

Ward Four FPD Minutes, August 25, 2017

A regular meeting of the Ward Four Fire Protection District of Jackson Parish was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on August 25, 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, and Arthur Harper. Others in attendance included Scott Savage, Marc Thomas, Heather Holland, Rel Mathews, Amy Magee, Chucky Robertson, Scotty Nunn, Jay Mallard, Billy Wayne Pullig, Daniel and Tina Allen, and Eddie Langston.

Richard Barlow presented the opening prayer.

Kent Hightower began with amendments to the agenda. Mr. Hightower wished to add 1A. Emergency Lighting to the agenda. Mr. Barlow made a motion to accept this amendment. Arthur Harper seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mr. Hightower also wished to add 1B. Rental Agreement to the agenda. Doyce McGuffie made a motion to accept the amendment. Richard Barlow seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The only public comments made were by Heather Holland. She discussed the issue of the memorial project. The six year anniversary of her brother's death was coming up. It was felt by Mrs. Holland that LED screens did not belong on a memorial to commemorate the loss of individuals in the fire department. It also seemed to be a waste of money. Mrs. Holland was assured that no LED screens would be on the memorial because they had recently found out it could not be done where they wanted to place them.

After reviewing the minutes of the July 2017 fire district board meeting, Arthur Harper offered a motion to accept them as presented. Doyce McGuffie seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The fire board next reviewed the July 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 district had sent out 1478 parcel fee letters, and 1289 parcel fees had been collected. The district still had 189 outstanding parcel fees.

The board was then given an update on the memorial project. Kent Hightower provided the board with drawings of what the memorial would look like. The board discussed the issue and decided to present the drawing to the volunteers at the next training meeting to gain their opinion. The board would decide after hearing a review from chief at the following meeting.

The next item of business was the laptop purchase for the district's use. The board was presented with price lists from stores. Doyce McGuffie made a motion to purchase the laptop and accessories from Office Depot. Richard Barlow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The board then moved on to new business. The first item concerned comments from Mr. Jay Mallard. Mr. Mallard presented the board with documents pertaining to state contract purchases. The fire district recently purchased a new truck on state contract. Mr. Mallard informed the board that the vehicle that was purchased was not on state contract, but on a city of Alexandria contract. His dealership could have provided the district with what they sought at a lower price and kept the money in the district they serve. He advised the board that more consideration should be given to purchases made considering it was tax payer's dollars that were being spent. He hoped that with new leadership the board could make better, more informed decisions in the future.

The board then considered the emergency lighting agreement that the chief would sign for volunteers wishing to run lights on their personal vehicles. The board approved of the letter. Richard Barlow made a motion to approve the letter. Arthur Harper provided the second and the motion passed.

Next, the board reviewed the updated rental agreement used for those people who rent the meeting room. The board saw no issues with the agreement. Richard Barlow made a motion to accept the agreement. Doyce McGuffie seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The board then considered a new member application. Tyler Wheat wished to join the fire department. The board agreed a probationary period for Mr. Wheat. Richard Barlow made a motion to accept the application. Arthur Harper seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The board moved on to consider the appointment of a new assistant chief. Chief Savage nominated Daniel Allen as a candidate for the position. The board saw no issue with this. Arthur Harper made a motion accept the appointment of Daniel Allen as Asst. Chief. Doyce McGuffie offered the second and the motion passed. The board also discussed an appropriate salary for Mr. Allen. The board decided on \$600.00/month. Arthur Harper made a motion to pay the said amount to Mr. Allen on a monthly basis. Doyce McGuffie seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Next on the agenda was the consideration of sending a second notice to Ward 4 parcel holders concerning their parcel fee payment. The board hoped to clear up the need for numerous certified letters to individuals in the district. Richard Barlow made a motion to send second notices on next year's parcel fee collection. Doyce McGuffie seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The board then considered the need to pay some utility bills before approving them at the board meeting. The board hoped to avoid unnecessary late fees by paying them ahead of the meeting date should they be due before then. Richard Barlow made a motion to pay the utility bills before the due date. Doyce McGuffie seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Next came comments from the board members. Mr. McGuffie made note of Mr. Mallard's comments, and thanked him for bring the issue to their attention. Mr. McGuffie also request of that the board members be given access to the board meeting agenda prior to the meeting night. Mrs. Holland offered to email copies of the agenda to the board members by the Friday before the meeting date.

Comments from Scott Savage followed. Chief Savage gave the board an overview of recent activities by the volunteers and items addressed since last meeting.

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