



St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 11
Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes
37546 Pine Street Extension, Pearl River, Louisiana
Fire Chief Jack Dockery
November 14, 2023
7:02 pm – 7:33 pm

ROLL CALL

Russell Lindsey – Present
Ryan Dreux - Present
Eugene Swann – Absent
Floyd Trascher – Present
Michele Blackwell – Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

MINUTES

Mrs. Blackwell said, has everyone read and approved the minutes from the October 10th, meeting?

Mr. Dreux said, I definitely went over them.

Mr. Lindsey said, I reviewed over them and everything seemed to be in order.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, I also reviewed them and it seemed to be in order and I would move that we adopt them with the video governing.

Mr. Lindsey said, second.

Mr. Lindsey, how do you vote?

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Dreux, how do you vote?

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Trascher, how do you vote?

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries. We will move on to the Financial Report, Chief.

FINANICAL REPORT

Chief Dockery said, alright, for the month of October we are looking at 83%. Going through, the Fuel is still up at 88.55%, but that just varies with the cost of fuel. A little further down, Line Item 6410, Workers Comp Insurance, it's up. We had a audit back last month and we just got the audit back and we owed and extra \$18,000, so, that's why that is at 109%, right now.

Mr. Trascher asked, is there any reason why?

Chief Dockery said, because of how they are coding. Coding of the individuals in the department that's, I may be coded as something different as the full timers. It's just a pay scale they are using for that.

Mr. Trascher asked, but it wasn't due to any type of accidents or anything?

Chief Dockery said, no, no accident's, it's just on their part of...

Mr. Trascher said, just adjustments of rates.

Chief Dockery said, an adjustment on their part. So, I had the paperwork and I completely forgot it. I will send you all a copy of it so you can look over it and see.

Mr. Trascher said, alright, I was just curious if it was due to an incident or something.

Chief Dockery said, no, no incident's.

Mr. Lindsey asked, did you look over all the classifications they have and make sure everything is correct on it?

Chief Dockery said, yes, basically, it's the administrative gets charged differently than the suppression being a suppression has more of a chance of getting hurt.

Mr. Lindsey said, sure.

Chief Dockery said, so I did look over it. It's falling in line.

Mr. Lindsey said, because that's a big difference, \$18,000.

Chief Dockery said, yes, well I am guessing they, we got back \$32,000, from them earlier this year so, it kind of makes up for it a little bit.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, in the future going forward are we going to start...

Chief Dockery said, I always put extra in but, it depends on what they are billing that year. What the rates are going for and where they put us at. I would love to say I can tell you exactly what they are going to charge us. I didn't expect that to come through. I know years before we maybe had like a \$5,000, adjustment. But, this one was for some reason...

Mr. Trascher said, and when we say \$18,000, that's out of a premium of what, \$65,000?

Mr. Dreux said, \$60,000, huh?

Mr. Lindsey said, we had \$60,000, budgeted.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Lindsey said, and it come in higher.

Mr. Trascher said, that's a 20% say, rate adjustment.

Chief Dockery said, I will definitely get you the paper work and get it to you. That way you can look over it and see what they come up with and how they come up with it.

Going through to page 2, of course, all the maintenance on the trucks, this one does not reflect the cost of Engine 111 that we just got back so, next month we will show the actual, where we are at on that cost. Right now we are at 98% on this budget. Of course, I know we talked about moving funds over from the restricted fund to pay for the repairs on the engine so, next month I will have the whole tally sheet of what we actually spent on it.

Going down further, everything else on this page is roughly in line. Page 3, I know last month we talked about the Internet, Cable, Phone. Looking at it, I went back and looked at all the bills, they are running closely the same. I think just what happened was that, I cut it real close in the budget itself. I actually budgeted it, I was figuring \$742, a month and some of them are \$761, \$758, so that bumped it up. Let's see...

Mr. Trascher said, because we will need to amend some of these at our next meeting.

Chief Dockery said, it will need to be adjusted. It will be the January meeting that we usually amend for the year. That way we have a total.

Mr. Trascher said, the finals, okay, yes. We can do it after December 31st.

Chief Dockery said, yes. Yes, we just have to have our actual 2024 budget done before.

Mr. Trascher said, right, we have to have something to start January 1.

Chief Dockery said, yes, going down, the Accounting, we talked about that. It was a payment that was missed last year that was added on to this year so that's at 91%. That will steadily be that. It will be one payment over for the year with. That will have to be adjusted. And, for the last page, line item 8620 and 7640, the Equipment Principle and Interest, you see on the Principle we are over \$61,392.40, and Interest we are over \$10,798.55, but, that will come out of line item 8800, I'm sorry, line 8500, Other Expenses, has \$124,800, sitting in that so, that will adjust it and everything will fan out on that one correctly. As of the monthly bills and payroll, we are in line, other than Fuel which fluctuates each month. The standard, normal monthly bills are running in line. It's must the Maintenance and the Lease Payments and such like that. The one year payments that need to be either adjusted or not adjusted, to bring it to the good.,

Mr. Trascher said, over all, we will be able to move funds from accounts that we haven't...

Chief Dockery said, yes, we will be able to move funds from line items to cover it to balance.

Mr. Trascher said, to balance, to bring it to that 5%.

Chief Dockery said, correct, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, if that's it on the Financial Report, we will move to the EMS Report.

EMS REPORT

Chief Dockery said, on the EMS side, we brought in \$25,272.55, for the month of October. Looks like there was only \$13.50, that was not posted for that month so, it will probably end up on the next month's. It was a good month for us, I say good month, it's never come in exactly the same month. This could have been calls from early last year so...

Mr. Trascher said, well, we look at generally what, around \$10,000 to \$11,000.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, a month so, the \$25,000, that is more than what we hoped for in our Budget but, it makes up for the months that don't get it.

Chief Dockery said, EMS Services in general, we budgeted \$180,000, and as of October we are at \$173,154.36, so we are only \$6,835.64, from our Budget goal so, we should surpass that probably with what I have sitting in the office right now. So, there should be no problems there.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, Chief, where's the monies, just curious to what we are getting with the accident payments and stuff. Where does that, is that just being deposited in our general fund?

Chief Dockery said, that's just in the general fund itself.

Mr. Lindsey asked, do we know how much we've been collecting?

Mr. Dreux said, you need to quit reading my mind.

Mr. Lindsey said, do we know how much we have made off of it?

Chief Dockery said, I want to say about, right around \$2,000. We've had some accident's but, we are running to the issue right now of being out of district or them not having insurance at all. I actually sent out an email yesterday to emphasize on making sure we all stay on top of and gathering and making a due diligent effort to make sure we get the insurance. It's working, it's still just a slow process.

Mr. Lindsey said, I was just curious what we are going to, on average, wind up making off of it.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I had some of them to where they rejected it, just the insurance company rejected it and others, we get \$400 or \$500 from. I want to say we are around \$2,000 mark total so far as of what we put in. I actually have 2 right now that I have to put in that just happened 2 days ago. We are waiting for our CAD system to come back up, that way they can do the report on.

Mr. Lindsey said, it's better than what we got before.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, something is better than nothing.

Mr. Dreux asked, so, what are the perimeters to say that I am rejecting it, the insurance company.

Chief Dockery said, either wording or if they don't feel like you done anything out there, I gave the all the...

Mr. Dreux asked, is it the report that all the Captains fill out and send in?

Chief Dockery said, yes, I gave them all the samples of what wording to use for it. Like, we had a oil lead, approximately 5 gallons of oil, we used XY and Z...

Mr. Dreux said, to clean it.

Chief Dockery said, to clean it and we did traffic control so, it's got to be spelled out basically for somebody buying something. It' can't be...

Mr. Dreux said, just showing up and not doing it.

Chief Dockery said, yes, it can't be the same lingo that we use on scene or in our report. It's got to be key words in there and they have been doing it but, it's up to the insurance company. You know, the company we use, they kick it off to the insurance company and if they bite, they do, if not, it gets kicked. There's a, I don't want to call it a dialog but, on the dash board that I use when I am entering information and it will show up that if you only put the bare minimum it will say you only have a 30% chance of it passing. The more information you put in, the higher that percentage gets. So, we try to get as much in, we try to get in the 90% range but even then, there's still no guarantee.

Mr. Trascher said, well, as we progress through it, we will become more proficient on making it. It's like medical billing and coding.

Chief Dockery said, oh yes, it's still in the consistency of getting them to understand what I need from them.

Mr. Dreux said, you should have a, they used to send me something when I was doing reports, on things you need to touch.

Chief Dockery said, yes, that's what...

Mr. Dreux said, you know, you send it out to them and that's what you can expand on everything.

Chief Dockery said, correct, that's what we sent out. Kind of a cheat sheet on, this is what I am looking for.

Mr. Dreux said, yes, cheat sheet, that's a good...

Chief Dockery said, we need pictures sometimes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, you have to draw it out sometimes, huh.

Chief Dockery said, so, it's still in it's infancy so, it's learning pains right now.

Mr. Dreux said, they will learn.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, are there any more questions about EMS or Financials?

Mr. Lindsey said, I don't have any.

Mr. Dreux said, I don't think we have any more.

Mrs. Blackwell said, if you don't have any more questions about that, we will move to Chief's Report, Chief Dockery.

CHIEF'S REPORT/ EMS REPORT - Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, for the month of October, we responded to:

EMS	70
MVA	6
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	7
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE	6
FALSE ALARM	3
GRASS/WOOD FIRES/RUBBISH FIRE	6
POLICE MATTER	4
STRUCTURE FIRE (1 Mutual Aid for District 7)	2
TOTAL	104

Chief Dockery continued, the one structure fire we had in our area, thankfully, the homeowner whenever he found it he was able to shut the door to the room and we got there and the crew was able to extinguish it very fast to where it stayed to only one room and the content. It was a good job for the crew and a good job for the homeowner also. He basically saved his house with that one. The one for District 7, that was just a long night.

Mrs. Blackwell said, it was a big house?

Chief Dockery said, yes. It was a log cabin.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I saw pictures.

Chief Dockery said, yes, Fire District 7, Fire District 11, Fire District 1 and Fire District 8 were out there.

Mr. Dreux asked, what is District 7?

Chief Dockery said, 6th Ward.

Mr. Trascher said, that's 6th Ward.

Mr. Dreux said, 6th Ward. 11 is Abita?

Chief Dockery said, 11 is here, 8 is Abita.

Mr. Dreux said, 8 is Abita.

Chief Dockery said, and of course, 1 is Slidell. It was a long night and we were hauling a lot of water. Thankfully the homeowners made it out okay. Stuff can be rebuilt

Mr. Trascher asked, no injuries?

Chief Dockery said, no injuries.

Mrs. Blackwell said, no, they lost the car and everything.

Mr. Dreux asked, where was that at?

Chief Dockery said, up 41.

Mrs. Blackwell said, across from 16 Section Road.

Chief Dockery said, yes, somewhere near to 16 Section Road.

Mrs. Blackwell said, by the Hill boy. I can't remember his name or the name of that road but it makes a loop back in there and comes out.

Chief Dockery said, I do have just some side notes real fast. We did make it out to Night Out Against Crime. We made it out to the Truck or Treat and we were able to make it out to Halloween Night and handed out candy. We had a good turn out.

I know in December, for some reason I am thinking December 9th but, I couldn't find it on the Facebook for Town Hall so, I'll have to ask them. I want to say it's the Christmas Program.

Mr. Trascher said, I haven't seen the date on that yet.

Chief Dockery said, I will have to double check. I recall him saying something about December 8th or December 9th. I will nail it down and let you all know when that is. But, we will be out there. Lastly, the local stores will donate fruit this year and we will hand out some fruit.

Mr. Dreux asked, where is that at, Town Hall?

Chief Dockery said, Town Hall. Other than that, that's all I have for the Chief's Report.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, if there are no more questions or concerns on the Chief's Report, we will move to Old Business. Adopting the 2024 Budget.

OLD BUSINESS

ADOPT THE 2024 BUDGET – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, I introduced this back in October, we let it sit for a month, it's been posted in the paper for the month of November. I'm sorry, we put it in, in September and it sat for October. Now, we are here to vote on it in November.

Mr. Trascher asked, okay, did we post this at Town Hall also?

Chief Dockery said, it was just posted in the paper itself but, it could be viewed at the station.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, so we had it at the Station and we did, we complied with the advertising requirements in the paper.

Chief Dockery said, correct.

Mr. Trascher asked, have we had any public comment or any questions on it?

Chief Dockery said, we had zero.

Mr. Trascher said, I would move that we adopt the 2024 Budget as presented.

Mr. Lindsey said, I will second.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Lindsey, how do you vote?

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Dreux, how do you vote?

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Trascher, how do you vote?

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries. Well, if there is nothing else there we will move to New Business and that's Public Comment.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Blackwell said, do we have any public comment? Would anybody like to comment? If

there's no comments, do we have a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Dreux said, I have a question. What about the works on the building?

Chief Dockery asked, about the what?

Mr. Dreux said, the remodeling the building and all. Any information on updates?

Chief Dockery said, we are still looking for the survey and I haven't been able to find anything. Mr. Floyd and I talked a little bit before the meeting and I am going to get some prices on a company to come out to do a survey for the land itself. I did get an old ordinance that they had for set backs and what not. So, with that and getting a survey we can see if it's even feasible to put it right there or do we need to build in the footprint that we already have.

Mr. Dreux said, yes, that's what we need to find out.

Chief Dockery said, so, that's where I am on that one.

Mr. Dreux said, so, the old ordinance, correct me if I am wrong, I don't know what it does for commercial but it's 5 feet and 25 feet.

Mr. Trascher said, well, that's not necessarily so, this should be an institutional zoning. It shouldn't be commercial.

Mr. Dreux said, that's what I am saying, I am talking residential.

Mr. Trascher said, that's what we talked about before the meeting. We need to determine the zoning classification. Now, they had to have a survey at one time. It has since disappeared. When this was built they didn't really watch setbacks or anything else. So, what we need to do, the Chief is going to get a price on a site survey which is, we are going to mark the corners of the property as well as locate the current buildings on the property.

Mr. Dreux said, a Plot Plan, is what they call it for where the buildings are at.

Mr. Trascher said, well, this is going to be a site survey. It's going to show the property and it's going to show the buildings and how far the buildings are from the property line. So, this would be our footprint that we are having.

Mr. Dreux asked, so when we get that, what rules do we go by?

Mr. Trascher said, that's what I was telling you. We have to, we need to get that and we can determine and get from the Parish, what zoning classification this is.

Mr. Dreux said, and then we know.

Mr. Trascher said, then we know the set back requirements are going to be because, they used to have C2 zoning in the Parish and zero lot lines. But, in addition to the setback requirements, we have to have parking requirements, we have to have landscape requirements. There's all these other things that are going to come into play to alter this site.

Mr. Dreux asked, so, we wouldn't be grandfathered in?

Mr. Trascher said, we would be grandfathered in for what we have to do the inside repairs but, to add on to this building we are now changing it so...

Mr. Dreux said, your changing the footprint.

Mr. Trascher said, you have to have so many Class A trees for every foot of property...

Mr. Dreux said, really?

Mr. Trascher said, you have to have so many parking places.

Mr. Dreux said, can you have Bonsai Trees, the little ones?

Mr. Trascher said, no, no, no. So, there's a lot stricter requirements. The first step is, we need a survey. Whether we use it or not to build, we should have that.

Mr. Dreux said, right, I mean, you should have one.

Mr. Trascher said, so, we are going to get prices on that and it will show the property, what's on the property and where all these buildings are. You've got this, you have the tower and you have the other structure. Then, it will also determine the zoning classification. Then we will see if it's feasible to enlarge the footprint of the building where we will have to come in to compliance with all these other regulations. It may not be. It may be that we need to just remodel the inside. But, that would be a determining factor.

Mr. Dreux said, right.

Mr. Trascher said, then we can get an accurate cost estimate.

Mr. Dreux asked so, that money that we have set aside, it's not going to be a problem as long as it's been taking us to get...

Chief Dockery said, yeah, no, it's just once it's earmarked for that, as long as we are showing, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, I am thinking the survey is going to be around \$2,000. We may have to use some of that because that is part of the upgrade on the building.

Mr. Dreux said, you need a survey.

Mr. Trascher said, it's something we have to have. That is plan and simple and then, once we have that, we know what we are zoned, then architect can look at it and tell us what we would have to do and we can get a more accurate cost on which way we are going to proceed.

Mr. Lindsey asked, have you called JV Burke's about a survey?

Chief Dockery asked, who?

Mr. Lindsey said, JV Burke's.

Mr. Trascher said, I don't think he's called anybody.

Chief Dockery said, I haven't called anyone for a survey, no.

Mr. Lindsey said, he is one of the locals. I had one done with them not too long ago and it was like \$1,500. It used to be cheap.

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

Mr. Lindsey said, when they told me \$1,500, to mark the corners on 4 acres, no less than 2 acres.

Mr. Trascher said, that's because it depends on where it is located, where they have to shoot from.

Mr. Lindsey said, and if they have to go through the woods and all that stuff.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, if they have to cut lines or trails to get to it.

Mr. Lindsey said, this should be an easy one.

Mr. Trascher said, it shouldn't be as bad and they may have, depending on which one you, at some point they had to have a survey for this building, for this property.

Mr. Dreux said, they had to.

Mr. Lindsey said, we are going to have to have a survey to pull a permit anyway.

Mr. Dreux asked, whoever bought it or did you all have it donated?

Mr. Trascher said, I couldn't tell you. The only thing I can tell you is, this was built...

Mrs. Blackwell said, the thing with this business, as long as they been in it, it's possible they've even surveyed it themselves.

Mr. Trascher asked, who, the Parish?

Mr. Lindsey said, JV Burke.

Mr. Trascher said, they may have. That's what I am saying, they may have something on record.

Mr. Dreux said, they been in business a long time. A long time.

Mrs. Blackwell said, a long, long time.

Mr. Trascher said, this was built before the Parish had building permit regulations that were enforced. This was built with trustees and volunteers and everything else in the world. So, code compliance, it was nonexistent.

Mr. Dreux said, it wouldn't have passed with that electric in the cabinet. That's for sure.

Mr. Trascher said, non existent but now, to do it, and like I said, the proper zoning classification for this would be institutional. It's a government building. Churches, government buildings are all institutional uses. Not commercial because if they zone this commercial and we released the property, they could build a bar room. We need to look at all those things.

Mr. Dreux said, okay.

Mr. Lindsey said, Chief, while we are talking about building, do we have any information, are we up to speed on the new subdivision that is coming in and is there any multi story building that are going to be a part of this? Because, I heard there was going to be an apartment complex that is going to be multi story that was coming in the area.

Chief Dockery said, I haven't heard anything. Usually, anything that is coming in it is suppose to go, of course to the State Fire Marshall's and when that happens we will catch wind of it through emails. But, I know the subdivision that is coming in, I don't know exactly how many houses are coming in.

Mr. Dreux asked, where at?

Chief Dockery said, off of Highway 3081.

Mr. Trascher said, on Mattie Road, do you know where Mattie Road is?

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

Mr. Lindsey said, basically behind the High School.

Mr. Trascher said, by Ronnie's bar.

Mr. Lindsey said, but it's going to come out to 3081.

Mr. Trascher said, right, Magnolia Street. It's going to butt Magnolia Street in the back, on the South side.

Mr. Dreux asked, who's building it?

Mrs. Blackwell said, Toby Lowe.

Mr. Lindsey asked, how many houses are going to be in that area?

Mr. Trascher said, I've heard 200.

Chief Dockery said, I have the old plot that originally was given to us a couple of years ago. I will look at it and let you know. I don't recall off hand. I want to say what they had originally in there, it got cut down in houses to only like 80 houses. I do know that, I talked to the crews the other day that were there the other day that were putting the water main in, I asked them what size main was going in there.

Mr. Lindsey said, that is what I was getting at, to make sure that along with this building that they are shoving in, that we are...

Mr. Trascher said, can we go off record to talk about something.

Mr. Dreux asked, what size main is going in there?

Chief Dockery said, 6 inch is going in there. I would rather go off record to...

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, we can go ahead and do that. I make a motion we adjourn.

Mr. Trascher said, second.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mr. Lindsey, how do you vote?

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Dreux, how do you vote?

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Trascher, how do you vote?

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries. We are off record.