

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

A quorum present, the meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Directors present: PJ Langmaid/R. McMorran/J. Hinton/R. Nearhoof/D. Hoffpauir
Directors absent: None
Also present: Chief Jack/Chief Rebitski/D. Arkowski/fire department personnel/community members

Roll Call: All directors were present.

Public Comment Consensus from the floor that the annual picnic was well done with more attendees than last year.

Minutes A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2018 meeting.

Financial Reports Treasurer Hinton reported that revenues are on schedule. The new chassis will arrive in December, when a large payment will be due. From the floor: Where are the funds being held that were removed from Wells Fargo? They are in a savings account. **Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the board approved the financial report; motion carried unanimously.**

2017 Audit Report It was noted that a change was added on page 16, reporting that the board of directors had approved \$100,000 for emergency expenditures in excess of TABOR. **A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the 2017 audit report; motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Report Given by Chief Jack. (A written report was prepared by Chief Jack, copy attached to the minutes.)

Response/Service

- 98 responses in last month and 28 transports.
- Nationally, 3.5 million acres have burned YTD as a result of wild fires.
- Stage 2 burn restrictions are in effect.

Training

- 120 training hours in last month.
- Chief Jack attended Summer Wildland Fire Academy June 1-8 and completed All-Hazards Safety Officer Course.

EMS

- An award has been received to purchase a cardiac monitor - \$33,025.
- The ambulance rate increases have been incorporated in the billing system, effective July 1.

Apparatus and Equipment

- All in service.
- Chief Rebitski's vehicle was damaged in a hailstorm, and a check for \$10,000 was received from insurance. Chief Jack proposed making this a reserve vehicle in 2019, selling the Expedition in a sealed bid process, and purchasing a new command vehicle.

Facilities and Grounds

- New gas grill at station 1.

Other

- Chief Jack spoke at the 5-year anniversary of the June 11, 2013 fire ceremony.
- Staffing was 4.85 operational per day in last month.
- No updates on the SAFER grant application.

In discussion, it was noted there are 300 to 350 transports per year by BFFRPD.

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Per question from the floor, the board advised that the City of Colorado Springs has suspended negotiations with a new ambulance provider and will likely extend their contract with AMR for a time. BFFRPD may need to assist AMR at times.

Old Business Colorado Springs Exclusion Resolution 2018-04: A resolution to initiate the process of excluding real property that was annexed by the City of Colorado Springs, and for Colorado Springs to provide fire protection coverage for the annexed area. **A motion was duly made to adopt Resolution 2018-04, a resolution of the board of directors of the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District (BFFRPD) initiating process for the exclusion of this real property from fire protection by BFFRPD, and service to be provided by the City of Colorado Springs; a second was made for the motion; a vote was called, and the resolution carried unanimously.**

Resolution 2018-05 was considered to increase property tax levies in the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District, with Chair Langmaid offering thanks to Messrs. McMorran and Hinton for the significant amount of work that was completed for this matter. The resolution calls for allowing the mill levy to be increased up to 14.5 mills, although the board may decide to adjust that amount downward if they determine less of an increase is needed. It may also be adjusted if the residential assessment rate decreases. If the Gallagher Amendment reduces the amount to be collected, the budget may be increased to provide income at the level originally deemed allowable. The dollar amount anticipated in this mill levy increase is \$550,000 in 2019, and will be included in the ballot language. The district is protected from a situation in which a large property owner may contest the amount of their taxes due and claim exemption. The ballot language must be submitted to the County Election Department, who will function as the election officials. The language will be submitted at the end of August or early September to allow time for any amendments that may be needed based on public comment and objections. The district may not expend any district funds or allow any district employees to expend time on this matter after the ballot language has been officially certified by the County Clerk and Recorder. All individuals may lobby for this matter as private individuals at any time. **A motion was duly made to adopt Resolution 2018-05, a resolution calling for a November 6, 2018 special election, authorizing an election on the question of increasing the property tax levy in 2019 and authorizing adjustment of the total mill levy thereafter to offset revenue losses, and appointing a designated election official; a second was made to the motion; a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.**

The board began a discussion of the ballot language, noting the exact language will be voted on at the August 2018 regular board meeting. Chief Jack was asked to inform all employees on the Fair Campaign Practice law to ensure that all associated with the fire district are clear on restrictions regarding ballot initiatives.

New Business BFFRPD website update: The website is quite old and has been in need of an update for many years. Chair Langmaid wants a board member to gather information from vendors in preparation for revamping the site. A lengthy discussion ensued on documents that should be posted on the fire district website. Operative tabs are needed for multiple facets of district business and documents, and a highly visible site with information for the upcoming election. It should be determined if the platform potentially meets the district's needs, or if a new platform is needed. **A motion was duly made to appoint Jack Hinton to research a few vendors for possible remedies for redeveloping the fire district website, and to request a proposal for not more than \$5,000 to allow Chief Jack to make this purchase; motion was seconded; motion carried unanimously.** Director Nearhoof offered to assist in this project while Treasurer Hinton is on vacation.

Minimum staffing policy: Chief Jack presented a proposal for minimum staffing requirements and staffing station 2. It was projected that to meet the requirements, five employees per day are needed – two at station 2 and three at station 1. If only four fire fighters are on duty, all four will be at station 1. The board wants station 2 staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but this may not be possible every day. Chair Langmaid favors two at each station if only four are working. This may require calling AMR for assistance. Part time employees were contacted for reaction to increasing their required monthly work requirement from 12 to 48 hours a month. The majority have indicated they are willing to increase their hours.

Discussion covered district quadrants, types and numbers of calls in each quadrant, skills of ALS and BLS crews, perception of the public on care given, and distances between the two fire stations. Current large developments will add more than 5,000 homes to the district, and completion is

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anticipated in 3 to 5 years. The board concurred they did not want to micromanage the chief and agreed to give Chief Jack the necessary latitude to manage daily operations and the staff. The district is in a difficult position with insufficient fire fighters and the need for more funds to hire personnel.

Station 2 was built on the border of the Black Forest and Falcon fire districts because Falcon was open to having staff members at that station. That did not occur, but perhaps now Falcon would be willing to help staff this station. **A motion was made to authorize Chief Jack to contact Falcon Chief Harwig to discuss the possibility of the Falcon FPD jointly staffing Station 2 with Black Forest FPD personnel; motion was seconded; in a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

Reports on Workshops and Meetings Director Nearhoof drew attention to the *Falcon Herald News* which has a section dedicated to Black Forest news. They reported on an interview with Chief Jack, and Mr. Nearhoof requested a subscription be purchased. He wrote a letter to the editor as a private citizen. Director Langmaid will be interviewed for the September issue. Messrs. Hinton, Hoffpauir, and Jack will attend the SDA meeting in September.

Correspondence Chief Jack advised on a report from the Governor's office re the Mountain Shadows and Black Forest fires citing the substantial increase in wildfires in the state, due primarily to the growing wildland-urban interface. Continuing challenges are finding funds for suppression, equipment and training, and facilitating regional coordination.

Future Meetings Discussion on holding a town hall meeting to discuss the mill levy increase with residents, recognizing that a town hall should be held after the ballot language has been finalized. **A motion was made to approve the ballot language as presented in Resolution 2018-05; motion received a second; in discussion it was agreed that the date when the ballot will be submitted to the County Clerk should be included in the motion; the motion was amended to add that the ballot language will be submitted to the County Clerk and Recorder on August 28; the amendment was seconded; a vote was called and the motion as amended was carried unanimously.** If a mailer is to be sent to district residents, it must be done before the August 28 date. Another possibility is to ask the union to send a mailer for the district, using their funds. Vice chair McMorran will prepare a draft flyer.

The fire department will have a booth at the August 11 festival and will participate in the parade.

The next regular meeting will be held August 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. and will include a town hall type forum to meet with residents of Black Forest and discuss the proposed ballot question to increase the mill levy tax for the fire district.

Adjournment There being no further business, **and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried,** the board adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Arkowski, Secretary