

# St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

## Board of Commissioners

### Regular Meeting Minutes June 17, 2025

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 and Davis were present.  
Chairman Brackett and Commissioner McDowell were absent.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) 2025-026: BOC Resolution (Approve Purchase of Maintenance Vehicle) - Record Keeping

#### NEW BUSINESS:

##### Awards & Recognitions

**Retirement:** Peter Rudesill

**Water Rescue:** Sean McCormick, Sammy Burke, Nathan Thigpen, John Fourcade, Ryan Adams, Rick Kelly, Hank Gebhardt, Mark Moroney, Aaron Davis, Justin Galatas, Joel Truett

Tracy Powell- St. 14, Crew 3 (Jeremy Suber, Billy LaSalle, Cody Cathey)

Louisiana Legislative Spouses' Auxiliary

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### 1. Chief's Report

##### a) Significant Monthly Events

- Adopt Millage Rate(s) – Chief Kaufmann stated that he is recommending we stay at the current 32.41 millage rate.
- Parcel Fee Campaign- Oct. 11 Election – Chief Kaufmann stated that the contract has been signed and the campaign will begin in July.
- Legislation
  - HB18- Funding of Supplemental Benefits (Retirees) – signed by Governor
  - HB19- Five Year DROP
  - HB28- Benefits for Child with Disability
  - HB136- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command- Competitive

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- Discussion: Advisory Committee (Accreditation/ Strategic Plan)- Chief Kaufmann stated that we want to create an advisory committee for different projects, i.e. Accreditation and Strategic Planning, and Dan Crowley will head the committee.
  - St. 11- UPDATE- Chief Kaufmann stated that we are moving forward in getting the warranty work done.
  - St. 10- UPDATE- Chief Kaufmann stated that we are meeting tomorrow to stake out the property in order to get a survey.
  - Training Classroom #2- Chief Kaufmann stated that we should be getting the permit and starting the project.
- 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.
- c) **Maintenance Report**- Chief of Operations Gross discussed the “Maintenance” report (May) which covered preventative maintenances and major repairs performed.
- d) **Fire Prevention Report**- Asst. Chief of Fire Prevention Macaluso 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 we assisted Fire Dist. #2 with a debriefing and Mooney was instrumental in the process. Chief Kaufmann stated that we are hosting a critical incident stress management class in August and forming a team.

- f) **Communications Report** – Chief of Communications Parish discussed the monthly “Communications” report (May) which included call volume and statistics.
- g) **General Comments**-
- Staffing Vacancies
    - Suppression- 3
    - Communications Officer- 0
    - Fire Prevention- 0
  - Fit As A Firefighter- Captain Frazier stated that we had 104 campers and spoke briefly on some of the events.

*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 Accounting**- Mrs. Gaudin discussed the May financial report.

*Commissioner Rich made a motion to approve the May 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) 2025-027: BOC Resolution (Approve 2024 LLA Audit Compliance Questionnaire)

**Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-027, Relating to the Approval of the 2024 LLA Audit Compliance Questionnaire 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.**

- 2) 2025-028: BOC Resolution (Adopt Millage Rate)

(The Resolution was read into the minutes)

**RESOLUTION 2025-028**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2025 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by St. Tammany Fire Dist. #1:

	<u>MILLAGE</u>	
Acquisition and Maintenance	—	32.41 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2025, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

- YEAS:
- NAYS:
- ABSTAINED:
- ABSENT:

**CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the board meeting held on June 17, 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Slidell, Louisiana, this 17th day of June, 2025.

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Tracey Powell, Acting Chair  
Board of Commissioners  
St. Tammany Fire Dist.#1

**Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-028, Relating to the Approval to Levy the Millage on the 2025 Tax Roll 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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06/17/2025

**YEAS: Davis, Rich, Powell**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSTAINED: 0**

**ABSENT: Brackett, McDowell**

*The motion carried unanimously.*

- 3) General Comments
- 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 Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **5) Attorney's Report-**

- Station 11- Attorney Danenhowe stated that we are back on track with the warranty work.
- Station 10- Attorney Danenhowe stated that we will be at the property tomorrow to identify the land being donated and get a survey done.
- Assessor- Attorney Danenhowe stated that he received a letter/press release from the Assessor's attorney where he specifically identifies Fire Dist. #1 and says that the district is out in the public discussing the "cushion" that was created, as well as some other misstatements.

The press release also states, "If FD 1, or any other taxing agency, believed projected tax revenues were too high, they had both the time and the clear ability to decrease their millage rates by Oct. 1". Attorney Danenhowe stated that on May 21, 2024, the Assessor's office sent out a letter reminding taxing districts that the legal deadline for submitting millages to his office is June 1; however, due to his office not being able to meet that deadline, they extended it to August 1; therefore, the October date is a false statement that's he putting out.

Attorney Danenhowe stated that the other issue is that his explanation regarding a "cushion" doesn't make sense and they seem to blame the district for levying too high of a millage and overestimating the revenue we would get., thus us determining the actual value of property inside our district. Attorney Danenhowe further stated that we must rely on their numbers.

Attorney Danenhowe stated that this letter is the first time, in a while, that he has reacknowledged his "cushion", as it was mentioned repeatedly in 2024; however, as things started to "heat up" in 2025, they deny that a "cushion" ever existed, and told the Mayor of Slidell that we made it up, as there is no such thing as a "cushion". Additionally, this is the first time they have tried to explain their calculations, and in short, he admits that when information was submitted to the LLA and taxing districts, there was a huge difference in the total taxable value that was presented. The taxing bodies received an approximately 19% increase in total taxable value, and the LLA received notice of an 8% increase. The Assessor refers to the 11% difference as the "cushion". The Assessor also stated that when the numbers are due to the LLA, it is an estimate; however, Attorney Danenhowe stated that he has not seen anywhere that says to submit an estimate to the LLA as to the total taxable property value, it states that by May 1, you must submit the total taxable value in each of the taxing bodies inside your parish.

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Attorney Danenhower stated that there is further explanation stating that they were estimating what the total taxable value would be when the certified grand re-cap is submitted, in October. He further stated that to get to that figure, they considered two main categories of reductions:

- Estimated Reductions- which include homestead exemptions, senior exemptions, first responder exemptions, etc.; however, the 19% has those reductions considered.
- Confirmed Reductions- which include 2% for tax collections and 3% reduction for state pensions. Attorney Danenhower stated that there is no legal basis to change the value of property because legislation has decided to do something different with our money. This could indicate that he has artificially inflated the taxable value of all property by 5%. He further stated that these reductions should not have affected the taxable values sent to the LLA.

Attorney Danenhower stated that we were requested, by the Parish, to identify the issues that we have identified throughout the year and respond to the correspondence. He further stated that he attended the meeting, and everything was well received, and he was able to clarify, and simplify, the issues.

***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-

Dan Crowley spoke briefly about the advisory committee stating that we have significant events coming up and we have people willing to volunteer to assist the Board. He stated that during the re-accreditation process, we had the opportunity to learn some efficiencies on how we are writing our reporting, capturing metrics, etc. and he would like to volunteer to work with the accreditation manager over the next couple annual cycles to get those reports. Mr. Crowley stated that he would also like to be part of the process when interviewing for the next fire chief.

There was brief discussion on the adjusted millage rate, and Attorney Danenhower clarified that new growth is not considered in the calculation of the adjusted millage rate.

There was a brief discussion on rolling forward, in the future, to the voter approved maximum and Chief Kaufmann stated that his recommendation would be to do it incrementally.

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

***The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.***