

March 26, 2013

Mayor Robert Jensen
P.O. Box 252
Dubach, LA 71235

REF: Lincoln Parish Fire District Commissioner Representative for Town of Dubach

Dear Mayor Robert Jensen,

In reference to the caption, when Mr. John (Sonny) Barnett was appointed from Dubach as a commissioner to the Fire District Board of Commissioners, he asked if he could legally serve on the board as a commissioner if he did not live inside the town. To be frank, we never had the opportunity to get involved with his appointment because we have had so many other things going on since his appointment occurred. Recently, I have had the opportunity to look into the matter and, for your knowledge, according to LA R.S. 40:1506(G1) you have to live inside the district from which you are appointed. For your ready reference I have indicated below the directive that governs the appointment of a commissioner from a district:

“The district shall be governed by a board of commissioners consisting of one representative of each subdistrict appointed by the governing body of the subdistrict. Each subdistrict representative on the board shall be a RESIDENT of the subdistrict and may be a member of the governing body of the subdistrict.”

It might help to know that I advised Mr. Barnett recently thru a letter, dated March 21, 2013, written to another commissioner. I mentioned Mr. Barnett's name and this particular law in the recent letter.

Bob, it may be helpful to let you know that we are looking for a commissioner that supports and believes in the Fire District. During one of our board meetings that Mr. Barnett attended, I astonishingly found out thru a comment made by him, that he preferred to have an all volunteer fire department. Needless to say, an all volunteer fire department would adversely affect our great fire rating, and also have a negative effect on our capabilities of receiving grant money and capital outlay. Which I am happy to say we've picked up over \$8,000,000 through these grants and capital outlay, and not at the tax payers expense. Lincoln Parish Fire District has received constant support, as well as assistance acquiring these monies from Hollis Downs, Representative Rob Shadoin, Senator Bob Kostelka, and U.S House of Representatives Rodney Alexander, along with others. Representative Alexander also helped secure the funds for our

outstanding training facility here in Lincoln Parish.

I would think, Bob, a great commissioner will have the best interest of the fire district at heart, and be willing to spend time with the Fire Chief and get to know Lincoln Parish Fire District's capabilities, and realize that we are one of the best in the state!

Bob, before I left the office today I had the opportunity to stop at Barbara's office (Rob's right-hand person), to see if there was anything I could assist them with. I mentioned to her your recent request for grant money. I think that's the right way to go Mayor. Like the old saying goes, "You never know if you're going to get it or not if you don't ask."

Sincerely,

Tom Thompson
Chairman
Lincoln Parish Fire District Board of Commissioners

cc Andy Shealy, Assistant District Attorney