

# St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

## Board of Commissioners

### Special Meeting Minutes August 28, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were done.

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Crowley and Commissioners Rich and Gay were present.  
Commissioners Brackett and Hoying were absent.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- 1) 2020-029: BOC Resolution (Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for Dispatch Services for STFPD No. 4)

*Commissioner Gay made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-029, Relating to the Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between St. Tammany Fire District No. 4 & District No. 1. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion.*

Chief Kaufmann stated that we have been approached, multiple times, about providing dispatch services; however, it became sensitive and political in the past and we did not pursue performing the services. He stated that over the past years, a lot has changed from an efficiency standpoint and our standards are being noticed. Chief Moore, from Fire Dist. 4, has been dissatisfied with the services they are receiving and reached out to our department to perform dispatching services for them.

Chief Kaufmann stated that there was no need to go public with this until the Board approved it; therefore, he requested the approval to move forward with functional consolidation. He stated that the call volume, PIAL rating, technology changes, oversight, infra-structure changes, etc. have been researched. With the acquisition of Fire Dist. 4, Chief Kaufmann stated that he will have to hire additional dispatchers; however, the funding that they will provide will be cost neutral to Fire Dist. 1.

Chief Kaufmann stated that the Coroner's Office has also contacted him, as they were leaving for the same reasons as Fire Dist. 4. He stated that a meeting was held and their call types and volume were discussed. He further stated that there would not be additional manpower needs for the Coroner's Office.

Upon conclusion of today's meeting, and approval to move forward, Chief Moore will request a meeting with Unifire to notify of his intent to leave, and this discussion could result in expanding, beyond Fire Dist. 4 and the Coroner's Office. Chief Kaufmann further stated that part of this meeting may be voluntarily coming together and Fire Dist. 1 would be asked to do all dispatching, which he would recommend entertaining that decision to go forward, as it makes sense for functional consolidation, based on efficiency. He further reiterated that there has been no recruitment in this process.

Chief Kaufmann stated this should have no effect on 911 or politics- the only effect is that they fund Unifire and have declined to fund Fire Dist. 1. Chief Kaufmann stated that he will be at the 911 meeting and that if there is one dispatch, he will be asking for the same supplemental funding, which will help keep the costs down.

Chief Kaufmann stated that he will prepare three year agreements, which will include the cost of living impact. Additionally, there will be a clause that if an agency exceeds 25% of the call volume, we would re-visit the agreement.

Chief Kaufmann stated that if we do dispatch for all agencies, the Unifire employees will be offered employment, contingent on successfully completing all requirements.

The floor was opened for public comment.

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Chief Sicard, from Dist. 3, stated that he, as well as his Treasurer and Chairman, are interested in this transition. Chief Sicard further stated if Fire Dist. 4 leaves, their portion would have to be divided amongst the other agencies in Unifire. This increase, as well as FRS and other mandates, are getting to costly; therefore, his department is interested in having Fire Dist. 1 dispatch for them as well.

Chairman Crowley reiterated that this is not a recruitment effort, but more about the services that we can provide more affordably and efficiently.

Chairman Crowley inquired as to why Chief Kaufmann would want to take on this extra step- Chief Kaufmann replied, "from a leadership standpoint, and being the largest department in the Parish, we have the best opportunity to provide the best dispatch function at the least cost". Chief Kaufmann additionally stated that from a functional standpoint, it makes political sense.

There was additional discussion on the turnover at Unifire and the "rookie" mistakes being made. Chairman Crowley stated that we, as a Parish, would regain control of the quality of services provided.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

- 2) 2020-030: BOC Resolution (Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for Dispatch Services for St. Tammany Parish Coroner)

***Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-030, Relating to the Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement by and between St. Tammany Parish Coroner & District No.1. Commissioner Gay seconded the motion.***

Chief Kaufmann stated that the call volume is approximately 11,000/yr. and typically consists of only needing to assign a case number; not continuous radio traffic.

The floor was opened for public comment. There was no public comment.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Crowley stated that as a Board, they have no desire to seek out bringing others to Dist. 1; however, part of their commitment to St. Tammany Parish, and the committal made in front of the Parish to streamline efficiency and to consolidate what makes sense, if they are approached to do some form of consolidation, it would be irresponsible not to consider it.

***Commissioner Gay made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.***

***The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.***

Pursuant to R.S. 42:23, personal recording devices are welcome in every meeting for Fire District No. 1; however, 2 they must remain and be maintained in the possession of the individual that brings the device to remove any liability from Fire District No. 1 of any unintentional or accidental mishaps with the device during any such meeting