

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes May 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were done.

Roll Call: Chairman Crowley and Commissioners Powell, McDowell, and Davis were present.
Commissioner Rich arrived at 6:25 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

Awards/ Recognition: Chaplain Larry McEwen

Promotions/Swear Ins: Chief of Training Timothy Harrison

Deputy Chief Ronnie Brennan

District Chief AJ Wrublewski

Captains Devon Kennedy, Michael Wille

Operators Travis Collignon, Aaron Davis, Jonathan Lankford

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Powell made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 meeting. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Powell made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Chief's Report

a) Significant Monthly Events

- Recruit Graduate- Employment Offer- Resolution under "PMI"
- Surplus Vehicle- '08 Suburban (VIN 3GNGK26K48G258856)- Resolution under "PMI"
- Surplus Generators- Resolution under "PMI"
- St. 11- UPDATE- (to be discussed under "Legal")
- St. 10- UPDATE- (no status change)
- Training Classroom- UPDATE- Chief Kaufmann stated that the project is progressing smoothly. The building is sheeted, the interior framing is complete and they are running electrical and plumbing.

b) Operations Reports – Chief of Operations Gross discussed the "Operations" report (April) 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 (April) 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 (April) which included Inspections, Public Fire Safety & Education Events, Investigations, and Economic Impact.
- e) **Training Report** – Chief of Training Harrison discussed the monthly “Training” report (April) which included Classes, Certifications and Revenues.

Chairman Crowley stated that the recruit graduation was very nice and complimented Chief Harrison on what he’s doing with the Training division.

- f) **Communications Report** – Chief of Communications Parish discussed the monthly “Communications” report (April) which included call volume and statistics.
- g) **General Comments-**
 - Staffing Vacancies
 - Suppression- 0
 - Communications Officer- 1
 - Chief Kaufmann stated that the labor for the response was approx. \$20K and we have submitted it to the State for reimbursement, at 75%.
 - Chief Kaufmann stated that he wants to do the millage hearing/meeting (Koop Dr.) in June and we should have a tax roll by the end of May. He further stated that we have started a draft of the budget.
 - Chief Kaufmann stated that the parcel fee renews in 2026 and we are going to put election fee money in the 2025 budget.
 - Chief Kaufmann thanked all that attended the recruit graduation.

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

- 2) **SFFA (Slidell Firefighters Association)** – Chief Kaufmann stated that the Union boiled 56 sacks of crawfish at the Cook-Off.

3) PMI Report –

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

- 1) 2024-020 BOC Resolution (Approve Engagement of PMI Resource General Accounting & Write-Up Services)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-020, Relating to the Approval to Engage PMI Resource, LLC for General Accounting and Write-up Services for District No. 1. Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- 2) 2024-021 BOC Resolution (Approve Hiring of One Additional Firefighter)

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-021, Relating to the Approval to Hire One Additional Firefighter for District No. 1. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion.

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

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The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) 2024-022 BOC Resolution (Approve Surplus of Equipment Demmed “Of Value”)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-022, Relating to the Approval to Surplus Equipment for District No. 1. Commissioner Powell seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- c) **Payroll** – (none)
- d) **FRS (Firefighters Retirement System)** - (none)
- e) **VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC**- Renewal effective 5/6/2024/ LWCC Dividend \$619,959.70

Chairman Crowley stated that the dividend is the result of the employees’ excellent safety record.

Mr. Waniewski stated that LWCC is doing a commercial, with FD1 and FD4, that is going to run statewide, which will highlight our safety and training values and protocols.

Chief Kaufmann stated that last year, we implemented blood draws for cancer screenings and heart scans as preventative measures, in addition to the physicals. He also stated that we have exhaust systems in all stations, hero wipes, gear washers, a decontamination system, sauna bikes, etc. as additional preventative measures.

Commissioner Powell made a motion to approve the PMI report. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Chief Kaufmann stated that we are meeting with Don Massad to become educated on being self-insured, with the possibility of moving toward it in the future.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the April financial report. Commissioner Powell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 5) **Attorney’s Report**- Attorney Danenhowe stated with regards to the central station mediation, the district has put together a finalized punch list and selected a tile; however, the architect had some concerns on the travertine tile in the price range discussed in mediation and has identified a porcelain tile that he and Chief Kaufmann are comfortable with.

Attorney Danenhowe stated that on May 6, we were notified, by VFIS, that they received a demand letter from former commissioner Larry Gay’s attorney. He stated that VFIS opened a claim; however, didn’t plan on doing anything. VFIS did advise that they opened the claim on the grounds of claims of potential defamation, which would be covered under the VFIS policy. Attorney Danenhowe advised VFIS that we did not want to do anything with this, and in short, his demand is for indemnification, based on the By-Laws, which do allow for indemnification under certain circumstances; however, Attorney Danenhowe does not feel this is applicable, and the exceptions to this do apply.

Attorney Danenhowe stated that Mr. Gay is demanding \$43K for attorney fees that he accumulated during his questioning, as well as his decision to resign from the Board. He further stated that should there be a defamation claim, he feels that timeframe has prescribed.

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Commissioner Powell made a motion to approve 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 on the millage meeting,

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

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