



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
March 11, 2025
7:02 pm – 7:46 pm

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE **INVOCATION** **MINUTES**

Mrs. Blackwell calls the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Roll call is done and four Russel Lindsey, Ryan Dreux, Floyd Trascher and Michele Blackwell are present, Mr. Eugene Swann is in route. Mr. Floyd Trascher does the invocation and Mr. Russell Lindsey leads the pledge.

Mrs. Blackwell asked if anyone has read the minutes of the February 11th, meeting? Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Trascher reviewed the minutes and moves to approve the minutes with the video governing. Mr. Lindsey seconds. A roll call vote is called, all in favor, motion carries.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chief Dockery presents the Financial Report for the month of February, we are looking for around a 17% range. The monthly bills are running in line. The only ones stand out are the quarterly expenses or the one time expenses for the year but, the normal bills are in line. Fuel is the only one that was up just a little at 18.76%, but that will fluctuate throughout the year.

Mr. Eugene Swann is present.

EMS REPORT

For the month of February, we posted \$25,731.79. Mr. Trascher notes that we are ahead of our goal and it speaks a lot about the way the personnel handles the calls and the trust that the citizens have in that service. That is a valuable service for our constituents. Please express our gratitude to the personnel. Mr. Lindsey agrees.

Mr. Lindsey asked if we were still waiting for some funds to roll in. Chief Dockery said that we will have throughout the year have Ad velorem, State Revenue and Fire Insurance Rebate. Especially, the Fire Insurance is usually the later part of the year. Ad velorem, we will start getting smaller checks each month. Tomorrow I will go to Covington to pick up the Economic Development check of \$50,000, for AWG. With no other questions, we will move to Chief's Report.

CHIEF'S REPORT/ EMS REPORT - Chief Jack Dockery

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

EMS	32
MVA	6
STRUCTURE FIRE	1
(2 Mutual Aid Dist. 7)	
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	9
FALSE ALARMS	2
TRASH FIRES	1
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE	12
 TOTAL	 63

SERVICE 111

Chief Dockery said you don't have it on yours but, Service 111, will be going back to the shop. It has a broken saddle bolt on the back axle. It was just repaired last April, if I am correct. I called the people that did the repair and they said they only have a 90 day warranty on their work. I called Sid Martins and they have also pushed it up the line to Pierce to see if they have any other issues anywhere else because it's a random thing. Once it's just a fluke but now it is becoming a concern. They will check it on their side and we are getting it repaired on our side.

Mrs. Blackwell said, if we are finished with the Chief's Report, we will move to Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

STATION UPGRADES – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher referred to Chief Dockery. Chief said we got the plans and now they are being submitted to the State Fire Marshall for approval. Once he approves the plans, we will be

able to go out for contract and look for bids to get the process started. Mr. Trascher asked for a copy of the plans and Chief said he can get that for him. It's on PDF files so I can get you a copy.

Chief said, on the other side of it, I have been speaking to the gentleman that owns the mobile homes and I am waiting for him to get back with me again. He wants to know if we want to rent, lease or buy. I told him we didn't know yet and to give me a work up on both so I can bring it to the Board and we all can discuss it. Also, some of my guys are kicking around the idea of putting a rest room between the station and the classroom. Could we run a sewer line to the septic we have now or do we need to add a septic tank for that. This is questions I don't know.

Mr. Lindsey said it would have to run along the sidewalk to get to the septic tank and I don't know if there would be enough fall in that distance. Chief said that is another question that they are going to reach out and get answers for me to see if we could do it that way or do we have to drop a new septic tank and what would be the cost and what is the process for it. Mr. Trascher said it also depends on what system we have here. Do we have an old septic tank or do we have a treatment plant. Mr. Lindsey said it was a treatment plant. Mr. Trascher said the Parish will require us to pull a permit for this building to remodel and if we have an older system, they will make us upgrade to a treatment plant. Chief Dockery said, that we have an older system that has only one tank and a aerator pump in the bottom of it. It has a gray water pipe leading out to a culvert. Mr. Trascher said if it has an aerator, it could be a treatment plant. A septic tank does not have aerator. It's going to have a tank, a filter bed and then a line out to the ditch. Mr. Dreux said I don't think you can do filter beds in this area because you if you dig down 3 feet, water shows. Mr. Trascher said they used to but that's one of the big problems in the Parish now. There are half to three quarters of the houses that have the old system and don't have aerators. As long as you don't get a permit or change the electricity, they don't come out and inspect it and these systems are causing problems with pollution. Mr. Lindsey said they put a notice in the Ponderosa that they are inspecting all the systems back there. Mr. Trascher said that Environmental Services has been doing that area but they have met with a lot of resistance as you can imagine.

Chief Dockery said, so as of right now the plans are off and being reviewed. I am looking at a one bedroom, one bath so, this is a shorter version than a full size mobile home. Mr. Floyd said that we may have to put another electrical panel or something to connect the electricity. Chief said we are looking into a temp pole for the station as well as for temporary living quarters. Mr. Trascher said, if you went with a camper, the bigger campers are 50 amp service. If you go with a mobile home, it won't work with a 50 amp because of the central a/c and heat, stove, water heater and you would need at least 100 amps. Most of the mobile homes require 200 amps of service. I do like the idea of having a restroom between the two buildings. That may, if we need to change they system, we could put that in. Mr. Swann said you could also put a pump in the line. Mr. Trascher said that it would be advantageous for this building, if you are going to contemplate using this as living quarters. Chief said if we ran the route of building out, I would like to do the restroom regardless. We kicked around that idea of using this a living quarters in here because it has it's own air, it will have it's own power being on a separate panel. Mr. Trascher said that he likes the idea of, anything that we do for living quarters, that we can use in the future. If we bought a mobile home, we would have to sell it later. If we put the rest room in here and are able to use this, even if we had to put a portable building, we could use as storage later and put it close enough to the sewerage

where we could put a toilet in and when the project is over, we can use that for something else too. Chief said the bathroom would include a toilet, shower and sink. Mr. Lindsey said it may be late to say this now but, I would like to see the architect come up with something for the front of the station to make, whether it is wrapping the columns or doing something to make it look better. Around the bay doors it needs to be wrapped. Chief said the first bay door will be closed in with a wall and will be bricked to match the station. The other bay doors will have to be wrapped. We will use that first bay as living quarters. Mr. Trascher said his concern is, would using this building interfere with any of the classes that you have? If the renovations run longer, portable building or a mobile home may be better. Mr. Lindsey said he likes the idea of maybe a 2 bedroom mobile home so you can have your own room and Mr. Trascher said it would also have a kitchen, stove. Mr. Lindsey said, in here you would not have a kitchen and we would have to add the bathroom before we got started with the other stuff. I like the idea of a mobile home to set us up temporarily and sell it when we are done with it. Mr. Trascher said yes, unless we have some other use for it.

With no other questions on this we can go up to Pump Update.

PUMP UPDATE – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher referred to Mr. Lindsey. The paper you have gives you a picture of the idea of where we are now. Mr. Trascher asked if this is going to be adding this to our current tank and running new, bigger lines to the front. Mr. Lindsey said yes, to maybe a hydrant, if we can get one. If we could get one from the Parish or City, it would be ideal because it can be used for the training academy. We would be able to fill right out by the road. This pump, even the sprinkler pump, they rate them 1 ½ times so, if it's rated at 500 gpm, it will put out 750. So, to the hydrant, with the friction loss and everything, we would get 500, no problem. But, they gave us a cost of the pump and it's around \$30,000. They came up with the idea of a pump that's on a skid. We should know some more specs on it tomorrow and it should get 500 gpm. They are both single phase pumps and this one may be around \$12,000, and we have to get it installed. No matter what we do, we will have to bring the slab out more because it's close to the tank and have no room to mount any type of pump and it should not be a problem. We would also have to do underground work to the hydrant. It's about \$85 to \$90 per foot for the pipe and I think we figured 150 feet or 170 feet, depending on where we mount the hydrant. I told them at least 50 psi and 500 gallons per minute.

Mr. Trascher commented that, if the equipment is around \$12,000, the labor would probably be around \$10,000, if we don't need a tank. That's to contract a slab and pipe it out to the front. The tank we have is 10,000 gallons. Mr. Trascher asked if a hydrant was around \$3,500. Chief said somewhere around that. Mr. Swann said I will try to see if I can get one donated.

The solution we are looking at is probably going to be around \$20,000 to \$25,000. We are going to have to build a building over this tank for two reasons. We need to keep this pump from freezing and if we build something over it it will keep it out of the sun. Mr. Trascher said, we would have to add at least 5 or 6 feet to the slab. Mr. Lindsey said if we get to the point of building a building around it, maybe we could add to it for storage for the training props or a extra storage. Mr. Trascher said we can get this going then after we can try to close it in but we need to plan for the slab now. The other thing with the building, if you have to change out the pump, we have to plan on that also. Mr. Lindsey said if he gets more information tomorrow he will send it to the rest of the Board to review. I also told him we need at least 50

psi at the hydrant and 500 gallons per minute, Mr. Dreux suggested to ask what pump would be the fastest rate to fill fire trucks and about the maintenance on the pump. When I get more information, I will email you with it. Chief Dockery's question is how will we engage the pump. They talked about that so it would need a control panel or a flow switch. How can we activate it? Maybe some type of relay that stays on and shows a loss in pressure and come on.

MILLAGE RENEWAL – Floyd Trascher

Chief mentioned that Millage Renewal and Intent to Call for Elections is the same thing. We will just go to New Business and discuss it. Mr. Trascher said I would like to move this to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

INTENT TO CALL FOR ELECTION – Chief Jack Dockery

Floyd Trascher commented, to be in compliance with our Millage Renewal, we will have on our ballot, we are required to have the announcement that we will call for that millage. I will read that now:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. At it's regular meeting place, 37546 Pine Street Extension, Pearl River, Louisiana, the Board of Commissioner's of Fire Protection District No. 11 of the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in Fire Protection District No. 11 of the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of an ad velorem tax therein.

The recap is that at our April 8th, meeting we will have a resolution prepared and we will vote , on that resolution to call for that election. The Chief is in the process of notifying the proper elected officials that represent this District. Councilman Cogle, Councilman Strickland and possibly Councilman Burke will be notified and we are also required to notify our Senators. Our Senator for this District is Senator Bob Owen and we have our State Representative Peter Egan, for this District. The Chief will email those elected officials with our intent to renew the millage.

No other comments we move to Public Comment

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Blackwell asked for any public comment. No Public Comment.

Mr. Lindsey makes a motion to adjourn, Mr. Dreux seconds. All in favor, motion carried.