

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 October 12, 2022, such meeting duly posted for public notice.

A quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Dowden.
Directors present: N. Dowden/J. Abendschan/J. Hinton/C. Behnken/K. Tarvainen
Directors absent: None
Also present: J. Rebitski/C. Piepenburg/R. Dunn/D. Arkowski/fire department personnel/community members/and others via Zoom

Roll Call: All directors were present.

Minutes A motion was made and seconded to approve the board meeting minutes for the September 21, 2022 regular board meeting; upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Financial Reports Treasurer Hinton reported that the District has assets of \$3.1million, with \$193,276 remaining in Capital Improvements after an \$800,000 balance at the beginning of the year. Personnel have been working on the 2023 budget.

Mr. Hinton spoke to Commissioner Holly Williams about aspects of the planned Flying Horse North (FHN) development, specifically in the area of maintaining the fire department's level of service and financing of a new station. It was noted that so much more is needed beyond a building lot – such as funds to build a station, needed equipment, personnel to man the station, and a water supply. Ms. Williams referred to a water delivery system for the north end of El Paso County that is being considered, and also the possibility of the fire station in Shamrock Ranch, which is owned by the Wescott FPD, being transferred to Black Forest FPD. Chair Dowden advised that the District board may not offer opinions on the FHN project, but must defer to requirements of NFPA standards and response times. BFFPD staff have been meeting with FHN staff and outlining what the needs of the District will be to protect FHN concerning water, whether a cistern or a reservoir. In response, FHN has installed a fire department connection and a hydrant at the club house.

Ms. Williams is requesting a statement of service and response plan from the District. It was suggested that FHN identify their specific needs and criteria for service as balanced against what the District is able to provide. The Fire Marshal will review FHN plans and the District may provide input and request accommodations. If FHN's preliminary plat is approved but not final construction plans, the District will not have sufficient detail to form an opinion on what is needed and whether those needs will fit within the District's budget. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial reports; the motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Report A written report was prepared by Chief Langmaid and given to all directors. A copy is attached to the minutes.

Finance and Administrative – Admin. Officer Rachel Dunn:

- Notable revenues last month were ambulance receipts - \$18,123, tax revenues - \$39,563, deployment revenue - \$71,224; grants - \$14,030.
- Notable expenditures – nothing to report.
- Procurement - uniforms.
- Monthly hours worked – 8,614.

Branch II Logistics – Planning and Prevention – Deputy Chief James Rebitski

- Basic maintenance on station alerting system.
- Fleet – routine repairs and maintenance.

Facilities Unit

- Facilities – new phone system installed.

Resources Unit

- Pierce truck had new lights installed and ETA is delayed to January 2023.
- Water leaks were found on the aerial truck and the waterway will be replaced at their cost, delaying the lead time by 12 weeks.

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- Continued build process research for new wildland brush truck.

Inspections Unit

- Routine activity.
- Increase in recreational fire permits.

Fuels Management (Mitigation) Unit

- Launched digital platform to track risk assessments.
- Working on grants to obtain chipper and truck.

Operations – Deputy Chief Piepenburg

- Training hours continue to be significant.
- Three members to special training in Alabama.
- Deployment to southeast Colorado, a Type 3 Engine.
- The wildland pre-plan project is nearing completion, and final product will be able to assist with what is required in FHN.

Command/Strategic – Chief PJ Langmaid

In the Chief's absence, Chair Dowden delivered an overview of his report, focused on strategic planning around the 2023 budget. Budget preparation has been facilitated by section chiefs, has considered dual service area exclusions and staffing needs. It was noted that this budget cycle was more challenging due to the reduced residential assessment rate, the recession, and inflation.

Old Business None.

New Business 2023 Budget – Rachel Dunn. The budget summary has an added column to illustrate budget needs with 8 people per day versus with 9 people per day. If the 9 person budget is chosen, the additional people will be hired in the middle of 2023. Compensation increases were cost-of-living at 3%, D&D increased to 3.4%, and FPPA pension rate increased to 9.5%. Other line items highlighted included increases in training and the capital improvement fund. The District contribution to the volunteer firefighter pension fund was discussed, with a possibility of reducing the historic annual \$10,000 contribution to \$5,000. The amount of \$10,000 enables the District to apply for a matching grant from the state of \$9,000, for a total contribution to the fund of \$19,000. However, if the contribution amount drops below \$10,000, the state will not provide any matching funds, thus diminishing the fund by \$14,000 in 2023. Ms. Arkowski was asked what the final dissolution of the volunteer pension fund would be. She advised that at the point when all pensioned volunteer firefighters have died, and when all of their surviving spouses have died, the remainder of the fund will revert back to the control of the District. She added that this will require multiple decades. The majority of the board indicated they were in favor of fully funding this pension at \$10,000 in 2023. In further consideration of the number of personnel to be budgeted for, and the impacts on other areas of the budget, the board agreed to the 8 people per day budget.

A proposal for wildland deployment vehicles was considered. It was reported that the District can expect deployment revenue of about \$749,000 for 2022. The deployment vehicles currently being used are cramped and uncomfortable for the crews responding. The department has been offered an opportunity to purchase two 2023 Ford F-550 crew cabs and chassis. There is a four-window time period to take advantage of adding the department's name to the list of those who wish to purchase these vehicles. No payment is required until the trucks will be delivered, which will be mid-2023. Greeley Ford is the sole Ford dealership who can handle state pricing of this nature, and the actual cost, as of October 12, 2022, is \$66,647 for one chassis and truck. Greeley Ford will not know the exact price until October 27, 2022, and is estimating the price could rise or fall by about \$1,000. The District may decide to not follow through with the purchase, and will not be penalized. Department personnel would build brush trucks after they are delivered. The trucks are being built in Iowa, and shipping to Colorado would be \$2,450. Chief Rebitski has proposed trailering the trucks here for a cost of about \$950. A lengthy discussion ensued covering the operation of a deployment program, the positive points for purchasing larger vehicles for the personnel to use, the benefits of offering personnel the opportunity to participate in a deployment program, the financial pressures of purchasing more and more vehicles, the positive points of putting the department's name on the Ford F-550 list and the benefit of not being held to any contract requirement if it is decided to not buy the trucks, and the need to move forward on this matter. **A motion was made to proceed with adding the names of the Black Forest Fire Department to the list of organizations wishing to purchase the Ford F-550 trucks and thereby placing an order for the two brush trucks, but maintaining the ability to cancel this purchase without penalty; the motion was seconded; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

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Chair Dowden asked that any further discussion on this matter be tabled until the November board meeting as old business. Treasurer Hinton advised that all 2023 budget items must be finalized at the public hearing for the budget at the November meeting and certified at the December 7 board meeting. The 2023 budget will recognize the deployment income against the cost of brush trucks. Permission has been given to put the department name on the list for the purchase of two Ford F-550 brush trucks.

Reports on Workshops and Meetings None.

Public Comments None.

Future Meetings The next regular board meeting will be November 16, 2022, at 7 pm and will include a public hearing for the 2023 budget. The December board meeting will be December 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment There being no further business, the board adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Arkowski, Secretary