

MINUTES
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
GOVERNMENT BUILDING
880 North Alexander Avenue, Port Allen
Thursday, October 26, 2023
5:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the West Baton Rouge Fire Protection District No. 1 Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 and called to order at 05:00 PM. Chairman Carey Denstel asked that all electronic devices be placed on silent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Denstel recognized Mr. Blake Laiche who led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. LOG ATTENDANCE

The following members were recorded as being present: Messrs. Atley Walker, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, and Brady Hotard.

Absent: Messrs. Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, and Gary Joseph

Also present were, Mr. Riley Berthelot Jr, Parish President, Mr. Phillip Bourgoyne, Director of Finance, Mr. Jason Manola, Executive Assistant, and Mrs. Michelle Tullier, Council Clerk.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve Minutes from the Regular Quarterly Meeting of July 27, 2023

A motion was made by Commissioner Alan Crowe, seconded by Commissioner Kenneth Gordon to approve Minutes from the Regular Quarterly Meeting of July 27, 2023.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 6 (Messrs. Atley Walker, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, Brady Hotard)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 3 (Messrs. Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Gary Joseph)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes, the motion **Passed**.

5. CONSIDER ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

A. Consider The Following Items For Scrap/Surplus:

R-61, VIN- 1FDXW46R78EB33844, 2008 Ford F-450, Rescue Body R-33, VIN- 1FDXF47P34EC31549, 2004 Ford F-550F, Rescue Body

R-32, VIN- 1FDYF80C9SVA77591, 1996 Ford (Manufactured 6-95), Rescue Body E-36, VIN- 4S7HT2D968CO63000, 2007 Ferrara Pumper

E-14, VIN- 1FDYD80UOGVA35235, 1986 Ford Grumman Pumper

B. Consider Approval of Part-Time position for an EMS Manager.

The Chairman explained the aforementioned items were being asked to be amended on to tonight's agenda due to not having another regular meeting for the year.

A motion was made by Brady Hotard, seconded by Atley Walker to approve amending the agenda tonight to include the aforementioned items.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 6 (Messrs. Atley Walker, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, Brady Hotard)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 3 (Messrs. Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Gary Joseph)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes, the motion **Passed** and the agenda was therefore amended.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

7. **FIRE CHIEF REPORT**

Fire Chief Butch Browning was recognized and covered the following items: Upcoming Parish wide Fire Rating in 2024;

Recently received Rescue Unit #1 which was sent for re-furbishing.

8. **COMMUNICATIONS WITH BOARD MEMBERS AND/OR ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

A. **Consider The Following Items For Scrap/Surplus:**

R-61, VIN- 1FDXW46R78EB33844, 2008 Ford F-450, Rescue Body

R-33, VIN- 1FDXF47P34EC31549, 2004 Ford F-550F, Rescue Body

R-32, VIN- 1FDYF80C9SVA77591, 1996 Ford (Manufactured 6-95), Rescue Body

E-36, VIN- 4S7HT2D968CO63000, 2007 Ferrara Pumper

E-14, VIN- 1FDYD80UOGVA35235, 1986 Ford Grumman Pumper

A motion was made by Commissioner Brady Hotard, seconded by Commissioner Alan Crowe to approve the aforementioned items for scrap/surplus.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 6 (Messrs. Atley Walker, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, Brady Hotard)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 3 (Messrs. Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Gary Joseph)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes, the motion **Passed**.

B. **Consider Approval of Part-Time position for an EMS Manager.**

Chief Browning noted this position was included in the 2024 budget, however he would like to get the hiring process started in order to hit the ground running in 2024 with the EMS program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Alan Crowe, seconded by Commissioner Brady Hotard to approve the Part-Time position for an EMS Manager.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 6 (Messrs. Atley Walker, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, Brady Hotard)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 3 (Messrs. Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Gary Joseph)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes, the motion **Passed**.

9. **RESOLUTIONS**

A. **Resolution Of Board Of Commissioners Of West Baton Rouge Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 Relating To Removing The Requirements Of Residency And/or Registered Voter Requirements Of The Fire Department Civil Service Board Member Representative**

Chief Browning was once again recognized and explained that we did not have many firefighters who meet the current qualifications to be able to run for this position on the Civil Service Board, therefore he is asking that the requirements for residency and qualified area of the parish be removed at this time.

The Chief did confirm that this can be reversed at a later date if there are more candidates that actually meet these requirements. Chief Browning noted that at this time only two firefighters were eligible for this and neither of them wish to pursue the appointment.

Firefighter Blake Laiche was recognized and concurred with what the Fire Chief had just explained, and noted that he had no objection to this proposal.

A motion was made by Alan Crowe, seconded by Brady Hotard to approve Resolution Of Board Of Commissioners Of West Baton Rouge Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 Relating To Removing The Requirements Of Residency And/or Registered Voter Requirements Of The Fire Department Civil Service Board Member Representative.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 6 (Messrs. Atley Walker, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, Brady Hotard)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 3 (Messrs. Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Gary Joseph)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

As a result of the votes, the motion **Passed**.

Resolution F3 of 2023 can be found at the end of these minutes.

10. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Brady Hotard and was adopted by acclamation at 05:11 PM.



Carey Denstel, Board Chairman



Michelle Z. Tullier, Board Secretary

RESOLUTION F3 OF 2023

Resolution Of Board Of Commissioners Of West Baton Rouge Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 Relating To Removing The Requirements Of Residency And/Or Registered Voter Requirements Of The Fire Department Civil Service Board Member Representative

WHEREAS, a quorum of the Fire Board of Commissioners ("FBOC") of West Baton Rouge Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 ("District") was present on this date for a properly advertised, regular meeting; and

WHEREAS, the FBOC finds that it is in the best interest of the District, its employees, citizens and taxpayers to implement policies and procedures from time to time; and

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 33:2536. B(1)(a) provides that to be eligible for appointment or to serve as a member of a board, a person shall be a citizen of the United States of America, a resident of the area for which fire or police protection is provided for at least five years next preceding his appointment, and at the time of his appointment a qualified voter of the area; and

WHEREAS, LA R.S. 33:2536.B(1)(c) provides that Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this Paragraph, the two members elected by and from the fire and police departments as provided in Paragraph (C)(3) of this Section shall not be required to be residents or qualified voters of the area in which they are appointed to serve or residents of the parish in which the area is located provided that such exceptions are approved by resolution of the local governing authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The West Baton Rouge FBOC, at a meeting duly convened, that the fire department member of the West Baton Rouge Fire Protection District Civil Service Board shall not be required to be a resident of West Baton Rouge Parish and shall not be required to be a resident or a qualified voter of the area for which fire protection is provided by the West Baton Rouge Parish Fire Protection District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to the extent that prior resolutions or acts of this Board which conflict with this resolution, those prior resolutions and actions are superseded by this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the FBOC of the Parish of West Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or applications of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

A MOTION TO ADOPT the above resolution was made by Commissioner Alan Crowe, seconded by Commissioner Brady Hotard, and resulted in the following vote:

YEAS: 6 (Messrs. Walker, Denstel, Crowe, Hotard, Gordon, Bergeron)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 3 (Messrs. Allain, Kershaw, Joseph)

AND the resolution was declared adopted on this **26th Day of October, 2023.**

CERTIFICATE

I Michelle Tullier hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of West Baton Rouge Parish Fire Protection District No. 1, 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 the District's office at 880 n. Alexander Ave. Port Allen, Louisiana, on the **26th day of October, 2023**


Clerk, Board of Commissioners
West Baton Rouge Fire Protection District No. 1