

# St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

## Board of Commissioners

### Regular Meeting Minutes October 19, 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.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Commissioner Brackett made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Commissioner Brackett made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**OLD BUSINESS** – (none)

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. Chief's Report

###### a) Significant Monthly Events

- COVID-19 Update – 1 employee infected
- St. Charles Deployment- we are in the second week of deployment
- 2022 Budget- (under PMI report) - Chief Kaufmann stated that the FRS employer contribution will remain the same; therefore a cost savings of approx. \$170,000 from the original presented projection.
- Red & Blue Gala- October 22, 2021
- Third Party Evaluations- Chief Kaufmann stated that we will get the evaluations together to present in December for January discussion
- St. 13/ HQ- UPDATE – Chief Kaufmann stated that we are awaiting 1 signature for completion.
- St. 11 – UPDATE – Chief Kaufmann stated that the steel is being erected; however, we are still a couple months behind.
- St. 19- UPDATE – Chief Kaufmann stated that we are on the Parish Council agenda for the Nov. 8 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Councilman TJ Smith has already presented to the Parish Council to lift the moratorium and it has been voted on.

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.

- ###### b) Operations Reports - Chief of Operations Bruno discussed the “Operations” report (September) 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.

Chairman Crowley suggested that the annual report include historical data/comparisons to reflect items suggested in the Accreditation process. Chief Kaufmann stated that we currently monitor response times daily.

- c) **Maintenance Report-** Chief of Operations Bruno discussed the “Maintenance” report (September) which covered preventative maintenances and major repairs performed.

Chief Kaufmann stated that the Rescue truck has been shipped to Pierce for some stress crack repairs and other maintenance concerns.

- d) **Fire Prevention Report-** Chief of Fire Prevention Marquette discussed the monthly “Fire Prevention” report (September) which included Inspections, Public Fire Safety & Education Events, Investigations, and Economic Impact.

Chief Kaufmann stated that the pink car cancer fundraiser continues to be a success.

Chief Kaufmann stated that a generator safety demonstration was conducted and had a good turnout. Commissioner McDowell stated that it was a great, needed demonstration and the public was able to participate with the operations. We were also able to provide CO detectors at the event.

- e) **Training Report** – Chief of Training Bauer discussed the monthly “Training” report (September) which included Classes, Certifications and Revenues.

Chief Bauer stated that the flashover prop was delivered today and instructor training will be conducted in the near future.

- f) **Communications Report** – Chief of Administration Duffaut discussed the monthly “Communications” report (September) which included call volume and statistics.

- g) **General Comments-**

- FRS Meeting- Chief Kaufmann stated that the projected portfolio rate of return has allowed FRS to not increase contribution rates.
- Parish Finance Committee- Chief Kaufmann is on the committee to educate about the Justice Center and Jail upcoming vote.
- Slidell 2040 Comprehensive Plan- still active with the City of Slidell

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

- 2) **SFFA (Slidell Firefighters Association)** – Union President Berns stated that the Union intends to start having events again, next year. He also stated that he has been involved with the FRS meetings with Chief Kaufmann. President Berns thanked the Board for their time and commitment to the department. He also thanked the Administration for making purchases to allow the members to work more efficiently.

- 3) **PMI Report** –

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

- 1) 2021-039: BOC Resolution (Approve Workers’ Compensation Insurance Renewal- LWCC)

*Commissioner Brackett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-039, Relating to the Approval of the Workers’ Compensation Insurance for District No. 1. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion.*

Pursuant to R.S. 42:23, personal recording devices are welcome in every meeting for Fire District No. 1; however, 2 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

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

Mr. Waniewski stated that our experience modifier increased, resulting in a premium increase. He further stated that the dividend refund will offset some of the increase.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

- 2) 2021-040: BOC Resolution (Approve Advertisement of 2022 Proposed Budget for Public Comments)

***Commissioner Brackett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-040, Relating to the Approval to Advertise the 2022 Proposed Budget for District No. 1. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion.***

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

Mr. Waniewski stated that with FRS keeping the current contribution rate, the savings can be utilized to fund certain budgeted items that were reduced to remain at 35 mills.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

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

***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. Gaudin discussed the September financial report.

***Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept the September financial report. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 5) **Attorney's Report**- Attorney Ingram reported that he handled one record request in the past month and he provided Chief of Operations Bruno with revisions to the St. 19 purchase agreement. He further stated that he continues to monitor the e-mails on St.13/HQ settlement.

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

- 6) **Board of Commissioner Comments**- Commissioner McDowell stated that the students at the schools are enjoying the smoke trailer. He further stated that the department's involvement in the community is exemplary.

Chairman Crowley has tasked Commissioner Brackett with developing the process for the Board to conduct third party evaluations.

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

***The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.***