
- Personnel – An administrative officer has been hired who is transitioning out of the military and will begin full time in June. Open entry level firefighter positions generated 94 applicants, a number reduced by a third through testing; 19 candidates will be interviewed.

Logistics:

- Fleet – \$500 was saved by using our in-house mechanic.
- Facilities – no issues to report.

Operations:

- 79 calls in February.
- Training – February training consisted of medical training and wildland refresher. A fire evaluation report is in draft form and will be finalized soon.

Planning

- Development continues to grow in Black Forest with commercial properties being disapproved under the Fire Code. Water supply is a serious encumbrance for some of these properties as the required water infrastructure is not available and not affordable for these properties. Chief Langmaid is averse to granting variances in these cases and asked for guidance from the Directors. Discussion ensued and covered Fire Code mandated water flow, pumping capability of equipment in Black Forest, cistern requirements, alternative water provisions for commercial properties, liability issues if variances are allowed, granting of variances by neighboring districts, BOCC involvement in allowing variances or adjusting the Fire Code, contacting Attorney Glesne for her knowledge of this matter, and noting that financial hardship for an applicant is insufficient reasoning for a variance. The Board reached a consensus that they were not in favor of granting variances in this matter.

Apparatus Discussion Issues with the 2019 SVI/Spartan pump engagement are due to the four wheel drive and pump engagement model, originally specified by BFFR. Pump engagement has been tested repeatedly, and at times it will engage, while at other times the testing will end without any engagement. The 2021 budget prescribes selling this vehicle, but it cannot be sold in its current condition. The Chief will be meeting with the president of the SVI/Spartan company to discuss remedial actions that may be possible. The inability to sell this truck may impact the truck replacement plan. The original proposal was for a lease/purchase for two engines and a tender, but the cost to repair the pump engagement on the 2019 Spartan may increase the capital investment in

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that engine to a point where it will not be recouped through a sale. It may be necessary to retain that truck for a few years. The replacement plan aimed to standardize the entire fleet, but changes may be required, to include purchasing one engine now and one tender in 2022.

It was suggested that when the original specification for the 2019 Spartan was presented to the manufacturer, the SVI/Spartan people should have informed BFFR this was not a viable design and refused to build it. The company has stated they have never built a truck like this before and will not do so again. Concerning the need for 4x4 vehicles, both 4x4 engines got stuck in the recent snowstorm. The Board will wait for Chief Langmaid's report on his discussion with SVI/Spartan.

The Chief will contact Pierce Manufacturing regarding an intergovernmental purchase agreement with the City of Columbia, SC to purchase a Pierce Type 1 engine with the appropriate specifications, pricing and a timeline to present at the next Board meeting.

Snowstorm Report - The North Group responded to stranded motorists without assistance from County agencies, rescuing more than 70 disabled motorists and housing them at the two stations. The fire fighters were thanked for their outstanding service and discipline.

Old Business Mr. Richard Painter was on the agenda regarding the matter of the cell tower that is on the property adjacent to his land, but he was not present at the meeting. Chair Nearhoof reported that copies of legal documents pertaining to this matter have been given to Mr. Painter, including the 99 year lease that grants use of the cell tower land to the fire district, and a letter stating that Mr. Painter knew there was one guy wire that was anchored on his property and he did not object to that. **A motion was made authorizing Chair Nearhoof to write a letter to Mr. Painter, advising him that this is a closed matter, and that Mr. Painter does not have any claims in the matter. The motion was seconded. Upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

New Business The Board considered a request for inclusion of property at 16910 Thompson Road. **A motion was made to adopt Resolution 2021-04, a resolution for inclusion of property belonging to Shawna Schotanus at 16910 Thompson Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80908, into the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District; the motion was seconded; upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Inclusion Procedures During a recent inclusion court filing, the fact that BFFR has two attorneys representing it caused some confusion with the court – Linda Glesne representing the District on all matters except inclusions, and Leif Garrison, who handles inclusions only. In order to facilitate less confusion, it was suggested that all legal work be accomplished by one attorney. **A motion was made to designate Linda Glesne, of Collins Cockrel and Cole, as the attorney of record for the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District; motion seconded. A vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Reports on Workshops and Meetings None.

Correspondence A thank you note was received from resident Donna Porter for services rendered. Troop 70 also sent a thank you note for help from the fire department.

Public Comments None

Future Meetings The next regular meeting will be April 21, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment There being no further business, **and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried,** the board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Arkowski, Secretary