

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes September 21, 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 August 17 and August 31, 2010 meetings. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Revised 2010 Budget

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2010-013. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS -

1) Chief's Report-

a.) Adopt the adjusted millage rates

b.) Set forth the adjusted millage rate and roll forward to millage rates not exceeding the maximum authorized rates.

(Chairman Kline allowed 3 minutes for each person that wanted a chance to speak. He also stated his expectation of respect.)

Slidell Firefighter's Association President Chad Duffaut gave a Power Point presentation on millages.

There was a question asked regarding tax payers making up for the losses in the retirement system. Chief Hess stated that this is state law and should be addressed with legislatures. There was additional discussion regarding the pay recommendation by the Union.

Chief Hess gave his recommendation, to the Board of Commissioners, of going from the current 31 mills to 29.75 mills. If we did go to 29.75, that would give an aggregate roll back of 15% of our revenues, over a 3 year period. Chief Hess went on to state that we are supposed to know, in June, what the next year's revenues are going to be; however, it typically comes in late fall, making the budget process difficult. Also, when the money is collected and distributed, we often do not see the money until March of the next year; therefore a 14 month budget is projected. We currently have a 1.1 million dollar deficient which would be funded with the proposed 29.75 millage. This proposal would also position the department to pay off the \$800,000 of debt, as well as provide capitalization of revenues and future infrastructures.

Attorney Troy Ingram explained the millage vote process and recommended that the Board comment on what they want to do, with respect to the millage rate.

After discussion, it was decided that Resolution 2010-015 A would be the appropriate Resolution. Chairman Kline read the Resolutions.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2010-015

BE IT RESOLVED, by the ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 of the Parish of ST. TAMMANY, Louisiana, in a regularly scheduled public hearing/meeting held on September 21, 2010, conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B) wherein the ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 voted to set the adjusted millage rate for the year 2010. ACCORDINGLY,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 of the Parish of St. Tammany, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on September 21, 2010, which meeting/hearing was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following adjusted millage rate be and it is hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parish for the year 2010, for the purpose of raising revenue:

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES	MILLAGE	27.040
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of St. Tammany, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year of 2010 the taxes herein levied, and the Tax Collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, the votes were:

YEAS:
NAYS:
ABSTAINED:
ABSENT:

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true exact copy of the resolution adopted at the meeting/hearing held on the 21st day of September, 2010, at which meeting/hearing at least two-thirds of the total membership was present and voting.

Slidell, Louisiana, this 21st day of September, 2010.

**CALVIN "BUD" KLINE, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, ST. TAMMANY
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2010-016

BE IT RESOLVED, by the ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 of the Parish of ST. TAMMANY, Louisiana, in a regularly scheduled public hearing/meeting held on September 21, 2010, conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B) wherein the ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 voted to increase the millage rate for the year 2010 from the adjusted millage rate of 27.040 mills to ____ mills. ACCORDINGLY,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 for the Parish of ST. TAMMANY, Louisiana, in a public meeting/hearing held on September 21, 2010, which meeting/hearing was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the taxing district voted to increase the millage rate, but not in excess of the prior year’s maximum rate, on all taxable property shown to the official assessment roll for the year 2010, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rate is:

	<u>Adjusted rate</u>	<u>2010 Levy</u>
FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES	27.040 mills	_____mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of St. Tammany, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2010 the taxes herein levied, and the Tax Collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law, and which followed a public meeting/hearing held on September 21, 2010, which meeting/hearing was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B).

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by no less than two-thirds of the total membership of the taxing authority voting in favor as required by Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B). The votes were:

- YEAS:
- NAYS:
- ABSTAINED:
- ABSENT:

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true exact copy of the resolution adopted at the meeting/hearing held on the 21st day of September 2010, at which meeting/hearing at least two-thirds of the total membership was present and voting.

Slidell, Louisiana, this 21st day of September, 2010.

**CALVIN "BUD" KLINE, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, ST. TAMMANY
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1**

An informal poll of the Board was taken and it was agreed upon that there will be no millage increase; therefore, Resolution 2010-015 and 2010-016 were not necessary. Resolution 2010-015A was the only Resolution to be considered. Chairman Kline read the Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO.: 2010-015 A

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2010 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1:

MILLAGE

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2010, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED: N/A

ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on September 21st, 2010, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Commissioner Rich requested Joe DiGiovanni's (C.P.A) opinion on the proposed 29.75 millage. He stated that the millage would be good for 2011; taking it one year at a time. He also stated that 2012 is a reassessment year.

(the floor was open for public comment)

Steve Stefancik- reassessment could be an issue that we are faced with, but there is a maximum that is set for next year and inquired if we had any idea what that is. He does not want the Board to "shoot themselves in the foot" or be disadvantaged by something that could happen next year should the overall property values decrease. He believes in going to the lowest possible taxes to sustain operations. He supports the Board's decision.

Gene Bellisario- does not feel comfortable going below 29.75 due to not having confirmation of FEMA loan forgiveness. He has been asked when we are going to eliminate the \$39 parcel fee.

Jelbert White- manager, Winn Dixie (Brownswitch)- Mr. White stated how grateful he is that our department will respond to him in a time of need. He does not want the Board to roll back; he wants the department to be given what is needed so everyone can remain safe.

Kevin Pearson- State Rep. Dist 76- Rep. Pearson stated that the State has approx. 2 million in budget cuts. One item that will not be cut is the State Supplemental Pay. He also mentioned the retirement system- the employer portion is 21% and will increase to 30% in 5 years.

Scott Leonard- Mr. Leonard presented the Board with a petition of 37 of his neighbors that support the Board and the Administration. They do not feel it is in the best interest to cut the millage.

Gil Berkins- Retired Fire Captain- Mr. Berkins does not understand the anger towards the Fire Dept. The Parish Officials have not offered to cut the sales tax.

Greg Kelly- 15 year Captain- Mr. Kelly stated that we have 40 employees on each shift vs. the personnel on shift in the other districts in the parish. He stated that the department's administration has done everything to save money. He also stated that he writes grants for the department; which allows for better use of the taxpayers money.

Chris Canulette- Dist.8- Mr. Canulette stated that since he has been on the Parish Council they have never made an increase to their millage. He went on to state that no one is out to hurt the fire department; people are broke, they are losing jobs, don't have insurance and are down. The public only wants what is fair.

Glenn Morris- Mr. Morris is a homeowner off North Blvd. He disagrees with Chief's 29.75 millage recommendation. If we remained at 31 mills, that \$500,000 could help keep the station on Marche open.

Bruce Abney- Mr. Abney stated that he supports the local Firefighters and does not want to roll back the millage. He feels the firefighters deserve a better salary and would be willing to pay for increased millages.

Darlene Dupre- Ms. Dupre has a son that is a firefighter. She watches him leave home and wonders if he's going to return home. She also has a son in the military that did tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. She stated that we have young men and women risking their lives for their community and country and people are complaining about having to pay more; instead of paying them what they are worth.

Barbara Brauman- Quail Ridge- Ms. Brauman thanks the firefighters and stated that she doesn't understand how people don't know what the firefighters do for them. She stated that firefighters rank among the top 20 dangerous jobs.

Chad Duffaut- Union President- Mr. Chad referred back to the power point presentation he gave. He stated that there is a pay disparity between FD#1 and Mandeville, rolling back, and the expectation that next year the board roll all the way forward. He asked how it is fair to the people of the district to roll back again this year and next year be hit with "sticker shock" from rolling forward. He suggested staying at the 31 mills to "bridge the gap" between this year and next year.

Commissioner Risley made a motion to approve Resolution 2010-015A at 29 mills. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion.

Commissioner Rich stated that he heard all of the comments and good evidence was presented to consider at least 29.75 mills. He stated that he could not support 29 mills. Chairman Kline agreed and supports the administration's recommendation of 29.75. Commissioner Kingston disagreed, stating that there are some things in the budget that can be cut and the .75 millage cut is worth approximately \$300,000. He also discussed bridging the salary gap and stated that over the past few years, the salaries were increased by 4.1%. Commissioner Rich stated that he came to the meeting tonight fully prepared to support the 29 mills, but after hearing the arguments from the constituents, he is concerned for the future.

Chairman Kline polled the Commissioners:

Risley: yea
Davis: yea
Kingston: yea
Rich: nay
Kline: nay

The motion passed.

Chief Hess addressed the audience stating that we will make it work with 29 mills. He feels that we are positioned for financial solvency.

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

B) PMI Report

1. Employee Benefits

a) Group Major Medical Renewal- Plan Option: Humana POS 90/60 & POS \$1,500.00 (retirees)

2. Human Resource

a.) 2010-013: BOC Resolution- (Approval of the Revised 2010 Budget)

b.) 2010-014: BOC Resolution (Approval of the Major Medical Renewal)

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept Resolution 2010-014. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- c.) 2010-015: BOC Resolution (Roll Back) - suspended
- d.) 2010-016: BOC Resolution (Roll Forward)- suspended
- e.) 2010-015A: BOC Resolution (31.0 or less Millage Adoption)
- f.) 2010-017: BOC Resolution (EE Contribution Rate)

Commissioner Risley made a motion to accept resolution 2010-017. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- g.) 2010-018: BOC Resolution (Deductible Offset- Tier 4 RX)

Commissioner Rich made a motion to approve Resolution 2010-018. Commissioner Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- h.) 2010-019 BOC Resolution (Retiree Contribution Rate)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve Resolution 2010-019. Commissioner Kingston seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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)

5. VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC- Workers Comp renewal is November 1

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

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

Commissioner Risley made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.