



St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 11
Board of Commissioner's
Minutes of the Meeting on May 9, 2023
Fire Chief Jack Dockery
7:02 pm – 7:33 pm

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

Mr. Trascher said, Madam Chair, if it pleases the Board, I would like to move that we open the agenda and move up the tabled matter so it can be handled under the Chief's Report and we add the appointment to the Civil Service Board to the list.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do I have a second?

Mr. Lindsey said, I second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries. So, we are opening it to move the...

Mr. Trascher said, to move the Minutes and to handle the Financial Report because we have the Financial Report that was tabled.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, has everybody read and approved the minutes from the April 11th, meeting?

Mr. Lindsey said, I browsed through them and everything seemed to be in order.

Mr. Trascher said, I also reviewed them and they seem to be in order. If there is no further discussion, I move that we adopt them with the video governing.

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, I am sorry, I am out of line. Mr. Dreux, how do you vote?

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I think I got everybody in there, motion carries. We will move right on to the Financial Report, Chief.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, alright, in front of you, you should have 2 Financial Reports. One from March which, of course, this was last months. Then, you have April's. We are looking for a 33%, for our budget. So, just glancing through, as our every day usage, Fuel is at 34.14%, so, a little bit above what we are aiming for, for the month of April. Everything else as in monthly dues or monthly bills, seem to be in line running close to that rate of the 33%. Nothing really outstanding at this time. Do you all want to over to the March too or do you just want to review that? I think we had that for Old Business.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, we moved it up on the agenda so that you can address it now.

Chief Dockery said, okay, for March, the same thing. It's not 33%, I would have to figure it up but, it looked to be in line with everything else. Fuel is at 26%, give me one second.

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, excuse me, the biggest item that I see that we have is the Medical Equipment and Repairs.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, at 41%, but, it remained the same from March to April.

Chief Dockery said, yes, that's just yearly maintenance for our stretchers, for our monitors, they come in and do calibrations on them and make sure they are functioning correctly for the year and if we have anything that breaks on them that we need parts for, blood pressure cuffs or the wires...

Mr. Trascher asked, did we have anything that came up because we are over 50% already on the budget.

Chief Dockery said, no, that's just if something breaks on it. Like I said, if we needed a blood pressure cuff, I think we needed two pulse ox leads.

Mr. Trascher said, so we had some purchases that we needed.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, and they are going to be front end loaded, if you will, in the beginning of the year.

Chief Dockery said, yes, that is not a monthly occurrence.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, thank you Chief.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, does anybody have any questions on the Financial Report?

Mr. Trascher said, and the other one is a Lease, I guess we made a lease payment?

Chief Dockery said, yes, a lease payment for \$69,000, I think.

Mr. Trascher said, for \$64,000, maybe?

Chief Dockery said, yes, \$64,000, and we just made a payment on the truck.

Mr. Trascher said, and again, that is not a recurring expense.

Chief Dockery said, it's a once a year thing.

Mr. Trascher said, it's we paid it and monthly it should drop down and fall within the budget.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, thank you Chief.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, any other questions on the Financial Report?

EMS

Chief Dockery said, alright, on the Medical side, it looks like we brought in \$17,945.06, for the month of April. Totaled out at \$18,625.93, with, it looks like \$680.87, of bad debt. That gave us the \$17,945.06.

Mr. Lindsey asked, Chief, have we got any funds in yet from the program with the accidents?

Chief Dockery said, I have not but I just had a run of MVA's and car fires that I am putting in this week and I will check up on anything else.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, we haven't had any deposits or anything yet?

Chief Dockery said, we had that one deposit of \$1,800 and some change and that was it.

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, I am a little confused with the numbers down at the bottom where it has total deposits, that's \$18,600, posted is \$16,800. Is that what's posted to the account?

Chief Dockery said, that's...

Mr. Trascher said, and then, there's a credit card total of \$1,129.

Chief Dockery said, yes, the credit card is what they bring in. We never see that. The person pays it by credit card and it goes directly to the billing company. The posted is what we actually send in to our bank. We actually, physically get a check and we send it in and deposit it into our bank account. The credit card is the patient pays by credit card and sends it directly to the billing company. So, we don't see that and that's where we get the posted of \$16,815.38, is what we physically put in.

Mr. Trascher said, so, that was funds that we put in our hand to collect to do that and \$1,100 of credit cards that people paid with the card that we get credit for, financial credit. We don't actually deposit that, they deposit it in our account.

Chief Dockery said, that is correct.

Mr. Trascher said, then, not posted is the \$680.

Chief Dockery said, bad debt.

Mr. Trascher said, credit card bounce, check bounce, for a total of \$17,945, of income for that period.

Chief Dockery said, yes, sir.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, thank you.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, is there any other questions about the EMS Report?

Mr. Lindsey said, I don't have any questions.

Mrs. Blackwell said, alright, if there are no other questions we will move to the Chief's Report, Chief Dockery.

CHIEF'S REPORT/ EMS REPORT - Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, for the month of April, we had:

| | |
|---|-----|
| EMS | 70 |
| MVA | 6 |
| STRUCTURE FIRES (1 Mutual Aid District 7) | 2 |
| VEHICLE FIRES | 2 |
| GRASS/WOOD FIRE | 1 |
| SERVICE/GOOD INTENT | 12 |
| DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE | 6 |
| FALSE ALARM | 4 |
| POLICE MATTERS | 1 |
| TOTAL | 104 |

ENGINE 111 AT SHOP

Chief Dockery continued, at the bottom, Engine 111, I have it at the shop on the South Shore. Forgive me, my brain is fuzzy right now. I can't remember if it's Harahan or Harvey. I think it's Harvey, it is Harvey because it was the tunnel. So, it's over there trying to get the a/c fixed on it and we had some trouble with the ABS light. I had the technician come out to the station and when he was looking at it, he couldn't figure it out on site and so it need to go to the shop so he could tear into it some more so, it's got a little punch list of items I want to get looked at on it. So, of course, get the ABS fixed, whatever is happening with it and I would like to get the a/c fixed. That way the guys aren't you know, they have somewhat, comfort and it looks like I had a bad wheel seal up front that I found last week so, I am having them go through and give it a good look over and go from there on getting the repairs done.

Mr. Trascher asked, is that a specialty shop over there or could we use a, what about this Freight Liner place in Slidell?

Chief Dockery said, it is a specialty shop with emergency vehicle technicians being that it's their product, especially like the ABS, it's their system so, it has to go there to get looked at. Now, if it's something else that can be done, like I have an error code that just came up on our service truck. It can actually go to Freight Liner in Slidell. They can look at it and see. It just depends on what piece of the truck is acting up. If it's something a local mechanic shop can do, by all means we will do it local but, that one, unfortunately, being something with the computer or some type of sensor, Pierce has to look at it and correct it.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, thank you. I was just wondering.

Chief Dockery said, I will let you all know as soon as I hear something on that, what we are looking at with it. Other than that, I know it's not on the agenda, it's just for your information but, in front of you is the working copy of the audit findings for that. That is for you all to read over. We sent it into the Parish and we are waiting for the final copy to come out. That's all I have. Oh no, sorry, I just got word today, I have to dig it up from my email real fast. The State Fire Marshal is doing a program for the high school system. Of course, I am not going to be able to find it because I am blind. The idea is that they have a program set aside for the high schools in Louisiana and if they want to accept the program, students can go through, along with local fire departments, and kind of go through some of the training while they are in school. That way they can get Hazmat Awareness, Hazmat Operations, even up to Fire Fighter 1. Now, I don't know all the details of what all this includes but, it's kind of what we were talking about a couple of meetings ago.

Mr. Trascher said, recruiting and (inaudible) training.

Chief Dockery said, I am going to meet with the Principle of the high school and see if I can get her on board with it. I think it would be something great for this area. I mean, at least they can go in and see if they like it. If it's something that interest them, by all means, they would be able to come out right out of school and start a career.

Mr. Trascher said, absolutely, I think that would be great. It's a great idea.

Chief Dockery said, that just hit today and I am going to get some more information on it and talk with the Principle of the high school and see if I can get her on board with that.

Mr. Trascher said, and get that program off the ground with it. I think that would be great.

Mr. Lindsey asked, is that something that the State that would provide some funds for?

Chief Dockery said, I know it came from the State Fire Marshal of Louisiana, the FETA, so, I would say I hope they would be putting some money into it. Like I said, I just got the letter today stating that they were starting this program. I don't know what all they are going to put into it.

Mr. Lindsey said, I don't know how they work their EMT classes there because I know the students can get their EMT certification , in high school.

Chief Dockery said, yep.

Mr. Lindsey said, I don't know if they pay the instructor's, you know, to teach them or is it

strictly, I don't know, I am just wondering if there is any, think it's a great program. I think it's a great idea.

Chief Dockery said, well, I know the EMT part is, especially at Pearl River High, what we have done in the past is, the students have class there but, they also come to the station and ride in the med truck for 2 hours a day or how ever many days a week and that's where they get their hands on training from. We've have had a good relationship doing that in the past. Actually, I have one that is going to be starting this next year. She is a junior this year and she came and got the paper work signed so, she will start next year. So, it might be something along those lines. I would like to find out more and see if LSU is going to fund some of this or what their curriculum is going to be on it. But, it would be nice to have a foot in the door and get it started.

Mr. Lindsey said, I think it would be. It's a great program you know, to give them an opportunity for a career as well as potentially keeping them out of trouble if they have something to be involved in but, I was just wondering if the State may have funds that they may pay the departments with the help to compensate with the training.

Mr. Trascher said, would think, they may put together a program for us or something to do that with.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, we may be able to, regardless if we make any money off of it or not, I think it's a great idea.

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mr. Lindsey said, but, if there are funds available, a grant or something like that, that would help offset the cost.

Mr. Trascher said, we may have to take some, not just from Pearl River High but, we may take some from Slidell or something, other schools to bring in to make up a class for the State to fund it.

Chief Dockery said, so, we will see. I will get more details on it.

Mr. Trascher said, but, yes, I think we can jump with both feet.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I will shoot it your way. That way we can all look over it.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, I like the idea.

Mr. Dreux said, whoever is teaching the EMS class has to be certified so one of the teacher's must have gotten certified.

Chief Dockery said, I think they have some outside source to come in from college or somewhere.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's what I am wondering if they have like Acadian or something come in to teach.

Mr. Dreux said, yeah well Acadian isn't doing it for nothing.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's what I am saying. There may be some funds.

Mr. Trascher said, as long as we aren't paying I don't care. Come on in.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have any other questions on the Chief's Report or anything like that? We will move on to the Civil Service Appointment, Floyd.

OLD BUSINESS

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT (TABLED) – Moved up on the Agenda and covered in the Financial Report.

NEW BUSINESS

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD APPOINTMENT – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher said, Mrs. Rinkus did contact Southeastern University and they have 4 candidates that they recommended for our consideration for the Civil Service Board. Ms. Tammi Fandel, Ms. Kathryn Milton, Mr. John Hindman and Ms. Beatriz Newell. Mrs. Rinkus, I understand, attempted to contact all of the people on the list and she was successful in contacting Ms. Newell. Ms. Newell indicated that she would like to serve on our Civil Service Board.

Mr. Lindsey said, well, that's good.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, with that said, Mrs. Rinkus did drop off some information on the Civil Service Board to Ms. Newell so that she can begin looking at it. Our next step would be to pick someone from this list and do a resolution for appointment and then that person would complete the Oath of Office and they would begin to serve on the Civil Service Board. Mrs. Rinkus, I think you said the next meeting of the Civil Service Board is in June?

Mrs. Rinkus said, correct.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, so if we did make the appointment tonight, and get the Oath of Office in, we could have the retiring Board Member and Mrs. Newell attend the meeting and they can pass the all the books and information on.

Mr. Dreux asked, is she the only one that responded?

Mr. Trascher said, that's what I understand.

Mr. Dreux asked, is there a time limit on people responding or just...

Mr. Trascher said, we tried to call them.

Mr. Dreux said, yes and (inaudible).

Mr. Trascher said, that's why I mentioned the other names. It just dawned on me, Tammi Fandal, I believe that is Mrs. Ruby's daughter and her husband was a pharmacist CVS. I believe Tammi Fandal is Mrs. Ruby's daughter. I know the name sounded familiar but, she was not able to reach her.

Mr. Swann asked, do they check with these people to see if they want to serve?

Mr. Trascher said, no.

Mr. Swann said, they just send it out.

Mr. Trascher said, they just send names that attended the university.

Mr. Swann said, it don't make a lot of sense.

Mrs. Blackwell said, but the one person that Georgette did get in contact, she will serve.

Mr. Swann said, but before they send you 4 names, people should agree that they would like to do that.

Mrs. Rinkus said, I tried to call all of them, if you would like I can try to send out notices to all of them. I tried to call the phone numbers that were on the letter and she is the only one I could reach.

Mr. Dreux said, if I don't know the numbers, I am not answering it.

Mr. Lindsey said, but, we have one on the hook.

Mr. Trascher said, she said Mrs. Newell did say that she would serve. I know Mrs. Buck wants to get off of the Board. She has some other plans for her life I guess. If we can get her to come to the June meeting and bring her information and pass it on, we can make the appointment this evening and Ms. Newell can do the Oath of Office. Chief, have we begun our elections?

Chief Dockery said, we have. Elections will end May 15th.

Mr. Trascher said, so, possibly for June we will have an appointment from the department which will fill our Board.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, so, with that said, I guess if it's the pleasure of the Board, I would move that we appoint Ms. Newell.

Mr. Lindsey said, I second that.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, Mrs. Rinkus, if you would, please contact Ms. Newell tomorrow and explain to her that we did do a resolution to appoint her and that we would like her to be at our June meeting and that we need her to do the Oath of Office. That's got to be notarized. So, if she has any problems, she needs a notary to sign it. If she doesn't have access to one or something like that, we will see what we can do to get one for her.

Mrs. Rinkus said, okay.

Mr. Trascher said, we can get one, I don't know which one, Tim Matheson or Thursday, we can get Michael Tassin to do it at court.

Mrs. Rinkus said, one more question that I have is that the Civil Service meeting is usually at 6:00, on the same day our meeting is on. It will be June 13th.

Mr. Trascher said, okay.

Mrs. Rinkus said, so, can she attend that one before our meeting?

Mr. Trascher said, absolutely, once she does the Oath of Office... we as a Board, we don't have to do anything further other than that she has the Oath of Office to send it in. Mrs. Kriste Buck has a lot of files I think, or if she has some books that the Civil Service gave her, she can come that night with Ms. Newell and she can pass all that on and she will be finished and we can thank her for her service.

Mrs. Rinkus said, yes, I thought so, I just wanted to make sure. I will give her a call.

Mr. Trascher said, and the same thing with the departments appointee. They should be on board by June 13th, too. So, that should be a full complement taking in.

Mrs. Blackwell said, nice. Any other comments about that? If there's no other comments we will go to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Blackwell asked, does any body have any comments?

Mr. Trascher said, we don't have any public.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, does anybody have any comments? I not, we can adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Dreux said, I have a question before we adjourn. It's to Floyd, well, I guess I should ask Chief. Anything on the building?

Chief Dockery said, I emailed them and he is out of town until the 15th.

Mr. Dreux said, oh, okay.

Chief Dockery said, when he gets back I will hit him up again and find out where we are at with the plans.

Mr. Trascher said, and we are waiting on plans. What about our gutters up there? Don't look at me in that tone...(laughing).

Mr. Dreux said, Chief said, if you all want to come over, come over and you can put them up.

Chief Dockery said, the issue I am running into is, everyone is doing the small gutters and I put out for 4 other companies instead of the one that we have that never shows up or couldn't get the materials. I've been waiting to hear but, I want to say those are a different size gutter. Correct me if I am wrong, it was 6 inch and 5 inch.

Mr. Lindsey said, that would be the standard residential.

Chief Dockery said, okay, that was my biggest issue right now is, a lot of them are not doing commercial. Other than us go and get something made where he was talking about. Even Adco doesn't make the size that we are looking for.

Mrs. Blackwell said, that was the last resort.

Mr. Dreux said, you need to try Copper by Tom. I will give him a buzz.

Chief Dockery asked, who?

Mr. Dreux said, Copper by Tom, he is in, off 59, in Mandeville.

Mr. Trascher asked, is it copper gutters?

Mr. Dreux said, he can do any gutters.

Chief Dockery said, by all means, if you know somebody that do bigger...

Mr. Lindsey said, I was about to say, we going all the way with copper gutters.

Mr. Trascher said, yeah, this ain't the coroner's office.

Chief Dockery said, this ain't the French Quarters,.

Mr. Dreux said, because they start (inaudible) and would be like that looks bad.

Mr. Lindsey said, and you wake up one morning and they would be gone.

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

Chief Dockery said, we will get off record and I will tell you stories.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, any other comments? Does any body else have any questions?

Mr. Lindsey said, the only comment that I have is I won't be able to make the July meeting. So, if there is anything I need to do ahead of time.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we do have an extra June meeting, don't we?

Chief Dockery said, we do have an extra June meeting. June 20, 2023, at 7:00 pm, at Koop Drive. Preferably, I would rather us have our regular June meeting to get anything out of the way of normal business and then, June 20th, have nothing but the millage.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, we do not want to have our regular meeting in Covington. When we go up there our agenda is going to be "open", pass the millage, whatever verbiage we need to read and you will get that for us?

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, and then vote and close. But, I believe that 2/3 of the Board has to be there.

Chief Dockery said, yes, we need everyone to be there just to be safe.

Mr. Lindsey said, the only one I can't make is the beginning of July because I am not going to be here.

Mr. Trascher said, we need to carpool or what ever we have to do.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, what day is that?

Chief Dockery said, June 20th.

Mr. Lindsey said, I will still be here then.

Chief Dockery said, 2023.

Mr. Dreux asked, is that on the sheet she gave us?

Chief Dockery said, I sent you all an email stating what the date was.

Mr. Trascher said, we did get an email.

Mr. Lindsey said, I probably got it already on my calendar.

Chief Dockery said, all of the ad's have been sent out in the Farmer and the Time's Picayune and it's ran in the allotted times and it's been posted on our social media, on our website. I've had Captain Geissler send out a press release to all the papers, the TV stations, the whole 9 yards. Everything they have asked for, we have done.

Mr. Trascher said, all we have to do is open, read the adjusted millage rates, and roll forward...

Chief Dockery said, and go home.

Mr. Trascher said, and I don't think there will be any public there.

Mr. Lindsey said, last time we did it and nobody was there.

Mr. Trascher said, well what I have seen, when you look at rolling up, it's a minuscule amount that we are going to collect compared to other departments.

Chief Dockery said, \$127,000, and some change I think.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, from the other departments, it's...

Mr. Lindsey asked, and what time is that meeting for?

Chief Dockery said, it's for 7:00, I believe.

Mr. Lindsey said, okay.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Georgette, we have a date, your picking me up.

Chief Dockery said, yes, 7:00 pm.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, because I don't know...

Mr. Trascher said, yes, we can car pool to Koop Drive.

Mr. Lindsey said, I just figured I would mention that in case we needed to do something ahead of time for the early July meeting because, I will miss it by a couple of days.

Mr. Trascher asked, and where in this world will you be then?

Mr. Lindsey said, Ireland.

Mr. Swann said, that's neat!

Mr. Trascher said, really? That's a long boat ride.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we want to adjourn our meeting before we discuss Ireland?

Mr. Lindsey said, I make a motion we adjourn.

Mr. Trascher said, second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, no.