

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes October 15, 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:

Awards & Recognitions

Retirement: Jason Gaubert

Swear Ins: Ryan Adams, Gage Lisle

Promotions: Brian Macaluso, Bailey Weber

Commissioner Davis introduced John O'Neil, former St. Tammany Parish Fire Superintendent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Chief's Report

a) Significant Monthly Events

- 2025 Budget- Resolution under "PMI"

Chief Kaufmann stated that a couple adjustments were made to get the budget at 32.41 mills. He further stated that the Assessor has stated that the tax roll will not be certified until November.

- Training Officer II, Maintenance and I.T. Incentives- Chief Kaufmann stated that he wants to put "step" incentives in place for these positions.
- St. 11- UPDATE- Chief Kaufmann stated that the repair work has begun, and we continue to work through any issues that arise.
- St. 10- UPDATE- Chief Kaufmann stated that there is no update; however, he does intend to meet with the CDD before the end of the year.
- Training Classroom
 - Blessing of New Classroom Bldg. Addition- (date TBD)

- ##### 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

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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 (September) which covered preventative maintenances and major repairs performed.
- d) **Fire Prevention Report-** Chief of Operations Gross 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 Harrison discussed the monthly “Training” report (September) which included Classes, Certifications and Revenues.

Chief Harrison stated that they are conducting an Advanced Vehicle Extrication course, with 34 students from three states.

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

Chief Parish stated that we are still projecting to roll out the new CAD on January 1.

Chief Parish stated that the State of Louisiana has 1 certified communication leader, for a Type 1 event, who works with GOSHEP. He reached out to Chief Kaufmann when we were sending a deployment team to Florida and asked if Chief Parish could go to get “check offs” to go toward his certification.

- g) **General Comments-**
 - Chief Kaufmann stated that we sent a deployment team to Florida; however, they remained in staging and weren’t needed; they returned Sunday.
 - 7th Annual Red & Blue Gala- Nov. 8
 - Staffing Vacancies
 - Suppression- 5
 - Communications Officer- 1

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)

- Gulf Coast Brotherhood Bike Ride- (500 miles, over 5 days) This ride starts in Alabama and ends in Baton Rouge with proceeds going to families of fallen first responders. Norman Loustalot is riding from our department. There will be a fundraiser in the near future.
- Union President Berns stated that they did have a couple members ready to deploy; however, they were not needed.

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

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

4) PMI Report –

a) Employee Benefits – (none)

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b) Human Resources

- 1) 2024-40 BOC Resolution (Approve Workers' Compensation Insurance)

Attorney Danenhower stated that there was a \$400K renewal reduction

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-040, Relating to the Approval of the Workers' Compensation Insurance 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.

- 2) 2024-041 BOC Resolution (Approve Advertisement of 2025 Budget for Public Comment)

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-041, Relating to the Approval to Advertise the 2025 Proposed Budget 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.

- c) **Payroll** – (none)
- d) **FRS (Firefighters Retirement System)** – (none)
- e) **VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC-** (none)

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

5) Attorney's Report-

- St. 11- Attorney Danenhower stated that repairs have begun and immediately there was an issue with the subcontractor that was chosen to do the tile work. Tymeless Flooring had come out and developed a plan to correct the imperfections, with a quote exceeding \$30K. The contractor chose a different contractor, with a quote of \$19K.

Attorney Danenhower stated that he reached out to their Attorney, and advised them that if they are not going to hire Tymeless, the district was going to hire Tymeless to oversee the project. This resulted in negotiations, and it was agreed upon that the contractor would no longer be responsible for the tile, and we would hire Tymeless. There was a sub-agreement that the district would receive \$35K to repair the tiling and replace the necessary railing.

The superintendent informed Chief Duffaut that the contractor intended only to repair the area of the main bay floor where the chipping and cracking has already occurred, which was not what was agreed to. The agreement was to replace all areas where the epoxy did not adhere.

Attorney Danenhower stated that he is optimistic that we are going to end up in the right spot, due to there being no benefit to push this issue. He further stated that the draft letter, regarding the bay floors, states that there are 3 available options, if this has to go to court to have a judge determine what was intended by the parties, with the definition of "spalled".

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- 1) If the Court determines the parties intended the term "spalled area" to mean all of the damaged areas reviewed and discussed by the parties, F&M is responsible for the repairs
- 2) If the Court determines the term "spalled area" is limited to the damaged area that shows cracking then the remaining area was not part of the settlement and is still need of repair under the warranty
- 3) If the Court determines that the parties never had a meeting of the minds as to the settlement agreement, liquidated damages continue.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to authorize Chief Kaufmann to halt work, if necessary. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- Assessor- Attorney Danenhowe stated that we have decided not to respond to the lawyer for the Assessor.

Attorney Danenhowe stated that the Assessor's office has not provided an A.G. opinion regarding the parcel fee exclusion for governmental agencies, and he is unable to locate one on the A.G. website. Chief Kaufmann reiterated that it was never our intent to bill government agencies.

Attorney Danenhowe stated that CCST is looking into the Assessor's office, as well as the reassessment process. They organized a meeting with the D.A., based on information received from an information request from our district. He further stated that we are not participating in this issue, nor pushing this.

Chief Kaufmann stated that a resident brought him 25 commercial property assessments, from Airport Rd. to Fremaux Town Center, and 20 of them had no change in value.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to accept the Attorney report. Commissioner Davis 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 Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.