

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes June 17, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance and prayer were given.

Roll Call: Chairman Kline and Commissioners Rich and Williams were present. Commissioners Davis and Risley were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- *Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2008 regular meeting and May 27, 2008 special meeting. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

OLD BUSINESS-

NEW BUSINESS –

A) Chief's Report-

1. EAP Renewal- Chairman Kline requested that Attorney Troy Ingram review the renewal and it can be voted on at the next meeting. Mr. Marchetta will be present at the next meeting for any questions.

2. Dedication of Training Academy- Chief Hess requested that the Training Academy be dedicated to Norman Francioni, in August. He also discussed a "re-dedication" for the stations already named after other people. Commissioner Williams requested that the board be provided with a short biography of the individuals that our stations are currently dedicated to.

3. Surplus Apparatus-

- Unit 183- VIN 1P9CT01D8GA040200 (1986 Pierce Pumper)
- Unit 189- VIN MC611F1004 (1980 Mack)
- Truck 15- VIN 1FDKF37M5MNA98142 (1991 Ford Ambulance)
- LaSAR van

Commissioner Williams made a motion to surplus the four (4) vehicles, as described by Chief Hess. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chief Hess requested permission to donate Unit 183 to St. Tammany Fire District #10.

Commissioner Williams made a motion do donate Unit 183 to St. Tammany Fire Dist #10. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. BlueCross Insurance Meeting Review – Chief Hess discussed the meeting he, Chief Kaufmann and Don Massed had with BlueCross representative, Greg Cross. The purpose of the meeting was to inquire about suggestions on ways the department could influence BlueCross to provide more favorable consideration as premium rates are conected. Mr. Cross advised that he

would meet with underwriting and recommend that the department be seen as “favorable”.

Chief Hess spoke on the award that the department received, from LWCC, for outstanding safety performance. He further stated that LWCC represents over 22,000 companies, and our department was ranked in the “Top 70”.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept the Chief’s report. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B) PMI Report- (presented by Leo Jackson)

1. Employee Benefits-

- a) **Blue Cross Insurance- Conference call review (LA Statutes)**

2. Human Resources-

- a) **Promotional Standards and Qualifications- (Extension to July 2008)**
- b) **Promotional Standards and Qualifications- Development of Class Plan for Non-suppression career disciplines/ paths**
- c) **BOC Resolution: 2008-012: Review & Number established resolutions (2007)**
- d) **Volunteer Class Study: (Suppression Qualified; Search and Rescue; Administrative & Dispatch Support; Emeritus, etc.)**
- e) **Volunteer Firefighter Income Tax Deduction**
- f) **409A Regulations- Deferred Income Arrangements (Employer contributions to retiree insurance benefits**
- g) **BOC Resolution: 2008-013 (Fixed Fee Schedule- Additional Duty Assignments)**
- h) **BOC Resolution: 2008-014 (Dedication of Fire Academy- N. Francioni)**

3. Payroll

- a) **Completed IRS 2005 General Audit-** Mr. Jackson reported that Chief Financial Officer Mike Bryd assisted with this audit and is confident that it went well.

4. FRS (Firefighters’ Retirement System)

- a) **FRS Back Pay Audit- pay off balance (outstanding)**
- b) **FRS 2006- Outstanding audit acknowledgement (filed as not in agreement with FRS determination)**
- c) **Response: FRS Letter 01/15/08- 17.2% Valuation v. 900K payment**

5. VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC

- a) **VFIS Donation of watercraft (jet ski)**
- b) **LWCC Safest 70 Award Recognition**
- c) **LA Citizens Insurance Tax Credit (LA Fair Share)**

Mr. Jackson advised that the Chief’s annual evaluation was approaching and that the board members should receive their packages to complete and return. He hopes the compile all of the information, for reporting, by July 5.

As Mark was not present at this meeting, his other agenda items will be discussed at the next meeting.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept the PMI report. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chief Kaufmann discussed the “fixed” rate schedule and recommended that a “fixed” medical rate for EMT-I be added at \$16.50/hr.

C) DiGIOVANNI AND ASSOCIATES, CPAs LLC-

Mr. DiGiovanni discussed the financial statement.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept the financial report. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

D) ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Attorney Troy Ingram explained the process involved with millage renewals.

Mr. Ingram requested a formal resolution designating “St. Tammany News” as the official journal for St. Tammany Fire District #1 (previously “Slidell Sentry News”).

Commissioner Williams made a motion to designate “St. Tammany News” as the official publication of St. Tammany Fire District #1. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Ingram stated that we missed the first deadline, as outlined in the statute (Title 47, Section 1705 (A)), which requires ***“all tax recipient agencies of ad valorem taxes of each and every parish of the state of Louisiana, the Parish of Orleans expected, including the police jury, school board, levee districts, special districts, municipalities, and all tax recipients of any nature whatsoever of ad valorem taxes, except municipalities which prepare their own tax rolls, are hereby required to furnish the assessor and the legislative auditor the authorizing ordinances or resolutions and the tax rate to be applied to the assessed values for ad valorem tax purposes not later than June 1 of each year”***.

He further stated that the reason for not meeting the deadline is that the assessor has not complied with her obligation, as set forth in R.S. 47:1705 (C): ***“In order for the taxing bodies to comply with the requirements hereof, each assessor shall furnish to the taxing authorities in his parish by May 1 of each year that reassessment occurs a statement showing the assessed value of taxable property that appeared on the tax roll of the prior year before and after reassessment and application of changes in the homestead exemption”***.

There is an Attorney General opinion that states that the assessor has the discretion to waive the deadlines 47:1705 (A); which we are confident will be done.

It was decided that at the September 16, 2008 regularly scheduled board meeting, we will adopt the millage for 2008. It is imperative that all are in attendance for the vote.

6/17/08

Mr. Ingram's office is preparing the required publications that will be submitted to the Legislative Auditor's Assistant for approval and/or guidance. Upon approval, they will be published through the St. Tammany News, The Times Picayune, Channel 10 and AM 990.

Attorney Troy Ingram discussed the bid by Southern Coast Ventures for \$23,700.00 for the fuel tank foundation. As these bids were reviewed and met the specifications, Mr. Ingram requested a board resolution to accept the bids.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept the bid of Southern Coast Ventures for the fuel tank foundation. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

With regards to the bid specifications, Mr. Ingram stated that there has been discussion to amend the bidding requirements; he recommends awarding it for "best value" vs. "lowest bid". *(to be discussed at the next meeting)*

Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept the Attorney's report. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

Cheryl Gross