

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes August 17, 2010

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

The pledge of allegiance and prayer were given.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

Commissioner Kingston made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS – Northshore Beach meeting set for August 23, at 9:30 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS -

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

- a.) **Doctor's Urgent Care (Scott Leonard)**- Mr. Leonard gave an overview on the Doctor's Urgent Care facility and services offered (i.e. new hire and annual physicals, workers comp injuries, post-accident drug and alcohol screenings and extended sick leave monitoring). He also reported on some of the findings resulting from the annual physicals.
- b.) **Revised 2010 Budget**- As there was no public comment regarding the published revised budget, Chief Hess requested approval of the revised budget.

Commissioner Risley stated she e-mailed the Chief about some budget items, and that none of the issues were addressed. Chief Hess stated that due to the budget already being posted, we were unable to make any changes; however, if changes need to be made, it can be discussed and re-published. Commissioner Risley stated that she does not support the revised budget that was presented. Chief Kaufmann stated that the revised budget was reduced by 1.2 million dollars.

Commissioner Kingston made a motion to table the adoption of the Revised 2010 Budget. Commissioner Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- c.) **Financial Workshop**- Chief Hess presented the Board with the changes from the previous budget workshop. He further stated that he put together a summary regarding lowering the millage from 31 to 29.5. Even with rolling down, we will pay off all outstanding debt, with the exception of the radio payments, absolve all of our deficit, fund approx. \$650,000 for "Capitalization", fund months 13 and 14 (due to not receiving revenues until March), continue "pocket jingle", and increase Firefighter II incentive to \$200.00/mth.
- d.) **Salary comparisons**- Chief Hess will provide a salary comparison that was done based on Fire Dist #4 (on average, our department is approx. 22% lower).
- e.) **Adopt the adjusted millage rates**- Due to the Assessor's office just posting the assessments for review, we do not have any information regarding what we anticipate receiving.

f.) Set forth the adjusted millage rates and roll forward to millage rates not exceeding the maximum authorized rates- (contingent on “E”)

Chief Hess discussed a Town Hall meeting that he’ll be conducting, called “It’s all about Transparency”. This will be held on November 6 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Commissioner Kingston inquired about lowering the millage to 28 and paying off the debt over two years and lowering taxes. There was additional discussion.

Chief Kaufmann spoke about the department’s status after Hurricane Katrina. He stated that we were the hardest hit and had the worst financial burden. He asked for the Board’s support on the upcoming millage.

Acting Chairman Davis asked Attorney Troy Ingram to explain the roll forward, roll back process. Mr. Ingram stated that this would be tabled until the September 21 meeting, due to not having the grand recap. There was additional discussion.

Councilman Stefancik inquired as to why we advertised the millage vote knowing that we did not have the grand re-cap. Attorney Troy Ingram stated that the Assessor is required to provide us the information and we have posting requirements. Mr. Stefancik further stated that he has received over a hundred calls about this. He agrees with Commissioner Kingston on keeping salaries up and employees remaining employed. He also stated that the public that he has dealt with thinks that we should go with the millage that the Assessor tells us.

Chief Kaufmann discussed the meetings that he and Chief Hess have attended to educate the public on our department. He asked for support from Mr. Stefancik. Mr. Stefancik stated that he would review our budget.

Acting Chairman Davis apologized to the public that attended based on the advertisement that we would have a millage vote. He further said that the Board would like to keep the millage as low as possible.

Deputy Chief Kuhn stated that we use the public’s money to the best value possible. He discussed the salary comparison between Fire Dist #4 and our department. He further commented on the life expectancy of our apparatus.

Scott Leonard stated that he is very impressed with the department’s spending. He feels that the fire department needs more support from the public.

Acting Chairman Davis stated that no one is questioning anyone’s integrity, abilities or qualities. He feels that the public has had to do more, with less, and they are only asking that we do the same.

Operator Gomez spoke regarding the conditions of our equipment. Battalion Chief Elliott stated that we need to be given equipment that can be used to work with.

Chad Duffaut stated that while the Commissioners may be getting hundreds of phone calls, the department services over 100,000 residents.

Commissioner Risley discussed a tax payer’s property tax bill and the increases since 2005. This resulted from a property reassessment.

There was additional discussion.

Commissioner Risley made a motion to table the adjusted millage rate vote until the September 21 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

B) PMI Report

1. Employee Benefits

a) Group Major Medical- Market submission for Carrier/Rate Analysis- October 1, 2010 renewal

b) Group Long-term Disability- Coordinated Benefit Review & Findings

2. Human Resource

a.) 2010-010: BOC Resolution- (Rolling Stock, Facilities & Equipment Fund)- Budget line item change from "Major Apparatus & Facilities Fund"

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept Resolution 2010-010. Commissioner Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b.) 2010-011: BOC Resolution (Posting of Revised 2010 Budget)

Commissioner Risley made a motion to accept Resolution 2010-011. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c.) 2010-012: BOC Resolution (Records Retention Policy)- upon approval, this would be forwarded to the State for compliance approval.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept Resolution 2010-012. Commissioner Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

d.) 2010-013: BOC Resolution (Roll Forward)- pending

e.) 2010-014: BOC Resolution (Roll Back)- pending

f.) FRS Employee Offset- Benefit Recognition- this is a benefit offered within "Pocket Jingle" and therefore is optional. When benefits cease, this recognition ends.

3. Payroll

a) 2010 Revised Budget Forecast

b) 2011 Budget Forecast Models

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) Hurricane Gustav – payment/ reimbursement- there was additional discussion regarding the employees that may receive a decreased retirement benefit as a result of the ineligible Gustav contributions.

5. VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC

Commissioner Kingston 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-

The financial report was discussed.

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

D) Attorney's Report- (nothing to report)

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.