



**For Immediate Release**

March 17, 2020

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**BOCC Appoints Two Board of Director Members to Berryhill Fire Protection District**

On March 10, 2020, Mr. Ray Lusk, Office #2 for the Board of Directors of the Berryhill Fire Protection District and Mr. Grady Beeson, Office # 1 for the Board of Directors submitted resignation letters to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for four of the five Board of Director members. These resignations vacated the following District Offices:

- Office #1 (expiration 2021): Grady Beeson, Board Member
- Office #3 (expiration 2025): E. Kempf, Board Secretary
- Office #4 (expiration 2023): R. Lusk, Treasurer
- Office #5 (expiration 2022): H. Mefford, Chairman

With these four vacancies, only Mr. Frank Mason, Office #2 remains on the Board of Directors. Today, he recommended Mr. Russ Harrison and Mrs. Kay Van Arsdale to be appointed by the BOCC to allow for the necessary quorum so the Board can continue to operate. State statute 19 O.S. (§) 901.5 (A) provides direction that “Directors of a fire protection district shall be the surface owners of real property in and residents of the district and shall not be paid firefighters for the fire protection district.”

Following this direction and Mr. Mason’s recommendations, the BOCC yesterday appointed Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Van Arsdale to the Board of Directors.

“After hearing from several interested applicants for these positions, we determined that Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Van Arsdale were the best choices to help Chief Michael Hall keep the Berryhill Fire Protection District operational,” said District 2 County Commissioner Karen Keith. “We are confident that the residents of Berryhill will be pleased with these appointments and the direction they provide to the Board.”

Mr. Harrison is currently the General Manager of Mohawk Materials and has lived in the district for approximately a year where he has experienced first-hand the fire department’s support after two medical emergencies at his residence. He hopes to help the district continue to move in a positive direction that best serves the community of Berryhill. Mrs. Van Arsdale is a member of the community with family ties dating back to 1902. She is a retired City of Tulsa employee who spent more than 19 years in Human Resources where she was responsible for participating in the entry level hiring process for the Fire Department including written assessments, citizen panel interviews, Chief’s interviews, and more. Mrs. Van Arsdale looks forward to using these skills and expertise to help the fire district continue its life-saving work for Berryhill residents.

In November 2020, as part of the Oklahoma General Election, new board members will be elected by the residents of Berryhill. The Board of Directors for the Berryhill Fire Protection District will approve a Resolution calling for the Election by June 19, 2020. All offices either expired (Mr. Mason’s Office #2 expires in 2020) or unexpired (Offices #1, #3, #4, and #5) will be listed on the Resolution.

“I am looking forward to working with the new Board members to continue to run the Berryhill Fire Department in a manner that is in line with what our residents expect and the safety and support they have come to expect from us,” Berryhill Fire Department Chief Michael Hall said.

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