



FIRE CHIEF J.T. WALLACE, JR.

BENTON FIRE DISTRICT 4

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 15, 2024 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. Tim Turner called roll as follows:

ROLL CALL:

Board members **PRESENT** – Kenneth Ashley, Gerald Huddleston, Johnny Barnette, Sammy Halphen and Stephanie Collier

Board members **ABSENT** – NONE

Others **PRESENT** – Chief Wallace, Tim Turner, Jacob Maddox, Hurmon Gibson, and Chris Faulk

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: Hurmon Gibson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 BOC PUBLIC MEETING

Questions/Discussion about BOC public meeting minutes held on September 17, 2024---None

MOTION was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by GERALD HUDDLESTON to accept and approve the written minutes for the BOC public meeting held on September 17, 2024. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIALS AS OF OCTOBER 11, 2024

Questions/Discussion about Financials as of October 11, 2024: ---- None



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MOTION was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by GERALD HUDDLESTON to approve of the financials as of October 11, 2024. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

2025 BUDGET / DISCUSSION / APPROVE ADVERTISING PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET

The 2025 proposed budget was included in the board packet for members to review. Chief Turner stated that it was the same that was introduced in the previous meeting. There are a few changes to the projected amendments to the 2024 budget. (Purchasing a new lawn mower and installing a fence around station 5) Chief Turner stated that there would be no changes to the proposed 2025 budget after advertising the public hearing.

MOTION was made by STEPHANIE COLLIER and seconded by GERALD HUDDLESTON to approve advertising a public hearing and meeting to be held on November 19, 2024. The hearing will be to discuss the proposed 2025 budget followed by a public meeting to adopt the proposed 2025 budget and amend the 2024 budget. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

LAWN MOWER REPLACEMENT

Chief Wallace informed the board that the district needs to replace the lawn mower used to mow all of the fire stations. The mower the district is using now is old and is in need of replacement. Chairman Barnette asked what type of mower would be purchased. Chief Wallace stated it would be a commercial grade X-Mark that is listed on the state contract.

MOTION was made by SAMMY HALPHEN and seconded by GERALD HUDDLESTON to approve the purchase of a new lawn mower listed on the state contract. Chairman Barnette called for public comment; there being none, vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.



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NEW HIRE

Chief Wallace informed the board that one of the firefighters resigned and the district was in the process of hiring another firefighter to replace them, to maintain appropriate staffing levels.

CIVIL SERVICE/INTERNAL PERSONNEL ACTION FORM(S)

Civil Service/Internal PA Form(s) were presented to all board members for review. The PA forms included certification pay increases, disciplinary action, and the ending of probationary periods.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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