

WEST BENTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

TUESDAY February 2nd, 2021

WBRFA HEADQUARTERS STATION 310

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Chairman Clizbe called the February 2nd, 2021 West Benton Regional Fire Authority regular meeting to order at 6:00pm. Due to Zoom meeting, flag salute was postponed.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners David Moon, Richard Clizbe, Randy Fox, Shane Williams, and Dewey Holliday
Others in attendance: Fire Chief Seth Johnson, Contract Administrator Slita Bradley, Captain Jonathan Friend and Attorney Kevin Wesley

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Clizbe asked about the approval of EFTs. Chief Johnson reported that those were for Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) for staff payroll direct deposits.

Commissioner Moon had a clarification question on the timeline of the EMS plan as stated in the last commissioner's minutes. Commissioner Williams explained that they agreed with the plans and will report more under EMS Plan discussion.

Commissioner Fox moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Moon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION

Attorney Kevin Wesley with TWG Consulting introduced himself to the Board and discussed how he is involved with the collective bargaining process. He stated that the district had been working well with the IAFF and he'd like to continue the collaborative effort. Commissioner Holliday reported that he felt like it is going to be a professional negotiation and agreed on the collaborative effort. Commissioner Fox asked about the timeline. Attorney Wesley stated that his goal would be in May knowing that the contract expires at the end of this year. Commissioner Clizbe asked if we had to negotiate 2 contracts. Attorney Wesley reported that it would depend on if the district passed an EMS levy.

OLD BUSINESS

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

- The Local Program Purchases
 - Dozer: Chief Johnson reported that they are evaluating the two comparable equipment. The evaluation will be presented to the board at the next meeting. Commissioner Clizbe asked if the district needs to wait until the loan was approved to purchase the dozer. Chief Johnson stated that there is no way for the district to pay prior to the loan being approved.
 - Type 5: completed document will be presented at the next meeting. They are finalizing the quote at this time.
- Rosenbauer Purchase Order Type 1
 - Chief reported that they signed the purchase order. Staff and the chief met and went over specifications.

- Interest rate for the 10-year bond as of today was 0.68%. February 23rd is the closing date. 5-year loan would have a lower rate, but the district would not be able to afford the payments.

EMS

2022 EMS Plan Discussion

Commissioner Williams reported that the hospital provided him with an inventory list. Things are looking positive. He would like the board to allow them to work on a draft contract. They had 117 Emergency transports and 242 Non-Emergency transports in 2020. Chief Johnson will start adding files under EMS files in the dropbox. Commissioner Williams felt like there is a need to ask for the EMS levy. It would help the fire side and the district rating as well. Commissioner Williams suggested that there should be a cut off time for example, December 31st, everything would switch over. Commissioner Clizbe recommended that Commissioner Williams draft a letter that the board is in support but not fully committed until the district pass the EMS levy. Chief Johnson reported that 02/25/2021 is the hospital board meeting. Commissioner Fox reported that he agreed with Commissioner Clizbe that the district must have the EMS levy in place before moving forward with taking the transport services over. Chief Johnson expressed that the district could create an enterprise fund within the city of Prosser and bill through utility bills. Chief Johnson would like to start working with the attorney to draft the EMS levy documentation. There are several options that need to be discussed: 6, 10, or permanent. Commissioner Holliday suggested that the chair should sign an interest letter that we are willing to work collaboratively with the hospital.

NEW BUSINESS

- No new business

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

GOVERNING BOARD REPORTS

- Commissioner Holliday reported that he met with the President, IAFF officers, Chief Johnson, and Attorney Wesley. The plan was to add two additional captains if the budget allows.

STAFF REPORTS

- Chief Johnson stated that he missed Administrator Trevino presence and he had a pleasure working with the Contract Administrator Bradley. She had stepped up and took care of businesses while Administrator Trevino is on leave.
- He attended the city's meeting and updated them on issues that pertain to them.
- He has been working with Attorney Wesley and he had been great to work with. Things are going well.
- AMR won the 911 emergent transports contract in Yakima.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Clizbe adjourned the meeting at 6.45 pm.

RICHARD CLIZBE, CHAIRMAN

SETH JOHNSON, FIRE CHIEF