
MINUTES
WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
GOVERNMENT BUILDING
880 North Alexander Ave. Port Allen, La
Thursday, February 24, 2022
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, February 24, 2022 and called to order at 05:04 PM. Board Chairman Carey Denstel asked that all electronic devices be placed on silent.

2. LOG ATTENDANCE

The following members were recorded as being present: Messrs. Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Atley Walker, Caleb Kleinpeter, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, and Gary Joseph.

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

3. CONSIDER ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

A. Approve Establishment of Director of Administrative or appropriate OSE classification

A motion was made by Caleb Kleinpeter, seconded by Kirk Allain to amend the agenda to include Approve Establishment of Director of Administrative or appropriate OSE classification.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 9 (Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Atley Walker, Caleb Kleinpeter, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, Gary Joseph)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 0 (None)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

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

4. COMMUNICATIONS WITH BOARD MEMBERS AND/OR ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS

A. Update on Fire Chief Hiring Process

President Berthelot was recognized and updated the Board on the status of the Fire Chief Hiring Process, he went on to explain that the Interview Board recently agreed to put the process on hold for about a 6 month time period. During that time, Mr. Butch Browning of the State Fire Marshalls, Office will come in and help to reorganize the Chief Position as well as possibly bring in new software to help the department, etc.

B. Approve Establishment of Director of Administrative or appropriate OSE classification

President Berthelot went on to explain in the process previously addressed the administration is in agreement to add the new provisional appointment of Mrs. Deanna Fourroux to the aforementioned position, which will include an approximately 20% increase in salary, noting that the budget at some point would have to be amended if this is agreed upon. Mrs. Fourroux in this position would take on a few more duties and have to learn a new software and train the firemen to use this software. There were a few questions from the Commission members to clarify exactly what was going to take place, a few questions could not be answered due to the ongoing hiring process.

A motion was made by Kirk Allain, seconded by Kenneth Gordon to approve the Establishment of Director of Administrative or appropriate OSE classification.

The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: 9 (Kirk Allain, Chris Kershaw, Atley Walker, Caleb Kleinpeter, Kenneth Gordon, Carey Denstel, Alan Crowe, Craig Bergeron, Gary Joseph)

NAYS: 0 (None)

ABSENT: 0 (None)

ABSTAIN: 0 (None)

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

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

President Berthelot reminded everyone about the dedication of the Choctaw Road Station in recognition of Mr. "Iron" Mike Allemand on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 10am.

Mr. Austin Hebert, WBR Fire Fighter, was recognized and explained that from his and his coworkers' point of view they are glad to hear time and effort is being utilized to take a hard look at the Chief position and asked the Board to consider getting more paid firemen.

Mr. Barry Brewer, Volunteer Fireman, was recognized and notified the Board of the recent passing away of Volunteer Jerry Bourgeois, Mr. Brewer went on to thank the Board for doing the due diligence along with the administration to make the right hire. Mr. Brewer also suggested another steady revenue stream for the Fire District to stand on its own.

Commissioner Kleinpeter was recognized and explained this was a hiring process and some things must remain confidential, and asked that the public have patience with the process.

6. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kershaw and was adopted by acclamation at 05:28 PM.



Carey Denstel, Board Chairman



Michelle Z. Tullier, Board Secretary