



FIRE CHIEF J.T. WALLACE, JR.

BENTON FIRE DISTRICT 4

PUBLIC MEETING

MARCH 21, 2023 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, Sammy Halphen, Jay Valentine, and Stephanie Collier

Board members **ABSENT** – Jason McGinty

- *Note: Jason McGinty arrived at the board meeting during the discussion of the T-Bill investment options, he was not present for the adoption of Resolution 2023-001 or Resolution 2023-002*

Others **PRESENT** – Chief Wallace, Tim Turner, Jacob Maddox, 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 Jay Valentine

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 17, 2023 BOC PUBLIC MEETING

Questions/Discussion about BOC public meeting minutes from the January 17 BOC public meeting --- There were no BOC meeting minutes from February, the February BOC meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

MOTION was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to accept and approve the written minutes for the BOC public meeting held on January 17, 2023. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.



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YEAR END FINANCIALS FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

Questions/Discussion about Financials for year ending December 31, 2022 ---- None

MOTION was made by JAY VALENTINE and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve of the financials for the year ending December 31, 2022. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIALS AS OF MARCH 17, 2023

Questions/Discussion about Financials through March 17, 2023: ---- NONE

MOTION was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve of the financials through March 17, 2023. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE: STATION 3 CONSTRUCTION

Chief Wallace reported that the construction is on track to be finished around August. (After the board meeting, all of the board members toured the construction site to see the progress)

UPDATE: PIAL RATING

Chief Wallace reported that the PIAL grade was received and while the district improved in all areas the grade for the district remained a class 3. Chief Wallace stated that the district would try to improve to a class 2 by increasing water hauling credit, he stated he believes the district can achieve a class 2 with the help of Randy Loe, a consultant previously employed by PIAL.

NEW HIRE(S)

Chief Wallace reported that Matthew Holcomb is still in training and will be added to the line soon.



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NEW BUSINESS

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-001 – ADOPT MILLAGE RATE(S)

The board was presented with Resolution 2023-001, Chief Turner read the resolution in full as follows:

RESOLUTION No. 2023-001

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2023 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by Benton Fire District #4:

	<u>MILLAGE</u>
Maintenance (Mill Key # 1026042)	20 Mills
Maintenance (Mill Key # 1026060)	2 Mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2023, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full; the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

- YEAS: Sammy Halphen, Stephanie Collier, Jay Valentine, and Johnny Barnette
- NAYS: 0
- ABSTAINED: 0
- ABSENT: Jason McGinty



FIRE CHIEF J.T. WALLACE, JR.

CERTIFICATE

(RESOLUTION No. 2023-001)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on March 21, 2023, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Bossier City, Louisiana, this 21st day of March, 2023.

/S/ Johnny Barnette
(Board Chairman, Johnny Barnette)

MOTION was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to adopt Resolution 2023-001 adopting the millage rate(s) levied on the 2023 tax roll. Chairman Barnette called for public comment. There being none, a roll call vote was taken (4 yeas – Johnny Barnette, Stephanie Collier, Jay Valentine, and Sammy Halphen – 0 Nays – 0 Abstained – 1 Absent, Jason McGinty) and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-002 – REGARDING THE APPROVAL TO FUND THE CERTIFICATE OF INDEBTEDNESS PAYMENT RELATING TO THE BOND

The board was presented with the following Resolution 2023-002:

Resolution No.: 2023-002

Resolution of Board of Commissioners of Benton Fire District No. 4 Relating to the Approval to Fund the 2023 Certificate of Indebtedness Payment for District No. 4

WHEREAS, a quorum of the Board of Commissioners (“BOC”) of Benton Fire District No. 4 (“District”) was present on this date 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 District has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to approve the required funding of the Certificate of Indebtedness "bond" principal and interest payment from the 2.00 levied millage receipts (Ref: #1026060) for District No. 4;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:



FIRE CHIEF J.T. WALLACE, JR.

1. The BOC wishes to approve the funding for the 2023 Certificate of Indebtedness principal and interest payment for District No. 4.
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

CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of Benton Fire District No. 4, and the above and foregoing Resolution was properly adopted by the Board of Commissioners, which is the District’s governing authority, at a regular meeting called and held in accordance with law at Bossier Parish EMS & Fire Complex Conference Room, 5275 Swan Lake Road, Benton, Louisiana, on the 21st day of March, 2023.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Benton, Louisiana, this 21st day of March, 2023.

/S/ Johnny Barnette

Chairman, Board of Commissioners Benton Fire District No. 4

/S/ Tim Turner Jr.

Secretary, Board of Commissioners Benton Fire District No. 4

MOTION was made by JAY VALENTINE and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to adopt Resolution 2023-002 to approve the funding of the 2023 Certificate of indebtedness payment for BFD4. Chairman Barnette called for public comment. There being none, a vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

INVESTMENT(S): T-BILL

The board was presented with the current rates of the T-Bills that offered by Red River Bank. Chief Turner explained the annual yields based on the length of time each T-Bill would be purchased. Sammy Halphen asked about the risk and any penalties associated with moving funds out of the T-Bill prior to the maturity date. Chief Turner stated that there is no risk to the funds used to purchase the T-Bill and there is no penalty for early withdrawal. However, If funds are removed prior to maturity, there is no interest accrued on the funds used to purchase the T-Bill. Chief Turner stated that the T-Bills, if purchased, would be short term. A 2 month and 5-to-7-month T-Bill would be purchased if approved. The funds used to purchase these would come from the Bond and some from the operating account. The remaining balance in the accounts would be enough to pay any expenses until the T-Bill(s) mature.



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MOTION was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by STEPHANIE COLLIER to approve the use of funds to purchase short term T-Bills. Chairman Barnette called for public comment. There being none, a vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

MAINTENANCE VEHICLE

Chief Wallace informed the board that a new maintenance vehicle was purchased. Steven Lewis was involved in an accident while stopped at a stop sign, another vehicle crossed the center line and struck the maintenance truck causing extensive damage. The cost to repair the vehicle exceeded what the vehicle was worth. Insurance paid to total the vehicle. Chief informed the board that the purchase of the new maintenance truck using the state contract was not an option. The estimated time of delivery through the state contract is the summer of 2025. 3 quotes were obtained for the new vehicle and bond funds were used to make the purchase.

CIVIL SERVICE / INTERNAL PERSONNEL ACTION FORMS

The board was presented with civil service/internal PA forms regarding a new hire, pay adjustment for paramedic certification incentive pay, and the promotion of an employee to Captain.

MOTION was made by JAY VALENTINE and seconded by SAMMY HALPHEN to approve the Civil Service/Internal PA forms. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment Chief Wallace informed the board there was a break-in at station 5. The station entry door was damaged due to the break-in and several items were stolen. A police report was filed and the sheriff's office is investigating. New locks have been installed and cameras have been purchased to install at all of the stations that currently do not have any.

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