

# St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

## Board of Commissioners

### Regular Meeting Minutes June 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance and prayer were given.

Roll Call: Chairman Kline and Commissioners Rich, Davis, Risley and Kingston were present.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES-**

*Commissioner Kingston made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2009 Regular meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **OLD BUSINESS –**

- A) Discussion on 2010 Millage Advertising-** Chief Hess mentioned that he has been in contact with the Assessor's office regarding the outlook for the upcoming year. The Assessor's office has been directed to conduct another assessment. As a result of this reassessment, there is a high probability of decreased property values. It was suggested that if there was consideration to roll forward, now is the time to do it. Mr. DiGiovanni requested that permission be given to begin advertising for this and vote on it at the August 18, 2009 meeting.

*Commissioner Davis made a motion to schedule the meeting for consideration of the millage adjustment for August 18, 2009 and to begin advertising, for that meeting, in June. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A) Chief's Report-**

- a. Discussion- St. Tammany Parish Chief's Meeting-** Chief Hess discussed HCR 174 pertaining to consolidation of fire services in St. Tammany Parish. There was concern among some Chief's that the board confected to do the study did not involve fire service representation. The Chief's have offered to conduct the study and involve Rep. Burns and any others that may be requested. Chief Hess further stated that there would need to be changes in laws before there could be consolidation. There was further discussion regarding this process.

*Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the Chief's report. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

##### **B) PMI Report**

###### **1. Employee Benefits**

- a) Group Major Medical- Initial Renewal Negotiations (BCBS) -** renewal is October 1, 2009. There was additional discussion regarding the benefits. There may be a potential 10% increase.

**2. Human Resources-**

- a) **NCCI Experience Modifier Audit-** still ongoing
- b) **GASB 45 –** Actuary Study Implemented
- c) **SAFER Grant-** Customized & released reports for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. 2008 reimbursement.
- d) **2009-010: BOC Resolution (Adoption of St. Tammany Parish Pre- Hospital Treatment Protocol)**

*Commissioner Kingston made a motion to approve Resolution 2009-010, relating to the adoption of the St. Tammany Parish Pre- Hospital treatment Protocol. Commissioner Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

- e) **2009-011: BOC Resolution (Acceptance of Urgent Care Proposal for Services)**

*Commissioner Risley made a motion to adopt resolution 2009-011, relating to the acceptance of Urgent Care proposal for services. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

- f) **Civil Service Appeal (Employee termination)-** upheld

*Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept Resolution. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

**3. Payroll-**

- a) **2010 “Zero” Balance Budget**
- b) **Increase in SSP to \$500/mo vs. \$425/mo-** effective 7/1/09
- c) **Increase in FRS ER Contribution to 14% vs. 12.5%-** effective 7/1/09

**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**
- d) **2010 FRS Contribution Rate-**

**5. VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC**

- a) **LWCC- Increase in open reserves (2 claimants)**
- b) **LWCC- Challenge to open reserve- claimant returned to full duty**

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

**C) DiGiovanni & Associates, CPA’s, L.L.C**

Mr. DiGiovanni discussed the financial report.

Chief Hess further commented on the deficit over the past three years and our ability to maintain all employees and emergency services all with good financial management. He credits the relationship throughout the department for this.

*Commissioner Kingston made a motion to approve the financial report. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**D) ATTORNEY'S REPORT-**

**a) De-annexation Agreement with Fire District 3- (nothing to report)**

Attorney Troy Ingram requested a motion to suspend the rules to consider discussion on the Tax Assessor for fees on parcel fee collections.

*Commissioner Davis made a motion to suspend the rules to hear discussion on the Tax Assessor for fees on parcel fee collection. Commissioner Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

Attorney Troy Ingram stated that in a meeting with the Tax Assessor, Mr. George Klump and Patricia Core discussed the amount of time and expenses that they are expending, as the parcel fee is not related to the \$75,000 homestead exemption. The Sheriff collects these fees and charges 7% of the gross. The Tax Assessor has requested to receive 7% on any money collected, with respect to the parcel fee. There was further discussion of the advantages and disadvantages to approving this request, as well as other alternatives for collection that we may have. The Assessor has stated that she is not compelled to collect fees, such as the parcel fee, and that she would no longer collect these fees, if not approved.

*Commissioner Davis made a motion to authorize Attorney Troy Ingram to obtain an Attorney General Opinion on Commission of parcel fees. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Commissioner Kingston made a motion to approve the Attorney's report. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Commissioner Risley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.*