

Ward Four FPD Minutes, September 2021

A regular meeting of the Ward Four Fire Protection District of Jackson Parish was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on September 27, 2021, at the fire district's Central Station, located at 261 Hwy 505, Jonesboro, LA . This meeting was called to order by Scotty Nunn, fire district board president.

Fire district board members in attendance included Scotty Nunn, Billy Wayne Pullig, Butch Rushing, and Jimmy Tolar. Others in attendance included Darrell Avery, Daniel Allen, and Heather Holland. Multiple volunteers were in attendance as well. There were no guests.

Butch Rushing presented the opening prayer.

Mitch Nunn made comments referring to the use of social media for the fire district. He believed that the district should not use social media. It has the potential to do more harm than good. Patricia Smith contradicted Mitch Nunn's comments. She believed it could be controlled, and it could provide a positive platform for the fire district to share information. Frankie Harris asked to be considered to fill the vacancy in the board left by Mr. Pullig.

After reviewing the minutes of the August 2021 fire district board meetings, Billy Wayne Pullig offered a motion to accept them as presented. Jimmy Tolar seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The fire board next reviewed the September 2021 financials for payment. Billy Wayne Pullig made a motion to accept the reports as provided. Butch Rushing provided the second, and the motion carried.

The board then moved on to old business. A review of all past due parcel fee payments was provided to the board.

The board then moved to new business. The fire district had received the 2021 VFA Grant in the amount of \$9165, which would be matched by the fire district. Billy Wayne Pullig made a motion to make the purchases that were submitted for through the grant. Butch Rushing seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The board then moved on to officer appointment. Greg Smith wanted the board to consider having two assistant chiefs, those being Josh Halbrook and Daniel Allen. The board discussed the issue. Butch Rushing made a motion to allow for those individuals to be assistant chiefs. Billy Wayne Pullig seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Scotty Nunn amended the agenda to include 2A. Pay for Assistant Chief Position. Butch Rushing made a motion to amend the agenda. Billy Wayne Pullig seconded the motion, and the motion carried. There were no public comments concerning the amendment. A roll call vote was performed with all yeas and no nays. Discussion ensued concerning the rate of pay for the two assistant chiefs. It was determined that the pay that was set aside for a captain would be combined with amount paid to the current assistant chief and then split between the two. Billy Wayne Pullig made a motion to pay both assistant chiefs \$450/month. Butch Rushing seconded the motion. An amendment to the motion was made to have the start date of the new pay schedule begin on October 1, 2021 by Billy Wayne Pullig. A second was provided by Mr. Tolar. The motion carried.

The board then moved on to the appointment of training instructors. Some discussion was had. Billy Wayne Pullig made a motion to have Greg Smith, Mitch Nunn, and Josh Halbrook appointed as training instructors for the fire district. Jimmy Tolar seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Next, the chief shared with the board that the volunteers would begin completing the annual hose testing on Saturday, October 2, 2021.

The board then moved onto the resignation of Mr. Pullig. Jimmy Tolar made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Pullig. Butch Rushing seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Next the board considered new board member nominations. Billy Wayne Pullig made a motion to nominate Mr. Frankie Harris to fill the vacancy on the board pending approval of the police jury. Jimmy Tolar seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mrs. Patricia Smith then addressed the board concerning starting an auxiliary for the purpose of helping the fire district. In speaking with the fire district's attorney, it was determined that

Mrs. Smith would need to begin her non-profit group separate from the fire district, with any name given to the group being completely separate from the fire district's name.

Next, the board discussed the use of social media for the fire district. Mrs. Smith still maintained that things like Facebook could be controlled and used in a positive manner. However, many board members were not on board with the use of social media. There were other avenues available for sharing information concerning the fire district. After discussing the issue, Jimmy Tolar made a motion for the district not to use social media. Butch Rushing seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The fire chief then asked for the board to consider allowing for a \$1000 budget to purchase candy and informational packets that would be passed out at the Halloween/Community Safety event. This would also provide for the Christmas parade. Billy Wayne Pullig made a motion to approve the \$1000 budget. Jimmy Tolar seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mr. Avery gave an update on the Weston Water System cooperative agreement. Mr. Lyman Hall had been given the agreement and would be presenting it to his board with a small change to wording concerning the maintenance of the driveway. The grant of servitude was on hold waiting for the approval of Mrs. Poda.

Next were board member comments. Billy Wayne Pullig expressed his appreciation for the time he was allowed to serve on the board. All members expressed their appreciation for Mr. Pullig and thanked the volunteers for all they do.

The assistant chief reiterated the board members comments.

Chief Smith expressed his appreciation for the volunteers. The fire district responded to eleven emergency calls and had one training event for the month. The board members needed to start considering the budget for 2022.

Billy Wayne Pullig made a motion to adjourn. Jimmy Tolar seconded the motion, and the motion carried.