

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes November 16, 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, and Gay were present.
Commissioner McDowell was absent.

1. 2022 Budget Hearing

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to adjourn the 2022 Budget Hearing, at 6:10 p.m. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Regular meeting began at 6:10 p.m.

Awards/Recognitions: Joe DiGiovanni

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 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 out with COVID side effects
- Deployments- Chief Kaufmann stated that we have completed the deployment in St. Charles Parish and are still assisting in Grand Isle with personnel
- 2023-2032 Millage Renewal
 - Campaign Coordinator- Chief Kaufmann stated that we met with a campaign consultant and ideas were presented that may be beneficial. He is requesting the approval of \$10,500, from the 2022 “Election” budget, to move forward to engage these services. He further stated that we will continue to educate the public on our department and services.

At this point, we are currently the only entity on the ballot. If it remains this way, our costs would be approx. \$84,000; which may result in amending the 2022 line item.

- Third Party Evaluations- Commissioner Brackett stated that we are meeting 11/18 to go over the evaluation process

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- St. 13/ HQ- UPDATE – Attorney Olinde has received a fully executed settlement agreement. This matter is now concluded.
- St. 11 – UPDATE – Chief Kaufmann stated that construction is progressing with a May/June 2022 projected completion timeframe.
- St. 19- UPDATE – Chief Kaufmann stated that there was a 7-0 vote in favor for rezoning; however a citizen appeal has been filed. Chief Kaufmann further advised that we will attend the Dec. 2 and Jan. 6 Parish Council meetings where this matter will be heard.

Chief Kaufmann stated that we will be meeting with the architect for some station renderings.

- b) **Operations Reports** - Chief of Operations Bruno discussed the “Operations” report (October) 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 (October) which covered preventative maintenances and major repairs performed.
- d) **Fire Prevention Report**- Asst. Chief of Fire Prevention Gaubert discussed the monthly “Fire Prevention” report (October) which included Inspections, Public Fire Safety & Education Events, Investigations, and Economic Impact.
- e) **Training Report** – Training Officer Graham discussed the monthly “Training” report (October) which included Classes, Certifications and Revenues.

Chief Kaufmann stated that he spoke before the Baton Rouge Fire Council, who oversees the LSU Fire Training Center, and a regional partnership was discussed. He advised that they will meet again on Nov. 19

Chief Kaufmann stated that the next annual recruit class will begin Feb. 7, 2022.

- f) **Communications Report** –Acting Chief of Communications Parish discussed the monthly “Communications” report (October) which included call volume and statistics.
- g) **General Comments-**

- Attorney Danenhowe will be present at the Dec. meeting to give an update on the class action opioid litigation – this will be done in Exec. Session
- FRS Meeting- Chief Kaufmann stated that it appears the investment committee is hearing his and Mark’s concerns and appears to be moving forward in a more positive direction. He further stated that there is no increase to the employer contribution for this FRS fiscal year.
- National Fallen Fighter Memorial- Erik Kreppin and Mike Ford were recognized at the event on Nov. 6.

Chief Kaufmann stated that two Fire Chief’s approached him at the event to complement our department on everything we are doing. He further stated that we are setting the standard and other departments are watching us. He thanked the Board for their commitment, as well as all of the employees.

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

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2) SFFA (Slidell Firefighters Association) – (none)

3) PMI Report –

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

- 1) 2021-041: BOC Resolution (Approve Purchase of Station Generators from Disaster Restricted Fund)

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-041, Relating to the Approval to Purchase Station Generators for District No. 1. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion.

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

Chief Kaufmann stated that the state contract price for the St. 12, St. 14 and St. 15 replacement generators is \$64,127.53.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 2) 2021-042: BOC Resolution (Approve LLA 2021 Audit Engagement)

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-042, Relating to the Approval of the 2021 Audit Engagement 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.

- 3) 2021-043: BOC Resolution (Adopt 2022 Operating Budget)

Commissioner Brackett made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-043, Relating to the Adoption of the 2022 Budget 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.

- 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 Gay seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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

- 5) Attorney's Report-** Attorney Ingram stated that the settlement document has been received and he will file the motion to dismiss the lawsuit against RLI. He further stated that his office responded to one record request over the past month.

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11/16/2021

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

6) Board of Commissioner Comments

- BOC Action Items Review- There was a brief discussion of the BOC action items identified
- The December board meeting will be Dec. 14

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.