



St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 11
Board of Commissioners
Minutes of the Meeting on January 12, 2021
Fire Chief Jack Dockery

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

FINANCIALS

MINUTES

Mrs. Blackwell asked, has everybody read and approved the minutes from the December 8th, meeting?

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, I reviewed them. Everything seemed in order.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, I did also and if there is no further discussion, I move that we approve them with the video governing.

Mr. Lindsey said, second.

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

Mr. Lindsey 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 the Financial Report, Chief Dockery?

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chief Dockery said, okay, in front of you is the report for December 2020. Of course, our target is 100%. We have had a few areas that have come up out a little bit. As I spoke before, I am going to go through quick books and see what we have that may be not in the correct line item. As you can tell, number 7, Miscellaneous Income, there's 1,328%. That is due to some Ad valorem and the EMS bills that were sent that weren't coded at the time. I sent them the codes today but, the report was already done, so that will be moved into the proper line item. Through our regular monthly bills, we have some areas that are really low and not within the 5%. There again, I will go through those this week and see where, see what can be moved or see if anything needs to be moved. If not, I will come to the Board again if, after my findings, and will address them there.

Mr. Trascher said, it's my understanding Chief, we will need to amend our 2020 Budget at our next meeting, possibly.

Chief Dockery said, possibly, yes.

Mr. Trascher asked, will we still have time to have it submitted to the agencies to review it and all that?

Chief Dockery said, yes, we should.

Mr. Trascher said, if you can, you may be able to move some of the line items around to make up the difference is what you are saying.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, alright Chief, that was all, thanks.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, no.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, is that all for the Financial Report, Chief?

Chief Dockery said, that's it for regular Finances.

EMS SERVICE

Chief Dockery continued, for EMS side, we took in a total of \$14,658.46. That is including a refund for \$984.35. So, a very good month for EMS Service. I think we finished out at \$185,297.21. Usually, we projected around \$171,000, so we have made \$14,297, more than what we projected.

Mr. Trascher said, we didn't make \$14,000, we were \$14,000, over our revenue projections.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, does anyone have any questions about the EMS Report?

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, just for clarification purposes, some of the investments that we made like the monitor and things like that, those funds that we say are over our revenue projections, actually pay for the cost to operate in that division.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, I wouldn't want somebody like Mr. Marshall to come in and say that we are running an ambulance service to make a profit.

Chief Dockery said, yes. That is correct.

Mr. Trascher said, it seems as though we have revenue projections. We have obligations to provide the service to the public.

Chief Dockery said, we do. The ambulance is not cheap and the medications certainly aren't cheap.

Mr. Trascher said, right, we do make revenue projections and if the Department can pay the cost...

Chief Dockery said, we are covering our cost.

Mr. Trascher continued, to operate that division, we are providing the service to the public where our EMS Service timed response on the ambulances is what, in our district, 3 to 4 minutes.

Chief Dockery said, yes sir.

Mr. Trascher said, as opposed to Acadian at 12 to 15.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I want to say we are in the 12 to 15 minute circle with them.

Mr. Trascher said, right, so like you say, giving them the best benefit of the doubt, 15 minutes, so the services we are providing for those funds are certainly an asset to the community. Thank you, Chief.

Mrs. Blackwell said, if that's it on the EMS Report, we will move on to the Chief's Report.

CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, alright, for the month of December we had:

EMS	32
MVA	14
SHED FIRE	1
GRASS FIRES	2
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	7
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE	8
ALARM	1
WIRING ISSUE	1
POLICE MATTER	1
TOTAL	67

I guess everyone has been cooped up or something (regarding 32 MVA's)

ENGINE 111 IS BACK

Chief Dockery continued, to let you know, Engine 111 is back. We went today to Harvey and picked it up. There's a few things that we still need to do here on it. We need to get it stocked up again and we will put it back in service. I am glad to have it back.

TOWN HALL BLOOD DRIVE FEBRUARY 6, 9am-1pm

Chief Dockery continued, a week or two ago, we had a lady come up to us and ask if we would participate in a blood drive. Basically, it is suppose to be a battle of the badges. You know, Police Department against Fire Department but, with such short notice it was not feasible. So, we got back with the Blood Center and Town Hall and, well actually, Town Hall got with them and we have a Town Hall Blood drive on February 6th, from 9 to 1pm. As soon as they get me that information I will put it on our Facebook and social media. That way people can come out and donate. It's a great cause, of course, I do it every 8 weeks and a few minutes out your time, out your day can really help save a life. So, I am really looking forward to that.

Mr. Trascher said, just one other little note on the Chief's Report. If you look at the number of calls, the line share of 50%, are for EMS Services. So, that's again, our ambulance and our Paramedics and our emergency medical team.

Chief Dockery said, roughly, every year, roughly about 75-80%, of it is EMS.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, it's very important. Thank you.

Chief Dockery said, yes. That's it for Chief's Report.

Mrs. Blackwell said, that's it for Chief's Report. We will move to the Old Business, Summary of Resolutions for 2020, Floyd.

OLD BUSINESS

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS FOR 2020 – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher said, okay, basically, it's a house cleaning measure that, what we have is that every resolution that we have done last year. We memorialize it in a resolution at the end of the year to close it out. All it does is it becomes an official record of the resolutions that were passed last year. They are numbered and have what they pertain to and we adopt this resolution memorializing all of the ones and putting it in one place, the actions of this Board. Tonight, that's what we have and we present that and if there is no further discussion, I move that we approve our resolution for record keeping to memorialize our 2020 Resolutions.

Mr. Lindsey said, I second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries. Okay, we will move on to New Business, Audit Engagement, Chief Dockery.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIT ENGAGEMENT – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, alright, in front of you all I have the Audit Engagement for Griffin & Furman. This is the one that's done our audit for the past 2 years, 3 years. They have already come late December and started, basically, some pre-audit to get ahead of everything. I ask that we pass this.

Mr. Trascher said, this does this also include that 794 or whatever it is?

Chief Dockery said, the ACT 774, speaking with the auditor, he stated that it possibly might not happen this year. The Louisiana Legislative Auditor is basically, kind of, hand picking some that had egregious deficits or just deficits, you know...

Mr. Trascher said, but the 774 was actually a Parish requirement. To my understanding, when they had that big controversy about an Inspector General, St. Tammany Parish Government, in it's infinite wisdom, decided not, opted out of an Inspector General but required this 774 Audit of all of their divisions.

Chief Dockery said, well, this would be just for the general audit. If we are picked for the 774, we will have a separate engagement for that one. That's how he does it.

Mr. Trascher said, because that's a problem we have had, you know, in the past, where we commit to an auditor's engagement for around \$12,000 or \$14,000, what is this going to be?

Chief Dockery said, I believe around \$14,000.

Mr. Trascher said, and then it's going to be another \$8,000, to the 774.

Chief Dockery said, let's see.

Mr. Trascher said, that's why, being a Parish requirement, I don't know if it being a Parish requirement, it may be something we've had to do every year.

Chief Dockery said, last year both audit's cost us \$10,726.67.

Mr. Trascher asked, how much?

Chief Dockery said, \$10,726.67, that was for both audits.

Mr. Lindsey asked, do we know the price for this year?

Mr. Trascher said, I don't see a price in here.

Chief Dockery said, I did not, I thought it was in the engagement, itself.

Mr. Lindsey said, I don't have a copy of the engagement.

Chief Dockery said, I just printed one, I'm sorry.

Mr. Trascher said, I will be happy to share it with you Mr. Lindsey. I just went through it quickly. Maybe, here's the engagement, maybe you can pick it out. I just don't see a price. This is in addition to our regular services, our CPA services, with Moyle, right Chief?

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Lindsey asked, is something that we are just needing to review or do we need to approve?

Chief Dockery said, it really needs to be approved. That way he can file it with the Louisiana Legislator Auditor.

Mr. Trascher said, we need to, the Legislative Auditor has to have a letter of engagement from

this District to do that but, we are approving an open engagement, I don't see a price in here. We used to use Cantrell, LaPorte, several others.

Chief Dockery said, I don't want to assume anything, of course.

Mr. Lindsey said, I see towards the bottom, it says, now I didn't read all of this obviously, up above it says, "this is our fees \$8,500, plus out of pocket cost, postage, etc.".

Chief Dockery said, I think that's what it said last year, too.

Mr. Trascher said, and the 774 would be in addition to this?

Chief Dockery said, yes, usually it's roughly \$2,000. He came in the ballpark around \$10,000. I want to say the year before we had him, when we used one of the others, it was close to \$20,000.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, I remember we had an astronomical bill.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, it looks like \$8,500. I am fine with that.

Mr. Trascher asked, you are satisfied with that, Mr. Lindsey?

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

Mr. Trascher asked, do you move that we accept the engagement letter?

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, I will second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries. Do we have any public comment?

Mr. Trascher asked, do we have any public?

Chief Dockery asked, do you have anything to say?

Mr. Trascher said, come on, say something, get it over with.

Mrs. Blackwell said, it seems like it's you Georgette.

Mr. Lindsey said, let's not complain, there's been days that it was worse.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I hear you. Do we have a motion to close?

Mr. Trascher said, well, Chief, are you going to, Mr. Lindsey, we will have a resolution affirming our new member and also, we will have a resolution on the agenda to remove Mr. Lombard from the signature cards and add Mr. Swan. Also, the Chief talked about a little certificate or Plaque or a little something that we can present to Mr. Lombard for his years of service on the Board for the District.

Mr. Lindsey said, alright.

Mr. Trascher asked, Chief, if you don't have a problem with that.

Chief Dockery said, I will work on that this week to see what I can find.

Mr. Trascher said, get that for us and yes.

Mr. Lindsey said, that would be great.

Mr. Trascher said, with that said, I wish everybody a happy new year and if there is nothing else, Chief take care of the district and we are looking forward to a positive report on this Deferred Comp situation with the regular employees and the temporary, the part time employees. Contributing to them is going to help out a lot and actually, the part time employees are a very important part of this fire station.

Chief Dockery said, yes, they are. Yes sir, I think we have the full time employees, like I said, other than one, we have them all registered and we got the process started so, that should flow smoothly. I will get with the one that I missed today. I think he works tomorrow and I will get him set up. I will get him set up and like I said, Chief Parish is working with the Deferred Comp people on the one for the part timers and we will check with this other company also, and see what or if there is any difference between them. That is in the works right now to get this for them. Your right, this is a benefit for them because, right now, they are basically throwing the money into Social Security and will have no benefits.

Mr. Trascher said, and we are throwing the money away.

Chief Dockery said, they will never see a red penny of it, you know.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because they are paying 7 or 8%, and we are paying 7 or 8%.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, all the employees seem to be okay with it and on board with it?

Chief Dockery said, they do. I went through the explanation this morning showing them, you know, basically, how much it was that would be coming out of their paycheck each check and how much it would be at the end of the year, in gross. They were all on board with it. It's something, it's a start and I think it would help them a lot.

Mr. Lindsey said, sounds good.

Mr. Trascher said, one other question on our equipment. How's our Asset Tracker coming along and what equipment do you think that we are going to need to look at replacing or

something?

Chief Dockery said, I have Chief Parish working on the Asset Tracker. I will say that I will be looking for another pumper coming up soon to replace one of the old ones.

Mr. Trascher said, because we talked about a tank truck needed for the shuttle.

Chief Dockery said, that's what we did, we did get the tanker. That would be maybe March, it might be delivered. It's being built right now so as soon as it gets built, we will go do an inspection and so on and go from there. It's looking maybe March or into the summer time for delivery but, we are going to start pricing out a new pumper to help replace one of them that we have. One of them is a 2004 and the other one is a 2007, so, they are getting to the end of their life. So, we are going to start rolling that ball right now to see what we can do for that. Get some prices and know where we are going to be at.

Mr. Trascher said, one other thing we need to start looking at and thinking about is Porter's River. We bought that old house trailer out there and it ain't much. I don't think anything is going to happen with it.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I want to say we spoke of this at one of the meetings before where, I would like to basically, use that trailer for training right now and when it gets demolished, let's just...

Mr. Trascher said, when you say for training do you mean burn it?

Chief Dockery said, no, no, no, search and rescue. We will put smoke machine in there and let them feel around and just go from there. But, when it gets down in the dumps, let's just demolish it and be done with it. It's already in bad shape and I don't, let's take it for what it is or what it was, you know.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, the road to hell is paved with good intentions and we had a lot.

Chief Dockery said, yes, and let's get some use out of it for training and when that is said and done, let's just get rid of it and be done with that.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, I mean, that's a facility that we have that while we still, some of our long range goals should be to put a station on that side of the tracks.

Chief Dockery said, that side of the tracks, correct.

Mr. Trascher said, I just don't think that that trailer is going to be it.

Chief Dockery said, that site right there, I don't really want to put anything. It's one way in, one way out. I would rather if we could get something over by AWG, you know, that would be the preferred spot.

Mr. Trascher said, but we need the manpower.

Mr. Lindsey said, we may need to revisit the idea to go over there and talking to them.

Mr. Trascher said, before we actually get a roof, we need to make sure that we hire the manpower.

Chief Dockery said, that we can fill it.

Mr. Trascher said, because, we are going to have to hire at least 2 fireman, at least, to man that station.

Chief Dockery said, yes, you are looking at, at least 6, 2 per shift or something over there. Worse case scenario, at least 3 with one person over there every day. But, I rather 2, well I'd rather 6 a day, you know.

Mr. Trascher said, absolutely. It's dangerous to have just one person like that. Anyway, we definitely need to look at that long term goals. I think that the Rooms to Go, is a great place and the Ice Box Warehouse, and they were willing to give and pretty much do anything that we ask. It's just that, I would just hate to go over there and have them build a little building and we are unable to staff it. So, we are going to have to revisit the budget issue and see how we could maybe be able to put that together and then, absolutely, I wouldn't have a problem going over there and talking to them.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I mean, we would be in a lot better shape if some things changed in the Parish, itself. You know, instead of giving the tax, I understand the tax exemptions but, I personally feel that, you know, fire service should be excluded from that where we receive the full...

Mr. Trascher said, I know the fire services and the parcel fees and the parcel fee fly's like a lead balloon and you are talking about the sacred cow when you talk about doing away with homestead exemptions.

Chief Dockery said, it's not even the homestead exemptions. It's the tax breaks that these big businesses get. Rooms to Go got a 20 year, you know, AWG got a 25 year, and we get \$50,000, a piece from them. That's basically the gesture from them and that's the, I don't know what they call it now, Northshore Development or Economic Development.

Mr. Trascher said, Economic Development. And those are deals that are negotiated behind the doors and then come out and tell you this is what you got.

Chief Dockery said, yes, when you look at AWG, they would probably bring in \$300,000 to \$350,000, a year in just taxes. AWG would probably do the same or Rooms to Go, I don't know which one I said first. Both of them, you are looking at close to half a million dollars and you can do a lot with that. But...

Mrs. Blackwell said, you could have 6 people across the tracks.

Mr. Trascher said, it's an incentive for them to come here and the first year, \$50,000, is great, but, that's a 20 year deal and at the end of 20 years that \$50,000, just depreciated and it's just not worth it. That's something that is political that really needs to be addressed.

Chief Dockery said, it is, that is something politically.

Mr. Lindsey said, what about the, I was hearing about the new station, I mean the new subdivision that is going to be going in somewhere, I guess in town, like 60 something homes.

Chief Dockery said, over by the high school.

Mr. Trascher said, by Mattie Road.

Chief Dockery said, yes, over by the high school they are planning a subdivision. I only found out about it because at a Town Hall meeting they were talking about it. I think I got that straightened out now, that we actually get some information from new businesses but, they are supposedly building a big subdivision over there by the High School and having an access road coming through Mattie Road on 3081. They actually did ask us about water main sizes.

Mr. Trascher said, that's good because that's one of our biggest issues and culverts

Mr. Lindsey said, are they going to put some hydrants throughout?

Chief Dockery said, yes. So, we have been talking with them and making sure that, you know, an egress into a subdivision is not impaired by fancy little statues in the middle. You know, like some of these others.

Mr. Trascher said, like 10 ft. roads.

Mr. Lindsey said, I mean, if we get another subdivision with 70 homes that would help us bring some tax revenue in.

Chief Dockery said, so, it's in the works. They also have one, it looks like there going to, at some point, put another strip mall over by Waffle House, basically where the turnabout is, they are going to make a little off shoot at the round about and it's going to go into the strip mall. I don't know exactly what is going in there but, it's 4 or 5 little buildings in that area.

Mr. Trascher asked, is that in the Town or in the Parish?

Chief Dockery said, it's in the Town.

Mr. Trascher said, is it?

Chief Dockery said, right by Waffle House, on 1090.

Mr. Trascher asked, by Morey's place? By Morey's side or going back towards the interstate?

Chief Dockery said, back towards the interstate. That big section of land that is for sale right now.

Mr. Trascher said, I didn't think that was in the Town.

Chief Dockery said, yes, all that is.

Mr. Trascher said, because the road is, by Village Guthrie across the road is not.

Chief Dockery said, yes, Village Guthrie is the Sheriff's Office. So, whether it's in the Town or not, it's still in our District so...

Mr. Trascher said, yes, good point Chief. The Town was terrible about that before. They would build a subdivision and not to quote anybody but, aw hell, two inch water line is big enough. That's fire hydrants and all.

Chief Dockery said, I can understand he was trying to save money but, that comes to bite you later on in life.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, when they come out there with a flow meter and a garden hose runs harder than the fire hydrant. Anyway, I appreciate it and if there is no further discussion, I move that we adjourn.

Mr. Lindsey said, second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, I abstain.