

March 21, 2013

Mayor Willie Hendricks
P.O. Box 40
Simsboro, LA 71235

Dear Mayor Hendricks:

On November 27, 2012 a letter of your appointment to the Fire District Board of Commissioners was requested, to be filed in the records, however you faxed over a copy of the Lawrason Act instead. I would like to thank you for sending it because I have had time to review the Lawrason Act, however I do not find anywhere in the act that entitles your appointment to the Board.

I have researched the Lawrason Act, and have since spoke to the Attorney General's office in Baton Rouge. In addition, I have acquired an opinion pertaining to fire districts and appointments to boards. This opinion was rendered by Kerry L. Kilpatrick, Assistant Attorney General, on June 4, 2010, Opinion 10-0087, sent to Mr. Keith Vidrine of Eunice.

Mayor, I have enclosed a copy of this opinion. The opinion indicates on the first page "...it is the opinion of this office that the Board of Aldermen is the governing authority authorized to make appointments to the Board." So that there is no misunderstanding of this opinion I have highlighted the important facts. I am also making this opinion available to the Aldermen of Simsboro because they are the ones authorized to make this appointment. Please be advised the opinion from the Attorney General is effective now.

I do understand Simsboro is a Lawrason Act municipality, so to clarify, the opinion states, "In a Lawrason Act municipality such as the City of Eunice, the governing authority in whom the legislative powers of the City are vested is the Board of Aldermen."
The Attorney General's Office in Baton Rouge is in the process of writing an opinion for the Lincoln Parish Fire District regarding this matter as well. They have given us an opinion number, and I will share that opinion with all of the commissioners.

Sincerely,

Tom Thompson
Lincoln Parish Fire District Board Chairman

cc Mrs. Pam Durrett, Simsboro Alderman
Mr. Doug Durrett, Simsboro Alderman
Mrs. Tiffany Cole, Simsboro Alderman
Mr. Andy Shealy
Louisiana Attorney General
Mr. Ray Robinson
Mr. Richard Aillet
Mr. John Barnett
Mr. Mike Fulton
Mr. Layne Parnell