

BLACKMAN FIRE DISTRICT MEETING

DATE: 7 March 2024

REGULARLY SCHEDULED

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

EMERGENCY

WORKSHOP

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairperson Larry Cunningham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Commissioner Wade Merritt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Commissioner Sec/Tres Jim Lawson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Commissioner Steve Lawson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Welcome/Call Meeting to Order at 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion and Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes from 1 February 2024.

Motion: Steve Lawson 2nd: Wade Merritt **Motion Passed**

Discussion and Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes from 3 February 2024.

Motion: Steve Lawson 2nd: Wade Merritt **Motion Passed**

Discussion and Approval of the Financial Report from February 2024.

Cash

- Unrestricted Cash
 - Petty Cash \$ 289.93
 - General Checking \$ 53,687.52
 - General Savings \$ 41,003.10
 - Total Unrestricted Cash \$ 94,980.55
- Restricted Cash
 - Impact Fees \$ 9,564.96
 - Total Restricted Cash \$ 9,564.96
- Total Cash \$ 104,545.51

Motion: Steve Lawson 2nd: Wade Merritt **Motion Passed**

OLD BUSINESS

Grant Report

- JMCM Consulting has completed our grant application for Pumper 70 replacement. The grant application was submitted prior to the March 8th deadline.
- The Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant (50/50 Grant) #2 is being researched for additional equipment that is needed.

- The Firehouse Subs Foundation Grant is coming up in April and we would like to apply for it. We believe asking them for a battery operated combi tool for our department would be our best course of action so as to reduce the cost associated with asking for it on the 50/50 grant.

Motion: [Wade Merritt](#) 2nd: [James Lawson](#) Motion Passed

- The Decontamination Grant was awarded and hoods and gloves have been received. Once the check for the invoice clears the bank, a request for reimbursement will be submitted. We would also like to start our research on an Exhaust Capture System (cannot be a ventilation system per the state). This would provide funding needed to design and install a system in our bays to capture exhaust from our trucks.

Motion: [Wade Merritt](#) 2nd: [James Lawson](#) Motion Passed

- The Walmart Community Grants platform has changed their validation program that vets applicants. Due to this reason, applications were not going to be available for submission until March 1st instead of February. The new program required extensive information and took quite a while to work through the bugs they have had in the new system. Lt. Sargent was able to navigate this process and has submitted applications to 10 different Walmart Stores in our region at the requested amount of \$5,000 each. There is a potential to receive between \$0 - \$50,000. These funds will be used for what we will call the Emergency Operations Support Program which will support emergency ops by providing much needed equipment and supplies that create a safer community.

The new agreement for the auditor, Edward E Chapman, CPA, has been signed for audit services.

The State Mandated Ethics Training was conducted on February 10th and everyone is good for another year.

NEW BUSINESS

Chiefs Report (see attached)

- Total Calls for Service = 17
 - o 1 - Structure Fire (Mutual Aid for Baker FD)
 - o 2 - Wildland Fires (Controlled Burns)
 - o 9 - Medical Emergencies
 - o 1 - Motor Vehicle Accident w/No Injuries
 - o 3 - Rescue EMS Standby (Clash on the Coast Racing Event)
 - o 1 - Canceled
- Discussion and approval on renewing our contract with Arbon for facility maintenance coverage.

Motion: [James Lawson](#) 2nd: [Steve Lawson](#) Motion Passed

- Discussion and approval on purchasing the First Due Platform. Emergency Reporting software will not work with the new NERIS platform replacing NFIRS and ER will no longer be supported by the vendor soon. The negotiations on price got us to a bottom line that is reasonable for the modules that are included. Please refer to the email sent on the issues with Emergency Reporting and the ESO company we currently have vs the First Due Platform.

Motion: [James Lawson](#) 2nd: [Steve Lawson](#) Motion Passed

Discussion and approval on raising the fire assessments the minimum allowed without going to a vote. This amount is 6.67% which is approximately \$7.00 on the normal \$104 residential amount currently being paid. Over a year that equates to just under 2 cents a day. Since 2009, social security income has seen cost of living increases of approximately 35% yet the fire district has not gone up.

Motion: _____ 2nd: _____ **Tabled for Next Meeting**

- Upcoming Events & Training
 - o March Training Sessions will consist of Traffic Accident Operations to include:
 - Apparatus Familiarization
 - Auto Accident Operations
 - Extrication Operations
 - Rescue Operations
 - o March 30th at the Blackman Community Center we will be having our East Egg Hunt *Easter*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Open the floor to public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment of meeting at **8:40pm**

Motion: **Wade Merritt** 2nd: **James Lawson** **Motion Passed**

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING 4 April 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes were approved and accepted as read this date 4 April 2024

Larry Cunningham, Chairperson

Larry Cunningham

James Lawson, Secretary

James L Lawson or

Other Authorized Board Member _____