



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
July 8, 2025
7:02 pm – 8:17 pm

ROLL CALL

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

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

Mrs. Blackwell calls the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Roll is called, Board Members Russel Lindsey, Ryan Dreux, Floyd Trascher and Michele Blackwell are present. Mr. Eugene Swann is out of town and will not be present. Mr. Floyd Trascher says the invocation and Mr. Russell Lindsey leads the pledge.

MINUTES

Mrs. Blackwell asked has everybody read and approved the minutes of the June 11th, meeting? Mr. Lindsey and Mr. has Trascher reviewed the minutes and Mr. Trascher moves to adopt them 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 June, looking for a target rate of 50%. Glancing through, everything seems to be under budget. Monthly bills are running on track. Small motor maintenance is at 55% but, that was a big charge at the beginning of the year.

EMS REPORT

The EMS side, we brought in \$24,892.63, for the month of June.

Mr. Trascher commented that the expenses seem to be in line except for the Audit Fee but, that's a one time line item that will fall in line at the end of the year. Mr. Trascher notes that the EMS collections seem to be on target also. Thank you Chief.

Mrs. Blackwell asked if there were any more discussion for the Financial Report or the EMS Report. No other questions, we will move to the Chief's Report.

CHIEF'S REPORT/ EMS REPORT - Chief Jack Dockery

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

EMS	47
STRUCTURE FIRE	1
MVA	4
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	11
TRASH/GRASS FIRES	1
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE	17
POLICE MATTER	4
FALSE ALARMS	3
 TOTAL	 88

That's all for the Chief's Report. With no questions on the Chief's Report, we can move to Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

ADOPT MILLAGE RATES – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery presents our Millage Rates and we are going to roll back our mills. I have a Resolution.

Mr. Trascher said that, if you will, I would like to discuss this. We have been collecting the maximum on our millage's and we did say that when the time came, we would adjust our millage rates down to give the taxpayers as much relief as we can. We received a request from the St. Tammany Parish Government that we lower our millage rates. They looked at our financial statement and felt that we were carrying too large of cash reserve for the Department. However, they didn't understand that these funds are in committed funds in our cash reserve for the renovations on this building and for the purchase of equipment. To be good stewards of the taxpayers money, we chose not to borrow money and pay additional interest, but to save the money and complete our objectives. The Chief explained to them why we were carrying those reserved funds and that we were working through the problems to do our renovations and needed equipment purchases. They understood when they were told about

the things we are working on. They seemed to understand why we had these funds after they were told why we had these balances. The Chief put together several proposals and the one that makes the most sense is the one that reduces our mills from 43 to 41. 41 mills is about what we collected in the past when we had a reduced millage rate. By reducing one of the millage's, down to 6 mills from 8 mills, we would accomplish this and get it down to 41 mills. It would be a reduction of approximately \$130,891. The concrete assessments will come out from the Assessor's Office in October. This is just the track record of what it has been to make this reduction. There may be some things that come online that may increase our income once we complete this project. Mr. Trascher recommends reducing the millage and reads the presented resolution as follows:

Be it Resolved, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2025 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 11:

<u>Acquisition & Maintenance 1069065</u>	<u>10.000</u> Mills
<u>Acquisition & Maintenance 1069104</u>	<u>15.000</u> Mills
<u>Acquisition & Maintenance 1069137</u>	<u>6.000</u> Mills
<u>Acquisition & Maintenance 1069034</u>	<u>10.000</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 2025, 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.

Chief asked that before you vote, I would ask to have a moment for public comment. Mrs. Blackwell asked for any public comment. Mr. Ryan Dreux asked if the new ambulance that we are buying, has it been considered in this also? Chief said yes, that has been set aside for the purchase.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have any public comment? With no comment's, Mr. Trascher moves that we adopt the Resolution setting our millage's. Mr. Lindsey seconded. Roll call vote was made, all in favor, motion carries.

DISCUSS MILLAGE RATES – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said as you know, we had a millage coming up for renewal in 2026, we put in the paper work to have the election in October 11th, 2025. Foley and Judell has contacted me and said the cost estimate changed for this election. Originally, the State would have had 4 Amendments on this ballot with us so they would share the cost. The 4 Amendments did not make it, so we would have to front all of the cost. The original cost for us would have been \$2,100 and now would be \$25,800, to have this election. We could cancel the October election and have it in April of next year where there would be Constitutional Amendments and some other candidates on that ballot. I would like to cancel this election for October. It seems to be the best thing to do for our taxpayers. This millage will expire at the end of 2026. This would give us April to place on the ballot and if we are not successful, we would also have a chance in the fall, October 2026. The Board discussed the expense for the election and agree that's too much money for an election.

Mr. Trascher reads the Resolution:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioner's of Fire Protection District No. 11 of the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Fire Protection District No. 11 of the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana (the "District") does hereby approve and authorize the cancellation of the special election previously called by the District to be held on October 11, 2025.

Mr. Trascher, if there is no further discussion, I move that we adopt the resolution canceling the election.

Mrs. Blackwell asked if for any Public Comment. No comments, Mr. Trascher moves to adopt, Mr. Lindsey seconded. With a roll call vote, 3 yeas, no nays, motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Blackwell ask for any Public Comments or anything from the Board. With no comments Mr. Trascher thanks the Chief for the time and work he put into these two issues. You handled it well and accessed the situation and came up wit a solution for our budget.

Mrs. Blackwell thanks all of our Firefighters and EMS for a job well done. We appreciate what you do for our community.

Mr. Lindsey asked that we keep in mind the people in Texas in your prayers.

Mrs. Blackwell also asked that we keep the Singletary family in our prayers.

With that said, Mr. Lindsey makes a motion to adjourn, Mr. Dreux seconds. With a roll call vote, 3 yeas, no nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.