

Ward Four FPD Minutes, September 22, 2017

A regular meeting of the Ward Four Fire Protection District of Jackson Parish was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on September 22, 2017, at the fire district's Central Station, located at 261 Hwy 505, Jonesboro, LA . This meeting was called to order by Kent Hightower, fire district board president.

Fire district board members in attendance included Doyce McGuffie, Richard Barlow, Kent Hightower, Arthur Harper, and Cliff Rogers. Others in attendance included Scott Savage, Heather Holland, Chucky Robertson, Jay Mallard, Billy Wayne Pullig, Daniel and Tina Allen.

Richard Barlow presented the opening prayer.

Kent Hightower began with amendments to the agenda. Mr. Hightower wished to add 4A. Hydrant at John Watts and Taylor Road to the agenda. Mr. Barlow made a motion to accept this amendment. The motion passed with a vote of all yeas and no nays. There were no public comments concerning the amendment.

There were no public comments.

After reviewing the minutes of the August 2017 fire district board meeting, Richard Barlow offered a motion to accept them as presented. Cliff Rogers seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The fire board next reviewed the September 2017 financials for payment. Richard Barlow made a motion to accept the report as provided. Arthur Harper provided the second, and the motion carried.

The board then discussed the 2017 parcel fee collection. The board was informed that there were currently 41 parcel fee owners that had received certified letters but no payment had been made. These certified letters were considerably past the due date provided on the letters. The board was advised that the next step would be to send these individuals to legal counsel for collection. The board agreed to take the necessary action for the collection of the payments.

The board was then given an update on the memorial project. Kent Hightower provided the board with updated drawings of what the memorial would look like. The board discussed the issue and decided that the job would need to be put out for bid, but first required the blueprints to be presented at the next board meeting.

The board then moved on to new business. The first item was to consider allowing a group of paramedic students at Delta Ouachita in Monroe the use of the building for practice without charging rent. The board discussed the issue and came to the conclusion that it would be best if the class found a facility in Monroe or rent meeting room for their class. Arthur Harper made a motion to deny the request. Richard Barlow seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The board then considered the insurance renewal with Bernard Insurance Agency. The board discussed the coverage offered by the agency, and wished to have them present at the following meeting to discuss any changes in the policy or increase in payment. The board agreed to pay for the renewal as the due date was approaching. Arthur Harper made the motion to pay. Richard Barlow seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

The next item of business was consideration of the budget for 2018. The board looked over the 2017 budget and discussed any deficiencies seen. It was decided that Kent Hightower would sit down with the chief and secretary to discuss any changes to be made. The budget for the upcoming year would be presented at the next board meeting.

Next, the board considered the purchase of new t-shirts for the volunteer firefighters. The chief stated that the volunteers has not received new t-shirt in approximately two years and with new volunteers coming there was a need to purchase new ones. He had priced shirts at a couple places, and the price per shirt would be from \$7-\$10. The board agreed to the purchase of new shirts for the volunteers. Cliff Rogers made a motion to purchase the shirts. Doyce McGuffie seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The board then discussed the hydrant located at John Watts and Taylor Road. The Weston Water System had spoken to Chief Savage wishing for the district to pay for the hydrant. The cost of the hydrant was approximately \$4000. The issue concerning payment was that the fire district had not been consulted before the Weston Water System decided to put in the

hydrant. Issues had come about before where the water system did not like when the fire district used the hydrants on their system to refill trucks. Arthur Harper made a motion to pay half of the expense considering the circumstance. No second was offered, and the motion died. Richard Barlow made a motion to pay for the hydrant in full to maintain working relations with the water system. Cliff Rogers offered a second and the motion carried with 4 yeas and 1 nay.

The board then considered acquiring a new credit card for the district considering the present card was associated with the prior chief, Curtis Roller. Mrs. Holland told the board she would look into either having him removed from the account or starting a new account with a credit card company. Arthur Harper offered a motion to proceed with acquiring a new credit card account. Cliff Rogers seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Next, the board considered purchasing new turnout gear for the incoming volunteers. The turnouts would run around \$3000/set. There were six new volunteers who required gear following their probationary period. Richard Barlow made a motion to purchase what was necessary for the volunteers to perform their duties. Doyce McGuffie seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The board was then made aware that the district had been approved for their forestry grant. The chief wished to change the type of pager listed on the grant and wished to seek approval from the board and the LDAF before purchasing them.

Afterward, the board overlooked the run reports from the past month.

The next item was the discussion of the Chief's salary. Kent Hightower felt that Scott Savage need to be compensated equal to what the prior chief was making. The amount would be \$500/week. The prior increase in pay would be void and replaced with the amount of \$500/week. Doyce McGuffie offered a motion to increase the chief's salary by \$500/week. Cliff Rogers offered a second and the motion passed.

The board then considered giving approval to Hodge FD to use Ward Four's frequency on their radios. The board president had been approached by the Hodge chief with the request. The board discussed the request and saw no reason to deny it as long as the right to do so

was treated with respect. Arthur Harper made a motion to allow Hodge the use of the Ward 4 frequency. Cliff Rogers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Next were comments by the board members. Doyce McGuffie addressed the board stating that he appreciated the time he had on the board; however, he felt a need to resign. He would tender his letter of resignation by the next board meeting. Arthur Harper wished to find out more concerning the financing of Boat 1 by the next meeting.

The assistant chief had no comments.

The district chief advised the board of LSU training occurring and other items concerning the day to day operation of the fire district.

Richard Barlow made a motion to adjourn. Doyce McGuffie seconded the motion, and the motion carried.