

# WEST BENTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

TUESDAY February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

WBRFA HEADQUARTERS STATION 310

## CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Chairman Clizbe called the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 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, and Captain Scott Friend.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

## BUDGET UPDATE

Chief Johnson provided 2021 budget to the board.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **EQUIPMENT PURCHASES**

- The Local Program Purchases
  - Chief Johnson reported that the district received the letter explaining how much the annual cost is going to be. Two payments per year; once in June and once in December.
- Type 5: price increase was due to the chassis and raw material. \$11,600 more per unit than what we borrowed. The district can cover the increase from the saving from the interests. Same vendor will be building the flat beds.
- Dozer – CAT D6K2 XL is determined to be the best equipment for the district. \$142,776.00. A little bit more than we budgeted for. About \$18,000 over the budget. However, by excessing the old equipment, the district will be able to recoup about \$10,000 to \$15,000. By the next meeting, the local program funding will be finalized. Because of the dozer being a used equipment, there is no bidding requirements. Commissioner Clizbe asked if the vendor will hold the unit for the district until the funding is approved. Chief Johnson reported that the vendor has experienced working with local government and they understand the process.

## **EMS**

### 2022 EMS Plan Discussion

Commissioner Williams reported that the discussion needs to happen if the EMS levy does not get approved. The district has 2 attempts to pass the levy: August and November. If the levy does not get approved, the hospital should continue providing the service for the sake of the community. The consultant will cost \$5,000 per month. She is familiar with the voters in this area and had helped fire districts passing the measures. It would be a 10-month contract costing \$50,000. Commissioner Shane suggested the district

West Benton Regional Fire Authority Minutes  
February 16, 2021

move forward with the consultant service. He does not believe we can do it in house. Chief Johnson reported that the hospital will not agree to continue providing the service if the district does not pass the levy. There is no RCWs that require them to keep providing the service that he knew of. Commissioner Fox asked if the hospital would share the consultant cost. Chief Johnson reported that they have their own marketing department, but they will probably want to have a joint effort with the district. Chief Johnson reported that it would cost \$400,000 per year for personnel. Commissioner Holliday reported that he had been studying the documents. He found that the lost seemed significantly lower than \$400,000.

Chief Johnson reported that it does not include administrative costs. Commissioner Clizbe reported that the district cannot do this program without the EMS levy. Commissioner Moon asked about changing the ballot language of our most recent levy lid lift and Chief Johnson suggested that would mean the entire initiative would have to go before the voters again, though our current language does include the use for EMS. Commissioner Williams expressed the concern about utility billing through the city because citizens in the city would be paying but not citizens in the county. Commissioner Clizbe has concerns on the equipment replacement after taking the service over from the hospital. Commissioner Williams reported that the district may not be able to respond to MED3 and MED4 anymore. He suggested consulting with an attorney. The board had concerns on consultant costs. Commissioner Holliday asked the chief to shop around for the consultant service. Commissioner Holliday suggested that if the hospital is not willing to provide the service anymore, they must be the one who inform the public. They should not press the district to provide EMS transport service. Commissioner Fox wanted to know about the election costs as well. Commissioner Williams reported that he did not believe that the hospital was giving the district the ultimatum. He was just concern about the level of service for the citizens.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- No new business

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- None

### **ILA**

- Commissioner Moon asked about the facility for the equipment. Chief Johnson reported that other cities have places for reserved apparatus. The district may be able to lease a location but not yet specify in the agreement. The truck would be partially equipped. Only equipment that needs little or no maintenance would be on the truck. District 2 may be interested in a partnership.

### **GOVERNING BOARD REPORTS**

- Commissioner Clizbe reported that those who are interested in the Snure Seminars can inform the chief to get signed up.
- Commissioner Moon reported that the Public Disclosure report is due in April.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

- Chief Johnson reported that SECOMM was working text-to-911. It started in Walla Walla County.
- WSP authorized the state mobilization. Type 1 IMT will be overseeing the operations. West Benton FR has a contract with WSP. Prosser Hospital had been doing a great job not wasting any vaccines.
- Chief Johnson was working with Benton PUD on emergency operation plan.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chairman Clizbe adjourned the meeting at 7.15 pm.

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RICHARD CLIZBE, CHAIRMAN

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SETH JOHNSON, FIRE CHIEF