



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
April 8, 2025
7:00 pm – 7:48 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 is called, Russel Lindsey, Ryan Dreux, Eugene Swann, Floyd Trascher and Michele Blackwell are present. Mr. Floyd Trascher does the invocation and Mr. Russell Lindsey leads the pledge.

Mr. Floyd Trascher makes a motion to open the Agenda to accommodate and move Mr. George Rosenbaum, with Louisiana Blue Insurance, up on the agenda for his presentation. Mr. Russell Lindsey seconds the motion, 4 yeas, motion carried.

Mr. Rosenbaum thanks the Board for allowing his presentation on such short notice, the night before the meeting. He will be out of town next month. He presented the reading of where the claims have been, over the last 2.5 years, with premiums being \$246,493 and claims at \$355,268. This year, Blue Cross took in \$103,000 and paid out claims of \$173,000. That's a 67% loss ratio last year.

Moving on to the spread sheet, the first column is our current rates, the second column is renewal rates with a 8.5% rate increase. Average rate increase is 12% but our is at 8.5%. He explains that the renewal for these policies will not expire until July, but wanted to give time for the Department to review the policies.

He reviewed two other plans for a buy up but, right now with the current plan, there is no deductibles with co-pays and most out of pocket is \$2,700. The other plans have less benefits, less premium but, the max out of pocket is \$8,000 to \$9,100. He is not recommending any of these policies but, wanted to present them for review. We have the richest plan for any size group. The yellow column is the dependent cost, the employee pays that premium. Prescription drugs drive 35% of the cost that the insurance company pay outs.

He also directed to the page Alternative Non Grandfathered Options for review.

The Board has from now until May to review the information and to act on the renewal with this plan. They will review the information and make a decision.

The Oschner network has 7 plans. We have the plan on the bottom of this page, second to last page of the packet. This shows the difference in the total rates in comparison of the next two best plans.

The Board will make a decision in May or June and Mr. Rosenbaum said he can come back for the June meeting if needed.

It's noted that there are two policies that are much higher than the others. The rate on these policies went up because of risk and age. We have community rating and age rating.

Mr. Rosenbaum said it may be better to look at Medicare for anyone that is 65 or older. It would save on premiums of \$1,548 and get a Part B supplement for \$185 per month and pay \$140.00 for Supplement with no co-pays or an Advantage Plan and pay nothing. It would be a prudent business decision to offer to pay the rates for those plans and benefits would be better coverage on Medicare. Mr. Rosenbaum offered to meet with the employee and give her the options. The Chief will discuss this with the employee. This would be a cost savings for the department if these premiums are paid and it would be better coverage for the employee. The dental and vision plans would still be available to the employee.

MINUTES

Mrs. Blackwell asked for the review of the minutes of the March 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 March, we are looking for 25% target. The monthly bills are running in line. Small Motor Maintenance is a up a little bit because we had to purchase hoses for our extrication tool. Fuel is actually down this month at 18.76%. Purchases were made at the beginning of the year for 10 sets of Dress Out gear which brings that percent up but is a one time purchase for the year.

EMS REPORT

The EMS brought in \$15,443.88, for the month of March. Mr. Trascher notes that this is above of our goal per month.

CHIEF'S REPORT/ EMS REPORT - Chief Jack Dockery

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

EMS	43
MVA	6
STRUCTURE FIRE	2
(2 Mutual Aid Dist. 7)	
VEHICLE FIRE	2
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	13
FALSE ALARMS	2
TRASH/GRASS FIRES	5
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE	6
POLICE MATTER	1
TOTAL	80

SERVICE 111 IS STILL AT THE SHOP FOR SUSPENSION WORK

Service 111 is still at the shop for suspension work. I have been in contact with Sid's Martin about why the issue happened again and they are looking at Freight liner to make sure everything is done correctly on the truck. They are also getting the records from the prior shop to make sure everything was done correctly. When more information is received, I will keep you updated. We want this done correctly so no more issues arise.

AUDIT FOR 2024 HAS STARTED

The 2024 Audit has begun. I have been compiling information and all the Board members should be receiving a letter sometime this week or next week. I have emailed the information back to the young lady and this is ongoing.

Mrs. Blackwell said, if there are no questions for the Chief's Report, we will move to Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

TO CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION WITH RESPECT TO ADOPTING A RESOLUTION ORDERING AND CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 11 OF THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TO AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF A SPECIAL TAX THEREIN, MAKING APPLICATION TO THE STATE BOND COMMISSION, AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery presents the Resolution from Foley Judell. This Resolution must be voted on and signed, 6 copies and return to the State Bond and have get this process started.

Mr. Trascher has our Resolution prepared for the record keeping and reads into the record, our Resolution which will adopt the Resolution from Foley Judell, and also reads the Millage Proposition Renewal into the record:

Shall Fire Protection District No. 11 of the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy and collect a tax of 10 mills (the "Tax") on all property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$617,400 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the Tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning in 2027 and ending with the year 2036, for the purpose of acquiring constructing, improving, maintaining and operating the "Districts" fire protection facilities including equipment and paying the cost of obtaining water for the fire protection, provided that a portion of the Tax proceeds is required to be contributed to state and statewide retirement systems as provided in R.S. 11:82

Mr. Trascher expresses concern for the verbiage on the "Statewide Retirement System". Chief Dockery agrees and is trying to get clarification on that. We do pay the Sheriff's Department Pension. I am trying to get clarification on that.

Mr. Trascher would like to see that taken out of the proposition because it says "for the operation" and Chief will check on that.

Mr. Trascher stated, as long as we are with the understanding that this is not the intent to bring us into that system now, this would just give us the ability should we decide in the future to do that. With that said, makes a motion to approve the proposition, Mr. Lindsey seconds.

Mrs. Blackwell calls for the vote which was passed unanimously with 4 Yeas. Motion carries. Any other questions?

BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Mr. Trascher ask about the renovations on the building. With the plans that were given to us, should we include a bathroom upstairs. Chief Dockery said that we got a Plan Review Application in right now and they sent it back and are asking for mechanical, plumbing and electrical information. We contacted them and asked for clarification. Can it be a contractor or the architect? They said either/or. We don't have any contractors right now and the architect has people to do this. We are hoping that this will not change the current plans. Mr. Trascher said this should come from the architect.

Mr. Trascher said, that in the future, if we were to use the upstairs area as living or offices, it would behoove us to add a bathroom. Maybe right over the lower bathroom so it could be used for any purpose deemed necessary. Just rough in for future facilities upstairs.

Chief would like to get back in touch with the architect to include this and Mr. Trascher said as

long as this is what we desire. The functional use, it has a lot of office space, if this functional use is what we desire, then we can get the architect to submit architectural drawings that we can bid out. The Board agrees on getting the mechanical drawings to move forward.

WELL PUMP

Mr. Lindsey comments about the well pump, we will have someone come here Thursday at 10:00 to see what needs to be done to make it happen. Information will be shared as soon as he has it. Mr. Swann said he was unable to get a fire hydrant.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Blackwell ask for any other comments, if none, a motion to adjourn.

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