

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes July 21, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 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 Risley made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2009 Regular meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A) Chief's Report-

a. Bid Opening- RFP for Accountability- (1 bid received)

- Azure Wireless \$ 51,500.00

Commissioner Kingston made a motion to approve the bid, as submitted, pending review by administration for compliance. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Bid Opening- SCBA- (2 bids received)

- Southland Fire Safety \$ 3,407.80/ unit
- Casco \$ 3,298.00/ unit

Commissioner Risley made a motion to submit both proposals to administration to select the best value. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Presentation- postponed

d. EAP Renewal Contract- (no change in services or rates) Mr. Waniewski drafted Resolution 2009-013, relating to the renewal of services.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve Resolution 2009-013, based on review and approval from the district's Attorney. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

e. 2008 Audit- Chief Hess discussed the "Bell" citation. As a result of the State Legislative Audit that was performed, our annual auditor was compelled to note it in the annual audit.

f. EMS Transport Feasibility Study- Power Point Presentation- (presented by Chief of Training and Safety Rusty Shoultz). Chief Shoultz gave conservative figures on the expenses and revenues of transporting. From an employee relation stand point, employees will not be compelled to ride the ALS Unit, which will be run from 11:00 am until 11:00 pm.

Employees will also not be forced to become Paramedics. We would continue our relationship with Acadian Ambulance. Commissioner Kingston inquired into many issues, such as the department already having a transport unit, transport requests (out of area) and how calls will be dispatched. Commissioner Risley inquired about a grant for this. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chief Hess advised that at next months meeting, a Resolution be presented to go forward with this process. There was further discussion regarding start-up costs.

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)** – currently in the process of renewal negotiations

2. Human Resources-

- a) **NCCI Experience Modifier Audit-** still ongoing
- b) **GASB 45 – 2008 Audit Compliance**
- c) **SAFER Grant- Customized & released reports for 3rd & 4th Qtr. 2008 reimbursement (1st Qtr 2009)- One submission per Quarter**
- d) **2009-012: BOC Resolution (Retiree GASB 45 Reimbursement Protocol for Paid Premiums- Employee benefits)**

Commissioner Risley made a motion to adopt Resolution 2009-012 relating to the reimbursement by retired personnel that qualify and elect to participate in District #1 sponsored benefits. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

- e) **Mandated Certifications vs. Incentive Pay Compensation**

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

C) DiGiovanni & Associates, CPA's, L.L.C

Mr. DiGiovanni discussed the 2009 proposed revised budget, for advertisement.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve advertisement of the revised budget, as submitted. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DiGiovanni discussed the financial statement.

Chief Hess commented on the judicious monitoring of overtime (i.e. "other" and "holdover"). He also addressed the "sick pay" citing the fitness program as beneficial to reducing sick leave, as well as the policies and procedures that have been implemented.

Mr. DiGiovanni discussed the roll back/ roll forward vote that will take place next month. The increase in FRS employer contributions, the inability to replace employees, and other operational issues, such as fire apparatus and maintenance, that need to be addressed, but the 33 to 34 mills does not allow for that. Chief Hess reiterated the importance of freezing the millage due to the inconsistent answers to millage inquiries. He feels that we are compelled to protect the 35 mills and, in the future, if it allows, we can make adjustments for relief.

There was additional discussion regarding the impact of reassessments as well as the 7%, on the gross fee, the Assessor wants to charge for the parcel fee billings.

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

D) ATTORNEY'S REPORT-

- a) **De-annexation Agreement with Fire District 3-** A meeting has been set up with Mike Sevante to try to finalize this.

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

Commissioner Risley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.