



FIRE CHIEF J.T. WALLACE, JR.

BENTON FIRE DISTRICT 4

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 MINUTES

TIME OF MEETING – 3:00 PM

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Assistant Chief Turner 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, Stephanie Collier, and Jay Valentine

Board members **ABSENT** – Johnny Barnette, Jason McGinty

Others **PRESENT** – Chief Wallace, Tim Turner, Jacob Maddox, and 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 AUGUST 15, 2023 BOC PUBLIC MEETING

Questions/Discussion about BOC public meeting minutes held on August 15, 2023---None

MOTION was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by JAY VALENTINE to accept and approve the written minutes for the BOC public meeting held on August 15, 2023. Assistant Chief Turner called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIALS AS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

Questions/Discussion about Financials through September 15, 2023: ---- None

MOTION was made by JAY VALENTINE and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve of the financials through September 15, 2023. Assistant Chief Turner 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 station 3 is almost complete, the generator and exhaust removal system need to be installed. Installation will be done before occupying the building. The installation of these systems should occur before the next board meeting in October. Jay Valentine asked if there would be a grand opening or ribbon cutting when the station is complete. Chief Wallace stated that there will be and the district will release the details after completion of the station.

NEW BUSINESS

DECLARE SURPLUS – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Chief Turner informed the board that the items listed to be declared salvage were broken or past the service life. A list was provided to the board. Chief Wallace informed the board that some of the old turnout gear will be donated to BPSTIL to be used for their firefighter training program. Chief stated that even though the turnouts were past the serviceable date and we could not use them, they could still be used for some of the firefighter training at BIPSTIL.

MOTION was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to declare the items presented as salvage. Assistant Chief Turner called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

LAND DONATION FROM THE TOWN OF BENTON

Chief Wallace stated the district has received the paperwork to accept the land being donated by the Town of Benton that will be used to build a training center. Chief stated that he will go over the paperwork and if all is in order, he will sign and accept the donation.



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NEW HIRE

Chief Wallace stated that a firefighter is leaving. He obtained another job at a Fire District in Caddo Parish. Chief stated that the district would like to hire Ryan Johnson to replace him. At this time the district has already started the hiring process in order to place the firefighter in the academy in Bossier City that started this week.

MOTION was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to hire Ryan Johnson as. Assistant Chief Turner called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

BASE PAY ADJUSTMENT

Chief Wallace informed the board that the district would like to increase the base pay 2 to 5%. At this time the beginning pay of a BFD4 firefighter is \$33,400. Several Caddo Fire Districts as well as Shreveport and Bossier City fire departments are \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 (Average of \$39,000.00). Chief Wallace stated that increasing base pay would allow the district to remain competitive regarding pay and reduce firefighter turnover. Chief Turner stated that financial information regarding the cost of the base pay adjustment would be presented in the October meeting.

CIVIL SERVICE/INTERNAL PERSONNEL ACTION FORM(S)

Board members were provided with the Internal/Civil Service PA form for Yvonne Aldrich (Certification incentive pay increase for paramedic) and Shane Ashworth (Termination of sick leave).

MOTION was made by JAY VALENTINE and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve the Internal/Civil Service PA form. Assistant Chief Turner 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. Assistant Chief Turner called for public comment. There being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.