



FIRE CHIEF J.T. WALLACE, JR.

**BENTON FIRE DISTRICT 4**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**APRIL 19, 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, Stephanie Collier, and Jay Valentine

Board members **ABSENT** – NONE

Others **PRESENT** – Fire Chief JT Wallace Jr., Tim Turner, Jacob Maddox, Chris Faulk, 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 MARCH 15, 2022 BOC MEETING**

*Questions/Discussion about BOC minutes from March 15, 2022 --- NONE*

**MOTION** was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to accept the written minutes for the meeting held on March 15, 2022. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIALS THROUGH APRIL 15, 2022**

*Questions/Discussion about Financials through April 15, 2022: ---- NONE*

**MOTION** was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by JAY VALENTINE to approve of the financials through April 15, 2022. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously



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## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

*Chief Wallace informed the board that a packet to recognize the formation of a fire prevention bureau was submitted to the fire marshal's office and the district is waiting on a response at this time.*

### **STATION 4 LEASE OF MINERAL RIGHTS**

*Chief Wallace informed the board that he met with the BPPJ and was advised to ask for an amount (to be determined) and 30% of mineral rights. The district has not been contacted regarding leasing of mineral rights since the previous meeting.*

## **BOND**

*Chief Turner informed the board that the bond funds have been deposited into RRB in a separate account dedicated for the bond funds.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENTS**

*Chief Turner informed the board that Stephanie will inquire about the terms of the board members appointed by the Town of Benton. Board member appointments will be updated when the current terms expire.*

## **NEW HIRE**

*Chief Wallace informed the board that the district has hired a new firefighter. He began working 2 weeks ago at the beginning of April. It was necessary to hire the firefighter due to staffing issues regarding extended sick leave. Chief Wallace also discussed the intent to hire Jonathan Davis, a firefighter who previously worked for the district for 11 years. Upon his return he will start as a new firefighter and will not retain seniority.*



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### NEW EQUIPMENT (APPARATUS, SCBA, STATION 3)

*Chief Wallace informed the board that the district is starting the process of inquiring about prices regarding Apparatus, SCBA, and remodeling Station 3. These purchases will be made using the funds obtained from the newly acquired Bond. Chief Wallace stated that the district is intending to purchase the Apparatus and SCBA through state contracts or utilizing other departments contracts who have already gone through the bid process and awarded contract to vendors. Chief stated that utilizing these contracts would save the district money as the equipment would be much cheaper due to the volume bigger departments purchase. The process of obtaining bids for the remodeling of station 3 will occur after the engineer adds a safe room for severe weather to the building plans.*

### CIVIL SERVICE/INTERNAL PA FORMS

*Chief Turner informed the board that the Civil Service / Internal PA forms are for extended sick leave and the new firefighter hired. Copies of all PA forms were presented to board members for review.*

**MOTION** was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by JASON MCGINTY to approve and for the chairman to sign the personnel action forms. Chairman Barnette called for public comment. There being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously

### ADJOURNMENT

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