



FIRE CHIEF J.T. WALLACE, JR.

**BENTON FIRE DISTRICT 4**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**MAY 18, 2021 BOC MINUTES**

**TIME OF MEETING 3:00 PM**

**AGENDA**

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

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

Board members ABSENT – NONE

Others PRESENT – Fire Chief JT Wallace Jr., Tim Turner, and Mark Waniewski

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

**INVOCATION:** The invocation was given by Johnny Barnette

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 20, 2021 PUBLIC MEETING**

***APRIL 20, 2021 BOC Meeting Minutes questions/discussion: -----NONE***

**MOTION** was made by SAMMY HALPHIN and seconded by JAY VALENTINE to accept the written minutes for the meeting held on APRIL 20, 2021. The Chairman called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS AS OF MAY 14, 2021**

***Questions/Discussion about Financials through May 14, 2021: ----- NONE***

**MOTION** was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by JASON MCGINTY to approve the written Financial Reports as of May 14, 2021. The Chairman called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.



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## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **AUDIT**

*Questions/Discussion about Audit ----- Chief Turner informed the board that the 2021 audit will be conducted in June*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **BOND**

*Mark Waniewski spoke to the board about the process of obtaining a bond for the district to use to fund the purchase of apparatus, stations, and equipment. Mark stated:*

- *A needs assessment for all non-manpower needs has already been done by the district*
- *All purchases that bond funds are used to make cannot be longer than useful life purchases*
- *Obtaining a bond in the near future would secure lower than normal rates*
- *If the bond process is started now, it will be possible to get the bond proposal on the October or November ballot for voter approval. (funds would be received in January of 2023 if approved by the voters this year)*
- *2 mills will support principal and interest payments for a 15-year bond amount between 5.5 and 6 million*
- *A separate bank will be needed for bond funds*
- *The board will have to approve a resolution every year securing the principal and interest bond payment*
- *85% of bond funds received must be used within the first three years of receiving the funds*
- *The board will need to approve moving forward with the bond process, after board approval the police jury will have to grant the district approval to move forward with the process*
- *A bonding attorney will be used to put together a package to present to the voters for approval*

*After Mark spoke to the board about the bond process, the board voted unanimously to move forward with the bond process. Chief Wallace stated he would contact the Bossier Parish Police Jury and seek approval to allow the district to seek voter approval for an additional 2 mill tax to cover the cost of a 15-year bond.*

BENTON FIRE



DISTRICT #4

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**ADJOURNMENT**

*Chairman Johnny Barnette asked the board if any other business or topics needed to be discussed. ----- NONE*

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