



FIRE CHIEF J.T. WALLACE, JR.

BENTON FIRE DISTRICT 4

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

NOVEMBER 16, 2021 BOC 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. Tim Turner called roll as follows:

ROLL CALL: Board members PRESENT – Jason McGinty, Sammy Halphen, and Jay Valentine – Board members

Board members ABSENT – Johnny Barnette, Stephanie Collier

Others PRESENT – Fire Chief JT Wallace Jr., Tim Turner, Jacob Maddox, Hurmon Gibson

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 Jay Valentine

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 19, 2021 PUBLIC MEETING

October 19, 2021 BOC Meeting Minutes questions/discussion: -----NONE

MOTION was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by JAY VALENTINE to accept the written minutes for the meeting held on October 19, 2021. Chief Turner called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Questions/Discussion about Financials through November 12, 2021: ---- NONE

MOTION was made by JASON MCGINTY and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to approve the written Financial Reports as of November 12, 2021. Chief Turner called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.



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OLD BUSINESS

ELECTION UPDATE: PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

Chief Turner informed the board that notifications and information about the December 11th millage tax election has been published in the Bossier Press Tribune a total of 8 times (4 times advertising the election date on November 11th and an additional 4 times advertising a date change, moving the election from November 13th to December 11th). The election has been discussed in two police jury meetings as well as posted in the BPPJ meeting minutes. Information has been posted on the district's official website and Facebook page. Articles detailing information about the election has been posted on the Bossier Now website and the channel 12 news website. The election has been discussed in length two times on Bossier Watch (a podcast for the local area) with Chief Wallace joining the second podcast.

NEW HIRE

Chief Turner informed the board that the district has hired a new firefighter who started on November 15, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT OF THE 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET WITH THE PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Chief Turner informed the board that the copy of the proposed 2022 Budget in the board packet has been updated to reflect the increase in medical insurance and LWCC. Prior to the meeting the district received estimates of the increases. The advertisement/notice for the 2022 Proposed Budget listed below was provided in the board packet

A **Public Hearing** will be held on December 14, 2021 at 3:00 P.M. to discuss the proposed 2022 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 approve the proposed 2022 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 2022 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.



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MOTION was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by JASON MCGINTY to approve the advertisement for the December 14, 2021 public hearing / meeting to approve and adopt the 2022 budget. Chief Turner called for public comment. There being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-006

Chief Turner informed the board that this resolution removes the residency requirements for determining eligibility for the appointment of the fire department employee civil service board member. The following resolution 2021-006 was read aloud by Chief Turner:

RESOLUTION 2021-006

Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Benton Fire District No. 4 relating to the residency requirements for determining eligibility for the appointment of the fire department employee civil service board member

WHEREAS, a quorum of the Board of Commissioners ("BOC") of Benton Fire District No. 4 ("District") was present on this day of November 16, 2021 for a properly advertised, regular meeting;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the district, its employees, citizens and taxpayers, to implement a policy and procedure, whereby the BOC has determined that it is in the best interest of the district to NOT require fire department employee civil service board members to be a resident or qualified voter of the District or Parish in which the area is located.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The district SHALL NOT require any fire department employee, who may be appointed to the Benton Fire District No. 4 Civil Service Board, to be a resident or qualified voter for District No. 4, effective November 16, 2021.
2. To the extent that prior resolutions or acts of this Board conflict with this Resolution those prior resolutions and actions are superseded by this Resolution.



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MOTION was made by JASON MCGINTY and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to approve resolution 2021-006 removing the residency requirements for the FD employee civil service board representative. Chief Turner called for public comment. There being none, a vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CIVIL SERVICE/INTERNAL PA FORMS

Chief Turner informed the board that the Civil Service / Internal PA form is for the new hire. The PA form was presented to all board members to review.

MOTION was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by JAY VALENTINE to approve and for the chairman to sign the personnel action forms. Chief Turner called for public comment. There being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

*Chief Turner asked the board if any other business or topics needed to be discussed. -----
NONE*

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