

**WEST BENTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17TH, 2021
WBRFA HEADQUARTERS STATION 310**

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Chairman Clizbe called to order the August 17TH 2021, West Benton Regional Fire Authority regular meeting at 6:00pm and he then led the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Richard Clizbe, Lisa Galbraith David Moon, and Shane Williams. Commissioner Dewey Holliday attended virtually via Zoom.

Others in attendance: Fire Chief Seth Johnson, Fire Captain Scott Friend, an Administrator Gayle Carrasco was also present. There were not attendees in the public audience.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comment

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner S. Williams made a motion to approve the consent agenda for August 17th, 2021. Commissioner D. Moon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1.) EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

- Fire Chief S. Johnson reported there was not much new information that was to be reported the last couple of weeks. He did however hear back from Boise Mobile who are building the Type 5" s and the Briggs & Stratton pumps are not available until October 2022. Boise Mobile will be granting the department a significant upgrade at no cost with supplying (2) 18h Honda's. Chief Johnson and Captain Damron will be attending a mid-build inspection within the next 6 weeks in Grand Rapids, South Dakota.

2.) EMS

- Commissioner Williams reported that they are still working on the framework for this project as well as finalizing the figures. He stated they are headed in the right direction, just not there yet with putting all the framework together.

NEW BUSINESS

1.) CORRESPONDENCES

Governing Boards:

- Commissioner Moon state he attended the Tri County Commissioner Association. Most of the discussion was dealing with the Covid-19 increasing and the demand this takes. There is also a (2) \$500 scholarship that is available to students who wish to apply. Commissioner Moon state the law enforcement bill was also a topic. Commissioner Clizbe is the new Vice President of the Tri County Commissioner Association. Congratulations were given to our Board Chairmen Clizbe. Lisa Galbraith stated she was pleasantly pleased to finally attend a WBRFA meeting. Mr. Dewey Holliday spoke regarding the Mobile Health Unit located in Santa Fe, New Mexico in which he took part of a ride-a-long. He reported this program had experienced a 20% decline in phone calls due to community outreach. D. Moon asked about the funding for the Mobile Health Unit. Mr. Holliday reported revenue to support this was Medicare, Federal Grants, and assistance from the local hospital.

Staff Reports:

- Fire Chief Johnson informed the board about the Annual Commissioner Conference in Tulalip, WA and that he has booked the number of rooms necessary, but he will require the RSVP from the commissioners who are interested in attending so he can register all the members. The Chief had partnered with the Police Department in obtaining hand sanitizer by use of the Volunteer C3 to receive the donation from Goose Ridge Winery. E1352 is MObed out to the Ford, WA Corkscrew Fire. Located in Stevens County, South of Loon Lake. The ETA for the Engine to be out at this fire a week. HB1310 is a law for permissible uses of force by law enforcement and correctional officers. How the Fire Department is to respond due to certain situations, such as mental illness and while utilizing the decision tree. The Fire Chief stated he has been working creating his departments legal policy that will fully comply this legal matter, as well as conversing with Brian Snure. This pertains to what Commissioner Moon brought back earlier with the sample of the decision tree to responding. Chief Johnson stated he hopes to bring a sample policy to the board soon. However, there are a lot of other State policy issues that must be in place prior. B. Snure has been developing sample policies in the interim for the departments to utilize as a guideline. Chief Johnson also informed the board that the Governor issued the mandated vaccinations by all state employees. This is a difficult to navigate due to the legalities in the wording that has been miscued by several legal experts. The wording for the profession of firefighters was not clear. October 28th, 2021, all the employees must be fully vaccinated. The Chief is focused on getting the most accurate information for the department prior to implementing any such policies. S. Williams, and D. Moon questioned the legalities to mandating the vaccines as the vaccine is still in an experimental stage. A discussion ensued. The Chief stated he is also researching possible exemptions to this regarding Mobilization Fires for his Volunteers. A further lengthy discussion followed regarding HIPPA, DOH, State Regulations, Evacuations, Interstate Fire Fighting and Local Fire Authorities, which are all challenging topics since the concise is rapidly changing. The Chief stated he is working on station items such as security cameras, and the department's website. The Chief has most of the updating to the website completed, and he is still training G. Carrasco on taking on this task as one of her duties for the department.
- Chairman Clizbe inquired to G. Carrasco if she had anything to report to the board. Nothing was reported by G. Carrasco.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

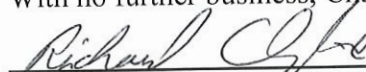
- R. Clizbe asked the board if there was a need to break into Executive Session. The board agreed to break from the regular meeting at 6:25 p.m. to hold an executive session for 15 minutes. The board then ended the Executive Session and resumed the regular board meeting at 6:40 p.m. S. Williams made motion to approve the CBA Contract, D. Moon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER


- Chairman Clizbe asked if the need for emailing approvals on the payment of vouchers will be necessary from the board members that attended via zoom. G. Carrasco responded that this will be needed for Dewey Holliday's approval for the Consent Agenda and the Approval of Minutes for August 17th, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Richard Clizbe adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.


RICHARD CLIZBE, CHAIRMAN

The West Benton Regional Fire Authority's minutes are intended to be a reasonable summary of the RFA's governing board deliberations and actions. The Minutes are not a verbatim record of everything said at the meeting. The minutes include all actions taken by the West Benton Regional Fire Authority Board.


GAYLE CARRASCO, ADMINISTRATOR