

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes September 21, 2021

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

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were done.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Crowley and Commissioners Rich, Brackett, Gay and McDowell were present.

Chairman Crowley stated that there was previous discussion regarding a new “Chairman” appointment; however, it was not on the agenda for this meeting.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to amend the agenda to install the new “Chairman” this month. Commissioner Brackett seconded the motion. Commissioners Gay and McDowell voted “nay”. Chairman Crowley voted “yea” to break the tie. The motion carried.

Commissioner Rich nominated Commissioner Brackett. Commissioner Brackett accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Gay referenced two statutes and it was his opinion that Commissioner Brackett was ineligible for the position; as he would have to resign as Commissioner and would be unable to serve for two years following his resignation (referenced Title 42, RS 1121). Chairman Crowley stated that the statute references “termination”, not “resignation”.

Commissioner Gay made a motion to table the “Chairman” election until the October meeting. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

Chief Kaufmann stated that we have had previous “Commissioners” that were on the board who were voted in as “Chairman”.

Commissioner Gay stated that he was considering seeking “Chairman” appointment, and after researching, he reached out to The Board of Ethics for an opinion; however, the regularly scheduled September meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Ida, and this should be addressed at the October meeting.

Commissioner Rich stated that he felt that there was an agreement that Commissioner Brackett serve as “Chairman. Chairman Crowley stated that he agreed, and it was in the meeting that Commissioner Brackett expressed an interest, and Commissioner Gay suggested that the “Chairman” does come within the Board.

Commissioner Brackett inquired as to whether Chairman Crowley would remain on the Board. Chairman Crowley stated that he would serve until an appointment was made.

Commissioner Rich withdrew his motion.

AWARDS/ REGOGNITIONS: Dan Crowley (postponed)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pursuant to R.S. 42:23, personal recording devices are welcome in every meeting for Fire District No. 1; however, 1 they must remain and be maintained in the possession of the individual that brings the device to remove any liability from Fire District No. 1 of any unintentional or accidental mishaps with the device during any such meeting

OLD BUSINESS – (none)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chief's Report

a) Significant Monthly Events

- Hurricane IDA-
 - 8 teams worked to clear accessible roads, completed clearing in 48 hours.
 - Normal operations resumed Sept. 7
 - FEMA reimbursement process has started
 - Internal after-action being conducted Sept. 24
 - Parish Fire Chief's met with the Parish EOC director and discussed some after-action concerns that the fire district's wanted to address.
 - Minimal damage to a couple facilities

Commissioner Brackett stated that he witnessed our command center and it was one of the most efficient operations he has seen, and the members of the department were there for the community and should be highly commended.

- COVID-19 Update – 3 employees positive at this time
- Health Insurance Renewal- Chief Kaufmann stated that the renewal was -3% and thanked the Board for their support in implementing the programs in place.
- St. 13/ HQ- UPDATE – Chief Kaufmann stated that we are awaiting 1 signature for completion.
- St. 11 – UPDATE – Chief Kaufmann stated that we are a couple months behind due to weather; however, the steel for the frame of the building will be here the first week of October.
- St. 19- UPDATE – Chief Kaufmann stated that we are on the Parish Council agenda for Nov. 4 and Councilman TJ Smith is authoring the re-zoning. He further stated that we are finalizing a purchase agreement to present.

Chief Kaufmann stated that he has asked our current architects to look at some renderings for the St. 19 project, with some value engineered design options. We would them try to negotiate a contract with the architect.

- b) Operations Reports -** Chief of Operations Bruno discussed the “Operations” report (August) which covers YTD call totals, Hydrants Inspected, NFIRS Incidents, Dollar Loss/ Dollar Save (by Station location), Average Response Time (by Station) and EMS Call Type and Number of Incidents.
- c) Maintenance Report-** Chief of Operations Bruno discussed the “Maintenance” report (August) which covered preventative maintenances and major repairs performed.
- d) Fire Prevention Report-** Chief of Fire Prevention Marquette discussed the monthly “Fire Prevention” report (August) which included Inspections, Public Fire Safety & Education Events, Investigations, and Economic Impact.
- e) Training Report –** Captain Abney discussed the monthly “Training” report (August) which included Classes, Certifications and Revenues.
- f) Communications Report –** Acting Chief of Communications Parish discussed the monthly “Communications” report (August) which included call volume and statistics.

g) General Comments-

- FRS Meeting- (September meeting was canceled)
- Parish Finance Committee-
- Slidell 2040 Comprehensive Plan- still active with the City of Slidell

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

2) SFFA (Slidell Firefighters Association) – Chief Duffaut stated that the IAFF reached out to offer assistance to any employees affected from the storm

3) PMI Report –

- a.) **Employee Benefits** - (none)
- b.) **Human Resources**

- 1) 2021-032: BOC Resolution (Approve District Sponsored Employee Benefits Renewal: Major Medical, Dental, Life , Vision & Disability Insurance)

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-032, Relating to the Renewal of District Sponsored Group Employee Benefits for District No. 1. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion.

The floor was opened for public comment. There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 2) 2021-033: BOC Resolution (Approve Pro rata Reduction of Employee Contributions to Employee Benefits)

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-033, Relating to the District and Employee Contributions for District Sponsored Group Employee Benefits for District No. 1. Commissioner Brackett seconded the motion.

The floor was opened for public comment. There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) 2021-034: BOC Resolution (Approve Retiree Contributions)

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-034, Relating to Continuance of the Retiree Contribution for District Sponsored Retiree Benefits for District No.1. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion.

The floor was opened for public comment. There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 4) 2021-035: BOC Resolution (Approve Employee Deductible Offset)

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-035, Relating to Continuance of the Deductible Expense Offset for District Sponsored Employee Benefits for District No.1. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion.

The floor was opened for public comment. There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

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- 5) 2021-036 BOC Resolution (Approve Digital Medicine Program Service Agreement)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-036, Relating to Approval of the Digital Medicine Program Services Agreement for District No.1. Commissioner Brackett seconded the motion.

The floor was opened for public comment. There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 6) 2021-037 BOC Resolution (Approve Employer Telemedicine Equipment Use Agreement)

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-037, Relating to Approval of the Employer Telemedicine Equipment Use Agreement for District No.1. Commissioner Brackett seconded the motion.

The floor was opened for public comment. There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 7) 2021-038 BOC Resolution (To consider and take action with respect to adopting a resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith).

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-038, Relating to the Ordering and Calling of a Special Election to be Held in Fire Protection District No. 1 of St. Tammany Parish, State of Louisiana, to Authorize the Renewal of a Special Tax therein; Making Application to the State Bond Commission and Providing for Other Matters in Connection therewith. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion.

The floor was opened for public comment.

Bond Attorney Grant Schlueter stated that the election is March 26, 2022 and provides for a renewal of 35 mills, estimated amount of \$21,008,939, for a period of 10 years (2023-2032).

He further stated that the canvas date is April 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. We also need a Parish Council sponsor.

Commissioner Brackett has agreed to attend the 10/27 Agenda Review Meeting and the 11/4 Parish Council Meeting.

Chairman Crowley called for the vote:

Commissioner Gay: yea

Commissioner McDowell: yea

Chairman Crowley: yea

Commissioner Brackett: yea

Commissioner Rich: yea

The motion carried unanimously.

- c.) **Payroll** – (none)
- d.) **FRS (Firefighters Retirement System)** – continued involvement
- e.) **VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC-** (none)

09/21/2021

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

- 4) Duplantier Hrapman Hogan & Maher, LLP-** Mrs. Cunningham discussed the August financial report.

Commissioner Gay made a motion to accept the August financial report. Commissioner Brackett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 5) Attorney's Report-** Attorney Ingram stated that the Louisiana Legislative Auditor has approved the millage documents that were submitted.

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

- 6) Board of Commissioner Comments** – Chairman Crowley stated, with regards to it being the “Chairman’s agenda, all 5 of the members have an accountability to review and provide feedback when the agenda is sent out.

Chairman Crowley stated that he has no intention of resigning until the “Chairman” position is filled and there are no vacancies on the Board.

Chief Kaufmann stated that he is always available to answer any questions that the Board members may have, and promoted working as a team while serving the public.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.