



FIRE CHIEF J.T. WALLACE, JR.

BENTON FIRE DISTRICT 4

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 14, 2023 MINUTES

TIME OF MEETING – 3:00 PM

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Barnette called the regular scheduled public meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order. Chief Turner called roll as follows:

ROLL CALL: Board members **PRESENT** –Stephanie Collier, Jay Valentine, Johnny Barnette, and Jason McGinty

Board members **ABSENT** – Sammy Halphen

Others **PRESENT** – Chief Wallace, Tim Turner, Jonathan Davis, Hurmon Gibson

The public meeting was held in the Board Room of the Bossier Parish EMS and Fire Complex, located at 5275 Swan Lake Road, Bossier City, Louisiana 71111.

INVOCATION: The invocation was given by Jay Valentine

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 17, 2023 BOC PUBLIC MEETING

Questions/Discussion about BOC public meeting minutes held on October 17, 2023---None

MOTION was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by JAY VALENTINE to accept and approve the written minutes for the BOC public meeting held on October 17, 2023. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIALS AS OF NOVEMBER 10, 2023

Questions/Discussion about Financials through November 10, 2023: ---- None

MOTION was made by JAY VALENTINE and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve of the financials through November 10, 2023. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.



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OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE: STATION 3 CONSTRUCTION

Chief Wallace reported that the station 3 construction is complete. The district has moved the firefighters from the back building into the new building. Chief informed the board that the district will schedule an open house soon, probably after the 1st of the year.

UPDATE: APPARATUS PURCHASE

Chief Wallace informed the board that he met with the company a couple of weeks ago about the apparatus ordered by the district and asked for updates on them. They provided pictures of the apparatus and stated they are currently being built. They should be ready in 3 to 6 months.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 BUDGET (APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT OF PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

Chief Turner provided a copy of the notice of public Hearing/Meeting advertisement:

A Public Hearing will be held on December 12, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. to discuss the proposed 2024 budget for Benton Fire District No. 4. A Public Meeting will take place immediately following the adjournment of the public hearing. The Board of Commissioners will vote to amend the current 2023 budget and approve the proposed 2024 budget during the public meeting. The Public Hearing/Meeting will be held in the Conference Room at the Bossier Parish EMS/Fire Training Complex located at 5275 Swan Lake Road, Bossier City, Louisiana. The public is invited to attend.

The 2024 proposed budget is now available for public inspection at the Swan Lake Road location or it may be viewed by visiting bentonfire.org and clicking on the public information tab.

Chief Turner stated that the notice will run in the next edition of the Bossier Press Tribune on November 22, 2023. An updated copy of the 2024 proposed budget was also presented to the board. The updated copy included the proposed amendments to the 2023 budget and includes the cost of adding three new hires, one firefighter for each shift.

(The 2024 Notice of public hearing/meeting as well as the 2024 proposed budget is now posted on the district website)



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MOTION was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by JASON MCGINTY to approve the advertisement of the Notice of Public Hearing/Meeting on December 12, 2023 to discuss/approve/adopt the 2023 budget amendments and the 2024 budget. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Chief Wallace informed the board that the term for BFD4 Civil Service Board member Jeff Wyatt is expiring soon. Chief Wallace asked the board to reappoint Jeff Wyatt to the Civil Service Board to serve another term.

MOTION was made by JASON MCGINTY and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve the reappointment of Jeff Wyatt to the BFD4 Civil Service Board. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

CIVIL SERVICE/INTERNAL PERSONNEL ACTION FORM(S)

Board members were provided with the Internal/Civil Service PA forms for all BFD4 employees to review. The PA forms included the Pay Scale Adjustment(s) and the Certification Incentive Pay Adjustment(s).

MOTION was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by JAY VALENTINE to approve the Internal/Civil Service PA forms. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by JASON MCGINTY to adjourn. Chairman Barnette called for public comment. There being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.