

Lakeview Fire Protection District

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

September 8, 2020

Meeting called to order by President Steve Johnson at 7pm.

Members Present: Daniel Griffin, George Dykes, Joe McKee, Mike Fisher, Brandon Jones, Steve Johnson. **Absent:** Cliff Culver

Prayer: George Dykes

Prior Minutes:

1. Minutes for August 11, 2020 Board Meeting read by George Dykes. Motion made to accept with corrections. **Motion:** Mike Fisher **2nd:** Daniel Griffin.
Vote: All Approved.
2. Minutes for August 18, 2020 Special Board Meeting read by George Dykes. Motion made to accept as read. **Motion:** Brandon Jones **2nd:** Mike Fisher.
Vote: All Approved.

Financial Statement: August Financial Report given by Steve Johnson. Tracy Pearson reminds board to take note of a payment for repairs on 1302 and an insurance check. Motion made to accept as read. **Motion:** Mike Fisher **2nd:** Brandon Jones **Vote:** All Approved.

Chief's Report: August Chief's Report given by Chief Jerry Harris. Mike Fisher asks about progress on recovery for insurance claims and accidents. Motion made to accept the Chief's Report. **Motion:** Daniel Griffin **2nd:** Joe McKee. **Vote:** All Approved.

Daniel Griffin says that a mistake was made on the minutes for the Special Board Meeting approved earlier. Motion made to amend the August 18, 2020 Special Board Meeting minutes to include the vote to hire Jerry Harris as Chief. **Motion:** Daniel Griffin **2nd:** Jerry Harris. **Vote:** All Approved.

Old Business:

Brandon Jones acknowledges the attendance of John Nobles and Henry Johnson who are working to help petition for changes in the Tuscaloosa County EMA franchise agreements following the death of a family member due to delayed ambulance service.

Tracy Pearson gives an update on truck maintenance:

1. 1303 has a bad oil leak that was made manageable with a minor repair but will continue to be an issue. A more pressing issue is a dangerous leak in the water pump that causes a loss of almost 25% of water per tank. A quote was presented.
Motion was made to repair the water pump based on the quote given for \$1112.33. **Motion:** Mike Fisher **2nd:** Joe McKee **Vote:** All Approved.
2. 1303- more research to be done on cost of repairing oil leak.
3. 1303- electrical issues causing rear lights to fail, possibly a ground wire issue.
4. Ladder Truck- Waiting on quotes for needed repairs.
5. 20- Needs front brakes. Working on getting a quotes.

Medical Officer Jim Bossard reports that gloves are on back order but we have an allocation. Following a water rescue training course, an estimate for water rescue equipment was presented to the Board. The Chief mentioned possible grants from state and federal sources; Tracy Pearson mentions potential CARES Act grants. Tabled for more information.

Steve Johnson presents a draft of a post card invitation to the October Annual Board Meeting to be sent to all district property owners at a cost of \$1600. This is separate from the normal news letter sent with the bill for fire dues. Brandon Jones wants to add the office phone number to the post card. Motion made to authorize up to \$1600 to send the post cards. **Motion:** Brandon Jones **2nd:** Joe McKee. **Vote:** All Approved.

Tracy Pearson presents two options for taking credit cards. One from Square, one from PayPal. The board in agrees that while PayPal is more expensive, both services are covered by a \$3 convenience charge and the PayPal option allows for greater versatility with online pay, manual entry, cash back, and a credit card that can be tied directly to the account. Motion is made to purchase the card reader for \$99 and to establish credit card servicing with PayPal. **Motion:** Daniel Griffin **2nd:** George Dykes. **Vote:** All Approved.

Tracy Pearson asked by board to check on the PayPal debit card options.

Brandon Jones presents a bill from Tuscaloosa County EMA for \$992.70 For repairs to the tornado siren and annual service. There is confusion over the charges due to a statement from Nick Lawley with EMA that cost would be \$700. Tabled for clarification, Brandon sends a text to Nick.

New Business:

Brandon Jones states that DR Horton has been undercharge on fire dues for years, paying only \$100 instead of the commercial rate for multiple parcels with no residence, which amounts to roughly \$5,000 per year. Daniel Griffin mentions that DR Horton should be asked to pay for uncharged back dues as well. Motion is made to correct the dues and charge DR Horton appropriately for the Tannehill Preserve development. **Motion:** Brandon Jones **2nd:** Mike Fisher **Vote:** All Approved.

Daniel Griffin would like to gather a list of all vacant properties owned by the district and put all vacant lots not needed for department business up for auction. Motion made to have all properties vetted and ready to auction by November 1, 2020. **Motion:** Daniel Griffin **2nd:** Joe McKee **Vote:** All Approved.

Daniel Griffin presents a plan to aggressively pursue the property owners with the highest unpaid balances by seeking foreclosure on unmortgaged properties where the owner has significant unpaid dues. The office is currently working on compiling the list of those with unpaid dues and is vetting those who have errors in billing or other mitigating factors for unpaid dues. It is brought up that liens

were filled erroneously in some cases. It was also mentioned that some people purchased property that had back dues from previous owners. Daniel Griffin pointed out that it was the buyer's responsibility to research the title to the property they purchased and should not be forgiven for the dues of previous owners.

Brandon Jones requests that the meeting agendas be formalized to minimize lengthy public input in the middle of meetings. Those wishing to speak should ask to be added to the agenda and a sign-up sheet for public input should be passed around at the beginning of meetings. Otherwise public input should be at the discretion of the Board.

Motion made to formalize meeting agendas and restrict public input to those signing-up in advance. **Motion:** Brandon Jones **2nd:** Mike Fisher **Vote:** All Approve.

Brandon Jones presents Carbonite Backup as a solution to the department's need of off-site back-up of records as required by law. Motion made to use Carbonite for back-up services at \$24 per month. **Motion:** Brandon Jones **2nd:** George Dykes **Vote:** All Approved.

Daniel Griffin makes a motion for executive session to discuss a new hire, then withdraws the motion to handle other business first.

Brandon Jones receives clarification on the bill from Tuscaloosa EMA. Motion is made to pay the \$992.70 invoice. **Motion:** Brandon Jones **2nd:** George Dykes **Vote:** All Approved.

Board discusses necessary changes to the ballot. By law an option to not increase dues at all must be added. Attorney's also have stated that having two options for increasing dues could also be challenged as confusing to voters, so one option needs to be decided on. Daniel Griffin favors collecting at mil rate as it is easier to understand and requires less research by voters to make an informed decision. Steven Johnson favors flat fee collection due to the vocal opposition to millage collection by some area residents. Either way, language to remove the limit on dues for those owning multiple parcels must be added. Tabled for further research and discussion.

Tracy Pearson reminds the board that they should consider changes to the Bylaws for the upcoming annual meeting.

Public input by (unnamed resident) asking why minutes haven't been uploaded to the website since May. He was informed that June and July minutes were simply oversight by the office due to numerous other matters being handled and that the two August meetings had no approved minutes until the current meeting.

Public input by Doug Beaulieu asking for an update on the Regional Air Medical Service proposal. Jim Bossard mentioned that a reschedule with residents near Fire Station 2 is in the works.

Public input by Adrain Dudley asking about the land owned by the town near Fire Station 1. Brandon Jones stated that it was purchased by the town during the time that Town Hall was in the same building as the fire hall.

Motion made to go into executive session to discuss a potential new hire. **Motion:** Daniel Griffin **2nd**: Mike Fisher. **Vote:** All Approved.

Executive Session entered at 8:38pm

Motion to return from executive session. **Motion:** Daniel Griffin **2nd**: Mike Fisher **Vote:** All Approved.

Return to regular session at 8:51pm

Motion made to hire Martha McFarland for \$16 per hour and a maximum of 30 hours per week as an office assistant. **Motion:** Daniel Griffin **2nd**: Mike Fisher. **Vote:** All Approved.

Motion to adjourn made. **Motion:** Mike Fisher **2nd**: George Dykes **Vote:** All Approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55pm