

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes March 21, 2023

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

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were done.

Roll Call: Acting Chairman Powell and Commissioners Rich, McDowell, and Davis were present. Chairman Crowley was absent.

OLD BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

Awards/ Recognitions:

Retirement: Nicky Bruno
Firefighter of the Year: Glenn Morris
Communications Officer of the Year: Joel Truett
Smoke Diver Certification - Eric Dupuy
Communications Recognition- Slidell PD letter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2023 regular meeting. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Chief's Report

a) Significant Monthly Events

- COVID-19 Update – Chief Kaufmann stated that we have 1 employee out on extended sick leave.
- Hancock Whitney- T-Bill- \$6M, at 4.705% for 9 months. This is expected to generate approx. \$209,000 in interest.
- St. 11– UPDATE – Chief Kaufmann stated that the final will be complete by Thursday, and we are planning to spend the first night at the station on Friday. He further stated that there is a punch list of items that will have to be taken care of.
- St. 19- UPDATE – Chief Kaufmann stated that they are forming the foundations and all of the dirt work is complete. He further stated that we pre-ordered the metal for the engine room.
- St. 10- Chief Kaufmann stated that we have not had a follow-up meeting with the D. R. Horton Community Development District, however, we will schedule one in the near future.

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

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

Commissioner Davis stated that he spent several hours at the Academy and learned a lot. He further stated that he was impressed with the training process.

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

g) **General Comments**

- Staffing Vacancies
 - Suppression- 1
 - Fire Prevention Officer- 1(will fill internally)
 - I.T- 1 (will fill internally)
 - Communications- 0

Chief Kaufmann stated that with filling the positions internally, we will need to hire firefighters and we may partner with Mandeville for their recruit class.

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

- 2) **SFFA (Slidell Firefighters Association)** – Chief Kaufmann stated that a few of the SFFA officers will be attending the annual conference.

3) **PMI Report** –

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

- 1) 2023-017: BOC Resolution (Approve 2022 LLA Audit Engagement)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-017, Relating to the Approval of the 2022 LLA 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.

- 2) 2023-018: BOC Resolution (Approve 2022 LLA AUP Audit Engagement)

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03/21/2023

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-018, Relating to the Approval of the 2022 LLA AUP Audit Engagement for District No. 1. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion.

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

Chief Kaufmann state that the AUP for St. Tammany has expired, and it is now a Statewide AUP.

The motion carried unanimously.

3) 2023-019: BOC Resolution (Appoint BOC Representative to CSB)

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-019, Relating to the Appointment of the Board of Commissioners Representative to the Civil Service Board for District No. 1. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

4) 2023-020: BOC Resolution (Approve Administration to Engage into a Financial Ladder Strategy)

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-020, Relating to the Approval to Engage into a Financial Ladder Strategy for District No. 1. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

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

Chief Kaufmann stated that when we did the T-Bill, the investment advisor advised us that other governmental agencies have a ladder investment strategy in place; specifically, the School Board- they, like us, get the bulk of their revenue in January and February and have investments come due every three months. He further stated that the advisor will present a plan for 2024 and he requesting to engage in the investments, which are fully insured and at no risk.

The motion carried unanimously.

5) Fire Chief Evaluation – Composite score 4.75 out of 5

c) Payroll – (none)

d) FRS (Firefighters Retirement System) – (General Comments- None)

e) VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC- VFIS Renewal Questionnaire Released

f) General Comments

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

4) Duplantier Hrapman Hogan & Maher, LLP- Mrs. Gaudin discussed the February financial report.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to approve the February financial report. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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5) Attorney's Report-

- Attorney Danenhower stated that we did receive a response from the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board regarding the complaint filed against Mr. Ingram and they stated that they are not going to pursue any action and there was insufficient evidence to carry out their burden of proof. He further stated that his request for clarification was denied, and the file was being closed.

Attorney Danenhower stated that the Board can appeal this, which would go before a different investigator/oversight team. Chief Kaufmann stated that he has lost integrity with the entire process and he doesn't feel the Board, nor the department, should go deeper into the negativity. Commissioner Rich inquired into Attorney Danenhower's feeling, and he advised that he, personally, would pursue the appeal; however, he agreed that a great amount of money has been expended and the department has moved forward.

Chief Kaufmann inquired into the cost of filing an appeal. Attorney Danenhower stated that only his attorney fee would be charged. Commissioner Rich suggested filing an appeal to get an answer. After a brief discussion, it was determined that an appeal be filed.

- Approval of Opioid Settlement – with regards to the opioid litigation, a settlement of \$18.6B among pharmacies is expected to be split between the participants within the state. Attorney Danenhower recommended approving the settlement and authorizing Chief Kaufmann to execute the documents.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the opioid settlement. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to approve the Attorney report. Commissioner Davis second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6) Board of Commissioner Comments

- BOC Action Items Review- (none)

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.