



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
Minutes of the Meeting
August 11, 2026
7:04 pm – 9:15 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 7:04 pm. Roll call, Board members Russel Lindsey, Ryan Dreux, Eugene Swann, Michele Blackwell and Floyd Trascher are present. Mr. Trascher says the invocation. Mr. Lindsey leads the Pledge.

MINUTES

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The July 14th, 2026, Meeting Minutes are approved by 4 yeas, no nays. Motion carried.

Mr. Trascher makes a motion to open the agenda and allow Mr. John Case to do a presentation. Mr. Lindsey seconds, all in favor, motion carried.

AGENDA OPENED

JOHN CASE PRESENTATION – Chief Jack Dockery

Mr. Case reviews the cost of the insurance and the increases on the policies. We have a 11% increase this year. The insurance companies are pushing to get the coverage at replacement value. This policy covers everything, vehicles, property, crime, the premium is for all coverage for the department. The automobile insurance went down. This insurance is separate from Worker's Compensation.

The property values have been raised 43%. The cost of the premium went up 11%. This increase is on all policies. Chief explains that the amount is already budgeted for a premium increase.

Mr. Trascher said, we show concern over any increase but, this policy is highly needed.

Mr. Case mentions a safety recommendation of an exit sign above the door and thanks the Board for allowing him to explain on short notice to go over the increase in insurance. The Board thanks him for his time.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said we are looking for a target of 58%. Only a couple of areas of concern. On page 2, Line Items 6484, 6486 and 6495, we've talked about these and will have to amend at some point. On page 11, Accounting General, we are at 106%, I figured out that the audit was coded to the wrong line item. So \$13,750 for the audit will be moved to the right line item.

Chief Parish addresses the Net Ordinary Income questions from last meeting. Mr. Robertson said we've taken in most of our money but have not spent all of it yet. That will go down during the year and will equal out. They can change it to a monthly amount if the Board wishes, but that's how it's always been done. The amount decreases with each month. It looks at the whole year and as each month goes by, the amount decreases. Most of our money comes in at the beginning of the year. He also offered to come here and explain it to you if you want.

Mrs. Blackwell asked for any more questions. With no questions, we can move to the EMS Report.

EMS REPORT

Chief Dockery said we did not get a print out from Insight, but looking at Quick Books, we received \$12,159.08, for the month of July.

Mrs. Blackwell said with no other questions on the EMS Report, we can move to the Chief's Report.

CHIEF'S REPORT

For the month of July, we responded to the following:

CHIEF'S REPORT

MUTUAL AID	11
STRUCTURE FIRE	1
MOTOR VEHICLE FIRES	0
WOODS/GRASS/TRASH FIRES	4
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	2
EMS	37
PUBLIC SERVICE	9
CANCELLED/NO INCIDENT FOUND)	13
FALSE ALARMS/GOOD INTENT	11
LAW ENFORCEMENT	1
TOTAL	78
YEAR-TO-DATE CALLS	609

Chief Dockery said, Mrs. Wynn wanted us to know that it is almost time for our contract renewal. It will expire in October and begin again on November 1, 2026. The contract has changed for the better. The old contract was 1 year and equaled to 75% of the 28 day T-Bill. She said that was with a \$50 monthly fee. The new contract will be 2 years, no fee and 90% of the 28 day T-Bill. There's no down side to it but I wanted to introduce it and make copies of it for the Board and be able to vote on it next month.

Chief Parish said Mr. Lindsey had mentioned the flag pole in the front of the building is not in great shape. We priced new poles and would prefer buying a new one instead of taking the old one down and painting it again. The money is in the account already and we will have the concrete poured and erect a new pole at both stations. The flag poles will be for a 40 foot with a wind load to 170 with internal power, aluminum, is about \$3,300.00. We will also contact Cleco to replace the light that is out for the flag.

We would also like bring up another item that is already in the budget, but it is a \$12,160 purchase. We would like to purchase a new robot for the Fire Prevention Program, Robot Sparky, for the kids. It is from a sole provider and we have a letter from them explaining that.

Mr. Lindsey asked what part of the budget is that in because the Fire Prevention budget is at \$9,000. Chief Parish explained it is in the Capital Purchase line item. We checked on refurbishing the one we have but that would cost about \$10,000 so it's wise to just purchase a new one. It's for public education.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSS/APPOINT CIVIL SERVICE MEMBER – Mr. Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher explained that Mrs. Rinkus received a response from one person for the appointment to the Civil Service Board. The current appointment has moved out of the District so she is no longer eligible to serve.

Mrs. Rinkus said that two letters were sent from college list but, I can send another letter from the university asking for more names that we can contact for the appointment. I have no other information on Mr. Romo. Mrs. Blackwell spoke to Mr. Romo and he said he would be working tonight and cannot make it to the meeting.

Mr. Trascher asked the Board if they would prefer that another letter be sent to the college asking for additional names for the appointment. Ms. Acosta's appointment expired on July 29, 2026, but would be able to continue serving on the Board until reappointed or replaced but it has come to our attention that she no longer lives in the District so she is not eligible to serve.

Chief Parish asked that this be put on the record that Ms. Acosta did go to Slidell Police Department and used her name and the position on the Civil Service Board to gain influence and we don't feel that is ethical or professional.

Mr. Trascher said we are aware of that and understand that it happened. It is certainly something that we, as a Board, feel that it is improper and that is a reason for removal. I appreciate the information and that you shared it with us because we certainly do not want anyone from our Board misrepresenting themselves or using this for any kind of influence or something else. We need an appointment for this position and if we are all in agreement, we can reach out to the college again for more names to send letters to and possible phone numbers so we can try to reach out to potential candidates to serve on the Board. This decision will be tabled and postponed until next month.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSS PAY INCREASE

Chief Parish wanted to present/request a pay raise because we are having a hard time keeping people and hiring new people. We don't have a firefighter's position in this department so we start as Operator's. The State Law Revised Statute pay scale starts at Firefighter. Our pay does start at Firefighter pay even though we don't have that position. The start pay is \$10.50 per hour, Operator's are \$11.55 per hour. We cannot get a raise on Operator's pay without raising the base pay. Districts 1, 3 and other agencies are starting around \$11.00, \$11.50. We are trying to hire people because we short a paramedic. We would like to present to the Board a option for a pay raise. We would like to request \$1 on the base pay so \$10.50 would go to \$11.50 which would put our Operator's pay at \$12.65 for our full timers.

Mr. Trascher asked are we are adjusting the pay scale for each of the categories?

Chief Parish explained that it starts with the base pay, Operator, which is 10% above firefighter, Captain's 15% above that, District Chief is 5% above that, which we do not have, and it keeps going like that.

Mr. Trascher asked, if we start this at the end of the scale, is that going to adjust the entire pay scale? Chief Parish said yes, it is compound, it would automatically do that.

Mr. Trascher asked for a proposal on this and how it will effect the whole department and the

salaries.

Chief Parish said, he can provide that and right now we should be at 58% of our budget for salaries and we are at 43%. This is why we presented it to you so we can provide what you want to see regarding the decision. State law allows a 2.1% annual cost of living raise. We are not asking to increase that. This base pay increase would benefit all full time employees.

Mr. Lindsey asked if we know how much it would raise our budget.

Chief Parish said we have a spread sheet that shows the scale for each position and the percentage of the increase in salary per position. Year one, we start at \$10.50, so our Operator's start at \$11.55. That is year one, year two is 2.1% above that. This would benefit first year operator's because the starting pay would be \$12.65 with this base pay raise.

Captain Geissler's has been here 44 years so his salary is 25% above base fire fighter pay and with the 2.1% each year. I am making jokes, he has been here I believe 19 years. It wouldn't be \$1 for him, it would be closer to \$2.30, if I remember correctly. So, it benefits the entire department. The part timers would not get a raise. We have 9 individuals. The spread sheet is based on Mitchell's because he is the highest paid employee. This includes his mandatory automatic overtime, holiday pay and vacation, which he has the most because he has been here so long. That would show us everything, would that be sufficient?

Mr. Trascher said he would like to know how it would effect our annual salary budget. Just say, if we pass this, it would raise our payroll by how much? I am not opposed to a raise. I would like to see the total figure of what it will cost annually.

Chief Parish said he can get this information and email it to you all. This is just to start the conversation. It's hard to get people here when they are starting at a higher rate next door.

Mr. Swann asked if it is possible to get a breakdown from other departments so you can accomplish what you are trying to do, so we have it high enough that you can retain people.

Chief Parish said we have been looking and our projected recap for next year, District 11 is not growing. We looked at the last 4 years where we ended on salaries. Every year we have been 15-20% under budget. This year we will be well under budget also. We are also taking into consideration that last month the Board approved a new insurance and last year approved the retirement fund, they don't see it in their pocket but the reality is, it's benefits that cost the taxpayers and the district money. 2 or 3 years ago we were with the other Districts but this year we are not. Coming from District 1 and looking at our insurance plan here, you are very generous with the plan here. We don't want to cut that and Mr. Trascher agreed.

Mr. Lindsey asked for everything to be sent to us so we can look at it and put it on the agenda next month.

Mr. Trascher would like the information and the bottom line so they can make a informed decision. I move that we table this until the next meeting. Mr. Lindsey seconds.

Mrs. Blackwell calls a vote, 4 yeas, no nays, motion carries. We can move to our next line

item.

DISCUSS PAYMENT FOR NEW ENGINE – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Parish explains Chief Dockery is having a rough night and he will cover this. When we approved the new engine, prior to the election, we didn't know which way we were going to pay for it. Since we are past the election and we have the money in the rolling stock account, we would like to make that payment and it would possibly save us \$130,000 in interest. Putting the money in our bank account, Mr. Williams explained that we would not make \$130,000, in interest in a year. Hopefully Siddons-Martin will be able to honor the \$130,000 but, it could possibly go down to \$115,000. This payment is from our Restricted Funds. This money that was put aside for equipment. The ambulance purchase is from another account. They sent us a bill for \$98,000 for the chassis and it was not supposed to be ready until next year but, it looks like we may get it as early as November. When they complete it, we will do the walk through and then they will send us the remaining balance.

Mr. Trascher notes that there have been some concerns expressed and if we pay the truck off, we can save \$100,000 as well as reduce our Rolling Stock Fund. How does the rest of the Board feel? I am in favor of doing this.

Mr. Lindsey said he would like to save the \$100,000.

Mr. Trascher moves to take the money from the Rolling Stock and pay off that vehicle for the cost savings. Mr. Lindsey agrees with that and seconds.

Mrs. Blackwell calls a vote with 4 yeas, no nays, motion carries.

DISCUSS A NEW AMBULANCE and

DISCUSS MOVING MONEY INTO THE ROLLING STOCK ACCOUNT– Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said if it is okay, I would like to have a brief moment to explain what we are looking at. Can we tie this and the next item together. The Board agrees.

Chief continues to explain our Rolling Stock, which is our Restricted Fund, every dollar we put in there is set for a specific purchase. Our Operating Account is where our Ad velorem comes in and what we use to run the Department. Before I became Chief, we had monies that carry over from year to year. I want to allocate those monies and get our operating account closer to what we budget each year. This money is still there and steadily growing. I would like to use those one time monies and get that account closer to where it needs to be. With that being said, I will let Chief Parish break down what we are thinking.

Chief Parish said, in our Operating Account we almost have \$2 million of untouchable money that we cannot use because it's not budgeted to anything. It's old money that has been carried over from year to year. It's not earmarked for anything and if we start spending that money it will throw the whole budget off. Our only option to be able to do anything with it is to move it out of that account and earmark it for projects. It is close to \$2 million, it has \$1.8 million in it. The Chief requested that we move \$1.5 million into the Rolling Stock Fund (Restricted account). With the projects that we currently have saved, which does include paying the Fire truck off, the \$222,000, we owe on the ambulance, the \$500,000 we have for

the station renovations. For the other station, he wants to add on the back of the other station where the slab is so we have somewhere to park the other ambulance. He budgeted into that, the storage shed where we pored the slab. There is money dedicated for the dispatch consoles, if we have to pay the \$50,000 fee, that we don't know if we will have to pay that and there is another radio project that we are looking at and \$24,000 for a radio grant that is earmarked. We don't know if we will get the grant but the whole fire service in St. Tammany applied for it. It's a \$2 million grant and our portion will be \$24,000, and we will get 30 new radios worth \$200,000. He budgeted for the remount of the old ambulance and Station 112 repairs we added to it. The very least we would have to move is \$514,000, from General Operating, to cover all of these expenses that are earmarked. He is asking for \$1.5 million to be moved to bring that number where it should be.

Mr. Trascher asked what would be a 6 month operating amount for this department? Chief Parish said that's in a different account but it would be less than \$200,000. We budgeted that amount and are 1 week short of 7 months of operating cost. Mr. Trascher said by moving that out of there, we will still have a fund balance to cover 6 months of operating.

Chief Dockery said, we removed the \$150,000, as of now we have \$1.5 million in our operating account that is not committed. Chief Parish said we have 2 million. Mr. Trascher said that's outside of our operating account so, we can move that money into the Restricted Account where it would require Board approval so we can disburse it as needed. I think this is good prudent management.

Chief Parish said when we get to Discuss the New Ambulance, that discussion is about refurbishing the old ambulance. The money on paper is for that refurbishing. They can only give us a 90% cost but without seeing it, would be \$240,000. What we came across this past week is a brand new ambulance that will be available in November. It is in production right now. We spoke to them about it and it is \$352,000. We asked if we could get it painted to match our other vehicles. We have not discussed selling our old one back yet. Year-to-date, we have already spent \$230,000, on maintenance on our ambulances. Last year was \$17,000 on the maintenance on the 3 ambulances. Refurbishing will take a year for them to refurbish it. The new one is coming off the line in November for \$352,000. We then can get rid of the other 3 because we can't keep them running. If we purchase this one also, we will have 2 brand new ambulances.

Mr. Trascher said, I would like to settle first, how much we want to transfer from the Operating Account to the Restricted Fund?

Chief Parish said, \$1.5 million and I can explain why that amount.

Mr. Lindsey asked for a breakdown on how it's that amount.

Chief Parish explained that the biggest portion of that is the \$800,000 is to be added to the \$500,000, for station renovations and bring that to \$1.3 million.

Mr. Trascher asked to address each thing separately. We can address moving the money so we have a fund balance in the Operating account that we consider reasonable. The figure that we are looking at is \$1.5 million, for operating the department.

Chief Parish said that the Operating account is just for operations. We have an emergency account for operating the department for 6 months in reserve.

Mr. Trascher said we can entertain a motion to transfer \$1.5 million from the Operating Account to the Restricted Account.

Mr. Lindsey said, before we do that, will that get us what we need? Does that include buying the new ambulance?

Chief Parish explained that the account has \$1.8 in it right now and if we move \$1.5 million, we will have \$3,311,000. This is over budgeted, for paying off the \$1 million for the new engine that we are paying off, \$222,000 for the new ambulance that we are paying off, \$60,000 is projected for Station 112 build back, \$45,000 projected for this build out, \$50,000 for the consoles, \$350,000 for the ambulance, \$40,000 for station repairs and the \$24,000. After we make all these payments, if we moved the \$1.5 and we can do all these things, we would have \$1.5 million left in the Rolling Stock Account. That \$1.5 million is, \$1.3 million for the new station which would leave \$185,000 in that account which is our new Rolling Stock Account and we would start rebuilding that account for our next capital purchase.

Mr. Swann asked for a breakdown of all these things so we can see what is dedicated to each thing.

Chief Parish I will print this paper and give you a copy before they leave.

Mr. Trascher said that once this is moved to this account, it will need Board Approval.

Chief Parish pointed out that some of these are already approved by the Board. The Engine is already approved, the \$220,000, for the Ambulance is already approved, the remodel of \$355,000, which only a portion of that, \$200,000, has been approved, Station 112 is approved, this building (the Classroom) is approved, Station 112 repairs is a new thing that is not approved, the radio grant is not approved, pending the grant which we should find out about in September.

After the approval of moving the \$1.5 million, and completing these 8 projects, we would have \$1.5 million. If signed tomorrow to build a new station, it would cost \$1.3 million. After we spend that we will have \$185,000 in the account. We have this in the account because we have the engine and ambulances and other projects until we spend the money on that. We are still trying for the grant for the new building. We received plans from District 2, because building a new one is more efficient, the one they just bought, and its the same footprint as ours and they spent \$1.2 million on it. This building is 50 years old.

Mr. Trascher makes a motion to move \$1.5 million from the Operating Account and move it to the Rolling Stock.

Mr. Lindsey seconds the motion.

Mrs. Blackwell calls a roll call vote with 4 yeas, no nays. Motion carried. Are we going to make a motion on the new ambulance we talked about?

Chief Parish wants to mention that they are temporarily holding the ambulance for us until next Friday. We need to let him know this week. The current ambulance is a 14' box. This ambulance that we already bought is a 12' box, Dodge chassis and going down on the box size saved us money. We also ordered an extra generator with this ambulance so when it needs to be serviced, we can send just the generator to the shop. This new ambulance is a gas truck and also has a new generator. This ambulance is just like the one that we ordered except the door is moved up forward on the box which is the new design and this is a 550 vs. a 450. To replace the box on the old ambulance it would be approximately \$250,000, with all the repairs it needs. This new one would be \$355,000, which is included in the \$1.5 that is being moved.

Mr. Lindsey said he thinks it's a good idea that we would have 2 new ambulances and the \$355,000 is included in the money being moved. We have a short window for this and would not have to wait a year for a new ambulance. On the page it is listed as a remount but it would be purchasing a new one. This is a life saving ambulance that would be a great addition.

Chief Parish said the engine was a 2 year wait and this one is already in production and would be ready in November. They will paint it and do the graphics to match what we have. It's also a 14' box on this one like we currently have but we only have until Friday to let them know. If approved, we will surplus the three old ambulances that we have and recoup some of the money.

Mr. Lindsey asked if they would take the old one as a trade in and then makes a motion to purchase this ambulance also, Mr. Trascher seconds.

A roll call vote was called with 4 yeas, no nays, motion carried.

A/C ISSUES AT STATION 112, DISCUSS QUOTES – Chief Dockery

Chief Parish said we had 4 companies come out and give us quotes on the roof at Station 112. We've had problems with the a/c unit there and it's leaked and now we need a new roof. We cannot band-aid it anymore. We took the three best quotes that range from \$19,000 to \$17,000, and we have a \$16,400. The \$12,000 quote is the cheapest option. What we want to do is replace the system down stairs the way it is supposed to be, which is the one that is leaking. We had it quoted for a whole home unit downstairs and a split unit for upstairs where the sleeping quarters are. We had each company quote it both ways, the split unit and the whole unit upstairs which we do not need because the room is not that big. We really want to talk about the whole house and split upstairs. We have quotes from Benfatti of \$13,000, All In A/C at \$15,756, and Mike's A/C, who has been doing the work for us, he came in at \$17,000. Downstairs is a 3 ton and the quotes are for 3 ton units. They are all the same brand unit which is a Train unit downstairs with a split unit upstairs. We also want to replace the ducting that we can access because it is so damp. The quotes only include the first 6 feet of ducting because they can't see the rest. We need to change the ducting. We already have \$40,000 in the budget for Station 112 repairs. It also needs insulation which we would like to put the spray foam on the exterior walls. Right now the sleeping quarters only have a portable air condition unit.

Mr. Lindsey said this needs to be fixed and wants to replace all the duct work. If the ceiling needs to be repaired, my company will donate the time to fix the ceilings.

Mr. Dreux said that the one of \$17,050, has UV under recommended items which is definitely a plus.

Chief Parish said that we put \$40,000, in the budget for repairs. We have issues and can't push these off.

Mr. Trascher makes a motion to accept the quote of \$13,000 plus \$1,750 for the UV. Mr. Lindsey seconds. Mrs. Blackwell calls a roll call vote with 4 yeas, no nays, motion carries.

DISCUSSION ON QUOTES FOR METAL BUILDING BEHIND STATION 111 – Chief Dockery

Chief Parish said we got quotes for a metal shed behind Station 111. We received quotes from several contracts and we were surprised. The quotes range from \$30,000 and \$60,000. We already bought the wood. The building is not that big. ECO was one of the companies and he was one of the lowest ones.

Mr. Trascher is concerned with the location of the slab that is for the building and suggest they call the Parish to make sure it will not be an issue building on it because it's only 3 foot from the property line.

Mr. Swann asked to find out how thick the slab is and if it has any footings.

Mr. Trascher asked to Table this item until the next meeting pending the information needed.

Mrs. Blackwell asked if there are any other comments?

PUBLIC COMMENT – Chairman Michele Blackwell

Mr. Lindsey thanks the Chief's for the work looking into the ambulance and things like that and also for the saving by paying off the engine to save money. Mr. Dreux said this is how the process is suppose to work.

Chief Parish thanks the Board for allowing us to do all of these things.

Mr Lindsey makes a motion to adjourn. Mr. Trascher seconds. All in favor, motion carries.