

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes June 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were done.

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

OLD BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

Awards/ Recognition: (None)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Chief's Report

a) Significant Monthly Events

- 2025 Budget- Chief Kaufmann stated that Chairman Crowley attended a brief revenue exercise last week to give him an idea of what will be presented at the millage hearing/meeting. We will conduct another budget meeting and have Commissioners Rich and McDowell attend.
- Millage Hearing/Meeting- July 23, 3:00 p.m. (Koop Dr.)
- LDH Hose Purchase- Chief Kaufmann stated that we are purchasing LDH hose, from the Rolling Stock & Facility Fund, at approx. \$28K. This purchase is connected to PIAL rating.
- Inflatable Boat Purchase- Chief Kaufmann stated that our inflatable boat failed so we purchased a new one (approx. 13K).
- St. 11- UPDATE- (to be discussed under "Legal")
- St. 10- UPDATE- Chief Kaufmann stated that he is meeting with the new Lakeshore Villages CDD President next week.
- Training Classroom- UPDATE- Chief Kaufmann stated that the project is progressing on target. There have been a couple of reasonable change orders and they are sheet rocking the interior walls.

- b) **Operations Reports** – Chief of Operations Gross discussed the "Operations" report (May) 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.

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.

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

Chief Harrison stated that Fit As A Firefighter was held June 3-7.

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

Chief Parish stated that he met with a new company on a cloud-based CAD and was very impressed with all the capabilities/options. Chief Kaufmann stated that all districts would be responsible to pay their portion.

g) **General Comments-**

- Chief Kaufmann stated that we are having a “Community Stakeholder” meeting tomorrow, June 19, as part of the Accreditation process.
- Staffing Vacancies
 - Suppression- 1
 - Communications Officer- 1

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) – (none)**

3) **PMI Accounting-** Mrs. Gaudin discussed the May financial report.

Chief Kaufmann stated that all tornado disaster reimbursement requests have been submitted.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the May financial report. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4) **PMI Report –**

- a) **Employee Benefits – (none)**
- b) **Human Resources**
 - 1) 2024-023 BOC Resolution (Adopt Official Journal)

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-023, Relating to the Adoption of the Official Journal for District No. 1. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion.

Attorney Danenhower recommended making The Advocate the official journal due to The St. Tammany Farmer only publishing once a week; The Advocate publishes daily.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to amend the Resolution to reflect “The Advocate”. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion.

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Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the Resolution, as amended. Commissioner Rich 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)** – Chief Kaufmann stated that the 11 ½ month fiscal year return was 10.4% and it is expected to end the year at over 11%.
- e) **VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC**- “Louisiana Loyal”- documentary filming was done.

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

- 5) **Attorney’s Report**- Attorney Danenhower stated that there has been no advancement with regards to Larry Gay’s demand letter.

Attorney Danenhower stated that the Faulk & Meek (St. 11) settlement is still in progress. The architect is developing a final plan for the implementation of the tile selected as well as fixing the balcony as we are requiring it to be.

Attorney Danenhower stated that the millage public hearing/meeting will be July 23 for the district to set its millage. We will adopt the current adjusted millage rate that was issued by the Assessor’s Office- the current adjusted millage rate is 32.410. The assessor’s job is to determine, with the reassessed values, what the millage needs to be for the district to receive the same revenue as last year. Mr. Danenhower stated that between May 30 and June 12, the district received 5 different documents from the Assessor, each of them containing a different estimated revenue. He stated that the only “official” document is one that was sent to the LLA as the proposed adjusted millage rate, which showed the estimated revenue for levying 32.410 mills is \$24,818,000, which equates to additional revenue of \$765,729 for each mill that the district would levy. The ranges of the estimated revenues we received were from \$765K to 1.740M.; however, the Assessor’s office did admit that there was a mistake, and the numbers were doubled by accident.

Attorney Danenhower stated that the district went through a detailed budget process for Chief Kaufmann and Chairman Crowley to determine what the revenue needs to be for the district to accomplish its goals and what the millage needs to be. Chief Kaufmann stated that in the budget discussion, he feels that we may not need the voter approved 35 mills; it would be between 32.410 and 35. Chief Kaufmann stated that the new growth revenue identified is approx. \$460,000.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to approve the Attorney report. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- 6) **Board of Commissioner Comments**
- o 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 6:52 p.m.

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