

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Special Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2015

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

The pledge of allegiance and prayer were given.

Roll Call: Chairman Crowley and Commissioners Risley, McDonald, Brackett and Hoying were present.

Attorney Ingram read the below millage advertisement into the record:

MILLAGE ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO LSA R.S. TITLE 42, SECTIONS 19 AND 19.1, AND LSA R.S. TITLE 47, SECTION 1705.1, THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1 WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 21490 KOOP DRIVE, MANDEVILLE, LOUISIANA 70471 ON TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M. TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT LEVYING ADDITIONAL OR INCREASED MILLAGE RATES WITHOUT FURTHER VOTER APPROVAL AND/OR ADOPTING THE ADJUSTED MILLAGE RATE AND ROLLING FORWARD TO A MILLAGE RATE NOT TO EXCEED THE PRIOR YEAR'S MAXIMUM.

New Business:

- 1.) Millage Hearing-** To Consider and Adopt Additional or Increased Millage Rates without Further Voter Approval or Adopting the Adjusted Millage Rate and Rolling Forward to a Millage Rate Not to Exceed the Prior Year's Maximum

Chairman Crowley stated that there has not been a lot of feedback, however, the vote is still a month out. He further expressed his concern on continuing to use Capital monies that are one time revenues, with no additional replacement revenue.

Chairman Crowley stated that the "Cash Report" reflects projects that have been committed to and we don't have the money to fund the projects. He challenged everyone to look at the budget and see if there's places that can be reduced and other possible ways to save money.

Commissioner Hoying inquired about the state mandated increases in the budget and whether they are based on actual or projected budgeted numbers. Mr. Waniewski stated that they are based on actual numbers, thru April 2015.

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to suspend the rules to move the public hearing forward on the agenda. Commissioner McDonald seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Kaufmann stated that we have presented a budget to be as accurate as possible.

Chief Kaufmann discussed the budget worksheet that was presented. He referenced Line 35- "Deficit to be Funded". In the current year, the projected transfer for the deficit is \$ 603,126 and the proposed 2016 budget reflects \$636,223, if we remain at 33.5 mills. Chief Kaufmann stated that we have continued to fund a deficit for six of the past seven years.

Chairman Crowley clarified that if there are solutions to make up the deficit, to avoid raising taxes, they would be taken into consideration. Chief Kaufmann stated that he met with all of the budget stewards and there is an approx. \$120,000 budget increase for 2016. The 2016 projected budget shows a millage rate of 34.875 that is necessary to fund that year and 2015 showed 34.810.

Chief Kaufmann did a "Department Millage Overview" power point presentation which discussed the following facts:

- St. Tammany Fire District #1- Highlights
- Cash Report as of May 31, 2015
- Capital Improvements- Vehicles
- Capital Improvements- Fire Stations
- Capital Improvement- Fund Radio System
- Capital Improvement- Rolling Stock/ Facility Fund
- Property Insurance Association of Louisiana (PIAL)
- "All Hazards Approach"
- Normal Revenues (2015)
- Tax Roll Millage Projection vs. Actual Collected
- Millage Calculation Example (home values of \$163,280 and 298,740)
- 7 Year Un-Levied Millage History (Roll Back)
- Amount Paid into Taxes (Business, Residential and Business Personal Property)
- 2015 Grand Recap for 2016 Budget @ 33.5 Mills
- 2015 Revenue
 - Other- 2%
 - Fire Insurance Rebate- 2%
 - State Revenue Sharing- 2%
 - Funding from Capital- 3%
 - Parcel Fee- 6%
 - Net Ad Valorem Tax- 85%
- 2016 Revenue
 - Other- 1%
 - Fire Insurance Rebate- 2%

- State Revenue Sharing- 2%
- Parcel Fee- 7%
- Proposed Increased Ad Valorem- 4%
- Net Ad Valorem Tax- 84%
- 2015 Operating Expense Budget
 - Professional Services- 2%
 - Repairs & Maintenance- 4%
 - Other Operating Expenses- 5%
 - Commercial Insurance- 5%
 - Capital Funding and Projects- 7%
 - Employee Benefit Cost- 12%
 - Retirement System- 18%
 - Salaries- 47%
- 2016 Operating Expense Budget
 - Professional Services- 3%
 - Repairs & Maintenance- 4%
 - Other Operating Expenses- 4%
 - Commercial Insurance- 6%
 - Capital Funding and Projects- 7%
 - Employee Benefit Cost- 13%
 - Retirement System- 16%
 - Salaries- 47%

Chairman Crowley stated that 84% of the budget is mandated expenses and there is approx. 8-10% that can be considered for discretionary reductions.

Chief Kaufmann stated that the budget presented is pretty accurate, based on actual numbers.

The floor was opened for public comment

Tyrone Collins, Vice President of the Slidell Firefighter's Assoc., stated that the Administration has included the Association in the budget process and the District has used only the funds needed to operate the department. He further stated that the Slidell Firefighter's Assoc. supports the Administration's recommendation of setting the millage at 35 mills.

After no further comments, the millage hearing was concluded.

Old Business:

- 1.) **Station 18 Bids-** Attorney Ingram offered an amendment to the agenda, with respect to the way the Resolutions are captioned and requested that Resolution 2015-032 be amended to read as follows:
BOC Resolution "reject responses to requests for proposals for construction of Station 18"

With respect to Resolution 2015-033, he requested it be amended to reflect:
BOC Resolution "Re-Advertising RFP for construction of Station 18"

Commissioner McDonald made a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-032, Relating to the Rejection of Responses to Requests for Proposals for Station 18 for District #1. Commissioner Brackett seconded the motion.

Mr. Ken Decker, with Excalibur Construction., inquired about the budget for the Station 18 project. Chief Kaufmann advised that it was 1.2M. Mr. Decker stated that Addendum #1, issued by the Architect, reflected a 1.3M budget for the project.

Chief Kaufmann stated that this budget was based on the Station 14 project, with some increases for land and concrete work. He further stated that the Architect may have made some cost projections based on square footage. Chief Kaufmann stated that he met with the Architect about some possible areas that could be changed to get within budget.

Chairman Crowley stated that while he's unsure of why the statement of 1.3M was made, only 1.2M was approved, by Board Resolution, for this project. Mr. Decker stated that further additional addendums were sent out and the 1.3M was reflected in those addendums. Chairman Crowley stated that our Administration does not get the addendums to review before being sent out.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 2.) Resolution 2015-033: BOC Resolution (Rebidding RFP for Station 18)

Commissioner McDonald made a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-033, Relating to Requests for Proposal (RFP) to Re-Advertise the RFP Relating to the Construction of Station 18 for District No.1. Commissioner Risley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DiGiovanni stated that he will be glad to meet, one on one, with any of the Commissioners if they have any questions concerning the budget, at no charge. Mr. Wanievski also offered his services if there are any concerns with salaries, wages, employee benefits, etc.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.