

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes July 20, 2010

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, Davis, Risley and Kingston were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS –

a) E.A.P. Contract Renewal-

Commissioner Risley made a motion to approve the E.A.P. contract renewal. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS -

A) Chief's Report- (Item B was moved to item A)

a.) **Communications Technology-** Bobby Worchel gave a brief overview of the radio system. He had Tom Henderson (regional Motorola representative) in attendance. Tom has knowledge of where the City, Parish, State, etc. stands with their radio systems. Bobby discussed the following known facts:

- Our system has reached end of life: 5-7 years worth of parts
- We have back-up capabilities and interoperability on the State 700 MHz system
- **We need to begin looking at the idea of an “Annual Radio Fund”.... much like our “Apparatus Fund”**
- Both primary radio systems in the parish are “end of life”
- There is a state request for \$32 million for a new Region 9 Radio system
- All agencies are moving toward usage on the State 700 MHz Radio System
- At some point, we have to be ready to be on board with the build out of a new radio system
- Estimated cost to build out the city of Slidell to P-25, \$2.5- \$3.5 million
- Estimated cost to build out a St. Tammany Parish radio system for all agencies \$20+ million
- New radio that is P-25 and Narrow band for 2017 requirement will not be available until sometime in 2011
- At some point we also need to consider the building and moving of Fire Alarm north of I-12

There was further discussion.

- b) **2009 Audit-** The audit revealed “no findings”

Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept the auditor’s reports. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- c) **Budget Analysis- Training & Fire Prevention-** Fire Prevention Officer Mike Thiel gave a Power Point presentation on Fire Prevention. This included an overview of the following:

- Review of Fire Prevention Class Plans
- Budget Analysis (3 years)
- Salary Overview
- Vehicle Usage and Expenditures
- Fire Prevention Activities (Inspections, Public Education, Fires and Investigations)

There was further discussion.

Chief of Training and Safety Billman gave a Power Point presentation on the Training Academy. This included an overview of the following:

- Training Personnel Salaries (3 year summary)
- Adjunct Instructor Pay Per Year
- Adjunct Instructor Pay by Function
- Training Expenses
- Vehicle Expenses
- Projected Financial Impact of Training Conducted by Outside What Agencies
- What have we received for the monies spent?
- Offset of Revenue from Other Departments
- The Impact of Inadequate Training

Commissioner Kingston made a motion to accept the Chief’s report. Commissioner Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B) PMI Report- (presented by Leo Jackson)

1. **Employee Benefits** (no action)
 - a) **Group Major Medical- Claims History Review**
 - b) **Group Long-term Disability- Coordinated Benefit Review & Findings**
2. **Human Resource**
 - a) **2010-009: BOC Resolution- 24/hr to 8/hr Shift Conversion**

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2010-009 relating to the conversion from “Shifts to Days” compensation differential. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion.

There was additional discussion.

The motion carried.

- b) **2010-010: BOC Resolution- Roll Back (pending)** (no action)
- c) **2010-011: BOC Resolution- Roll Forward (pending)** (no action)

3. **Payroll** (no action)
 - a) **2009, 2008, 2007: Training Compensation Analysis**
 - b) **2009, 2008, 2007: Fire Prevention Compensation Analysis**
 - c) **2011 Budget Forecast Models**
4. **FRS (Firefighters Retirement System)** (no action)
 - a) **2010 Projected ER Contribution rate: 21.50% (effective 7/1/10)**
 - b) **FRS Back Pay Audit- pay off balance (outstanding)**
 - c) **FRS 2006- Outstanding audit acknowledgement (filed as not in agreement with FRS determination)**
5. **VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC** (no action)

Commissioner Risley made a motion to accept the PMI report. Commissioner Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- C) **DiGiovanni & Associates, CPA's, L.L.C-** Chief Hess discussed the proposed 2010 Budget Revision. These drastic cuts are the result of the following:

- Safer Grant
- Unfilled Positions
- Salary Load Differentials
- Less expense due to reduced time off
- \$452,000.00 positive FRS variance due to conservative math- 24% to 21% for 1st 6 months
- \$ 51,000.00 positive Work Comp rate
- \$ 40,000.00 utilization of health insurance

There was further discussion on budget revisions.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the revised 2010 budget, for advertising. Commissioner Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The financial report was discussed.

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

- D) **Attorney's Report-** Attorney Troy Ingram stated that the millage consideration will be August 17, 2010. Chief Hess has requested the Grand re-cap and all of the proper advertising has been done.

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

Commissioner Kingston made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Deputy Chief Kuhn commented. He stated that with regards to purchasing new trucks, we have been dealing with Ferrara on State Contract. He recommended that we go through the bidding process to ensure that we're getting a fair price. He also

spoke about the 4% FRS offset in “Pocket Jingle” and the fact that once an employee enters the DROP, they no longer receive this benefit. He requested that this benefit be reinstated for the employees on the DROP; possibly in an insurance fund for use after the employee retires. Chairman Kline stated that we should ask PMI for a recommendation. Chief Kaufmann advised that we would revisit the issue.

There was also discussion on retirement benefit reductions due to incorrectly reporting hurricane overtime. This overtime is not applicable to retirement; therefore it had to be corrected. This correction resulted in a change in benefit value from what was originally reported as the monthly retirement benefit calculation.