St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting
Minutes
May 19, 2026

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 Powell, McDowell and Davis were present.
Commissioner Rich was absent.

OLD BUSINESS: (none)
NEW BUSINESS:

Recognitions: House Fire Rescue
Retirement: Captain Walter Allen
Promotions: Operator Frazier Bridges

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026 meeting. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. **Chief's Report**
   a) **Significant Monthly Events**
      - Recruit Graduation- May 21 (Northshore Church)
      - 2025 Audit(s)- Chief Kaufmann reported that there were no findings or recommendations.
      - 2027 Budget- Chief Kaufmann stated that we will request a draft of the tax roll and begin the budget process June 1. He further stated that we intend to vote on the millage by July 1.

        There was discussion on moving the June meeting due to the upcoming election, and it was determined the meeting would be held on June 23. Chief Kaufmann stated that his intent is to keep the millage where it currently is at 32.4 mills.
      - St. 10- Chief Kaufmann stated that they are driving pilings and the project is moving along.

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   b) **Operations Reports –** Chief of Operations Gross discussed **t**he monthly "Operations" report (April) 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 monthly "Maintenance" report (April) which covered preventative maintenances and major repairs performed.

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.

d) **Fire Prevention Report-** Chief of Fire Prevention Marquette discussed the monthly "Fire Prevention" report (April) which included Inspections, Public Fire Safety & Education Events, Investigations, and Economic Impact.

e) **Training Report –** Training Officer Harrison discussed the monthly "Training" report (April) which included Classes, Certifications and Revenues.

f) **Communications Report** – Chief of Administration Duffaut discussed the monthly "Communications" report (April) which included call volume and statistics.

g) **General Comments-**
- 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) –**

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

Chief Kaufmann stated that with regards to the "Rolling Stock, Facilities and Equipment Fund", all of the ending fund balances are dedicated to specific purchases that were previously voted on.

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

4) **PMI Report –**
   a) **Employee Benefits –** (none)
   b) **Human Resources –** (none)

1) 2026-021: BOC Resolution (Approve 2026 Levy of Parcel Fee)

The Resolution was read into the minutes)

RESOLUTION 2026-021

BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1, in a public meeting held on May 19, 2026, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law, whereupon the taxing district voted to approve and to levy the parcel fee on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2026, and when collected, the revenues for said taxes shall be used for the purposes for which said taxes have been levied.

PARCEL FEE	MAXIMUM	2026 LEVY	2027 LEVY
	$39.00	$39.00	$39.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assessor of the Parish of St. Tammany, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2026 the parcel fee herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by simple majority of the total membership of the taxing authority voting in favor. The votes were:

YEAS:

NAYS:
ABSTAINED:
ABSENT:

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 19th DAY OF MAY, 2026, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT No. 1, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of the resolution adopted at the meeting held on May 19, 2026, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting

Slidell, Louisiana, this 19th day of May, 2026.

_____
Troy Brackett, Chairman
Board of Commissioners
St. Tammany Fire Protection District #1

ATTEST:

_____
Cheryl Gross, Secretary, Board of Commissioners
St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-021, Relating to the Approval to Levy the 2026 Parcel Fee on the Tax Roll for District No. 1. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Powell stated that she doesn't feel the need to levy the full $39.00 in an effort to provide some relief to the taxpayers. Chief Kaufmann stated that we are at 32.41 mills, which is 2.59 mills below the voter approved maximum, and he is trying to maintain it for the third year.

Commissioner Davis stated that while he understands Commissioner Powell's concerns, this $39 is for all properties and everyone is paying. He further stated that after reviewing the budget, hopefully we can keep the millage reduced.

Chairman Brackett called for the vote:

Davis: Aye
McDowell: Aye
Brackett: Aye
Powell: Aye
Rich: Absent

The motion carried unanimously.

c) **Payroll –** (none)

d) **FRS (Firefighters Retirement System) –** (none)

e) **VFIS Special Risk Insurance & LWCC-** (none)

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

5) Attorney's Report-

- St. 10 – Attorney involvement is complete, the project is being handled by the district
- Employee Investigation- Appeal filed
- Public campaign regarding tax propositions- Attorney Danenhower suggested that if any of the Board members are asked any questions regarding our budget to please defer comments to Chief Kaufmann or Chairman Brackett.
- Attorney Demand Letter- no update

Chief Kaufmann stated that he attended the parish RESET committee meeting and these meetings will send a clear message about transparency.

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 Davis stated that he will be out of the country from June 15- Aug. 1. There was a brief discussion on meeting before he leaves to vote on the millage. Chief Kaufmann stated that the budget process is in the early stages, and while he doesn't intend to roll forward, we will determine if we should meet earlier.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.