



FIRE CHIEF J.T. WALLACE, JR.

**BENTON FIRE DISTRICT 4**

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2024 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** – Sammy Halphen, Jay Valentine, Johnny Barnette, and Jason McGinty

Board members **ABSENT** – Stephanie Collier

Others **PRESENT** – Chief Wallace, Tim Turner, Jonathan Davis, Hurmon Gibson, Chris Faulk, and Jacob Maddox

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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 12, 2023 BOC PUBLIC MEETING (THE JANUARY BOC MEETING WAS CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER)**

*Questions/Discussion about BOC public meeting minutes held on December 12, 2023---None*

**MOTION** was made by JAY VALENTINE and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to accept and approve the written minutes for the BOC public meeting held on December 12, 2023. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIALS FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023**

*Questions/Discussion about Financials for year ending December 31, 2023: ---- None*

**MOTION** was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by JASON MCGINTY to approve of the financials for the year ending December 31, 2023. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.



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### APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIALS AS OF FEBRUARY 16, 2024

*Questions/Discussion about Financials through February 16, 2024---None*

**MOTION** was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by JAY VALENTINE to approve of the financials for the year ending February 16, 2024. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### UPDATE: APPARATUS PURCHASE

*Chief Wallace informed the board that the district will be choosing the paint scheme for the new apparatus this week. Once the paint scheme is chosen the delivery of the apparatus should occur within three to four weeks.*

### NEW BUSINESS

#### STATION 3 – CONNECT EXISTING BUILDINGS

*Chief Wallace and Jonathan Davis discussed the construction of a 1,500 square foot awning between station 3 and the mechanic building. The district requested quotes from several places but received only 2 quotes, one from Cochran Construction for \$38,760.40 and a second quote from American Steel & Construction for \$30,180.00. The district will move forward using American Steel & Construction to construct the awning.*

#### DISCUSS T BILL INVESTMENT(S)

*Chief Turner informed the board that if the interest rates on the T Bills were similar to the rates at this time last year it would be worth purchasing T Bills to receive more interest than the district would receive if funds remained were they are now. Chairman Barnette asked about the current rates and how much interest could potential be gained. Chief Turner informed the board that rates could change daily and stated that if rates were four percent a five-to-eight-month T Bill could generate anywhere from twenty to fifty thousand dollars depending on the amount invested. Chief Turner stated that even rates as low as two percent could generate fifteen to thirty thousand dollars.*



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**MOTION** was made by JASON MCGINTY and seconded by JAY VALENTINE to approve investing no more than two million dollars for a period of five to eight months in T Bills. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

### DECLARE SALVAGE/REMOVE ITEMS FROM INVENTORY

*A list of items to declare salvage was provided to the board. The list included fifteen portable radios that have been discontinued and are obsolete, a charger for the obsolete radios, two obsolete AEDs, four 700 MHz radios that are no longer functional, 2 damaged firefighter helmets, and one pair of structural firefighting gloves (Lost).*

**MOTION** was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by JASON MCGINTY to declare the items listed as salvage and remove said items from the districts inventory. 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 the Internal/Civil Service PA forms to review.*

*The PA forms included :*

- *Juston Lewter – Civil Service PA Form / Permanent Fire Captain Confirmation*
- *Cody Smith – Civil Service PA Form / Permanent Firefighter/Operator Confirmation*
- *Autry Lowry – Civil Service PA Form / Termination of Sick Leave*
- *Yvonne Aldrich – Civil Service PA Form / Extended Sick Leave*
- *William Tuggle – Internal PA Form / Certification Incentive Pay Increase*
  - o *(Fire Instructor 1 Certification)*
- *Austin Smiley – Internal PA Form / Certification Incentive Pay Increase*
  - o *(Fire Instructor 1 Certification)*

**MOTION** was made by JAY VALENTINE and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN 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 SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by JASON MCGINTY to adjourn. Chairman Barnette called for public comment. There being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.