

Clafin Fire District No. 1 Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon KORA request to the Barton County Clerk's Office, 1400 Main – Room 202, Great Bend, Kansas 67530.
Phone (620) 793-1835 \ Fax (620) 793-1990 \ Email clerk@bartoncounty.org
Meetings Live Streamed through Microsoft Teams@

November 16, 2021

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 16th day of November 2021, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kirby Krier, Commissioner, 1st District
Barb Esfeld, Commissioner, 2nd District
Shawn Hutchinson, Commissioner, 3rd District (*Chairman Pro-Tem*)
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District, Chairman
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District
Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk
Barry McManaman, Interim County Administrator
Doug Hubbard, Clafin Fire Chief
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Daily called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: 800mhz Radios:

-Fire District No. 1 accepted proposals for the purchase of 8 mobile radios, 28 portable radios and 24 pagers until 3:00 p.m., October 29, 2021. Specifications included the listed equipment along with warranty with program and installation made no more than 30 days from the date the equipment arrives at the vendor. Although monies are available for this purchase, the Fire District may seek ARPA funding from Barton County.

Chief Doug Hubbard said they have monies available for the purchase but would like to seek funding from ARPA funds. The bid from Mobile Radio included 28 pagers in error and will be updated to 24 pagers which will reduce their quote by \$2,266. Hubbard said they are requesting \$88,141.76 for the Mobile Radio bid. KCOM was the other bidder at \$69,659.52 which is a difference of \$18,000. Hubbard said they prefer to buy within the county and noted it is easier to get service. Hubbard said they have worked with KCOM through EMS with different brands of radios, but said Mobile Radio is the premier provider of radios in the state. The state recommends Motorola equipment but cannot dictate that.

Dena Popp said they must make modifications for other brands of equipment.
Commissioner Daily said all 911 equipment is Motorola. Popp said their service is provided by Mobile Radio and noted there are some challenges with other brands.

Commissioner Hutchinson said Clafin Fire is different because the Commission sits as their governing board.

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Commissioner Daily said when the Clafin Fire Department was first created, the city did not help fund it; they were set up as a separate taxing entity, correct? Hubbard said when the district was formed in 1956, it was by state statute they are a taxing entity.

Commissioner Daily said the district is not getting any subsidies from the City of Clafin. Hubbard said correct, the City of Clafin is within the district, so the taxpayers already pay taxes to the Fire District. Fire District No. 2 includes Hoisington. The City of Hoisington does not pay extra to Fire District No. 2.

Commissioner Schartz said she just wants to define the difference. Does not want the other fire districts to feel they are treated differently.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked do we have more funding responsibility for Fire District No. 1 than other fire districts. Commissioner Schartz said her opinion was no because they are their own taxing entity.

Commissioner Krier said Commissioner Hutchinson makes a good point; we are the governing board.

Hubbard said in the beginning of Fire District No. 1, there were representatives from each township. As those representatives dropped off the board, the county commission ends up being the board of directors by default. Hubbard said when he started in 1974 the Commission was already the governing board.

Popp said there is potential for other districts to come forward to request funding and noted the city of Pawnee Rock may be coming forward.

Commissioner Krier said Hoisington is needing air packs.

Hubbard said they are getting the state discount on the equipment. Commissioner Schartz said if Pawnee Rock came forward, they would get the same deal. Hubbard said they would get the same discount.

Popp said each department's needs are different, some departments use pagers, some use radios.

Popp said the Advisory Board has set a goal of July 1 to have everyone on the same equipment and noted Ellinwood, Beaver and Clafin are sort of lagging behind.

Commissioner Esfeld said she is all for shopping local and anytime it is within reason, but this is almost \$21,000 more. Commissioner Daily said there is a giant difference in the quality of the equipment and explained it is easier to stay compatible and it is better quality. Daily said with 800mHz you can talk to the Highway Patrol, if you are on a Kenwood Radio for example, it might not happen.

Hubbard said \$18,000/\$19,000 is a lot of money, but they bought Motorola in 1989 and are still using it. Popp said every time someone goes off of a certain vendor, it costs her budget to make adjustments.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked who has off-brand radios. Popp said the City of Galatia.

Commissioner Krier moved to approve the Mobile Radio Motorola bid for the 800mhz radio protect at a total cost of \$88,141.76. Expense to be paid from the Fire District No. 1 Capital Improvement and Special Equipment Fund, Equipment Line, 070-50-6165. Direct Chief Hubbard to request ARPA funding from Barton County to offset this expense.

Commissioner Esfeld seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Schartz asked when Doug Hubbard makes the request will that item come back to agenda. Matt Patzner said yes, you are approving the expenditure as the governing board and then you would approve ARPA funding as the County Commission.

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IV. OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

V. ADJOURN:

Commissioner Hutchinson made a motion to adjourn at 10:30 A.M.

Commissioner Krier seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

Donna Zimmerman
Donna Zimmerman
Barton County Clerk

James R. Daily
James R. Daily, Chairman