



St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 11
Board of Commissioner's
Minutes of the Meeting on October 12, 2021
Fire Chief Jack Dockery
7:03pm – 8:15pm

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

Mrs. Blackwell asked, has everyone read and approved the minutes from September 14th, meeting? Georgette, didn't change, yes, that's September on here.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, I did read the minutes. They were quite lengthily but, they seem to be in order. I would move that we approve them with the video governing.

Mr. Swann said, I second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Eugene, 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. We will move to the Financial Report, Chief Dockery.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, this is a Financial Report for the month of September. I have to speak to the CPA. We are still working some things out on the format of it but, we have one for this meeting. The only thing I can see really sticking out right now is, number, they don't have line numbers on here. Line Item 6411, Medical Supplies, we are at \$23,941.95, we budgeted \$20,000. I had to make a big order right after the storm just so we could finish out the rest of the year. We shouldn't have anything else come out of this and we will amend this next month. If you look further down, it's the second page about half way down, getting in the area of Supplies. The only other one that is standing out that we didn't know of, well, didn't know in the sense of, all the way down, on the final page, number 8913, for the Fire Truck. We are at \$88,685.10. What this is, we don't have an account for, well we don't have checks for our other account so those funds are being transferred into our Operating Account for the payment on the new service truck. So, that money will be transferred in and that will be amended to cover the amount.

Mr. Trascher asked, what is that?

Mrs. Blackwell said, he is telling you now, that money will be taken out and put in there for the truck.

Chief Dockery said, we talked about that last year how the money would come out of that savings account and transferred into our Operating Account for the truck payment, for the Service Truck.

Mr. Trascher said, okay.

Chief Dockery said, it shows up weird on here but that's what that money, that's why it's there.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, for the legal?

Chief Dockery said, no, that's just the Fire Truck, 8913. It's just, the money has to be transferred over.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, I see it. 197, I see the Legal up here at 125.

Chief Dockery said, that was for the election. So, that's the only new one out of the bunch. Like I said, it's kind of a rough budget for this month. I will sit down with Mr. Furman tomorrow and kind of, fine tune.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because we are going to have to adjust some of our expenses at our November meeting.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I will adjust November and we will show it at the November and approve it in December and we will still have the up dates for it to run it's course.

Mr. Trascher said, okay.

Chief Dockery said, I put the ad in the paper for the new budget. We will vote on that next month. So, that part is done.

EMS

Chief Dockery continued, on the medical side, for the month of September, we took in \$16,777.90. So, a pretty good month for us.

Mr. Lindsey said, back on the, for Training, Chief, what was the, it shows \$19,000 for training with a \$15,000, budget.

Chief Dockery said, we have to move from 3230, on the front page, up at the top. That's Training Services, that's what we collected for the class and the books, etc.

Mr. Lindsey said, so that has to get moved in there.

Chief Dockery said, yes, that has to get moved in there to adjust that to 0 for the end of the year.

Mr. Swann asked, how about Legal and Counseling?

Chief Dockery said, that was for the election. We will just have to adjust that next month when we amend.

Mr. Trascher said, we will have to take one of the other items that we haven't used and put it in there to offset that.

Chief Dockery said, yes, sir.

Mr. Lindsey asked, do we anticipate buying any gear this year?

Chief Dockery said, I don't think as far as turn out gear, that we have anybody up for it or close to getting up for it but, we will start getting a few more air bottles. That way, we've been doing that the last couple of years so we can stagger the bottles for when they go out and when they have to be hydro tested and at their end of life. We started that process roughly 3 years now. So, we have been buying a couple of bottles every year so they are staggered throughout the years.

Mr. Lindsey said, and that's what we planned on taking it out of?

Chief Dockery said, that would probably come out of 8804, Fire Equipment.

Mr. Lindsey said, I was just saying that Uniforms and Gear, we have \$19,000, in there and we used \$6,500, so we are looking at \$12,000, almost \$12,500.

Chief Dockery said, okay, Uniforms, I see what you are talking about. Yes, dress-out gear, we spent \$3,429.56. That's actual turn out gear or parts, helmets, hoods, gloves. The

Uniforms/Badges, Volunteer, that is actually the uniform allowance for all the full time guys. So, that's \$600 a year they get for their allowance. It's just billed out for a fully staffed department. So, whatever doesn't get spent, will...

Mr. Lindsey said, get moved around?

Chief Dockery said, yes sir.

Mr. Lindsey said, we got \$12,000, there still, to move around. The good thing is we saved \$5,000, taking those bricks down.

Chief Dockery said, I was feeling that \$5,000, last night.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you for that because that was...

Chief Dockery said, thank you for Russell and his dad for bringing out the front end loader. That made a world of difference.

Mr. Lindsey said, no problem, I am glad to save the money. Hopefully we can put it towards getting something fixed around here.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, the electrical.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, we got a list, so. I don't have anything else.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mr. Gene, do you have anything?

Mr. Swann said, no.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Floyd, do you have anything?

Mr. Trascher said, no, I'm good.

Mrs. Blackwell said, well, if everybody is good, we will move to the Chief's Report and EMS Report.

CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, as for the EMS, we brought in \$16,777.90. For the Chief's Report, for the

month of September, we ran:

EMS	81
MVA	5
STRUCTURE FIRE (Mutual Aid District 1)	1
VEHICLE FIRE	1
GRASS FIRE	3
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	17
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE	7
FALSE ALARM	2
POLICE MATTER	4
POWER LINE	3
TOTAL	124

Chief Dockery continued, for the month of August, we did 128, so, those two months were the majority of those calls and a lot of them were in that span of the storm coming through.

FEMA LOAN

Chief Dockery said, I got a call last Friday from a gentleman who is subcontracting for FEMA. He needed some updated information. He still had Chief Leos as the contact so, I gave him the information and then he informed me that they just passed into law, the end of last month, to where, the Katrina FEMA loans are being forgiven. So, the \$61,000, and some change, he said, do not do anything and he will be sending us some paperwork within the next couple of weeks and it is to be wiped clean.

Mr. Trascher said, what?

Chief Dockery said, the \$61,000, from Katrina is to be forgiven.

Mr. Trascher said, one more time!

Chief Dockery said, Katrina to be forgiven.

Mr. Trascher said, really.

Mr. Lindsey said, it didn't take them long.

Chief Dockery said, yes, it only took them about 16 years.

Mr. Trascher said, man, they scolded us and told us before that if we didn't pay they were going to repo the department. Well, that will be good because then we got \$30,000, in the budget, I know for next year for a payment and we are going to do that again.

Chief Dockery said, yes, so, a little good news for the Friday I was having. So, I am waiting on paperwork to come in.

Mrs. Blackwell said, alright.

Chief Dockery said, I know at the last meeting we talked about the command vehicle and we chose the Chevrolet, Silverado. I don't know what I want to call it. We will call it an honest mistake. The contract is still good until the end of this month. The cut off date for ordering was the day before the meeting so, we cannot get that truck. With that being said, we hit it up again and we found one last vehicle that is available until the end of this month. It is a Ford F-250, Crew cab, diesel, 4 wheel drive. Basically, it mimicked the Silverado other than, this one is diesel and it looks to be at \$42,400. So, roughly, the other one was right at \$34,000. So...

Mr. Trascher said, \$10,000, more.

Chief Dockery said, \$8,000, more. I do still have this in the budget. I put \$45,000, in the budget for a truck.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, but that plus we are going to have to outfit it.

Chief Dockery said, yes, we will have to outfit it.

Mr. Trascher said, So, you will need another \$8,000, to outfit it.

Chief Dockery asked, how much?

Mr. Trascher said, another \$5,000 to \$8,000, probably.

Chief Dockery said, I would say probably around \$5,000, but, I could take that from our budget that we have now.

Mr. Trascher asked, but the 250, do you really need the 250?

Chief Dockery said, well, that's the only other option.

Mrs. Blackwell said, that's the only other option right now.

Mr. Trascher asked, they don't have any other?

Chief Dockery said, the 250, diesel, 4 wheel drive.

Mr. Lindsey asked, do we still have the fire protection trailer?

Chief Dockery said, we do not have that big...

Mr. Trascher said, smoke house.

Chief Dockery said, smoke house trailer, we do not have that any more. It's a heavier duty truck so, I just wanted to bring it to your attention. After speaking, we spoke with the man at the dealership and he said, after this one they probably won't do any other contracts until next summer, late next summer is when everything else will open back up.

Mr. Lindsey said, with the vehicle market the way it is now, your lucky if you can get a vehicle because there's none on the lots. There hasn't been for months because I was looking for a new vehicle and they don't exist.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mr. Eugene said, he just saw some up north somewhere sitting up in a lot.

Mr. Swann said, it's acres and acres of brand new trucks waiting on the chips.

Mr. Lindsey said, waiting on the chips. I don't necessarily have a problem with the heavier duty truck. I think they hold up better and they last longer. You get years of service out of them and if you do have to tow something like the Kubota or the smoke trailer, that's why I asked about the smoke trailer, it would be sufficient for doing any type of towing or anything.

Chief Dockery said, yes, during the storm times that we go and get pallets of MRE's or waters or the fuel trailer we have in the back. I believe we would find uses for it.

Mr. Lindsey said, and I know they hold their value really good.

Chief Dockery said, like I said, I wanted to bring it to your attention being we agreed on one truck and it was, let's just call it an honest mistake.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, this particular vehicle, just walk us through what it's going to be just for clarification.

Chief Dockery said, we are looking to replace the Ford, F-150 that we have now which is, I think, a 2010. It's basically at the end of it's life. I will transfer the Dodge that I am in now, it will be used as a secondary vehicle if we need it for classes, they can use it for class, etc. This will be just the primary vehicle to be used around town.

Mr. Lindsey said, so the other one would just...

Mr. Trascher said, they will surplus the Ford.

Chief Dockery said, the Ford will be surplus and just get rid of it.

Mr. Lindsey said, so with doing that we may be able to pick up some of the money for outfitting the new one, maybe.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Lindsey said, I don't have a problem with it. Especially if you look at, we are fixing to get \$61,000, forgiven that we planned on paying, we just saved \$5,000, by doing some work around here ourselves and the more we can do stuff like that the further we can go, I think.

Chief Dockery said, well, like I said, I thought it was right to just bring it back to the Board being that we agreed on one particular vehicle last meeting.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because if you had bought this one and not brought it back, it would have been a problem. That would have been a problem if you would have bought another one. I think what you are going to need is a motion and a second.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I think we are going to have to redo the Resolution because the Resolution stated the Chevrolet.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, it was a specific vehicle that we were going to purchase. We are going to need another Resolution. I just don't see the need of the $\frac{3}{4}$ ton, cost per mile, regularly running. You know, when you have the need, like in your business, your always pulling a trailer, it's always working. The primary use of this is for the Chief and it's a, really a get around vehicle for, you know, to go to the fires or where ever the Chief needs to go and bring whatever he needs to bring. The SUV would do but the SUV doesn't have the open back that you can do other things with it. That's my only issue with the $\frac{3}{4}$ ton, is that it's going to cost us more per mile on regular operation if we are not using it to haul things.

Mr. Lindsey said, it could be used, like when we do have fires and stuff like that, when we do load up all of the hoses. Sometimes we pile them all up in the back of the pickup truck.

Mr. Trascher said, absolutely, that's why I think the pick up truck is a better fit.

Mr. Lindsey said, my thought process is, if we have a 2010, if we keep running it, if we can't get one until next summer on the contract, and the transmission tears up or the motor or whatever, then we are looking at pumping \$4,000, \$5,000, \$6,000, into an old truck that we are going to have to turn around and get rid of versus starting off with a new one regardless if it's a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton, if that's all that's available for now, I am just thinking if we keep pushing this 2010 until next summer who knows if we have to put money into it. At that point, we aren't doing any good by saving a few thousand dollars.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we don't know if we are going to have any vehicles available by next year if they don't release the chips.

Mr. Lindsey said, and I know the difficulty level of getting vehicles right now so, if there is a vehicle available, a 250 or a 150 or whatever it is, they are hard to get. So I am just weighing out different options. If we push it off until next year, will we have to put money into the other truck and then yes, we may not especially need a 250, I don't think it would hurt.

Mr. Trascher said, no, it would just be the cost per mile and this would be an investment that we are going to make and it's going to be passed down eventually as the Chief gets another vehicle.

Mr. Lindsey said, I do think the heavier vehicles, they last longer and I have had multiple diesel pickup trucks and I mean, you can just work them to death. I mean, the one that my dad used towing that dump trailer with all those bricks on it, it's got 300,000 miles on it and it was pulling it.

Mr. Trascher said, there is no doubt that diesel, for high mileage or working it, is the way to go. If you are going to have a high mileage vehicle and you are going to work it pulling a tractor or pulling a trailer, if you are going to do that, absolutely.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's up to you all, I gave you my thought on it. Based on, if we have to wait until mid summer to get another vehicle, who knows, the vehicle cost may go up again by then. We may be paying a similar amount for a 150 next year by this time. We don't know.

Chief Dockery said, because originally, when we bought that Dodge, it was \$21,000.

Mr. Trascher said, \$24,000, or something like that.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, now they are \$34,000. I haven't seen any hope that they are going to be going down. It seems like they are just steadily going up. So, that's the other thing, if we wait until mid next summer we may have to put some money into the old truck or the price might go up. We may wind up paying more in the long run even though it is a 250 instead of a 150.

Mr. Trascher asked, is this a long bed?

Chief Dockery said, this would be not the long bed. This is a regular 6 foot bed. It is a crew cab so it is 4 doors but, it is the short bed.

Mr. Lindsey said, well, for that price it's either, it's got to be a pretty good deal on it and it's got to be just plain Jane.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because a diesel truck is \$60,000.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, because all of the the ones that I have been looking at are \$80,000 to \$90,0000.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because a diesel truck, ¾ ton is at least \$60,000.

Mr. Lindsey said, we know how expensive the motor and transmissions are in them just from changing the other one out. That's half the cost of that truck.

Chief Dockery said, \$25,000.

Mr. Lindsey said, \$25,000, just for the motor and transmission. So, that's up to you all. I gave you my opinion.

Mr. Trascher asked, so, is that a motion you are making?

Mr. Lindsey said, I will make a motion to move forward with it.

Mr. Swann said, I will second.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mr. Lindsey, well, I guess we have to do the Resolution and read it into the minutes?

Mr. Lindsey said, we need to do the Resolution.

Mr. Trascher said, well, I think what we can do is, we already have a Resolution authorizing the Chief to purchase a vehicle. We are going to have to amend that resolution for the specific vehicle that he is requesting. So, Mr. Lindsey makes a motion that will replace the Chevrolet pickup truck for the Chief, with the $\frac{3}{4}$ ton Dodge?

Mr. Swann said, Ford.

Mr. Trascher continued, with the Ford diesel pickup truck. Okay so Mr. Lindsey is making a motion to amend Resolution 2021-016, as the availability of the vehicle that was approved is not there, to purchase the Ford F-250 Crew Cab, for a total of \$42,400.02.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's a good price on that. I wish I could get that contract.

Mr. Trascher said, it's just diesel is 50 cents a gallon more.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have any discussion? I think we discussed it.

Mr. Trascher said, Mr. Swann seconded it.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Eugene, 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. Trascher said, that's the only thing, we will find use for it.

Mr. Lindsey said, I mentioned to the guys before, we need to check prices on fuel around town also. I mean, we only have a few stations to go to but, we can go to the ones that are the cheapest to be able to get it. They are all within range.

Chief Dockery said, we have kind of have a standing order not to just go to one because it's

convenient.

Mr. Lindsey said, when I was reviewing the tickets before I was like, why are you paying this much per gallon when the other station is cheaper. We may as well save the money. Just go to the other station.

Mr. Trascher asked, do we use one of the fuel purchasing...

Chief Dockery said, yes sir. We use Wex Fuel.

Mr. Swann asked, what kind of stations do they have?

Chief Dockery said, Wex Fuel is kind of like a Fuel Man card. So, it can be used anywhere that allows Fuel Man or Wex Fuel. So, like when I went to Texas to Frazier, I was able to use that card throughout the State to get fuel for the truck.

Mr. Lindsey said, I wonder if we could be exempt on sales tax if we run off road. I wonder if they would let us run off road.

Mr. Trascher said, no.

Mr. Swann said, I don't think so.

Mr. Lindsey said, you still have to pay the State tax.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, the only thing you can do off road is, maybe equipment.

Mr. Lindsey said, you can definitely do it on tractors and stuff like that.

Chief Dockery said, I am going to tread lightly here. We used to do off road and being that it is cheaper, it still is not healthier for the truck. All of the new systems, it reeks havoc on them.

Mr. Trascher said, they used to put a dye in it too.

Chief Dockery said, yes, they put a red dye in it.

Mr. Lindsey said, I was just wondering being we are tax exempt anyway.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we still have to run the green fuel in ours.

Chief Dockery said, we've tried it before and it did not work out, especially for some of the newer units that have that re-gen. It really reeks havoc on them.

Mr. Lindsey said, I know I run it in my tractor and it has a re-gen in it. It may be different vehicles, I don't know. But, anyway, it was just an idea.

Chief Dockery said, I will tell you stories after the meeting.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, you just cost us \$10,000. What's the good news?

Chief Dockery said, let me cost you another half million. Okay, like I told you last month, I am going to start looking at a new pumper. There again, I have tried to stagger out some of the stuff we have now. So, I just wanted to reiterate from last month that we are going to sit down and go through it and basically, build it for the department. When I get everything said and done, I will bring it to you all and let you look at it. But, I feel it is very important. That's why it's on here again just to kind of, move forward in a correct direction with staggering vehicles. I think one of our pumpers is a 2004 and the other is a 2007. So, the next one to be up on the chopping block would be the 2004. Then, after that, several years down the line, on and on.

Mr. Swann asked, do we have an inventory of everything that this Fire Department owns?

Chief Dockery said, we do.

Mr. Swann asked, up to date?

Chief Dockery said, yes, up to date.

Mr. Swann said, very good.

Chief Dockery said, yes, all these, everything has these little stickers on them. I have gone through everything. We are up to date and checked every year.

Mr. Swann said, very good.

Chief Dockery said, that's why I am bringing this to you and pursuing and looking at prices. I do know that prices are going to go up at the beginning of the year but, they will go up at the beginning of the following year, too. As much as I would love to obligate or stick something for December, I am not going to rush myself.

Mr. Trascher said, I don't think we are ready for that. How is the vehicle that you went and looked at?

Chief Dockery said, after the meeting I will show you. It's actually in Harahan right now. It came down or came over from Florida, it's in Harahan but, when it got there it was out in the sunlight, the guy, our representative that we bought it from, he went and looked at it and he saw some things that he didn't like so, he had to get a painter sent over from Florida to touch up some things because I went over there for 2 days and we went through everything but we were inside of a building so it's not natural sunlight. But, he saw just a couple of things that he didn't like and he said, your paying for it so I want it to be perfect.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you.

Chief Dockery said, thank you. So, Friday, this Friday it will be going over to the radio shop over somewhere on the south shore, Bear-com, and they will install our radio and antenna. After that, it's coming here and the one that we have is going away, Harahan to where ever after that.

Mr. Trascher said, what are you planning as a press release to get the news paper out here to

take some pictures?

Chief Dockery said, I am going sit down with Mitchell and come up with something. I know traditionally, they push it into the station. I am not going to push it into this station right now.

Mr. Trascher said, no, we don't have a front.

Chief Dockery said, it doesn't have a front. So, we could possibly do something like that at the other station just to simulate a...

Mr. Trascher said, even if we have to do it at Town Hall. We can do it in the parking lot at Town Hall. We really need to some good, positive press out of this.

Chief Dockery said, we are going to have some press for it for sure. It's such a great looking truck and such a great color. It fits in with the Pearl River Theme.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, is this the new gray one, right?

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, I think you need to let us know because Gene and Russell will be there and get their faces out there.

Chief Dockery said, of course, after the meeting I will show you some pictures from when I was over there.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, the new pumper that we are going to start, are you going to go with the same company?

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, same color?

Chief Dockery said, same color, same color scheme.

Mr. Trascher said, are we doing a lease, a lease purchase?

Chief Dockery said, I just want to get a price first and then we can go trough the finance.

Mr. Trascher said, it's going to be hard for me to vote a half million dollars at one time.

Mr. Lindsey asked, what do you think we are going to be looking at around, \$375,000, somewhere around there?

Chief Dockery said, we are going to be looking at about a half million. You can go buy a cookie cutter from Farerra's for about \$375,000, right now.

Mr. Lindsey said, man they have gone up.

Chief Dockery said, yes, everything. I remember when we bought those trucks it was only

about \$200,000, when we bought those Ferrara's. It's just everything, through the years, inflation. But, I told the guys I want everything to have a place. I want to be able to open up the cabinet or the door and everything have home.

Mr. Lindsey said, have it well thought out.

Chief Dockery said, to where, we know where everything is, it's not just stacked up.

Mr. Trascher said, your looking at something for 15 years to 20 years.

Mr. Lindsey said, well, the 2004, by the time we get it, it's going to be almost 20 years old. I mean, that's a lot of service out of a vehicle.

Chief Dockery said, we got our monies worth out of it.

Mr. Lindsey said, especially something that is, you know, for emergency use.

Mr. Trascher said, I think, that the actual emergency code is that you have it 10 years, you have to overhaul it.

Chief Dockery said, that is very unrealistic for any type of small department. Maybe for New York or something, they can.

Mr. Trascher said, well, mileage and different things.

Chief Dockery said, for us, we can squeeze 20.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's the good thing about around here. When we were talking about the other vehicle, fuel and stuff like that, we have a small district. It isn't like we have to drive real far, as much.

Mr. Trascher said, when you look at it, to drive the half ton truck may cost you, let's say .40 cent's a mile. When you step up to the diesel, it's .60 and .70 cents a mile to go the same mile.

Mr. Lindsey said, right.

Mr. Trascher said, but, with the .60 cents you can do more if you working it. If you pull it up on a hill, or a grade, pulling up on grade pulling a trailer, you have to have it.

Mr. Lindsey said, well, with this small district you are limited in space. Like, if you were in District 7, you have to run 30 miles to get from one side to the other and you are burning a lot more fuel. This, within a few minutes you are where you have to go.

Mr. Trascher said, from one end to the other.

Chief Dockery said, that's all I have for the Chief's Report.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, does anybody have any questions? No. We will move to Old Business, CPA Discussion, Floyd.

OLD BUSINESS

CPA DISCUSSION – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher said, we put that on the agenda, I put that on the agenda. As everybody knows, the Chief put out proposals for a CPA for this year for services. The CPA firm of Griffin & Furman came in \$4,000, a year cheaper than the CPA we were using.

Mr. Lindsey asked, do we have a copy of that or did you all have it last meeting?

Mr. Trascher said, I have it here, I will give it to you and you can look at it. This is the letter. I had some questions about the way they wrote it up but, I did make a motion to approve it. I want to put it on the record that they did contact me and they agreed to put in the changes that I requested like, the cancellation clause and to clear up the duties they were going to preform. In my mind and my thinking, the motion that I made was strictly based on finances. It is our fiduciary duty to spend the tax payers money wisely and I believe \$4,000, a year saving is something we needed to look at. The Chief did send a letter to Moyle and in his letter it sort of says that we left Moyle because of their job performance. That was not my intent. I don't think that we should have sent a letter saying job performance. We requested bids and we got a bid that was much cheaper and we had to go with it. Now, if their services are proven to be unsatisfactory or they don't live up to their contract either, then we, I will be the first to move that we go back with Moyle. I think what we need to do, we have a history with Moyle and I think we have some personality issues and this developed back when Chief Leos was here. Moyle probably may have had some things that the bills didn't get out I time or something like that but, we don't have a paper trail record to do that. So, I just wanted to clear it up that I believe the Board's decision or my intent with the motion that I made and my vote was cast because it was \$4,000, cheaper.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, this \$4,000, difference, is the agreement apples to apples? Is everything the same on the agreement?

Mr. Trascher said, my understanding is, and this is what I communicated to Moyle, is that Chief Dockery took Moyle's scope of services, redacted any prices or information like that and sent it out, Jack, was it 12 or 15 CPA's?

Chief Dockery said, around 10 to 12 CPA firms.

Mr. Trascher said, so, what they were bidding on was the scope of services that we had in our contract with Moyle and out of those 12 or however many there were, there was only 2 returned. Moyle and Griffin Furman. We have a little history with Griffin and Furman, they have done our, audit, is it?

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, in the past. We haven't had any problems with them to my knowledge, and that is a question I asked at the time. So, I mean it seems like it's a no brainier that we have to save the tax payer's money.

Mr. Lindsey said, I agree.

Mr. Trascher said, I would like to do business locally when ever we can because those are the people that pay the taxes for this department. Those are the people that pay the salaries and so on and so forth. But, when we can save \$4,000, I believe it's our duty.

Mr. Lindsey said, I agree. And this other company is closer than Mandeville, so.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, it's still St. Tammany Parish. Moyle lives in the District. This is the letter that the Chief sent to terminate the contract.

Mr. Swann said, do we need to redo the letter?

Mr. Trascher said, no, I don't think we need to do that. I think that we need to put this to rest. I did tell Moyle, when they contacted me, I did tell them that it was strictly a financial decision. He told me he may be able to reduce his bid by \$1,000, but he couldn't match it. If you can't match it, I see no reason why we should not give Griffin Furman the opportunity to see if they perform. I am going to ask the Chief now, that if we run into any problems with them or Moyle or any of our contracts, if you would document that and bring it to the Board in writing so that we can make better informed decisions. I know that we said that they, that Moyle didn't pay this in time and he says that, and it's a he said, she said. When they started out with Moyle and we went back to them, we went away and then we went back, they were going to send somebody to a meeting, every meeting and they didn't do it.

Mr. Lindsey said, alright.

Mr. Trascher said, but, that wasn't in writing. They, Jeff says, to call them and I think Chief Leos took him to his word and called him 3 times a day and that's when they really got a stickler and started billing us every time we called.

Mr. Lindsey asked, so, you all voted on this last week?

Mr. Trascher said, yes, we voted to do that.

Mr. Lindsey said, so we are with another firm.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, Griffin and Furman did call me. They put the 30 day cancellation clause in there.

Mr. Lindsey said, I seen that in there.

Mr. Trascher said, they cleared up, as you can see there, their scope. The Chief has signed a contract with them and they have begun transferring the files over. We are going to have to find a new CPA to do our audit but, I was assured that shouldn't be a problem. But, just in the future, when we have problems with a firm, we need to document it and we need to be able to say, this is a specific instance where our employees were penalized because of the performance of the firm. Without that, it's hard to point fingers. Let's move forward with it and we wish Moyle well and it's a financial decision.

Mr. Swann asked, the thing that we were talking about where you got charged and you shouldn't have been, did that get straightened out?

Chief Dockery said, as of this moment, no. I was going to send him the invoice of what we got charged for and he said he would take care of the difference in there.

Mr. Swann said, so, it's in the works?

Chief Dockery said, yes, it's in the works.

Mr. Swann said, okay.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's good, it's good that we are saving \$4,000. We saving money every way.

Mr. Swann said, put it on the truck.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, it cost us 10 for the truck. Good thing we did do it.

Mr. Lindsey said, we just saved 9. \$5,000, \$5,000 and \$4,000, that's \$9,000. that's the difference. Be creative.

Mr. Trascher said, I just wanted to put that into the record to make the request that if we do have any problems with our contracts or our firms that we document it so that we can lay cards on the table and when we make a statement, that it's non performance or something, we have justification for it.

Chief Dockery said, if I have anything in the future I will document it and bring it to the Board at any meeting it falls into. That way we will have it on record and have a file.

Mr. Trascher said, right, and if we make a statement like that, that your firm messed it up, here it is and we can write them about it. That was brought up that we needed to call him. We need to send them a message, hey, this is a problem. If it means that when we send invoices over to him, we need a receipt of the email, or what ever way we transmit them. We need to have that so we can say, it was due on the first, we sent it to you on the 20th of the prior month, and your firm didn't get it out until the 29th, that was 9 days. Is that reasonable, is that why the bills are late? Okay? Thank you.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, your welcome. Does anybody else have anything pertaining to the Discussion of CPA?

Mr. Lindsey said, I don't.

Mr. Swann said, no.

Mrs. Blackwell said, your good? We will move to New Business or Public Comment.

Mr. Trascher asked, what public?

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT – Michelle Blackwell

Mr. Lindsey said, the only thing I wanted to inquire on is that, where are we at with the guy with the bricks? Did he order anything?

Chief Dockery said, after I left here yesterday I was headed home and actually, was going to go email him and at that moment I had an email from him asking about if we were done. The bricks were ordered and they came in yesterday. So, I told them that we finished up yesterday and so, we are looking at a 2 week span, in that area, to start.

Mr. Lindsey said, we are going to have to wind up seeing about getting that gutter down?

Chief Dockery said, yes. That will probably being a job tomorrow or the next day. I plan on getting up there and moving, taking the lights down, kill the electricity first and taking the lights down, securing the electricity and getting that gutter off of there.

Mr. Lindsey said, so,i think, on reason those bricks, I got to thinking about that at 2 o'clock this morning when I was awake. One reason, those bricks were offset some, remember those bricks were offset from the slab at the bottom?

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Lindsey said, it sticks out about that far, so that's going to push the bricks back out some.

Chief Dockery asked, he will get rid of that offset?

Mr. Lindsey said, I don't think so. We have to look at it. I just happened to think about that this morning when I was awake and couldn't sleep.

Chief Dockery said, well I mean, the bricks being that far away...

Mr. Lindsey said, if it's properly tied in it probably isn't an issue.

Chief Dockery said, tied in.

Mr. Trascher said, he is going to have to use a heavy, like an angle iron.

Mr. Lindsey said, they are going to have to make sure they got a bunch of it because...

Mr. Trascher said, galvanized.

Chief Dockery said, they got these flimsy galvanized clips.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, that's what it usually is.

Mr. Lindsey said, those little brick ties, I mean when we bumped on that wall, the whole thing went like this (swayed) and it just went (down).

Mr. Swann asked, what are you going to do about the windows?

Chief Dockery said, we got them back in. Once the brick came off the building, we were able to secure the windows actually in some window frames we built. So, that's tied in.

Mr. Swann said, what about with the new bricks?

Mr. Trascher said, how will it be with the new bricks?

Chief Dockery said, with the new bricks, we will just have to see what the offset is on it.

Mr. Lindsey said, we will just have to modify accordingly.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, your just going to have to build the casing further out.

Mr. Lindsey said, probably.

Mr. Trascher said, with plywood.

Mr. Lindsey said, we are going to have to look at some type of flashing system to go out to the new gutter to span that gap between the new brick because we aren't doing it like they did before and set it on top.

Mr. Trascher asked, is it the issue is that the brick ledge isn't wide enough on the bottom?

Mr. Lindsey said, there is no brick ledge, really.

Mr. Swann asked, it's straight on the pavement?

Mr. Lindsey said, well, I think that's the way it was set, on the pavement but, some of the cement sticks out a little bit. Almost like...

Mr. Trascher said, from the slab.

Mr. Lindsey said, like it wanted to be a brick ledge once upon a time but it wasn't big enough. So, it sticks out some but, it's not far enough for a brick ledge.

Mr. Trascher asked, could you form a brick ledge and then pour it? It might not be thick enough to carry the weight.

Mr. Swann said, you would have to cut that out and put rods and stuff in.

Mr. Lindsey said, yeah, it would have to be pretty stout or it would crack it all up. That's a lot of weight. I mean, what's there now is holding the weight. We don't have any problem with it cracking the slab, it just, that little offset pushes the brick out a little bit because, if it's properly tied, I don't think it's an issue because there's always a gap between brick and the wall.

Mr. Trascher said, brick and the wall, yes, because you can't use that little flimsy thing. You have to get a piece of angle iron.

Mr. Lindsey said, or heavier brick ties maybe.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, if they have that.

Chief Dockery said, we also came to realize that the gutter actually had two more down spouts in it. In the middle and they were just..

Mr. Lindsey said, they were running behind the brick.

Mr. Swann said, they were running behind the brick?

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

Chief Dockery said, yes, they beat the triangle pieces back up and laid a piece of something over the top of it to seal it off. So, they were leaking too, the whole time.

Mr. Trascher said, good thing it was tin behind there. If it was wood, you wouldn't have anything left.

Mr. Lindsey said, all the mortar, all the bricks, were soaking wet.

Chief Dockery said, we will go way off record before I...

Mr. Trascher said, comment.

Mrs. Blackwell said, let's go off record.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, with that said, I would like everybody for coming out tonight. Thank you for the support of this department and I move we adjourn.

Mr. Swann said, second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, no.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries.