

St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting Minutes September 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The prayer and pledge of allegiance were done.

Roll Call: Chairman Brackett and Commissioners Rich, Davis, McDowell and Powell were present.

OLD BUSINESS: (none)

NEW BUSINESS:

Recognitions:

Promotion: District Chief Gary Jones, Jr.

Recognitions: (4/19/25 incident) Captain Jeremy Suber, Operator Billy LaSalle, Firefighter Cody Cathey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2025 meeting. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Chief's Report

a) Significant Monthly Events

- Hancock Whitney- 1 year renewal (Resolution under "PMI")
- 2026 Proposed Budget- Chief Kaufmann stated that the proposed budget is based on the current revenue and includes 9 new firefighters for St. 10, 3 firefighters for the new Tender coming in, and adding an 8-hr. communications position (the other districts will contribute half). Chief Kaufmann further stated that we are trending to have a surplus at year-end.
- Surplus Property- Joan Dr.- Chief Kaufmann stated that we have no use for the property, and we had the property appraised. Luke Calamari submitted an appraisal of \$85,000 and he agreed to be the sales agent for 2.75% commission. (Resolution under "PMI")
- Fire Stations Open House- Oct. 4, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Chief Kaufmann stated that we will be attending Night Out Against Crime events.
- Parcel Fee Campaign- Oct. 11 Election – Chief Kaufmann provided copies of the pocket cards and mailout.
- St. 11- UPDATE- Chief of Administration Duffaut stated that the repairs started last week, and the second of three final coats was completed today. The final coat will be applied tomorrow.
- St. 10- UPDATE- Chief Kaufmann stated that he attended a development meeting to try to expedite the process and there will be a planning meeting in October to finalize the details.

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- Training Classroom #2- Chief Kaufmann stated that the metal is erected, and the project is moving along.
- 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) **Communications Report** – Chief of Administration Duffaut discussed the monthly “Communications” report (August) which included call volume and statistics.
- e) **Fire Prevention Report**- Chief of Fire Prevention Marquette discussed the monthly “Fire Prevention” report (August) which included Inspections, Public Fire Safety & Education Events, Investigations, and Economic Impact.
- f) **Training Report** – Chief of Training Harrison discussed the monthly “Training” report (August) which included Classes, Certifications and Revenues.
- g) **General Comments-**

- Chief Kaufmann stated that in 2006, a third of the district did not pay property taxes for three years and we went out for the parcel fee to diversify revenues. He further stated that this is a fair fee that everyone pays if there is a structure on the property, and this allows us to roll the millage back when we can. Over the past 18 years, we have rolled the millage back 10 of those years, saving taxpayers \$18,582,000. If we did not have the parcel fee, we would have to levy the voter approved 35 mills.

- Chief Kaufmann stated that with regards to the government efficiency committee, he spoke to Councilman Joe Impastato and the resolutions were pulled. He further stated that there was discussion on having meetings with all taxing bodies, and he recommended having workshops with subject matter experts from each agency. Chief Kaufmann stated that he received an e-mail invite to attend a meeting on Thursday, along with a Board member. He stated that he invited Dan Crowley to attend as well.

Chief Kaufmann stated that a lot of this started due to no funding of the justice system from Parish government and he proposed 1% of all millages collected from all taxing agencies be dedicated to that funding and put out for vote.

- Staffing Vacancies
 - Suppression- 0
 - Communications- 0

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

2) **SFFA (Slidell Firefighters Association)** – Golf Tournament- Sept. 19

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

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)

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b) **Human Resources – (none)**

- 1) 2025-031: BOC Resolution (Approve District Sponsored Employee Benefits: Major Medical, Dental, Life, Vision & Disability Insurance)

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-031, Relating to the Approval of District Sponsored Group 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.

- 2) 2025-032: BOC Resolution (Approve “No Increase” to Employee Contributions for District Sponsored Benefits)

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-032, Relating to Employee Contributions 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.

- 3) 2025-033: BOC Resolution (Approve Retiree Contribution)

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-033, 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.

- 4) 2025-034: BOC Resolution (Approve Employee Deductible Offset)

Commissioner Rich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-034, Relating to Continuance of the Deductible Expense Offset for District Sponsored Employee Benefits 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.

- 5) 2025-035: BOC Resolution (Approve Digital Telemedicine Program Services)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-035, Relating to the Approval of the Digital Medicine Program Services Agreement 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.

- 6) 2025-036: BOC Resolution (Approve Surplus of Property Deemed “Of Value”)

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Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-036, Relating to the Approval to Surplus Property Deemed "Of Value" 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.

- 7) 2025-037: BOC Resolution (Approve Financial Services Institution- Hancock Whitney Bank)

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-037, 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.

- 8) General Comments – Mr. Waniewski stated that with the current call volume, we average 27 responses per day to provide first aid.
- c) **Payroll** – (none)
- d) **FRS (Firefighters Retirement System)** – (none)
- e) **VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC- Act 554 (cancer screening)**- Mr. Waniewski stated that he knows of a Fire Chief that was tested and a form of cancer was detected. He reiterated that this is beneficial to early detection.

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

5) Attorney's Report-

- St. 10- Attorney Danenhower distributed the survey to the Board and stated that the next process is to subdivide the lots. He further stated that he is working with the other Attorney on the Act of Donation.

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

6) Board of Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner McDowell stated that he was in New York on 9/11 and he spoke with a fireman who said that the fire service is losing more and more people to cancer, and we are doing the right thing.
- Commissioner Powell stated that she has been nominated for "Hometown Hero" and discussed the purpose of the fundraiser which assists victims of domestic violence.
- BOC Action Items Review- (none)

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

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

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