

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes October 17, 2023

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 Powell, Rich, and Davis were present.
Commissioner McDowell was absent.

1. 2024 Budget Hearing

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn the 2024 Budget Hearing, at 6:10 p.m. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

OLD BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Davis made a motion to amend the agenda to pull forward Resolutions 2023-045 and 2023-047. Commissioner Powell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 1) 2023-045: BOC Resolution (Adopt 2024 Operating Budget)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-045, Relating to the Adoption of the 2024 Budget for District No. 1. Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

Chairman Crowley stated that it is a privilege to work with the budget stewards and the transparency and work done is appreciated.

Commissioner Davis stated that the process is excellent, and he complimented the team.

Commissioner Rich stated that we spend the public's money very wisely.

Commissioner Powell stated that the budget is very specific, and all money is accounted for.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- 2) 2023-047: BOC Resolution (Approve Addition of Recognized Holiday)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-047, Relating to the Approval to Add a Recognized Holiday for District No. 1. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Awards/ Recognitions: Pink Helmet Presentation
Swear Ins: Firefighters Braden Brown, Mason Graham, Tristen Saavedra
Promotions: Operators: Eric Dupuy, Bret Gleason, Thomas Mc Millan, Jon Miller, John Raymond,
Dan Rost, Chris Swanier
Captains: Stephen Batuk, Eyan Gonzales, Cole Horton, Ray Pearce, Carter Shay

Commissioner Powell made a motion to move the remaining Resolutions forward. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3) 2023-043: BOC Resolution (Approve Workers' Compensation Insurance)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-043, Relating to the Approval of the Workers Compensation Insurance for District No. 1. Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

4) 2023-044: BOC Resolution (Approve Amendment to BOC Resolution 2019-032)

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-044, Relating to the Approval to Amend BOC Resolution 2019-032 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.

5) 2023-046: BOC Resolution (Approve Continuance of Financial Ladder Strategy)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-046, Relating to the Approval of the Continued Engagement in a Financial Ladder Strategy for District No. 1. Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

Chief Kaufmann stated that he would work with Commissioners Rich and McDowell on the ladder strategy investing with Hancock Whitney, going forward in 2024. He further stated that one of the T-Bills we did came in Oct. 12, and the other is due Nov. 28. We will look to secure other T-Bills/CD's in Jan. 2024.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Crowley left the meeting at 6:45, Acting Chairman Powell continued the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Rich made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 regular meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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1. Chief's Report

a) Significant Monthly Events

- 2024 Budget- UPDATE – (approved above)
- Red & Blue Gala- October 20, 2023
- Holiday Benefit- Chief Kaufmann thanked the Board for this additional benefit.
- T-Bill/CD Investing- Financial Strategy (beginning 2024)- (approved above)
- LUCAS Devices (3) – Chief Kaufmann stated that 3 of our stations have double apparatus and he would like to add a LUCAS to those trucks. He further stated that he will not need any new money; we have money in other GL codes that won't be spent. He also stated that we may get 1 of the devices reimbursed through the opioid settlement.
- Turn-Out Gear Purchase- Chief Kaufmann stated that we have an opportunity to change manufacturers and the turn-out gear is approx. \$900.00 less than what we are currently paying. He further stated that the current gear has a 5-year warranty, and the new gear has a 10- year warranty. Chief Kaufmann stated that he would like to purchase 22 sets this year, and the money would come from other training GL codes that won't be spent.
- St. 11- UPDATE – (Executive Session)
- St. 19- UPDATE – Chief Kaufmann stated that the building is complete, and we are working with the Parish to get an “As Built” drainage inspection- there was some additional fill put on the property; however everything is draining and flowing properly. We are hoping to get a variance and are working to get temporary occupancy.
- St. 10- UPDATE- Chief Kaufmann stated that DR Horton did not sign the property over and the CDD is getting their attorney involved, as that is where the station really needs to be. He further stated that we are working to put up a second unit at St. 16 with the intentions of getting it ready for when the station opens.
- Training Classroom Project- Chief Kaufmann stated that we should be getting the plans back any day and we will proceed with advertising.
- November BOC Meeting

Commissioner Davis made a motion to move the November meeting to Nov. 14. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- b) Operations Reports** - Chief of Operations Gross 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.

Commissioner Davis inquired about the status of the Acadian contract. Chief Kaufmann stated that there has been no progress; however, he will follow up.

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

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- 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.
- e) **Training Report** – Chief of Training Bauer discussed the monthly “Training” report (September) which included Classes, Certifications and Revenues.
- f) **Communications Report** –Chief of Operations Gross discussed the monthly “Communications” report (September) which included call volume and statistics.
- g) **General Comments**
 - Staffing Vacancies
 - Suppression- 1
 - Communications- 1

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

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

3) **PMI Report** –

- 6) **Employee Benefits** – (none)
- 7) **Human Resources**
- 8) **General Comments**- (none)

c) **Payroll** – (none)

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

e) **VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC**- LWCC Renewal 11/01/2023

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

Chie Kaufmann stated that St. Tammany has a response team for deployments and the previous ones went very well. He further stated that our department’s professionalism stood out.

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

5) **Attorney’s Report**-

Executive Session – Discuss prospective litigation after formal written demand relating to Station 11 construction involving Faulk & Meek General Contractors, LLC and Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects Regional Design Group, LLC.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session convened at 7:16

Commissioner Rich made a motion to reconvene the meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The meeting reconvened at 7:45.

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Commissioner Davis made a motion to allow Attorney Danenhowe to proceed, as necessary, to resolve the issues with Stat. 11. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6) Board of Commissioner Comments

- BOC Action Items Review- (none)

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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