



FIRE CHIEF J.T. WALLACE, JR.

**BENTON FIRE DISTRICT 4**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**JUNE 21, 2022 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** – Johnny Barnette, Jason McGinty, Sammy Halphen, and Stephanie Collier

Board members **ABSENT** – Jay Valentine

Others **PRESENT** – Fire Chief JT Wallace Jr., Tim Turner, Jacob Maddox, Hurmon Gibson, Yvonne Aldrich, and Jonathan Davis

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 Hurmon Gibson

**AGENDA AMENDMENT**

Prior to conducting business, a motion was made to approve resolution 2022-007 to amend the agenda

**MOTION** was made by **SAMMY HALPHEN** and seconded by **STEPHANIE COLLIER** to approve resolution 2022-007 relating to the approval of amending the agenda for the June 21, 2022 BOC meeting. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

After resolution 2022-007 was approved, Resolution 2022-008 was presented to the board to add Resolutions 2022-009 through 2022-013 to the agenda and approve said agenda with the new resolutions.



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The following resolutions were presented to the board

- 2022-009 expanding the scope of services of Chad Danenhowe
- 2022-010 relating to declaring a public emergency exists for the need to replace SCBA
- 2022-011 relating to determining BFD4 specifications of SCBA
- 2022-012 relating to following the Louisiana Procurement Code for SCBA purchase
- 2022-013 relating to applying to the Louisiana Office of State Procurement to seek approval to purchase SCBA as an emergency/sole source purchase

**MOTION** was made by JASON MCGINTY and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve resolution 2022-008 relating to adding resolution 2022-009 through 2022-013 and approve the agenda with the added resolutions. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

After approval of Resolution 2022-2008, Resolution 2022-009 was presented to the board to expand legal services provided to the district by Chad Danenhowe to include legal consultation on procuring equipment. Chief Turner informed the board that Chad Danenhowe is currently serving as the legal representative of the district in the opioid litigation case.

**MOTION** was made by JASON MCGINTY and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve Resolution 2022-009 relating to expanding the scope of services for Chad Danenhowe to include legal consultation of procuring equipment. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 17, 2022 BOC MEETING

*Questions/Discussion about BOC minutes from May 17, 2022 --- NONE*

**MOTION** was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to accept the written minutes for the meeting held on May 17, 2022. 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 THROUGH JUNE 17, 2022

*Questions/Discussion about Financials through June 17, 2022: ---- NONE*

**MOTION** was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to approve of the financials through June 17, 2022. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously

### OLD BUSINESS

#### NEW ENGINE(S) PURCHASE

*Chief Wallace informed the board that the district has placed the order for 2 new engines. Delivery of the engines will take anywhere from 12 to 18 months depending on how quickly Ferrara receives the cab and chassis, after receipt of the cab and chassis the engines will be completed within 180 days of that time.*

### NEW BUSINESS

#### STATION 3 BIDS

*Chief Wallace informed the board that the district received sealed bids from 3 vendors at 2:00PM prior to the BOC meeting. The bids were all well above the \$825,000.00 estimated cost of construction determined by Prevot Design. The bidders were Thrash Construction (\$1,369,000.00), McInnis Brothers Construction (\$1,340,000.00), and Cochran Construction (\$1,282,368.00). Chief Wallace stated that the district should engage with lowest bidder (Cochran Construction) and work to get the cost down. Chief stated that if cost could not be reduced the district would explore other avenues.*

**MOTION** was made by JASON MCGINTY and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to engage with Cochran Construction and accept the bid if cost could be reduced. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously

### SCBA

***SCBA:** Chief Turner informed the board as of this date the MSA contract for New Orleans has not been renewed. Chief Wallace contacted Chad Danenhower to obtain a legal opinion about the process of quickly purchasing SCBAs to replace the current inventory of the districts SCBAs. At this time 64 cylinders are expired and cannot be used. The SCBA manufacturer no*



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*longer produces SCBA and it is difficult to get parts for the SCBA if needed. The following resolutions were presented to each board member and approved:*

**Resolution No.: 2022-010**

Resolution of Board of Commissioners of Benton Fire District No. 4 Relating to the Approval of declaring a public emergency exists and need to replace SCBA based on NFPA/OSHA regulations, expired SCBA cylinders, inability to repair existing SCBA, and the need for this equipment to provide safe firefighting capabilities.

**MOTION** was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by JASON MCGINTY to approve Resolution 2022-010 Relating to declaring that a public emergency exists and need to replace SCBA based on NFPA/OSHA regulations, expired SCBA cylinders, inability to repair existing SCBA, and the need for this equipment to provide safe firefighting capabilities. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution No.: 2022-011**

Resolution of Board of Commissioners of Benton Fire District No. 4 Relating to the Approval of BFD4 SCBA specifications.

**MOTION** was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to approve Resolution 2022-011 relating to the approval of BFD4 SCBA specifications to include SCBA face pieces that are void of all electronics and batteries in these SCBA be rechargeable. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution No.: 2022-012**

Resolution of Board of Commissioners of Benton Fire District No. 4 Relating to the Approval of following the Louisiana Procurement Code for the emergency purchase of SCBA.

**MOTION** was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve Resolution 2022-012 relating to the approval of following the Louisiana Procurement Code for the emergency purchase of SCBA. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.



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**Resolution No.: 2022-013**

Resolution of Board of Commissioners of Benton Fire District No. 4 Relating to the Approval of applying to the Louisiana Office of State Procurement for the approval to purchase the SCBA as an emergency/sole source purchase.

**MOTION** was made by JASON MCGINTY and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to approve Resolution 2022-013 relating to the approval of applying to the Louisiana Office of State Procurement for the approval to purchase the SCBA as an emergency/sole source purchase. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**UPDATE SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY (TO COMPLY WITH SAUP)**

*Chief Turner informed the board that the new Legislative Auditors Statewide Agreed Upon Procedures require that the districts sexual harassment policy be updated to include: 1 hour of training for each member per year, a yearly report of any/all sexual harassment claims for the calendar year, and that the policy be posted at every station for viewing.*

**MOTION** was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve the updated sexual harassment policy as written. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously

**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU – RESOLUTION 2022-014**

*Chief Turner informed the board that Resolution 2022-014 is relating to the district assuming liability and releasing the Fire Marshal from liability for inspections performed by the district if recognized as a fire prevention bureau. Resolution 2022-014 was included in the board packet and read aloud in full by Jacob Maddox during the meeting.*

**Resolution No.: 2022-014**

For the release of State Fire Marshal and any other State Entity from responsibility or liability for those inspections performed by the fire prevention bureau, or the consequences thereof, within the jurisdiction of the governing authority.

**MOTION** was made by JASON MCGINTY and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to approve Resolution 2022-014 relating to the approval of the district assuming liability and releasing the State Fire Marshal and any other State Entity from responsibility or liability for inspections performed by the BFD4 fire prevention bureau within the



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jurisdiction of the governing authority. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

CIVIL SERVICE/INTERNAL PA FORMS

*PA forms were provided to the board for review. PA forms included termination of sick leave for two employees and one new hire beginning the probationary period.*

**MOTION** was made by JASON MCGINTY and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve the Civil Service/Internal PA forms as written. 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 STEPHANIE COLLIER to adjourn. Chairman Barnette called for public comment. There being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.