



## BEAVER LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**January 10, 2023**

LOCATION: Prairie Creek Association Community Room, 14432 Hwy. 12 East, Rogers, Arkansas

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m. by Interim Chair Larry Smith

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Caldwell, Monte Gagliardi, Secretary Dana Mather, Treasurer Gisela Mejia-Cruz, Interim Chair Larry Smith, Laura Tucker, Todd Weber.

MEMBERS ABSENT: President John Redwine

GUESTS: Curtis Hathcock, Deputy Chief Jon Wright, members of the public

APPOINTMENT: Interim Chair Larry Smith introduced Curtis Hathcock and proposed his appointment to the Board of Directors to fill an unexpired term ending in 2024.

**A motion to appoint Curtis Hathcock to an unexpired term ending in 2024 was made by Todd Weber and was approved unanimously.**

PUBLIC FORUM: Members of the public addressing the board of directors included Dave Kurgan, Benny Mays, Sheila Gallagher, Lorraine King, Thomas King.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of the January 7, 2023 special meeting, December 13, 2022 regular meeting, August 17, 2022 special meeting and August 15, 2022 special meeting were reviewed.

**A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by David Caldwell and was approved 7-1 (Voting yes: Caldwell, Gagliardi, Mather, Mejia-Cruz, Smith, Tucker, Weber, Wright; Voting no: Hathcock).**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Financial reports for December (attached) were reviewed by Treasurer Gisela Mejia-Cruz as provided by Worden & Worden CPAs PA.

Total income for the month was \$102,187.53, and total expense for the month was \$152,058.61. The net income totaled -\$49,871.08 for the month.

Account balances were \$143,266.17 in Checking and \$2,502.46 in Savings.

**A motion to approve the financial report for December 2022 was made by Laura Tucker and was approved unanimously.**

**OPERATIONS REPORT:**

The Operations Report for December 2022 (attached) was presented by Deputy Chief Jon Wright. Items of note:

- Call Volume - Month
  - 62 calls for service, 0% change versus December 2021
  - 73% of calls were for EMS
- Call Volume – Year-to-Date
  - 946 incidents, a 13.7% increase versus December 2021
  - 75.4% are EMS calls
- Maintenance
  - New tires were placed on Brush 1241
- Personnel
  - In December, there were 13 days with no fire coverage, affecting 14 incidents including 1 structure fire, 1 brush fire/structures threatened and the remainder were non-critical EMS calls for transport only.
  - Due to the open position on the ambulance, Mercy filled the position during 4 days of the month.
  - There were 4 incidents with no BLFD responders
  - The group of firefighters who were laid off are now off the department's payroll and benefits.

**COMMITTEES:**

Advisory Committee

Committee Chair Larry Smith reported that the committee met in December to discuss commercial property rates, vacant land, making rates equitable, and the manner of holding an election. He noted that the committee is planning to meet with county officials on Friday, Jan. 13.

Budget Committee

Committee Chair David Cauldwell reported that the approved 2023 annual budget provides funding for 3 full-time positions serving on the fire engine, including the chief. Upon review of the current payroll, it was determined that with one unfilled position, the board could save money and begin repaying the deficit. He noted that the timeline to hold an election for a dues increase for 2024 is very tight, and that if it is possible to complete the process, the special election could be held in conjunction with the school election, reducing the cost of holding an election for the department.

**A motion to hold a special meeting of the Board of Directors to consider a resolution to increase dues through an election on Tuesday, January 24 at 6 p.m. at the Prairie Creek Association Community Center was made by David Cauldwell and was approved unanimously.**

Nominating Committee

Committee Chair Dana Mather reported that the committee met on Dec. 30 and recommended the adoption of a system to number the positions in each term and a slate of nominees to be elected at the Annual Membership Meeting in February.

**A motion to nominate Monte Gagliardi, Laura Tucker and Todd Weber for two-year terms ending in 2025 was made by Dana Mather and was approved unanimously.**

Personnel Committee

The standing Personnel Committee includes President John Redwine, Interim Board Chair Larry Smith and Treasurer Gisela Mejia-Cruz, along with the department's chief. Laura Tucker asked to join the committee and presented a list of topics she would like the committee to address. Other members expressed interest in joining the committee including Monte Gagliardi, Todd Weber, and Dana Mather. One of the items Laura Tucker would like to review is the contract with the current bookkeeping service, which she and Gisela Mejia-Cruz agreed to work on jointly.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief's Status

Interim Chair Smith announced that Chief Whisenant had submitted his letter of resignation effective Jan. 4, 2022.

**A motion to accept Chief John Whisenant's resignation was made by David Caldwell and unanimously approved.**

**A motion to appoint Deputy Chief Jon Wright as the interim chief until the February board meeting was made by Secretary Dana Mather and unanimously approved.**

Interim Chair Smith asked the Personnel Committee to define a job description and develop a compensation package to be presented to Interim Chief Wright.

FOIA Request

Interim Chair Smith announced that the Freedom of Information Act request for documents from Sheila Gallagher was fulfilled on Dec. 30, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

Safety Deposit Box

Treasurer Mejia-Cruz requested a formal resolution from the board to designate new signatories for the department's safety deposit box.

**A motion to designate Board President John Redwine and Board Treasurer Gisela Mejia-Cruz as authorized signatories on the Beaver Lake Fire Department's safety deposit box was made by Todd Weber and was unanimously approved.**

2023 Annual Membership Meeting and Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Secretary Mather provided a list of dates for 2023 Board of Directors Meetings, the Annual Membership Meeting, and the Annual Board of Directors Meeting and Planning Retreat. One regular board meeting date was listed erroneously and will be corrected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Additional public comments were made to the board.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

7:54 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

A special board meeting was set for 6:00 p.m., January 24, 2023, at the Prairie Creek Association Community Room.

SUBMITTED BY:

*Dana Mather*

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Dana Mather, Secretary