

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 April 18, 2018, at Black Forest Fire Station One, such meeting duly posted for public notice.

A quorum present, the meeting began at 7:06 p.m.

Directors present: R. McMorrان/J. Hinton/R. Nearhoof/B. Kroto
Directors absent: PJ Langmaid
Also present: D. Arkowski/D. Hoffpauir/fire department personnel/community members

Roll Call: Vice Chair PJ Langmaid was absent due to work requirements. **A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to excuse Mr. Langmaid's absence.**

Public Comment Floor asked if the fire department had responded to the 117 fire, which it had, with a tender carrying 1,800 gallons of water and a brush truck with 500 gallons of water.

Minutes **A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2018 meeting.**

Financial Reports Treasurer Hinton, noting that board member packets were not available for this meeting, advised that the finances are stable and in good condition and tax collections are increasing. The Wells Fargo investment account has been closed and the account balance of \$372,886 has been deposited in savings. These funds will cover the cost of the newly ordered chassis, with about \$90,000 remaining to be invested elsewhere. The district's credit rating has increased to AAA3, which was announced by Moody. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the board approved the financial report; motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Report The operations report was not available due to Chief Jack being absent.

Old Business Hiring process update for three additional full time fire fighters: Application closes April 26, 2018, and there are ten applications, ensuring three well-qualified candidates. The positions will be hired for a June 1 start date.

New Business Director Nearhoof reported that the chaplain program is well situated and the participants are preparing a program.

Mill levy discussion: In the discussion, it was explained how the tax rate is derived, using assessed and market property valuations. The current rate is 10.114, with revenue of \$1.475 million. The Gallagher rural assessment rate is dropping to probably 6.11, which will result in a loss of nearly \$362,000 for Black Forest FPD. This calculation did not account for increased new construction. Different scenarios were explored to determine how much of a mill levy increase is needed to maintain sufficient funding. A mill levy rate of 14.1 will increase revenues by \$230,000, for a total revenue of about \$1.7 million. Estimated tax increases were shown as follows: Homes valued at \$250,000 would increase about \$72; a \$500,000 house would increase by \$143. Neighboring fire districts mill levies range from 29.1 for Wescott, 18.5 for TriLakes, 18.26 for Cimarron Hills, and Falcon is asking for a 14.5 mill increase. An increase to 14.1 for Black Forest would ensure sufficient funding to staff station 2 and operate two ALS ambulances.

Discussion ensued on whether an increase to 14.1 would be sufficient in the long term to support the financial health of the district. It was calculated that an increase to 14.5 mills would generate an additional \$276,608 and an increased financial cushion for the district. The board agreed with an increase to 14.5 mills and approved of Chair McMorrان working with Attorney Glesne to develop ballot language and work on developing a mailer to ensure public education on the needs of the fire district. It was agreed that all aspects of this action will be presented clearly for the residents of the district, clarifying how much taxes will increase on properties and what the residents will receive for that increase.

Reports on Workshops and Meetings Mr. Nearhoof advised that the contractors group has met and several private contractors are available to help when called out for a major fire event. Ms. Bottorff is the central coordinator for notifying participants of a call for assistance. The group is

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prepared and ready to respond.

Correspondence None.

Future Meetings The next regular meeting will be held May 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment There being no further business, **and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried**, the board adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Arkowski, Secretary