

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes September 17, 2024

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:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 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 we have a budget prepared and will present it to the Board in October for approval.
- Hancock Whitney Contract Renewal- Chief Kaufmann stated that the 12-month renewal is with the same interest rate and fees that are currently in place. (Resolution under PMI)
- FF Equip./ Hose Purchase
- Hurricane Francine- Chief Kaufmann stated that we began preparations 48 hours before the storm and that we worked with the Parish and City public works departments for post storm clean-up operations.
- St. 11- UPDATE- (to be discussed under "Legal")
- St. 10- UPDATE- Chief Kaufmann stated that there is no update.
- Training Classroom- Project is complete

b) Operations Reports – Chief of Operations Gross discussed the "Operations" report (August) 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 (August) which covered preventative maintenances and major repairs performed.

d)

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

Chief of Operations Gross stated that we did take possession of L-11; the repairs were approx. \$13K.

- d) **Fire Prevention Report-** Chief of Administration Duffaut discussed the monthly “Fire Prevention” report (August) which included Inspections, Public Fire Safety & Education Events, Investigations, and Economic Impact.
- e) **Training Report** – Chief of Training Harrison discussed the monthly “Training” report (August) which included Classes, Certifications and Revenues.
- f) **Communications Report** – Chief of Administration Duffaut discussed the monthly “Communications” report (August) which included call volume and statistics.
- g) **General Comments-**
 - Staffing Vacancies
 - Suppression- 3
 - Communications Officer- 1

Chief Kaufmann stated that we will do interviews in October to have candidates for our recruit class in January (possibly 12 recruits for our department).

Chief Kaufman stated that he was approached by a council member about a baby box, and we are looking at putting it at Central station, at no cost to us.

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 August financial report.

Chief Kaufmann stated that we had a large LDH hose purchase to ensure that we had the same amount of hose on each truck.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the August financial report. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4) PMI Report –

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

1) 2024-034 BOC Resolution (Approve Extension of Hancock Whitney Financial Services)

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-034, Relating to the Approval to Extend Hancock Whitney Financial Services for District No. 1. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

2) 2024-035 BOC Resolution (Approve District Sponsored Employee Benefits: Major Medical, Dental, Life, Vision & Disability Insurance)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-035, Relating to the Approval of District Sponsored Group Employee Benefits for District No. 1. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion.

Pursuant to R.S. 42:23, personal recording devices are welcome in every meeting for Fire District No. 1; however, 2 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.

09/17/2024

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

Chief Kaufmann stated that we will absorb the renewal increase from the benefit fund (approx. \$114,0000).

The motion carried unanimously.

- 3) 2024-036 BOC Resolution (Approve “No Adjustment” to Employee Contributions for District Sponsored Benefits)

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-036, Relating to Employee Contributions for District Sponsored Employee Benefits for District No. 1. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- 4) 2024-037 BOC Resolution (Approve Retiree Contributions)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-037, Relating to the Continuance of the Retiree Contribution for District Sponsored Retiree Benefits for District No. 1. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- 5) 2024-038 BOC Resolution (Approve Employee Deductible Offset)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-038, Relating to the Continuance of the Deductible Expense Offset for District Sponsored Employee Benefits for District No. 1. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

- 6) 2024-039 BOC Resolution (Approve Digital Medicine Program Services)

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-039, Relating to the Approval of the Digital Medicine Program Services Agreement for District No. 1. Commissioner Davis 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**- (none)

5) Attorney’s Report-

Attorney Danenhower stated that we have completed the settlement process for Station 11.

Attorney Danenhower stated that we received a letter from the Attorney for the Assessor’s office and the Assessor seems to be upset, particularly with Chief Kaufmann, for speaking publicly and asserting that the Assessor is responsible for any tax increases. The letter states that the Board levied taxes and

Pursuant to R.S. 42:23, personal recording devices are welcome in every meeting for Fire District No. 1; however, 3 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.

09/17/2024

therefore responsible for any tax increase associated, regardless of the fact that we rolled back to the adjusted millage rate that the Assessor suggested and stated would be revenue neutral.

Attorney Danenhower stated that his plan is to respond with a detailed timeline as to what occurred with the adjusted millage rate that was provided, and the fact that the district did levy the adjusted millage rate., as suggested by the Assessor.

Chief Kaufmann stated that the Assessor continues to deflect to everyone, but himself, and does not reference the “cushion” anywhere, which resulted in the tax increases. Attorney Danenhower stated that the letter states that Chief Kaufmann needs to “man up” and accept responsibility for the tax increase.

Chief Kaufmann stated that this could be damaging to any taxing bodies next year, and his concern is our parcel fee renewal.

Attorney Danenhower stated that the Assessor’s job is to value property and accurately report that to the tax commission. He further stated that on the grand recap, the property values are significantly higher than the value that he gave the tax commission; it appears that the reason he gave an inaccurate number to the tax commission, or an inaccurate number in the grand recap, so that when the calculation was done to find the adjusted mill rate, it would raise the adjusted mill rate. When applying the actual numbers in the grand recap, there is more money being brought in for each taxing body.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to add Resolution 2024-040 to acknowledge receipt of the Attorney letter and state that the action taken was in compliance with the suggested action to adopt the adjusted millage rate. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the Attorney report. Commissioner Davis 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 7:01 p.m.

Pursuant to R.S. 42:23, personal recording devices are welcome in every meeting for Fire District No. 1; however, 4 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.