



BLUE RIDGE FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE BLUE RIDGE FIRE STATION FRIDAY MAY 29, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER** –Chairman Shannon Scott called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chairman Scott led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS** – Board Members present were Judy Varns, Cindy Perelli, Shannon Scott and Jack Beale. Board Member Larry Lambert was absent.
4. **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**
Chairman Scott asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Ms. Perelli made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented and Mr. Beal seconded the motion. There was no discussion and Chairman Scott asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion and the motion passed.
5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next Board meeting will be June 27, 2020 at 10AM. A Public Hearing on the 2020/2021 Budget will be held at 9 AM, prior to the monthly Board Meeting.
6. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**
There were no members of the public present.
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2020/2021.
Chairman Scott asked for a motion. Ms. Perelli made a motion to open discussions on and approve a Tentative Budget for 2020/2021. Mr. Beale seconded the motion.

Chairman Scott asked Chief Paine to go through the Detail Budget Worksheet and identify and items that have had changed since the Board last looked at the document.

Areas discussed were cost added to Equipment for a Station security system.

A future vehicle purchase was discussed and how this would be identified on the Budget under Capital Purchases. Chief Paine discussed how funds could be saved over the next several years toward this vehicle purchase. There is currently \$200,000 budgeted as a down payment toward this purchase, with \$100,000 coming from the Reserve and \$100,000 coming from 2020/2021 tax revenue. This is a deposit to beginning the build of the new engine which takes 1 year to complete.

Chief indicated that there should also be an increase in revenue from ambulance income this year due to the coming rate increase change, and stated that this was not reflected in the Budget. Chairman Scott asked Chief Paine to change the Budget figure to include the additional revenue.

During discussion on a potential tax increase of 8%, Chairman Scott suggested that the Board consider asking Chief Paine to keep the operating Budget at the 6% rate and put the additional

2% to the Reserve account toward future capital purchases. Chairman Scott asked for each Board Member to give their opinion on this option. Everyone thought that it would be an effective way to put funds aside toward future purchases.

Board Members then discussed what a required minimum balance in the Reserve account should be. After some discussion, which included the possibility of having to replace a vehicle in an emergency or having a catastrophic event occur. Everyone felt that it should never be allowed to be less than \$500,000. Any amount in excess of \$500,000 would then be earmarked toward future capital purchases.

Another issue that was discussed was the potential increase in Workman’s Compensation costs. New legislation being considered could potentially increase the cost from \$20,000 annually to \$67,000 annually.

There was no more discussion and Chairman Scott provided some instruction on how the vote should be handled. This vote was taken with the understanding that taxes will be increased by 8% but only 6% of this increase will be used to cover operating cost for the year.

The vote by Board Members was as follows:

	<u>4%</u>	<u>6%</u>	<u>8%</u>
Judy V.	N	N	Y
Shannon S.	N	N	Y
Cindy P.	N	N	Y
Jack B.	N	N	Y

(N=No, Y=Yes; percentage represents the amount of tax increase voted on and the results)

8. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further discussion and Chairman Scott adjourned the Special Public Meeting of the Blue Ridge Fire District Board at 11:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted: June 2, 2020

Cynthia Perelli
Clerk of the BRFD Board

Minutes Approved: June 27, 2020

Cynthia Perelli
Clerk of the BRFD Board