



BEAVER LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 24, 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, Curtis Hathcock, Secretary Dana Mather, Treasurer Gisela Mejia-Cruz, President John Redwine, Interim Chair Larry Smith, Laura Tucker, Todd Weber, Acting Chief Jon Wright.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Members of the public

PUBLIC FORUM: Members of the public addressing the board of directors included Larry Smith, Phillip Difani, Jeff Easley, Pat Kelley, and Benny Mays.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of the January 10, 2023 regular meeting of the Board of Directors were reviewed.

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by David Caldwell and was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEES:

Advisory Committee
Members of the Revenue Advisory Committee shared details about their meeting with Benton County officials on Jan. 13, 2023. They also received information regarding the process for submitting the dues fee rate to the county.

Nominating Committee
Committee Chair Dana Mather reported that the committee agreed to add three candidates to the slate of nominations for the Board of Directors to be elected at the Annual Membership Meeting on Feb. 4, 2023. She said Pat Kelley, Jerry Hudlow and Jeff Easley will be added to the slate, and reminded members that other interested candidates may be nominated from the floor at the meeting.

Personnel Committee
Committee member Laura Tucker reported that the Personnel Committee met on Jan. 12 to review and discuss benefits, payroll processes, per diem amounts, recording LOPFI, benefits package items including holiday pay and vacation time, the recording of

earned time off on paychecks, credit card expense reports, spending limits and an exit-interview process.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Membership Meeting

Interim Chair Smith announced that the Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Feb. 4 at 10 a.m. at Lakeside Baptist Church. He noted that the board decided to post signage and share details on social media instead of mailing postcards. Hathcock requested and received permission to create a business page on Nextdoor for the department to enhance communication with the membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

Website

Interim Chair Smith recommended appointing Tucker to serve as the board's liaison to the webmaster for updates and changes to the site. Tucker agreed to set a meeting with the webmaster and begin updating information on the site.

Bookkeeping Services

Treasurer Mejia-Cruz presented a proposal to move the department's bookkeeping service to Bookkeeper Plus staffed by Mary Schopp with tax preparation to be completed by Sarah Harris CPA. She noted that she and Tucker had met with the company, and believe the service provided will better meet the department and the board's needs at a less expensive cost.

A motion to terminate the services of Worden & Worden CPAs PA and to move the department's bookkeeping services to Bookkeeper Plus was made by David Cauldwell and was approved 8-1 (Voting yes: Cauldwell, Gagliardi, Hathcock, Mejia-Cruz, Redwine, Smith, Tucker, Weber; Voting no: Mather).

Charitable Organization Status

Interim Chair Smith requested that Hathcock research the process of changing or otherwise addressing the department's charitable organization status from the current 501c4 type of nonprofit organization to a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Hathcock agreed to report his findings to the board.

2024 Operations Funding Options

Cauldwell presented a resolution for discussion requesting the Benton County Quorum Court set a special referendum election for the purpose of raising the dues of the Beaver Lake Fire Department. He explained the process and timeline for requesting and holding an election, noting that the Assessor's Office requires any dues change to be submitted by August 1 each year. He noted that if approved for an election and passed by voters, the increased funding would not be received until 2024.

A motion to approve a resolution requesting the referral to increase the annual service dues per improved property within the Beaver Lake Fire Department service district from \$150.00 to \$200.00 was made by David Cauldwell and was approved 5-4 (Voting yes: Cauldwell, Mather, Mejia-Cruz, Redwine, Smith; Voting no: Gagliardi, Hathcock, Tucker, Weber).

MEETING ADJOURNED:

7:44 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:



Curtis Hathcock, Director