

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes September 18, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance and prayer were given.

Roll Call: Chairman Kline and Commissioners Rich and Brackett were present.
Commissioners Risley and Kingston were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS -

A) Chief's Report-

a.) Years of Service Recognitions-

- Fire prevention Chief Chad Duffaut- 20 years of service
- Fire Investigator Erik Kreppein- 20 years of service
- Fire Investigator Van Joffrion- 20 years of service
- Captain Kenneth Smith-20 years of service
- Captain David Hall- 20 years of service

- b.) PIAL Audit Update-** Chief Hess stated that the teamwork involved with the PIAL has resulted in a tremendous outcome. He further reiterated that changes in the PIAL rating do have a material effect.

Chief Hess stated that he was going to try to do a Press Conference.

Chairman Kline stated that he was very pleased and that the team did a great job. He also stated that he feels that it is overlooked that the higher the rating, the better the department comes.

Mr. Waniewski stated that nothing could have an impact of benefit to the citizens more than jumping from a 4 rating to a 3 rating, as compared to what would be done in a comparative millage.

Commissioner Rich asked publisher David Freese if this was newsworthy to do a press release. Mr. Freese stated that he would do a story.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept the Chief's report. Commissioner Brackett seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

B) PMI Report-

1. Employee Benefits –

- a.) 10/01/2012 Effective Date (Major Medical, Dental, Life and Vision)**
- b.) Open enrollment- complete**
- c.) EE Contributions- Frozen (Current Levels)**

2. Human Resource

- a.) 2011-008: BOC Resolution (Referred to Civil Service (OSE))**
- b.) 2011-009: BOC Resolution (Referred to Civil Service (OSE))**
- c.) 2012-024: BOC Resolution (Central Station #1- Emergency Roof Repair/ Rolling Stock Fund)**

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-024, Relating to the Approval of Emergency Repairs to Station #1 for District #1. Commissioner Brackett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Waniewski presented two additional Resolutions relating to the fire at Station 14.

Chief Kaufmann stated that we would be placing a 28X40 modular home (two bedrooms, one bath, kitchen, and den) on the property. Additionally, a 30X40 pole barn will be placed on the property; which will have operating roll up doors and will house two apparatus. Chief Kaufmann further stated that VFIS will be funding these projects, including the connections for the facilities (electric, sewer, water, and gas). VFIS will also be funding the cutting of five trees from the property.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-025, Relating to the Approval of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding for Steele Road Temporary Site for Station #14. Commissioner Brackett seconded the motion.

Mr. Fred McDonald stated that these Resolutions were not advertised on the Agenda, as required under the open meeting law. He further requested a copy of the additional Resolutions and stated that the Resolutions should be made available to the public, for review, before it is voted on.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Waniewski stated that to date, no funds have been used out of the Hurricane Expense line item, and requested that \$40,000 for the temporary housing, as well as \$10,000 for the facility connections, be reallocated for these purchases. Chief Kaufmann stated that we will also have to purchase the pole barn, at \$19,000; however, VFIS will be reimbursing the district.

Mr. Waniewski stated that with regards to the multiple deductibles, VFIS has waived all of them, except the premises deductible of \$1,000.

Chief Kaufmann stated that we will have the option to purchase the temporary housing, as well as the pole barn, at a salvage price, from VFIS.

Commissioner Brackett inquired into the coverage of the personal vehicles. Chief Kaufmann stated that this is being handled by the employee's personal insurance, and anything not covered will be handled by the department.

Chief Hess stated that relative to the damage sustained to the firefighter's vehicles, he expects the insurance company to come back with a market value of the vehicles, and that to some extent, while it may be market value, he believes that there have been damages sustained in excess of market value, stating that the employees won't be able to replace their vehicles for what the insurance reimburses them.

Chief Hess stated that the fire itself was causative to the district, and suggested that the employees not sustain any financial damage between their current vehicle and a like vehicle; thus making them whole on the difference in the vehicle.

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-026, Relating to the Approval of Temporary Emergency Housing for Station #14. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion.

Mr. Fred McDonald stated "same point" (regarding the Resolution not being advertised on the agenda). Chairman Kline acknowledged him.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Waniewski requested that a motion be passed to rescind Resolution 2012-015, relating to the Station 14 addition.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to rescind Resolution 2012-015, Relating to the Renovation of Station 14. Commissioner Brackett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Payroll
 - a.) 2013 Budget Forecast
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-
 - a.) Hurricane Isaac- Reported Minor Damages (Named Storm Deductible)
 - b.) VFIS Reimbursement Check/ POA – 2011 Pumper (\$90,000)
 - c.) Station 14 (Steele Rd.)
 1. Replacement Cost (RC) Property & Vehicles schedule Limits
 2. Named Storm Deductible (Mandatory- No Guarantee RC)

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

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

Mr. DiGiovanni presented the Commissioners with the budget worksheet. Chairman Kline stated that he wanted the 2013 Budget to be placed on the agenda for the October

meeting. Mr. DiGiovanni requested that if any Commissioners have any questions, they could contact him. He further stated that changes to the budget were made based on discussions at the budget workshop.

Mr. DiGiovanni stated that all Hurricane related expenses will be tracked under the "Hurricane Expense" line item (salaries, etc.)

Mr. DiGiovanni discussed the financial report.

Chief Kaufmann stated that by now, everyone should have received their tax bills, and as we have already voted, regardless of the refunds or appeals, the vote is complete and cannot be challenged. Attorney Troy Ingram confirmed this, stating that this is a result of the posting requirements needing to be done in July.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept the financial report. Commissioner Brackett seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

Captain Buck Kleck stated that there has been a lot of recent discussion regarding the millage, and he knows the subject is controversial. Captain Kleck stated that the employees took an incredible hit with the health insurance increase last year. He further stated the personal impact of the 1.6% that was taken away; in addition to the insurance premiums paid to remain on the no deductible insurance plan.

Captain Kleck stated that the employees are working hard, and the PIAL reduction is proof of that. He further stated that the millage reduction is a controversial issue, but the employees are standing alone; the Union is not very organized and they are not standing there for them, nor is Civil Service. Additionally, he stated that the Chief Officers are not working together, as a whole, to represent them.

Captain Kleck stated, despite the lack of representation, the employees still do what is asked and continue the quality of service to the public. He acknowledged that the Board, as well as the Chief, have a job to do, but the employees are the ones that took the hit. He further stated that employees will never give up, and some employees take on extra tasks without asking for anything to do them.

Chairman Kline thanked him for the comments, and stated that they have always been well taken on his part. He further stated that things change slowly and he thinks the complexion of the district, and the Board of Commissioners has changed a little bit, and he is confident that things will change also.

Chairman Kline stated that we probably made some promises this year to the citizens, but we did that to make sure that for the next ten years, we have the ability to get the needed funds to get the job done. Chairman Kline requested the employee's confidence that changes will occur.

Commissioner Rich stated to Captain Kleck that he appreciates his comment and agrees with some of it, but he takes issue with the comment that no one is there for the employees. He stated that he knows, for a fact, that given where we were, seven or

eight years ago, that the Board has done a tremendous amount for the firefighters. He further stated that by locking into the millage, some of these issues can be addressed.

Chief Hess stated that in the 2013 budget presented to the Board, the reinstatement of Captain Kleck's concerns were included, at the 29.6 mills.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.