



St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 11  
Board of Commissioner's  
Minutes of the Meeting on May 10, 2022  
Fire Chief Jack Dockery  
7:05 pm – 8:15 pm

**ROLL CALL**

Russell Lindsey – Present  
Eugene Swann – Present  
Floyd Trascher – Present  
Michele Blackwell – Present

**INVOCATION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MINUTES**

Mrs. Blackwell said, has everybody read and approve the meeting of “No Quorum” for the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting? There's really no minutes, it's just a written statement stating that we had no quorum.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, Madam Chair, I would like a point of order that we need to approve the minutes of the previous meeting I believe, don't we?

Mrs. Blackwell said, sure, that was what date?

Mr. Lindsey said, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Gr said, March 8<sup>th</sup>, if it's in your packet. March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, has everybody read and approve the minutes of March 8<sup>th</sup>?

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

Mr. Trascher said, I reviewed the minutes also and I didn't find any discrepancy's. I would move that we approve them with the video governing and in that motion I would also include that we put the page in the record that there was no quorum at the last meeting.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do I have a second?

Mr. Lindsey said, I second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann 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 our Financial Report, Chief Dockery?

**FINANCIAL REPORT** – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, okay, for the month of April, in going through looking at it, I only see a couple that is really standing out. One is Bank Service Charge. I did speak with Mrs. Wynn Williams on this and we come up with a solution to this issue. Basically, one of our accounts has a service charge on it every month and in lieu of the service charge, we are basically going to cancel out the amount of interest that's going to accrued to that amount. So, we will not have to worry about on our budget for the service charge. But, it's only that one account and it already at 91.4%.

Mr. Trascher asked, which account and why are we paying a service charge on that account?

Chief Dockery said, well, according to her, we have always been paying it on that account. It's our operating account. It's our main account. All the other accounts do not have a service charge on it and all the others also accrue interest. So, I plan on meeting with here tomorrow morning and sitting down and discussing on why the amount because it's kind of a wish wash deal. Before, it was well let me know and we will take it off. Now, it's well that's what we charge you.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, please, I would like you to look into that.

Chief Dockery said, I want clarification on that.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because I understand that we were not supposed to be paying a service charge.

Chief Dockery said, yes, the only charge we are supposed to be paying is having the online service, the treasury management to where we can actually can look at the accounts. But, that wasn't suppose to be \$400 a month, it's supposed to be like \$30 a month which was acceptable.

Mr. Trascher said, yes. Okay, please, if you will, look into that.

Chief Dockery said as soon as I hear something on it I will send out an email.

Mr. Trascher said, if we are going to pay a service charge on that account, we need to look at another institution.

Mr. Swann said, we got a credit union that moved here now.

Mr. Trascher said, but they won't do a government account.

Mr. Swann asked, they won't?

Mr. Trascher said, no, I just talked to them. Anyway, if you would look into that Chief.

Chief Dockery said, I will.

Mr. Trascher said, because we have been banking with her a while and we certainly need to.

Chief Dockery said, I will. The other two that are really sticking out is Repairs to the Equipment, Building and Small Motor Maintenance. I think I have a few in there that has been miss-coded to those accounts. I am going to get with the CPA and make sure I didn't send them the wrong line item for it. It's nothing drastic, it's nothing we can't fix and amend it but, if it's miss-coding I will have them code it to the correct area. Let's see, anything else really sticking out?

Mr. Trascher said, Repairs to Equipment and Building.

Mrs. Blackwell said, that's the one he just said.

Chief Dockery said, that's like the if the generator, the generator at this station goes down, if we need parts for it. When the a/c unit decided it wanted to act up, we had to spend a few dollars to fix it, the ice machine breaks, stuff like that.

Mr. Trascher said, okay.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, is there anything else?

Chief Dockery said, nothing else re-occurring cost that's outstanding. That's just the two, well three that really stuck out. Everything else is kind of, run of the mill, kind of stuff that will equal itself out at the end of the year.

Mr. Swann asked, did you talk to Slidell about billing people, the insurance companies or whatever?

Chief Dockery said, actually, I did and I have the name of the company. I emailed them and I am waiting for a response. I brought it to the last meeting. It's Recovery USA, is who they use and we are looking into that.

Mr. Swann said, so that will be some extra money right there.

Chief Dockery said, it looks to be a painless setup but, I want to actually talk to somebody instead of looking at the computer. So, that is in the works. I did get in touch with them and

get that ball rolling.

Mr. Swann asked, good. Are you happy with the new accounting firm?

Chief Dockery said, I am, I am. Usually

Mr. Trascher said, he better be.

Chief Dockery said, usually me, I made a mistake but they have been Johnny on the spot with pretty much everything and more interactive with us wanting to be basically, have their hands in more things like the EMS billing. They would like to have access to certain parts that we can let them have access to. That way, at the end of the year match up instead of having a drastic, maybe something like credit card payments that go directly to a billing company that we didn't see but now they can see. So Quick Books would actually match up correctly. The checks have been wonderful. I put in for the Board checks earlier, around noon and I had them about 4 o'clock, so I have no complaint's with them.

Mr. Swann said, good.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, any more questions about the Financials? If not, we will move on to the Chief's Report, Chief Dockery.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT/ EMS REPORT - Chief Jack Dockery**

Chief Dockery said, for the month of April, we ran:

EMS	64
MVA	6
VEHICLE FIRE	1
GRASS FIRE	10
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	12
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE	11
FALSE ALARM	2
POLICE MATTER	3
TOTAL	109
WAITING ON GUTTER MATERIAL	

Chief Dockery said, we are still waiting on gutter material. They are still waiting on the color,

Colonial Red, it's week to week getting a phone call and still waiting on it. I am getting a little irritated with them. In our bid process or when we put out for quotes, I specifically said, we need flashing to cover, to make it from the roof to the gutter. The last two storms that came through that produced tornadoes, we actually got water damage in our front office. The floors are peeling up and we are going to have to pull it up. It's just water running off. A copious amount of water running off. So, I went and talked to them and asked, can you put the flashing up right now to at least mitigate the water coming in my station? Well, apparently the guy that came out to speck it and the main boss are not on the same page because now, they are stating that the flashing is not going to cover what you need. You need to extent the roof out. So, I am kind of...

Mr. Swann said, extend the roof out?

Chief Dockery said, extend the roof out. I am like, how do you want me to extend the roof out? Do you want me to go get little 4 foot pieces cut and and go up there with a screw gun? So, I don't know if this is any type of breech of contract.

Mr. Trascher said, when we, did our contract that we signed for then to do the work, clearly state that they would provide the flashing to the gutter?

Chief Dockery said, I explained it to the gentleman that was out here. I was like, I need it to go...

Mr. Trascher asked, what is on the document?

Chief Dockery said, I will pull the document.

Mr. Trascher said, that's what we need to see, what's on that document. That is what is going to determine that. If that's the case, we need to get our councilman to hold his feet to the fire or we are going to have to sue him for damages.

Mr. Lindsey said, if it's not, we may just have to take it on in house and get the flashing made up and get up there. We don't have to get pieces of roof now. We can have the flashing made.

Mr. Trascher said, we may have to bid out the flashing to put up and deduct that amount from their contract. But, we need to look at that document and determine what's on there. If in the four corners of that document, if it states that the flashing was included in that price, then they are obligated to provide it.

Chief Dockery said, yes, because they are basically holding up the whole process for everything else. I didn't want to have a whole bunch of builders on top of one another but, I'm still getting week by week, we are still waiting on that color. Well...

Mr. Trascher said, we need to move on that with that document because, we are going to sustain more water damage the longer we wait.

**FIRE FIGHTER 1 CLASS**

Chief Dockery said, I will pull it and go back over it. In case you all, for the ones that weren't here last meeting, we started Fire Fighter 1 class. We have 19 recruits in in and we are about half way through it now. Last night I taught Chapter 8, so, we have roughly 20 more chapters to go. It seems like they are all enjoying it. It seems it's going fairly smoothly. So, if everything goes well and we get enough interest, we might do one later on in the year also. I told them let's get through this one first and we will see if any other departments. Because, we had a couple departments after we started ask about it. Well, I sent out the email 2 months ago but, it's a good thing to have, a good problem to have that people want to actually come.

Mr. Lindsey said, I like that we are having our own training facility. That's what this building was made for and the tower was made for and all that. It just was never utilized properly. I like the fact that, not only that, you can recoup a little funds for some of the investments we are having to do around here.

Chief Dockery said, yes, certainly and it helps out. That's all I have for the Chief's Report.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have anything for EMS?

Chief Dockery said, no ma'am, EMS is not in yet. It will probably be later this week.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, are we ready to move to Old Business?

Chief Dockery said, I would ask that we could move Mr. Rosenbohm up on the agenda.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, is he not next?

Mr. Trascher said, yes he is.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Blue Cross, Blue Shield Renewal.

Chief Dockery said, okay, yes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, Mr. Rosenbohm? Chief Dockery, do you want to speak first?

Chief Dockery said, no ma'am. He is the expert.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, the Chief and I met last week about the renewal and what you have in front of you is the actual rates that are effective for July 1<sup>st</sup>. We had about a \$500 a month increase of which about \$70 of that increase is on dependents so it is paid by the firemen.

Mr. Trascher asked, this is \$500 total, annually or \$500 a month?

Mr. Rosenbohm said, \$500 a month. We had a 9% increase. What I did, as always, I went to Marketplace to see if I could get anything more competitive with or at least as good of benefits for the same price. What you are seeing on those first two pages, if you just put them (together) because the benefits run to the second page.

The first plan is the Oschner Plan, which I think almost everybody is on it except one person, on the Oschner Plan, the premiums on that, on a monthly basis with the new hire, Taylor Hastings, is \$7,124.21, a month of which the employee cost on that is \$744.39, because they are adding dependents.

The second column is the Humana/Oschner Plan and the premiums are very, very close but if you go down and start looking at the benefits, the maximum out of pocket, all plans have no deductible, but the max out of pocket is \$2,750 on the current plan and Oschner's Plan is \$6,500. The family max out of pocket is \$5,500 as opposed to \$26,000 and you keep going down, the co-pays for office visits are higher and especially when you go down about a quarter of the page, down to the second page where it says hospital admissions, max three days, it's \$350 a day and with the current plan it's \$150 per day on the Oschner Plan. So, again, the premiums are almost a wash but, the benefits are so much richer with the current plan that we have with Blue Cross. Any questions about that?

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

Mr. Rosenbohm said, the third column is the Buy Up Plan, which is the State Network Plan with Blue Cross. And again, the premiums are pretty much close but, again, if you look at the benefits, it tracks the same way. The benefits with Humana are much less or more out of pocket cost for the employees than it is with the Blue Cross Plan.

The third and fourth pages, what I did was, as we did last years and the year before. I looked at the different options. When we look at the different options things start to change as far as the out of pockets cost is for the employees and their dependents. The first column there, we can save about \$1,400 a month but, we go to \$1,000 deductible as opposed to no deductible. Then, the plan converts to a co-insurance of 80%. The employee would pay 20% up to a max out of pocket of \$7,500. So, once again, the premiums are attractive but the benefits aren't anywhere close to what you have now. I want to mention one other thing. Floyd, I know you were on the Board when we made this move. When the ACA came out, everybody was in what they considered a Grandfathered Plan. So, what we did was, we moved away from the Grandfathered Plan and went into the community rating plan, which is what we have now. I kept the Grandfathered Plan available to us in case, sometime in the future, our rates become more competitive with the Grandfathered Plan and the difference between these two plans is, this is a community rate base meaning, everybody that is on this plan in the State goes toward blending out where the rates become. Where, the Grandfathered Plan groups claims have an effect of where the rate is. Our rates on the Grandfathered Plan are three times higher.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because of the claims we've had and the amount of participants in the plan.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, that's correct. So, we made a right decision back when we did that. But again, I don't know in the future, for lack of a better words, if we get a healthier group...

Mr. Trascher said, if we get a younger group that was, like you said, was more employees contributing to the pot, then the Grandfathered Plan would still be available and the rates may be more attractive for the benefits.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, for the benefits and that's why I kept that plan in place rather than just discarding it.

Mr. Trascher said, that was my understanding.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, yes, that's exactly right. The next page is actually a page out of the renewal that I gave Chief last week and it just goes and shows exactly what I had on that first page as far as what the rates are, the old rates and the new rates. The last page is all the Plans that we went to Humana for and once again, it is very hard to get the benefits and the rates to come anywhere close to what we have currently with the plan.

On the medical renewal, Blue Cross has to get the Medical renewal 75 days in advance. On the dental and vision, they only have to get it 60 days in advance, I'm sorry 45 days in advance. I don't have the dental and vision rates yet but as soon as I get them will give it to the Chief and if you want we will come back for the next Board meeting and present that. That doesn't renew until August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Trascher asked, Chief, don't the employees pay for the vision and dental?

Chief Dockery said, no, the department picked up the dental and vision.

Mr. Trascher said, 100%?

Chief Dockery said, 100%, it's not an awful lot but the department did pick it up a few years back.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, yes, I think the vision is like \$11 a month or something like that and I think the dental is like \$30 or \$35 a month.

Chief Dockery said, now they do pick it up if they have dependents but the employees are paid for.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, they pay the dependent coverage. Okay that's good.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, and the dental plan is absolutely great. It three cleanings a year and unlimited benefits.

Mr. Trascher said, that's sweet.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, it's the only plan out there.

Mr. Trascher said, that's sweet. So, Mr. Rosenbohm, if I am understanding, the renewal we are looking at is currently the Blue Cross POS, Point of Service, the Oschner?

Mr. Rosenbohm said, the Oschner Plan and the traditional Point of Service, State Network.

Mr. Trascher said, and this is the monthly premium is \$7,124.21?

Mr. Rosenbohm said, correct.

Mr. Trascher said, for our group.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, with the new employee...

Mr. Trascher said, that's the new...

Mr. Rosenbohm said, included.

Mr. Trascher said, so, that's the new and that's one more employee than what we had last year?

Mr. Rosenbohm said, I don't know, Jack, is that one more person?

Chief Dockery said, yes, we just hired him in April..

Mr. Trascher said, so, this is another employee?

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, and our rates for last year were?

Mr. Rosenbohm said, our rates last year were, I think, \$6,800 or \$6,900 a month.

Mr. Trascher said, so we are looking at about a \$500 increase but, we are actually adding another participant to the plan and our benefits are staying the same.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, that's correct. If you all so desire that.

Mr. Trascher said, if we keep this plan, what I am looking at is the \$7,124, what we discussed with the additional employee included in the plan.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, that's correct and if someone buys up, if the employee buys up to the State Plan which is more expensive, they pay the difference between the Oschner plan and the State plan.

Mr. Trascher said, okay. I don't know how the rest of the Board feels but I personally think that we would be remiss if we didn't accept the renewal on that plan. Chief, do we have anybody that has bought up?

Chief Dockery said, only me and only because some of my doctors don't, they are out of network with Oschner.

Mr. Trascher said, so, your good your good with that.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, if there is no other discussion, I would move that we accept that renewal.

Mr. Lindsey said, I agree and second that.

Mrs. Blackwell said, no other discussion? Mr. Lindsey, how do you vote?

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, thank you.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you. We appreciate it.

The Board said, thank you.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, as soon as I get the dental I will give you a call.

Chief Dockery said, okay.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you George, have a safe trip.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, thank you.

OPEN WELL BIDS – Chief Jack Dockery

DISCUSS WELL BIDS – Chief Jack Dockery

APPROVE/DISAPPROVE WELL BIDS – Chief Jack Dockery

Mrs. Blackwell said, we will move to our next Old Business item, Open Well Bids.

Chief Dockery said, we received one bid. It was put in the paper for one month.

Mr. Lindsey asked, is this a response from the paper or just from the phone calls?

Chief Dockery said, that was probably just a phone call. The paper, I did get a response from a big company, I think they are like a networking company and I sent them all the info and nothing ever came in.

Mr. Trascher asked, Madam Chair, is this all the bids?

Mrs. Blackwell said, yes, sir.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, the bid that we have is from Acadian Environmental Services. It's to install a 10,000 gallon storage tank which includes shipping, plumbing, fittings, fittings and seating of the tank in the amount of \$28,000. Install a 7.5 horse power, 150 gallon per minute Grunions submersible pump with piping and electrical with installation to the tank for a total of \$7,500, and install a 14 x 14- 4,000psi concrete pad, \$4,500. Install electrical from building to new water system. It does not include the meter. That's \$5,500 and additional plumbing, valves and connections for distribution to equipment is \$5,500.

A retainer of 40%, \$20,400 is due on acceptance of the proposal. The total amount of the bid is \$51,000. If anyone (wants to look at it), this is the only bid we received.

Mr. Lindsey asked, did we find out anything on the UV resistance on the tank?

Chief Dockery said, when I talked to the gentleman he stated, I believe that it had a three year warranty but he didn't know of any UV resistance so, this might be an opportunity for us to kind of think outside the box and build some type of cover over the top of it. But, that's all I got from him.

Mr. Lindsey said, we may wind up eventually putting some money into the budget for doing some type of enclosure around it to protect it because we don't want to spend this kind of money and then a few years later it start cracking and failing.

Chief Dockery said, yes sir, I understand.

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, enlighten me again, by putting this in how is this going to positively impact our PIAL rating?

Chief Dockery said, this is going to give us a actual spot to fill trucks. With a 10,000 gallon tank, we are roughly looking at 3 service trucks to fill up. We will have a line running from the tank all the way to the front of the station, near bay 4, with a cut off valve.

Mr. Trascher said, it doesn't specify that.

Chief Dockery said, that's in the plumbing. I talked with the gentleman about that and we are looking for another line right behind the building. I am trying to locate a hydrant, a donation hydrant or something so we can set up a hydrant back here for training. But, this will give us a substantial water source for this area which would help us with our rating.

Mr. Lindsey asked, have you talked to the Captain of the Parish about a hydrant?

Chief Dockery said, I am going to go hit up Mr. Ham about a hydrant but, I don't know how far I am going to get because last time I talked to him they gave him a penny budget. So, I will see if he has anything laying around and if not I will hit up the Parish. Right now may not be a good thing for the Parish but I will give it a shot. I'll try that and see if any other Districts have

anything laying around that is still usable. We just need it for training so...

Mr. Swann said, one good thing that would be good is if you would get a surge protector on that pump. Believe it or not, they get hit by lightening a bunch.

Mr. Trascher asked, what are we looking at Chief?

Chief Dockery said, let me look.

Mr. Trascher said, when we began talking about this?

Chief Dockery said, let me see.

Mr. Trascher said, and I have one other question. On these bids, how many did we do written bid request?

Chief Dockery said, it was sent out through our journal.

Mr. Trascher said, but we've sent out...

Chief Dockery said, there wasn't, that was the only local guy we knew. Like I said, I had a company call and I sent them all the information, all the bid specs and nothing was sent back to us. It did reach out to multiple agencies.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, like I am saying, we are satisfied that we reached out to 4 or 5 or 6 agencies to provide their services.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Lindsey asked, so, this tank, will it just sit down directly on the concrete slab, from what you understand?

Chief Dockery said, from what I understand. It may have a saddle or something. I'm not sure if it's straight up or if it's just side to side.

Mr. Lindsey said, I wonder if a 14x14 pad leaves us enough room to build some type of structure around it. I think I would like to make sure that we have some room around it to be able to build a structure around it with...

Mr. Trascher asked, do you mean anchoring it to the slab or just put like 4x4 or 4x6 post?

Chief Dockery said, you can almost build a pole barn around it. I can't find the email he sent last year or the year before, whenever it was. I want to say it was around \$45,000, when we first started this but with the cost of everything.

Mr. Lindsey said, the cost is going up and it's going to keep going up.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, I don't see relief in site.

Mr. Lindsey said, it's going to go up more than this. I know this is kind of off subject, but what kind of money did we make from our training when we put on a class? What kind of funds?

Chief Dockery said, last year we made \$30,000 and this year...

Mr. Lindsey said, you see, to me, that kind of helps with this because I see this as part of this training facility as much as a safety issue to have that amount of water on hand as well as, it's not going to hurt our rating.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, that's what I am concerned with.

Chief Dockery said, we are looking at roughly \$24,000 to \$25,000, from this class.

Mr. Lindsey said, so we can even recoup our money on this investment within a couple of years of putting classes on.

Mr. Trascher said, I think the PIAL Rating is going to be a good thing because we really don't have a water source, a reliable water source even a lot in the Town. So, at least we would have that here.

Mr. Lindsey said, I think it's a needed addition not only to our area but, to the training facility.

Mr. Trascher said, the only thing that I would like to see is a little more technical specifications in the bid for the amount of money we are spending. For example: it says install all plumbing and fittings but, like the Chief said, it doesn't specifically say bring a 6 inch line or a 4 inch line or a 2 inch line to the front of the station, something like that. And again, like the flashing issue before. If the guy comes out and puts a faucet on the tank, hey it meets the specifications in the document.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's plumbing.

Mr. Trascher asked, that's plumbing in the document, you know. Does that make any sense?

Chief Dockery said, that makes perfect sense.

Mr. Trascher said, because, once we go ahead and sign this and give them a 40% retainer, whatever is in the 4 corners of this document is what we are going to get. If we don't clearly spell out, you know a hand shake deal is nice and we talked about it but, if it's not on here, it's not happening.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, I agree that it needs to be spelled out. I am guessing a 6 inch line will be suitable for...

Chief Dockery said, I will give him a call and get him to specify on the lines running.

Mr. Trascher said, said, yes, because it says tank will include shipping, plumbing, fittings, lift and setting the tank. Additional plumbing, valves and connectors for distribution and equipment but, it doesn't say what size lines or...

Mr. Lindsey said, are there going to be any stand pipes in the back area?

Chief Dockery said, just a hydrant.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, a hydrant in the back and...

Chief Dockery said, and a stand pipe in the front.

Mr. Lindsey said, okay.

Chief Dockery said, so next to bay 4, we will have a stand pipe right there, at least a 3 inch stand pipe right there. Like I said, I will contact him and get him to spell that out on running those lengths of pipe.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, what size pipe, for example, like you are saying, 3 inch or what we are going to need.

Mr. Lindsey said, I may be a good idea to have a larger hydrant out front rather than a stand pipe for the fact of using it for filling trucks if we get a working fire. You know, come back here fill the truck up front and go back to wherever instead of having to come back to the back of the building to the hydrant. If we have a main hydrant out front..

Chief Dockery said, well, it would be the same for the stand pipe out front.

Mr. Lindsey said, you are talking about a 3 inch stand pipe is your gpm's are going to be, I don't know, that's up to you but, I am just thinking, when we are doing it we need to do it right and it needs to be able to account for, to be used if we get a fire in this area you know how difficult it is to go find water and if we have something that could put a decent amount of water right out front...

Chief Dockery said, I will see what size pipe and what sizes we have use of to where gpm's and pressure and find a happy medium.

Mr. Trascher said, doesn't the standards come and dictate that on hydrants and wells?

Chief Dockery said, yes, they do have a standard for companies.

Mr. Lindsey said, I think it would be nice if we could get 500 gallons a minute out there. That would be like a...

Mr. Trascher said, well I think, isn't it the National Fire Prevention Association or something.

Chief Dockery said, yes, the NFPA.

Mr. Trascher said, I think they have like construction standards on subdivisions and they would have some specifications.

Chief Dockery said, they have it but there's another company or association. I can't

remember the name of it but, they deal with all the pipe sizes. That's what Johnny was after the Town about, was their 4 inch lines.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because all the lines they were putting in the town were too small. If you run a 3 inch line from here way to the front, you may drop your volume and your pressure by the time you get it out there. Anyway, I am not that technical.

Mr. Lindsey said, oh yes.

Mr. Trascher said, anyway...

Chief Dockery said, this does not have to be approved or disapproved tonight, by any means. We can wait.

Mr. Trascher said, what I would like to do is, to recognize that we have received a bid and we have the intent to move forward with this project and that I would move that we table this matter until the Chief can get more technical information on the services that is going to be provided in this contract.

Mr. Lindsey said, I agree with that as well. Like Mr. Swann mentioned, have that protected electrically for surge.

Chief Dockery said, the surge protector.

Mr. Swann said, I just can't believe how much they get hit. I would have never thought.

Mr. Trascher said, you would think that under ground it would be safe.

Mr. Lindsey said, for a big investment we want to make sure we do everything we can to protect it.

Mr. Trascher said, we could have a disconnect panel with two ground rods at the pump, I guess it's going to take advantage...

Mrs. Blackwell asked, so, do we have a motion to table?

Mr. Trascher said, that is my motion to table based on those requirements.

Mr. Lindsey said, I second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion approved.

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, we went over Open Well Bids, Discuss Well Bids, Approve/Disapprove Well Bids. Chief we shot three of them in the head right there.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we will move down to Radio System Upgrade, Chief.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADE – Chief Jack Dockery.

Chief Dockery said, okay, Chief Parish couldn't make it tonight so, I will kind of wing it. I know we spoke off record briefly about this. We are looking to replace our VHF system. We are still going to keep the license but, basically, go with a 800 system. Right now we have a 700 system which is our primary. First, we had to make sure we could even get the license and we can, for an 800. So, we are looking to put a new computer in and have them climb the water tower at Town Hall, put a new antenna up and replace the cable, if necessary. The reason I am behind this is, with the 700 system, it's great but, any type of heavy built structure, we get no signal. Rooms To Go, AWG, it's a dead zone. We basically have to relay with someone out the door. With the 800 system, it can actually penetrate the building and work like it should. That's the main safety reason but also, as Ida taught us, usually the Fire Districts have roughly, around 50 or 60 talk groups. Well, during Ida, it got knocked down to around 20 and now the Sheriff's Department is wanting us to go down to 13, I believe. So, also, if it gets down to that again, we can actually move over to our 800 system, get off the 700 and still be heard in dispatch and not get the busy signals that we were getting during storms. So, looking at the cost, it's going to be around \$18,000, and we have the money to do it. We are venturing out to see about some donations but, I am not holding my breath on it but we are going to try. I just wanted to touch base with you on it.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, the \$18,000, you are talking about just upgrading the system, not upgrading any radios?

Chief Dockery said, the radios are the same radios that we have. They are 700 and 800 radios.

Mr. Lindsey said, so we don't have to buy any additional radios?

Chief Dockery said, no radios, just the ones we have. So, you don't have to carry a VHF and your 700. All you have to have is your 700 and switch over to 800. This is basically to update or upgrade the system to 800 instead of VHF. It's a new repeater, somebody to climb the tower, put the antenna up, change the cable, the license.

Mr. Lindsey said, you would have to pay me more than \$18,000, to climb that tower.

Chief Dockery said, yeah.

Mr. Swann said, I agree with you.

Mr. Trascher said, you would have to cut the legs for me to climb it.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I seen one of Slidell's guys climbed it one time. It was a feat to watch and your not getting me up there. But, somebody has got to do it. But, from what Chief Parish was saying, that was around the price tag for everything. It may be a little less if they don't have to replace the cable, if the cable is still functional. It may be the whole \$18,000. I am waiting to get some actual itemized from him on it. But, we wanted to touch base on this with you and this is something we do want to move forward on this. Just for the sake of safety.

Mr. Lindsey asked, are we going to be able to get a couple of different estimates on this?

Chief Dockery said, no, there's only one person that does the climbing and license and all of that. That is a unique field to where, it's kind of locked down. It may be that we have the sole provider forms for that. As of the computer, I will check with Chief Parish to see if there is any wiggle room for different companies but, I doubt it. I think Vericon is the only one around here, Motorola.

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, let me ask you something. What do we do for grants? Do we have someone or the Chief's association. I know the Parish has almost a department that writes for specific grants.

Chief Dockery said, usually, the Chief's will write for grants. Usually, for us it's a L- Gap grant which they give to every department but it's only about \$3,000.

Mr. Trascher said, but there may be something that is available for these communication systems.

Chief Dockery said, I am going to try. I am going to look out and also, Firehouse Subs, they have a grant. I want to say it's about to open up so we can write something for that and throw it against the wall and see if it sticks.

Mr. Lindsey said, do we know of any other local agencies that have grant writer's that we would be able to talk to about this?

Chief Dockery said, I know a couple of Chief's that are pretty proficient in getting...

Mr. Lindsey said, I know that they are getting, years ago they had specific people that were grant writers and that's what they would do. They go after the grants and they knew how to write it. They know how to go after it and how to write it.

Mr. Trascher said, one thing that maybe the Chief's Association knows, that maybe we need

to work closer with the Parish in their grant writing department that can look up and see because I know the Federal Government is throwing money at government agencies like crazy. Some of it is the recovery from these storms and you bring up a good point with lesson that it taught us about being in the building and the necessity to have the 700 system rating.

Chief Dockery said, I have actually gotten in touch with the Parish or the DA's office. Emily Couvillon, she came to a Chief's Association meeting and said that, the Parish had \$51 million. I said, well, we are in need of a radio system but, I haven't hear a single word from her.

Mr. Trascher said, that's what I mean, we need to tap into that source a little closer you know, to get some of that money. But, of course, they are broke. They can't pay the JP's and they can't pay the District Attorney's but, they are sitting on money.

Mr. Lindsey said, I am not doubting that we don't need the upgrade at all but, if we can have somebody assist in it.

Mr. Trascher said, certainly I am in favor of doing the radio system. I want to see a bottom line figure before I say to approve or go pursue that.

Chief Dockery said, that's understandable.

Mr. Trascher said, but, I also would like to see us move forward more with the, let's look into some of these grants. Some of the Federal money that may be able to help us with those types of things. So, I don't know, we have the Radio System Upgrades, is this more of a discussion, Chief?

Chief Dockery said, yes, it's for discussion.

Mr. Trascher said, we tabled the Well Bid because we want that to automatically come up on the agenda. Do we need to do the same action with the radio or do you want to get everything and bring it back as a package?

Chief Dockery said, let me get everything together. I want to see the itemized list.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, the bottom line figure and where we stand on this grant issue. You can contact the Parish and the grant program. The Chief's Association may be able to help with that because other departments may have this issue and they may be able to help tap into some of these funds that the Parish has.

Mr. Swann asked, what system does Slidell use?

Chief Dockery said, they are on 700 but they also have the 800 too. So, they can go to the 800 if need be.

Mr. Swann said, they have both of them?

Chief Dockery said, yes, and they have both of them still. They have had 800 forever.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, with that said and thank you Chief and if you would get that together for us and absolutely something on the grants whether it be through the Parish Agency or some of the Chief's know of something. There may be an online resource that you can look into for that because it's something we need and it will help. Thank you, that's all I have to say.

Chief Dockery said, okay.

Mrs. Blackwell said, anybody have anything else on the Radio System Upgrade? If not, we will move to Station 113, Trailer Discussion.

#### STATION 113, TRAILER DISCUSSION – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, alright, you see you have some pictures up there. I went by the trailer a couple of weeks ago and saw that the front door was wide open. It appears that someone broke into the front door, stole the door lock and one of the windows were broken before and I stuck a piece of sheet metal on there and had it screwed to the thing. They took that down and they basically trashed the whole station. I mean, kicked in every door, ripped the ceiling fans out...

Mr. Swann asked, did you all file a vandalism report?

Chief Dockery said, I haven't yet.

Mr. Swann said, well, you need to. They can get, it's probably one of those kids from the trailer park right next door probably.

Mr. Trascher asked, I wonder if our insurance covers that?

Mr. Lindsey asked, is this just on the trailer, not the building?

Chief Dockery said, just the trailer. I know the trailer, we surplussed the trailer either late last year or early this year. Truthfully, I think it is coming off the insurance at this next renewal with VFIS.

Mr. Trascher said, if it is still on there it may be something, when Mr. Swann said, something about the vandalism, I certainly agree.

Mr. Swann said, they tore everything up in there.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, it may be, it's been a headache, that damn trailer, from the get go and if it's covered on the insurance, if they give us a dollar, let's take it and my feeling is that I, would like to see a copy of the resolution. I would like to ask Mrs. Rinkus to pull that for us of when we did surplus it and if we did, you need to go ahead and advertise it for sale.

Mr. Swann said, the trailer itself?

Mr. Trascher said, yes and let's go ahead and sell that albatross. At one time, they talked about making offices over there and living quarters but, the trailer is in really, the floor is bad, it's in bad shape. It would make a great hunting camp for somebody in Mississippi because there's no way you can put it in Louisiana and plug it in.

Chief Dockery said, if it would make it to Mississippi.

Mr. Trascher said, you can drag it up in the woods somewhere in Mississippi, now I'm not saying anything about it, and put tin on top of it and have a man cave.

Mr. Swann said, done that before.

Mr. Lindsey said, I know we have talked about surplussing this and everything but, and we don't want it, we want it to be gone and all that stuff but, I still think we should have made some type of report just because of the fact that, whoever is doing this, they may not stop with this. They don't know that we wanted to burn it or tear it down.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, they can move on to bigger things.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Swann said, you know if the Police Department can catch them, you can hold them liable on that.

Mr. Lindsey said, they should be prosecuted on this no matter if we wanted to destroy it or not because...

Mr. Trascher said, it's our property, absolutely.

Chief Dockery said, well, I went back and I didn't touch anything inside, I just secured the front door.

Mr. Trascher said, you can call the Sheriff's office and you can tell them that you secured the building and you want to report this damage and you want to make an item report.

Mr. Swann asked, that's in the Sheriff's jurisdiction?

Chief Dockery said, I believe so, yes.

Mr. Lindsey said, I mean, they are leaving us some identification to find them by.

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Chief Dockery said, the front door has a hasp and a pad lock and the back door, I screwed the door to the door frame so they can't get it open and the one window that was open, I found some wood and screwed it back to the wall to covered the window to at least, prevent them from getting in. I actually went back by there yesterday and checked around and made sure everything was still secure and it was.

Mr. Swann said, I just think if they look a little bit, they can catch who it was.

Chief Dockery said, yes, they can probably finger print that refrigerator.

Mr. Trascher said, I would bet you that you couldn't get them to do that for love or money.

Mr. Swann asked, who is that?

Mr. Trascher said, the Sheriff's office. Like I said, we would be lucky if they even make a report on that.

Mr. Lindsey said, well, to me they should because...

Mr. Swann said, I agree with you.

Mr. Lindsey said, they need to stop people from doing this. It's not their property, it's vandalism, no matter if it's worth anything or not worth anything, they shouldn't be trespassing on it anyway.

Mr. Trascher said, you preaching to the choir because, as far as I am concerned, every police call should get a report. Every type of damage needs a report.

Mr. Swann said, that's the way it used to be. I don't know if it still is but, when I was there it was.

Mr. Trascher said, well, we will talk later about that. It needs to be, absolutely, we need to make, call the sheriff's office...

Mr. Lindsey said, well, we don't know if they are doing some of that same stuff in that trailer park. They may have some of the same tagging's or whatever...

Mr. Trascher said, exactly.

Mr. Lindsey said, and then, there may be other empty trailers back there. They may have done that to other trailers.

Chief Dockery said, I will give them a call in the morning.

Mr. Trascher said, and if you will, check on our insurance.

Chief Dockery said, I will call them after I get with S.O, that way I will have the report.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, get the police report and check on the insurance to see if it's covered. Also, we need to go ahead and start moving to sell the thing.

Mr. Swann said, when you go there, stop at that trailer place and see if they vandalized any of their stuff.

Chief Dockery said, okay.

Mr. Trascher said, I deal with them sometimes. As a matter of fact, I got an eviction working in there for Thursday at the trailer park. They haven't mentioned anything about any vandalism that occurred in the park.

Mr. Swann said, I just wouldn't be surprised if they just (inaudible).

Mr. Trascher said, I will ask the manager.

Mr. Lindsey said, it wouldn't hurt to ask because sometimes, when they do those tags like that they use the same one in different areas.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, it's identifying markers. But, yes sir, and the other thing is, if Georgette, if you can find that resolution and give it to the Chief if we have a resolution that we surplused it, we need to go ahead and advertise to sell it.

Chief Dockery said, okay.

Mr. Trascher said, that would be the first thing, we need to advertise to sell it. We need to put a value on it.

Chief Dockery said, get it off the property.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, we paid \$3,000 for it so, we can almost say \$3,000. I would like to say best offer but we need to put a minimum bid. I would almost be willing to say that we put a minimum bid of \$1,500.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I don't think your going to get that but...

Mr. Trascher said, well if you don't then you can advertise it for anything but, we have got to have a price. You can't give away taxpayer's money.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I got ya.

Mr. Trascher said, we paid \$3,000 for it. It's worth something.

Mr. Swann asked, who did we even pay for that?

Mr. Trascher said, Acadian Ambulance. That was their office and when they moved, they closed their office and the Chief, Chief Leos thought it was a good idea to keep that trailer and you know, we deferred and said well okay, that's not unreasonable. He said, okay, I will see what they want for it and I said, well, just wait. They can't do anything with it. Certainly, they couldn't, I don't think they would have move it or could have moved it.

Mr. Lindsey asked, does it still have the tongue on it?

Chief Dockery said, I believe it does.

Mr. Trascher said, the problem with the trailer, once it's 12 or 15 years old, the Parish will not give you a building permit for it. You can't park it, you can't get electricity on it, you can't put it on your own property even because, by then, the building codes change and you just can't put it in the Parish. That's why I said, put it in Mississippi. No where, you can't put it in a trailer park even. You couldn't bring it to 6<sup>th</sup> Ward and put it on your property and get electric connected to it.

Mr. Lindsey asked, anything over 12 years?

Mr. Trascher said, it's either 12 or 15, yes. They will not, you can not put it in this Parish. So, whoever buys it, that's what it would be for and the biggest thing about something that old is moving it.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, if you are going to be towing it all the way to Mississippi, it's going to cost a fortune.

Mr. Trascher said, hooking and unhooking is the expense. Once they get it hooked up, it ain't nothing to pull it down the road. In order to advertise it for sale, we have to come up with a price. What is it worth.

Mr. Lindsey said, I would think more like \$400 or \$500.

Mr. Trascher said, well, if we said 50% of what we paid for it, that's \$1500. We could say that...

Mr. Lindsey said, well, I guess it would depend on if we get any money from the insurance because, the vandalism, if we paid \$3,000 for it and it has \$3,000 worth of damage to it with the vandalism...

Mr. Trascher said, then technically, it has no value because we paid \$3,000 and it was vandalized, it's worth nothing. So, at that point, we can advertise it to just move it.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's like if it burned down or whatever, if it's worth nothing, it has no value to it.

Mr. Swann asked, how long did it take to get rid of that class room out there.

Mr. Trascher said, yes..

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, I was so sick of seeing that thing.

Mr. Trascher said, and Virgil, he wanted it, we gave it to him and he wouldn't move it. Really, we gave it away, here you can have it. Anyway, that's a whole other issue.

Mr. Swann said, it was in better shape than this trailer.

Mr. Trascher said, well, would you rather hold off on the advertising until we see the insurance and the vandalism report?

Mr. Lindsey said, that's up to y'all.

Mr. Trascher said, no, that's up to us.

Mr. Swann said, I think that's a good idea. I think you go ahead and get your report and call your insurance company.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, let's just defer any action on it until the next meeting. The Chief can get the report and see if it is covered and that way we will be able to set a reasonable value to get rid of it and that we are covered with as far as...

Mr. Swann asked, there's no electricity to it now, right?

Chief Dockery said, yes, it's shut off but there is still power hooked to it.

Mr. Trascher said, we used to pay, the trailer park at one time gave us water and sewer and I think after they sold it, I think Brendan bought it and said, no, you have to start paying for it.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I think it went to H2O and after about 8 months I cut service to it.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, we had to pay water and sewer on the damn thing sitting there with nobody in it. Okay, thank you Chief, that sounds like a plan and if you guys agree, that's what we will do. Chief, you will move forward on that issue for us?

Chief Dockery said, yes sir.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, if that's it, we will move to our Millage Rate Discussion, Chief Dockery.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Michelle Blackwell.

Chief Dockery said, okay, this one should be painless. That time of the year again for setting our millage rates. We are going to set them as the same rates as last year. We are looking at right now, the earliest recap, we are looking at around a \$40,000, increase from our actual what we took in last year. We are still okay budget wise. So, I have it set out in front of you with the resolution and the affidavit.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, just to clarify this, every year we have to set our millage rates and if we raise the rates there's a big hoop de la procedure that we have to go through. We can lower them with out doing that but, lowering them we, of course, would derive less revenue from it. If I am not mistaken, what the Chief said is that if we maintain the current percentages that we have on our millage's, we should realize a \$40,000,

increase from last year.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, there is one other thing that I wanted to say. I think, weren't they working on something, if you didn't raise them every 4 years that you would lose the ability to do that?

Chief Dockery said, yes, that actually has passed both House and Senate, to where they no longer require you to roll forward.

Mr. Swann said, before you had to roll forward and back it up.

Mr. Trascher said, roll forward, collect it one year and then roll back so that you could do that. If you had 20 mills approved and you are only collecting 10 and you didn't roll it to 20 and then back to 10 the next year, you lost the ability to collect the 20 mills.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's why you roll forward on the others and roll back on the one to make it equal.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, remember we looked at doing that.

Chief Dockery said, so yes, that did pass.

Mr. Trascher said, with that said, I believe we have to read this resolution.

Chief Dockery said, yes read the resolution and have a public comment.

Mr. Trascher read,

BE IT RESOLVED that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2022 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by St. Tammany Fire Protection District 11:

<u>Acquisition &amp; Maintenance 1069065</u>	-	<u>9.430</u> mills
<u>Acquisition &amp; Maintenance 1069104</u>	-	<u>14.150</u> mills
<u>Acquisition &amp; Maintenance 1069137</u>	-	<u>7.550</u> mills
<u>Acquisition &amp; Maintenance 106034</u>	-	<u>09.170</u> 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 herein above set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2022, 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:

Mr. Trascher continued, Madam Chairman, I would so move that we adopt...

Mrs. Blackwell said, we have to do a public comment first.

Mr. Trascher said, we have to vote.

Chief Dockery said, we have to do public comment before we take action.

Mr. Trascher said, was that left out?

Mrs. Blackwell said, it says adopt so, we will move to Public Comment. Is there any public comment?

Mr. Lindsey said, just for clarification, everything stays the same.

Chief Dockery said, correct.

Mr. Lindsey said, which puts us at total mills, around 40?

Chief Dockery said, 40.300.

Mr. Lindsey said, okay.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, any other questions or concern or any other public comment? We will move to adopt the millage rate.

Mr. Trascher said, I will move to adopt the millage rate as presented in the resolution.

Mr. Lindsey said, I second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries.

Mr. Trascher said, now we need some signatures on this.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we need a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Trascher said, you can handle the signatures. With that said, Chief, you have a few things to put together for us for the next meeting, I believe.

Chief Dockery said, yes sir.

Mr. Trascher asked, and you have your little notes on that and everything?

Chief Dockery said, yes sir.

Mr. Trascher said, well, happy belated Mother's Day to all the mothers. I know I got several cards. Did you get any cards for Mother's Day, I did. With that said, I move we adjourn.

Mr. Lindsey said, I second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries.