

St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 11
Board of Commissioners
Minutes of the Meeting on January 10, 2017

ROLL CALL

Don Thanars - Present
Jackelyn Gallo - Present
Eugene Swann - Present
Floyd Trascher - Present
Michele Blackwell - Present

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

Mrs. Michele Blackwell asked, has everybody read and approved the minutes of the December 13th meeting?

Mrs. Gallo said, yes ma'am, we received those and I have looked over them.

Mr. Trascher said, I looked over them and I had one concern with a problem we had in the past with addressing the proper titles for the officers in the department. I was not aware that Chief, Chief Parish or Matt Parish has a designation of Chief. I understand the department only had, you know, we had Chief Leos, who is the Chief. We have Chief Dockery who is the Chief of Operations. In the past when we denoted the chief in the minutes and it was pointed out that the first reference to any Chief other than Chief Leos would have their full title. Chief Dockery, Chief of Operations. Chief Parish, what ever his title, I think his title, Chief Leos, he is Chief of Volunteers?

Chief Leos said, Deputy Chief of Volunteers.

Mr. Trascher said, Deputy Chief of Volunteers, and they list that full title in the first reference and then after that, throughout the minutes, they list them as Chief. They were quite extensive, but that was the only correction that I saw that I think we needed to make.

Mrs. Blackwell calls on Mr. Thanars.

Mr. Thanars said, just a point of order. What we should do is that when we have, when we don't have a motion on the floor, typically, you would have your motion made and then seconded. Then, when you have unreadiness, we would site that before we are going to vote to adopt these. Again, it's just merely, protocol, in terms of how we should conduct our

business.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok, so do you want to, let's do a motion and this first...

Mr. Thanars said, it should have been a motion made to adopt the minutes and then we are doing unreadiness and that's when Mr. Floyd should have been recognized and extended the the floor to site his opinions. Again, it's just protocol.

Mrs. Blackwell said, point noted. Ok, do we have a motion to make?

Mrs. Gallo said, I make a motion to approve the minutes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have a second?

Mr. Thanars said, second.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, all in favor, is there a discussion? Mr. Trascher, do you...

Mr. Trascher said, I stated my position and I disagree that there is a point of order that, you asked about the minutes and I stated what I found that needed to be revised prior to a motion to approve. So, I would not, at this time, I can't comment on a motion to approve. If the motion was to approve the minutes then no I am not.

Mrs. Gallo said, so given that, I make a motion to approve the minutes with the revisions that we would note proper titles of Chief Dockery as well as Chief Parish and make those corrections.

Mr. Trascher said, don't we already have a motion?

Mrs. Gallo said, yep.

Mr. Trascher said, who made the motion to approve it?

Mrs. Gallo said, I did.

Mr. Trascher said, ok. So, your going to rescind that motion?

Mrs. Gallo said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok we rescind the first motion. Our motion now is to accept the minutes according to the revisions that need to be made.

Mr. Trascher said, I would second that with the video governing, if I might add.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we have a second. Mr. Don Thanars, how do you vote?

Mr. Thanars said, yea.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mrs. Jackelyn Gallo?

Mrs. Gallo said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Eugene Swann?

Mr. Swann said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Floyd Trascher?

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries, thank you. Financial Report?

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Gallo said, we do have our First National Bank Statements. Mrs. Wynn Williams has included on there, our titles to our accounts so we can recognize them. Our Debt Service Fund is sitting in idle. Our last payment did come out of that so we have a balance in that account of \$30,794. Our Surplus Bond Fund has a balance of \$126. So, we did acknowledge some of the transfers that we talked about in prior meetings and that has taken place. Our Operating Account currently has \$79,000, so obviously, that is an end of year balance. Makes everyone a little uneasy to see a balance that low but it's anticipated and expected. The Rolling Stock Facilities Equipment Fund is the full title of what the account is named. It has a balance of \$40,000 in it. Our Clearing Account, which is for payroll, has a balance of \$25,700. With the finance report, I have asked Wynn Williams to be here tonight. I would like to recognize her and ask her to come up. One of the items that I brought up at the last meeting was concern with First NBC with the announcement that had come out, I think it was early November. Somewhere around there in the newspaper. So, I had a discussion about that with Mrs. Williams about that and asked her to just share her comments on that with the Board in addition to our Financial Report. So if I may...

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mrs. Wynn?

Mrs. Wynn Williams asked, would you like me up there or here?

Mrs. Blackwell said, up here.

Mr. Trascher said, that way we can get a pretty picture of you.

Mrs. Williams said, alright. Good evening everyone. To start off where we came from in the end of October to November time frame, there were some changes that happened with First NBC Bank which had to do with our tax credits. We have done a lot of lending in the past few years on tax credits. That's how we restore older facilities in the New Orleans area. We have done it also on the North Shore, the Old Southern Hotel on Boston Street was done

with tax credits and over the years the bank has taken the depreciation over the years starting in 2008. The auditors had recommended and forcefully told us we can no longer do the depreciation over the years, we had to take it all in one lump sum. So, from 2008 to 2015, the fourth quarter of 2015, we had to take those hits at one time. That hit in our liquidity and capitalization very hard. So, at that point the FDIC said, "we were no longer well capitalized, we were adequately capitalized". Well, at that point, we had a certain amount of time in which to get the bank back to well capitalized. At that point, I started reaching out to all my public funds, entities that I deal with and I did come speak with Chief Leos. I explained to him what was going on. As far as the entities with public funds, you guys were well secured. I made sure that everybody had their updated security letters. Everything was fine as far as that was concerned. So, there was no imminent pending issues towards your accounts in any way, shape or form. I wanted to secure that security with you and that's why I reached out to all the entities. So, that being said, that I am going to jump a little bit forward to the last business day in December, December 30th we did announce that we sold nine branches. In the sale of the nine branches, also went the deposits and the people. That was so we can enhance our liquidity and capitalization even better. So, we are more stronger now than we ever been. We got in liquidity over \$200 million dollars just in cash. So, we have positioned ourselves quite well to get out from underneath the FDIC's wishes which was two things. One, get your capitalization back up. Because we grew so rapidly in 2015 and we didn't have the personnel to handle the growth, we had to then add more personnel to the bank and we also through his retirement plan, Ashton Roberts stepped down as CEO but he still remains as president. That being said, the branches that have sold in the Slidell, Pearl River area is, one, Pearl River. Slidell Gause West, by the mall and Pontchartrain. I am housed at Gause East so your accounts and all the public funds, which fall under my officer code, remains in Gause East and they are still well capitalized and everything is fine. We had to makes some of these changes to get the bank righted, the ship righted, for lack of a better way to say it and to move forward as a community bank. I think that we made the most important steps. We did insure that the banks that we sold and the people that were in those branches remained employed with the new employer which is Whitney Bank, Hancock Whitney. Sometimes in the banking, of course Jackie you know this, the banks are always up for sale, always. So, it's never a given that a bank will always be that bank in any given day or time. But banks don't just shut down in the middle of the day or the middle of the week. If they are going to shut down and the way the new rules and regulations are with federal government is the FDIC must come in and find a buyer for those banks and work with them. So, they don't no longer, as they did in the eighties, fail. I knew that not only was your collateralization steady, but in case, if anything happened on a Friday evening at 5:00 and the FDIC knocked on our door, we would one, reopen Monday morning as a new bank and two, your monies would be available immediately. They would not be hard for you to get. Your payroll would be met. So, I made sure all of those things were insured and relayed those to Chief Leos when all of this started to happen. At this point, your fine and I wanted to announce to you, you will find tomorrow morning, your account has been enhanced because the wires came through tonight. I do not know how much is in your account until I can see them in the morning because they came in after 4:00, which means they will not be credited to your account until tomorrow morning and then I will issue an new security letter to make sure that you are well kept, collateral wise. I will insure that you make sure that the collateralization letter is in a First NBC file within your

department so that when your auditors come in, that is the first letter they are going to look for, that you have it in there. Ok?

Mr. Trascher said, could you help me a little bit here with enhanced?

Mrs. Williams said, in other words, you got your monies from the Sheriff's Department. Your ad velorem taxes.

Mrs. Gallo said, our money hit the account. The taxes came in.

Mr. Trascher said, ok, I can understand that.

Mrs. Gallo said, your money came in.

Mrs. Williams said, again, the Sheriffs Department released a lot of wires late this evening. Because it went in after 4:00, it's not credited until tomorrow's business. Therefore, you are still well collateralized, your still fine and everything is ok. I have been working overtime diligently to make sure that this is all done because, I'm just going to be honest with you. I came to you and asked you if you would be a partner with First NBC Bank and you have given me your honor in which to do that and I appreciate it. Two, I live in this Parish and I have also sat as a commissioner on Fire District 1, so I know how important it is to be a guardian of the peoples money. I appreciate your support. I will always make sure that your monies are safe because, not only as a citizen, my reputation and my integrity are on the line here. So, I will always make sure your monies are safe first. If I ever felt like they weren't, you would be the first one I come to. That's all I have to say.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you Mrs. Wynn, we appreciate it.

Mrs. Williams said, any questions?

Mr. Thanars asked, will the statements be, I guess the statements and checks be changed to Whitney Bank?

Mrs. Williams said, no, because your housed with me. Your still First NBC bank.

Mr. Swann said, no we staying First NBC.

Mr. Thanars said, it's going to stay First NBC, ok.

Mrs. Williams said, because your accounts were housed out of my branch and my branch was not sold. But, Whitney is not interested in public funds money. One, because they don't want to match that interest rate nor the free fees.

Mrs. Blackwell said, but if you bank here in Pearl River, it is going to change.

Mrs. Williams said, it is.

Mrs. Gallo said, personally. Chief, I know you bank in Bogalusa, right.

Chief said, yes.

Mrs. Gallo asked, has Bogalusa sold?

Mrs. Williams said, no.

Mrs. Gallo said, no, Bogalusa has not sold so you would remain First NBC. Just as a bases of understanding the process.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I bank here in Pearl River so I would change.

Mrs. Williams said, yes, but may I just say, if you are not happy with Whitney and don't want to stay with Whitney, you as the customer, have the control over your monies. You can close that account out and go to a First NBC branch, which there's one on Brownsitch, then there's my branch on Gause East that you can reopen under the First NBC. But, we are going to remain in these branches as FNBC until the March time frame. So, use your checks, use your time and don't waste it because you will have to open a new account once you change back over to to us, ok.

Mr. Swann said, I think you have a question.

Mrs. Lora Cutrer said, I have a question. May I ask a question?

Mrs. Williams said, sure.

Mrs. Cutrer said, we bank, the Town is with the Town of Pearl River.

Mrs. Williams said, that is correct.

Mrs. Cutrer said, so, is someone going to visit our next meeting possibly?

Mrs. Williams said, yes, I believe Joseph Montelepre is your account officer and he will be coming to visit you. I think he has already spoken to the Mayor.

Mrs. Cutrer said, so, ok no one has told us yet. I knew that had taken place.

Mrs. Williams said, the Mayor is aware of it. I just don't know, in your accounting department, I don't know how it was trickled down to y'all. But, that was announced to you guys a couple of months ago.

Mrs. Cutrer said, oh yeah, I knew but I was talking about if somebody was going to be at our meeting to have this...

Mrs. Gallo said, this discussion.

Mrs. Williams said, I will call Mr. Montelepre tomorrow and let him know that someone needs to contact your office to be at your next town council meeting, absolutely. I mean, he might have already, I'm not aware.

Mrs. Cutrer said, yes, I mean, if they haven't put him on the agenda I would really like to request that he be put on the agenda for the councils to speak to him. Also, for anybody in the audience that will be attending our meeting that night, too, as well, just to secure their thoughts, too.

Mrs. Williams said, absolutely.

Mrs. Cutrer said, thank you.

Mrs. Williams said, just let me reiterate, the bank is stronger than ever now. We are not going anywhere, we just had to do some changes to get it shored up based on the fact that we lend towards tax credits. Going forward, it's all assets for us now. There's no liability note, no depreciation. When the federal government makes changes, we have to react and I hit us hard.

Mr. Trascher said, just one question, personally. The CD's, certificate of deposits, those are going to remain with First NBC?

Mrs. Williams said, yes. We are not selling any of the CD's. They will be transferred over into another branch. More likely, mine. We are not selling any CD's at all.

Mr. Trascher said, so just checking accounts and maybe savings.

Mrs. Williams said, checking accounts, money market accounts, savings accounts and they did purchase some loans but not necessarily the branches that were sold.

Mr. Trascher said, ok thank you Mrs. Williams.

Mrs. Gallo said, we had a great conversation over the phone. I appreciate you meeting with me and I appreciate you even more being here tonight. I couldn't have conveyed your message better than you did, so thank you.

Mrs. Williams said, well, I just appreciate one, your relationship and your trust in me and again, I just have to say as I told to Chief Leos, I will protect the monies of the public funds. b, Being that 's your Fire station, I have 12, 1, 3, 4. I have all of them or most of them anyway, in the parish. That's important to me and again, I have to live here and my first and foremost dedication is to the public funds.

Mrs. Gallo and Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you.

Mrs. Williams said, thank you.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you for clarifying everything.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you. That makes you sleep better.

Mrs. Gallo said, thank you for letting me introduce Wynn as part of the Financial Report. She and I caught up a little bit late after the holidays so I couldn't get it as formal as I would like. Thank you for the time.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you.

Mrs. Williams said, thank you. Anything else? If not, I have another meeting to go to. I apologize.

Mrs. Gallo said, I promised her she would be early. Have a good night.

Mrs. Williams said, thank you guys. Chief, you take care. Thank you so much and if you need anything, let me know. God Bless guys.

The Board says the thank you and God Bless.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, is there anything else for your portion? Do y'all have anything else for the financials?

Mrs. Gallo said, no ma'am. I am looking forward to that deposit.

Mr. Trascher said, for it to be enhanced. That's a new one.

Mrs. Gallo said, enhanced. That's right.

Mrs. Blackwell said, so do we have anything else for the financials, that's it? Nobody has anything?

Chief of Operations, Chief Dockery said, we received nothing from Moyle yet. The first of the year.

Mrs. Gallo said, no financial statements yet.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok. Chief's Report and the EMS Report?

Chief Leos said, these new knees aren't helping a lot.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we got an extra set of legs back there, I'm just teasing.

CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief Johnny Leos

Incidents for December

EMS	56
MVA	9
FALSE ALARM	10
SERVICE	9
GRASS/WOOD	4
ELECTRICAL	1
ANIMAL	1
TOTAL	90

Chief Leos said, and it was an animal not a person.

STATION 113 ISSUES

Chief Leos said, first thing I have on it, I have Station 113 Issues. We are running into a brick wall with the Parish. We asked for a inspection. He came out, sent us a letter saying that we were on an unapproved septic tank, but were not. We are tied into the trailer park. But, now we can't get him to come back out and us show him. So, I don't know what our next step should be.

Mr. Trascher said, I think we discussed some of this, Chief, if I may, Madam Chairman, at the last meeting.

Chief of Operations, Chief Dockery said, we did discuss this at the last meeting and after the meeting myself and Chief Parish (Deputy Chief of Volunteers) called Mr. Damion with Acadian Ambulance and he stated that they did not have any information. That, in order for them to get a title for the trailer, they had to get a salvaged title. The person who was there long ago, all the paper work went with them. So, if it was a handshake or a written agreement, it went with the personnel before. So, there's nothing there for us.

Mr. Trascher said, ok.

Mr. Swann said, that would have been good to know before we bought the trailer.

Chief Leos said, you can go there and there's a clean out plug right at the end of the trailer and if you look right out by the trailer park, there's another big clean out plug. We ran water

and that's where it's going to.

Mr. Trascher said, that's Red Oak Trailer Park. What we are going to have to do is, we are going to have to approach Red Oak Trailer Park, get a letter from them saying that we can drain into their system. Their system has to be approved because their licensed.

Chief Leos said, right.

Mr. Trascher said, if you get that and I think that's, and like I expressed to Chief Dockery, I will be happy to approach the Parish and...

Chief Leos said, I don't think the guy got out of his truck, myself.

Mr. Trascher said, Environmental Quality went out there just like I said at the meeting. What I think they did is, they looked on file and they had no permit for a tank. So, if you can get me that information, I will be happy to.

Chief Leos said, ok, we will tackle that tomorrow.

Mr. Trascher said, get with Environmental Services.

SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM

Chief Leos said, the other day Captain Geissler went to the State Fire Marshall's office and we were able to pick up 240 new smoke detectors. So, we are going to again, start installing smoke detectors and I will announce it at Town Hall, too. We are going to put fliers out. The first time we did it, we were told one per house. Now, their saying follow the NFPA standards which is one in each sleeping room. So, you can get multiple but we have to install them. We can't just hand them out. So, we got 240 of those to do so, I am glad we got that many.

PARISH MEETING FOR NFPA 1 AND NFPA101

Chief Leos continued, on the 12th I am going to attend a meeting with the Parish. I misspelled meeting. We're hoping to get the Parish to adopt NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 which is the Life Safety Code. For us to get the points for fire prevention from PIAL, the Parish has to adopt the Life Safety Code. If they don't, we don't get the points. We're also, already have certified inspectors and investigators. We made sure of that, we sent them to get certified. Captain Geissler is not only IFSAP, which is International he is also nationally certified by the Fire Department and Investigators Association. So, we are well, we are in good shape if they adopt it and I think they will. I think this meeting is mainly, just to fill them in on how we are going to implement these deals which I think, my next step will have to be to approach the Town Planning and Zoning Committee to adopt parts of NFPA 101. Basically, what I am trying to get done is on plans, when they build (alert went off). What we got?

Chief Dockery said, non responsive.

Chief Leos continued, building new houses or anything that we, they have a drive way that is accessible for the fire truck. There are certain criteria, if we can't get the fire truck in we can't do any good.

Mr. Trascher said, that would be a time, if we could talk with the Town on that too, because expansions and water lines, I think we had problems in the past.

Chief Leos said, we also, he is qualified to do plans review, too. We have to get the Parish to officially adopt NFPA 1. So, that's the first step, I'm hoping. Their biggest issue is what's it going to cost. Nothing. It don't cost a thing.

Mr. Trascher said, the price is right.

Chief Leos said, right. What would it cost districts for Fire Prevention Inspectors, nothing. It's part of their job unless you got a big bureau like Slidell who has separate fire investigators and all. We handle it within a inner department job classification.

Mr. Trascher said, with the statement that it will assist with the PIAL rating.

Chief Leos said, right. We get 5, I think it's 5 ½ points we will get for fire prevention.

Mrs. Gallo said, that's significant.

Chief Leos said, it's very significant. Especially since 40 points is water and we're not going to get all of that so, we need this 5 ½ points desperately. But, we are ready to go it's just having them officially adopt the NFPA standard.

Mr. Trascher said, I guess it's just you need somebody to sponsor it at the Parish Council Level.

Chief Leos said, Terry has already written the resolution but instead of voting on it, they wanted a meeting with somebody from State Fire Marshall's Office, five of the Chief's in the District, I think there are some other entities involved. It's a meeting on the 12th in their council meeting room or something. But, anyway, I'll be there because we already invested time and money in getting to the point where we are ready to go with it. So, I hope we will get to that before. This is our rating year so, they are going to come next year. We desperately need these points and we have done real good on the education end. We've tracked a lot of students through that inflatable house. Also, if you want to see the forcible entry door, it's sitting in the apparatus bay. The prop, the new prop we got, anybody wants to tackle it, I will let you try it.

Mr. Trascher said, Mr. Thanars?

Chief Leos said, Just a reminder too, it's time for everybody to redo their State Ethics training.

Mrs. Gallo said, I was going to bring that up tonight, thank you Chief.

Chief Leos said, I will email you the link. It's Louisiana Ethics Committee.

Mrs. Gallo said, it's Board and Manuals packet.

Chief Leos said, yes, you have to listen to the guy, but thank God they got somebody that is not talking in a monotone. He's not too bad. It takes about an hour to do it.

Mr. Trascher said, also, you have the income disclosure. I'm sure that's in the Board of Commissions Manual that needs to be done.

Chief Leos said, yes, I think it's tier 1. I forgot what they call it.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, tier 3 or something.

Mrs. Blackwell said, 2.1 I think is what it is.

Mr. Swann said, don't worry, if you don't fill it out they will let you know.

Mr. Trascher said, and I think that needs to be done by May.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I think it's in May.

Mrs. Gallo said, I thought that was only for, when I read that in here...

Mr. Trascher said, any Board of Commission that's empowered to spend \$10,000 or more.

Mrs. Gallo said, ok.

Mr. Trascher said, and we spent \$10,000.

Mr. Thanars said, they will send you a letter.

Mr. Swann said, they will send you a sarcastic letter too.

Mrs. Blackwell said, either turn it in or \$1,500 fine.

Mrs. Gallo said, what is that called again?

Mr. Swann said, it's the Financial Disclosure.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you Chief. Do we have an EMS Report?

Mr. Thanars said, golly.

Mr. Swann said, the one that we have to do a work is about 10 times worse.

Mrs. Gallo asked, where do we find that Chief, the Financial Disclosure?

Mr. Trascher said, the Legislative Auditor's website.

Mr. Thanars said, yeah.

Mr. Swann said, I would make copies of it too when you send it in.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we will try to find it and I will get Georgette to print it out and see if we can make copies.

Chief of Operations, Chief Dockery distributes the EMS Report.

Mr. Swann asked, is this the biggest xerox y'all got?

Mrs. Gallo said, while we are on the topic of disclosures and annual compliance, did everybody return their form to you, Michele?

Mrs. Blackwell said, yes.

Mrs. Gallo said, ok, great.

Mr. Trascher asked, that's the one on the manual?

Mrs. Gallo said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Floyd is going to deliver it tomorrow.

Mr. Trascher said, I am going to deliver it tomorrow to the Council's office.

EMS REPORT

Chief of Operations, Chief Jack Dockery said, alright EMS for the month of December took in \$11,696.40. We are still working with ELS. We have our tablets in for the new system and we are converting over to the new billing company. So, all of that is taking place right now. I know we talked about last month, about the collections policy. We are still in the works with that. It's still an ongoing process. We are waiting to get some more policies from different districts.

Chief Leos said, I have contacted several districts with ALS ambulances and asked if they had a collections policy. I haven't gotten anything back yet. But, we are going to try to find somebody that already has one. That would be the easiest way.

Mrs. Blackwell said, yes that would instead of trying to write one up.

Chief Dockery said, with permission from the Board, I would like to quickly go over the chain of command. I noticed today, we had the emails going back and forth on Chief Parish.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you for printing that out. That way everybody will know.

Chief Dockery said, yes. Chief Parish does not hold a classified position. He's not in a classified position with Civil Service, but he is still a Chief Officer for volunteers. He is still respected and has that authority of a Chief Officer. As you can see in this flow chart, he falls right under me, along with Fire Prevention and the EMS Coordinator.

Mr. Trascher said, the chart is somewhat deceiving from the ones that we had before.

Chief Leos said, we did that, Floyd. That chain of command was to prove a point to a person.

Mr. Trascher said, Chief Parish, actually every employee reports to Chief Parish.

Chief Leos said, that's not the right one. It would be out to the side.

Mr. Trascher said, this one here you mean is not the right one.

Chief Leos said, yes. That was done to prove a point that a Chief is a Chief on the fire ground.

Chief Dockery said, so a Chief is a Chief.

Mr. Swann said, is there any way to get one that, this is what it is from now on?

Chief Leos said, yeah, I can do that.

Mr. Swann said, ok.

Chief Leos said, I just did it to show this person that a Chief is a Chief. When he is on a fire ground and that Chief tells you to do something, you do it. You don't ignore it. The man has the experience, he is certified. That's what that was for.

Chief Dockery said, I guess what I am trying to get at tonight...

Mr. Trascher said, so, this was not aimed at us tonight?

Chief Dockery said, no, no, no.

Mr. Trascher said, ok

Mr. Swann said, let's get one that's legit.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we just don't want to call anybody the wrong thing. Let's get in order.

Mr. Trascher said, Chief Leos, if I understand this correctly, this would be on a fire scene, and this would be the chain of command on a fire scene.

Chief Leos said, yes. I did that for a department meeting. That's all that was done for.

Mr. Trascher said, I understand that. That makes sense.

Chief Leos said, excuse that, but no, I have another one. The way the classified Civil Service works.

Mr. Swann said, ok, do one for the Board.

Chief Leos said, ok, I will. Do you want the colors again?

Mr. Trascher said, ok, I understand now. I thought we hired another Deputy Chief or something.

Chief Leos said, no, no. I couldn't get, they don't understand in a fire ground situation, if that guy has a white hat on you listen to him. He got it because he knows what he is doing. He is trained, he has the experience.

Mr. Trascher said, well, your Incident Commander could be the Chief from 6th Ward.

Chief Leos said, they still don't grasp that yet.

Mr. Trascher said, and that's the way it is.

Chief Leos said, I know.

Chief Dockery said, but, I just wanted to clarify that tonight because after reading the emails, it kind of portrayed him in a different manner. Chief Parish is a Chief here. He's been a Deputy Chief before Chief Leos even came on. After Chief Crowe was dismissed of his position, Chief Parish took over as Interim Chief and ran this department for a while. So, I think, just in the way that it was formed today, it really, it kind of put him down in a way.

Mr. Swann said, no body is trying to do that but you need to understand what something is.

Chief Dockery said, yeah, I understand that's not the intent, I just...

Mr. Swann said, perception is a reality in this situation. I missed the emails but I am grasping what you are talking about.

Chief Dockery said, I understand it's not intended like that and I just want to make sure that, yes we didn't hire a new Chief, it's no new classification.

Mr. Trascher said, we went through this before and I didn't understand it and it was my emails.

Mr. Swann said, what ever you give us will be gospel.

Chief Leos said, yeah, I just wanted to let y'all know.

Mr. Trascher said, and my emails were in no way meant to be derogatory to any person.

Chief Leos said, (inaudible) this person on the one, that we really use because he was out to one side and it's denoted that it was a volunteer department position, but he held the rank of Chief. There statement was, well he's not right above me so I don't have to do anything that he says. Which, that is not true.

Mr. Swann said, who is at the top of that thing?

Chief Leos said, y'all are.

Mr. Swann said, no, well, underneath that, who is at the top of this? He better do what you tell him.

Chief Leos said, yeah, but that was done to prove a point. That's all that was for.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you for clarifying that Chief.

Mr. Trascher said, yeah, and if I offended anybody, I apologize.

Chief Leos said, I will get you the other one.

Chief Dockery said, well I just wanted to get that across because he is a very important cog in this clock. He does our payroll, he assist me, he's working on the EMS stuff. So, he is a very vital roll or person in this. So, I just wanted...

Mrs. Blackwell said, we appreciate his assistance.

Chief Dockery said, he might not ever come and say it but I know it hurt his feelings, it kind of shot him down a little bit and I just wanted to clarifying that. I know it wasn't intent.

Mrs. Blackwell said, well a doctor wants to be called a doctor and you and Chief of Operations want's to be called Chief, so...

Mr. Swann said, if he gives us a matrix that calls him an admiral, we will call him an admiral.

Mrs. Blackwell said, that's right.

Chief Leos said, that's what I tell them, it don't matter what they call him.

Mrs. Blackwell said, they want to call him Deputy Chief, we want to call him what he deserves.

Chief Leos said, I am not going to get into that because I had one wanted to be a sergeant.

Mr. Swann said, a sergeant?

Mrs. Blackwell said, oh goodness.

Chief Dockery said, but, as of EMS, we are still working on that policy. Like I said, collections last year or last month were around \$11,000. So, a little bit above what we usually take in. we do have our new tablet in so the paramedics will be able to start using that to transfer directly to the billing company. There is no wasted time in between. Soon as it's done, it's sent off to them.

On a side note, while we are talking about EMS, we recently acquired a Lucas device. I'm not sure if y'all have seen the website...

Mr. Swann said, it's great.

Chief Dockery said, or video or not but we did acquire this and we did have it in service and it is on the truck now and it is for, if someone is caught out by themselves, it will help the system with CPR. You can put it on a patient, turn it on and it will do compressions. It doesn't get tired unlike we get tired. Mr. Don, as fit as he is, he would get tired. So, it was one of the very best purchases I think we'll ever make or will make. I hope to never use it, I have actually used it once already. I hope to never use it, but if we need it we have it.

Mr. Trascher said, I think we discussed it in a meeting in the past.

Mrs. Gallo said, Chief Leos said something very much to be proud of having that in our department.

Chief Leos said, we are moving up.

Mrs. Gallo said, I'm glad y'all got in front of that and acquired that.

Chief Dockery said, that's all I have.

Mr. Swann said, on the, for the new company that we got doing the billing, the other company that they are replacing, how are we going to continue to try and go back and get the bills that are not collected?

Chief Dockery said, they are going to have to transfer, once everything is complete, we stop sending bills to them so once they complete their cycle, we are going to have to back and see what's uncollected from them.

Mr. Swann said, last time we tried to get that we got something that you couldn't read.

Chief Dockery said, yeah that weird tape that Paragon sent us that wasn't...

Mr. Swann said, unreadable.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, it was encrypted.

Chief Dockery said, so, we are working with the company real close and getting that. They have been real...

Mr. Swann said, has a discussion has been made about, are we going to get something that is legitimate and we can move forward with?

Chief Dockery said, well, I can tell they have been real friendly with us on cutting ties, so I don't believe it will be the Paragon issue that we had last time.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, when will it be completely swapped over? Are y'all using it now?

Chief Dockery said, we are using it now but we have to give them 90 days for the billing to close out.

Mrs. Gallo said, to close everything.

Mrs. Blackwell said, to transfer?

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mrs. Gallo said, Chief Dockery, before you exit the podium sir...

Chief Dockery said, yes ma'am?

Mrs. Gallo said, I have provided the Board with the proposal from Carr, Riggs & Ingram, who you verified for me, is on the approved auditor's list so I would like to ask the Board to go to that proposal. I think we both printed them Chief, so the Board does have a copy, yes sir, sure do.

Chief Leos asked, you got the big one?

Mrs. Gallo said, we got the 28 pager and the 1 page.

Chief Leos said, ok, y'all got it.

Mrs. Gallo said, so, if the Board could reference that, and I will work with Chief to walk through this real quick. This is a proposal for the general audit from CRI. I did confirm with the gentleman that I know at CRI and the gentleman that I know would not be on the team actually performing our audit but works directly with the team that does. They do also provide audits for other fire districts so they are very well aware of the criteria, qualifications and requirements of providing a thorough audit for our fire district. With that, you can see the all inclusive maximum fee would be \$12,500. They did provide hourly rates and so on and the 28 page report in here does talk about CRI. They are a super regional firm. I believe they are in, I know it's over a dozen states and they use resources and people with expertise throughout the entire firm on specialty projects. Chief, do you have any information about our current provider for our audit services?

Chief Dockery said, the Ericson, Krentel & Laporte?

Mr. Swann said, yes.

Chief Dockery said, I have it, I know I brought it up last meeting. They have it in their proposal of a cost of \$12,450. Pretty much the same audit as last year minus, from what I am gathering, that Act 774, which, as we spoke on the phone earlier, I have not received any information in regards to that small credit card audit that we had last year. If you have something on it I would love...

Mr. Trascher said, if you would give us an update on it, that's the one that the Parish didn't want to hire an Inspector General so they asked the Legislative Auditor to do a more forensic audit on departments...

Mr. Swann said, policy, use and verification of credit and debit card use.

Mr. Trascher said, well no, this is for the whole department and they empowered the Legislative Auditor to set a fee to what they feel this audit cost them to do and I the \$7,000, they billed us \$7,000 to do a forensic audit on this department. So, this figure here is for them but the Legislative Auditor is going to impose another fee on us to do the forensic audit.

Mrs. Gallo said, which we have no control over.

Mr. Trascher said, we have no control over.

Mrs. Gallo said, so, the proposal that we did get is just on the general audit.

Mr. Trascher said, right. It would not be on this 774 Form.

Mrs. Gallo said, and that's what I wanted to clarify when I introduced this.

Chief Dockery said, that's included with Ericson, Krentel. That was just a general audit.

Mr. Trascher said, if you want to look at this and review it. Just don't lose it.

Mrs. Gallo said, so, basically our Board needs to make a decision because, I am sure, both firms would want to know sooner than later.

Mr. Trascher said, so that they can begin acquiring all the data that they are going to need to work with.

Mrs. Gallo said, sure, throughout the course of the year to provide that audit.

Mr. Trascher said, because, when is this due, in March or May?

Mrs. Gallo said, the letter, give me one second. By May 1st. A draft of the audit report would be due by May 1st.

Mr. Trascher said, so they would have go get with Moyle and do their computations, whatever you want to call it, and then once that is submitted to the Legislative Auditor, then the Legislative Auditor will take their report and do a more forensic audit and report the findings to the Parish.

Mrs. Gallo said, yes, you are correct. So, I know that we need to review this information and make a decision as a Board.

Mr. Trascher said, do we have a bid from the other company.

Chief Dockery said, we have a bid from Ericson, Krentel & LaPorte.

Mrs. Gallo said, it's a \$50 difference in the two. One is \$12,450, correct?

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mrs. Gallo said, and this Carr, Riggs & Ingram is \$12,500.

Mr. Swann asked, do each one of us have a paper like this so we can look at it?

Chief Dockery said, yes. I did have it for the last meeting. I can go make a copy of it for you.

Mr. Trascher said, the only concern is that it's not on our agenda tonight.

Mrs. Gallo said, I understand. I wasn't expecting to get this. I got it today.

Mr. Trascher said, the problem is, is that we won't be able...

Chief Dockery said, if I can cut in real quick. I really need to send out RFP's to others because I want more than just two.

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, we didn't get any back, I think, last time.

Chief Dockery said, last time we didn't, but at least I will have my paperwork showing, look, I sent it out, I tried, let's make it for the next meeting to have...

Mr. Trascher said, we can make it for the next meeting but put it on the agenda to open the bids but that means the approval wouldn't be until February.

Chief Leos said, as long as we can show that we attempted to get multiple bids were ok.

Mr. Trascher said, ok, if you want to go ahead and do that, we can include it on the February agenda.

Mrs. Gallo said, ok, and let's just make a note. Chief, if you wouldn't mind sending us the information on the other one we can at least dig in to comparing it to during our break.

Chief Leos said, let me put my two cents worth in.

Mrs. Gallo said, what's that?

Chief Leos said, I would love to get away from Krentel and LaPorte. They left a bad taste in my mouth when they accused us of fraud and the guy didn't know what he was talking about.

Mr. Trascher said, we did have some issues with them.

Chief Leos said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, we did have issues.

Mrs. Gallo said, and I am not familiar with that. I don't know the story.

Chief Leos said, they have no concept of a fire district.

Mr. Trascher said, they came to our meeting and I mean, berated it and did all kinds of things. Swann and told us how much of it was wrong.

Chief Leos said, and it turned out we were right.

Mr. Trascher said, it was totally false.

Mrs. Gallo said, I see.

Mr. Trascher said, I think we even got into some fee issues with them. Where they were billing us \$18,000 or something like that.

Chief Leos said, when they agreed to do it for less.

Mr. Trascher said, right. We had a contract with them for \$14,000 or whatever it was.

Mrs. Gallo said, so I should have included this in the financial section. My apologies, Michele even asked me twice if I had anything else. So, my fault on that but I am glad Chief Dockery is at the podium to answer our questions. So, if we could make a note, as a Board, to make sure that is on the February agenda and if you, Chief Dockery, if you could send out the request for proposals to any other agencies and should we get any, forward those along to us so we can be prepared to make a vote at our next meeting. That would be my goal.

Chief Dockery said, those would be sent out certified mail.

Mr. Trascher said, I totally agree and I can put it on the agenda or you can put it.

Mrs. Gallo said, that would be great. Thank you. Thank you for answering my questions.

Chief Dockery said, can I make a copy of this or...

Mr. Trascher said, sure, or keep it for a couple of days. Whatever, I doubt I am going to need it tonight.

Chief Dockery said, I do have a letter in my office for you, so...

Mr. Trascher said, I hate when people give me letters. It's usually a termination or something.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you Chief Dockery. Thank you Chief, he stepped outside. Ok, we will move to Old Business, Bylaw Revisions, Mr. Don Thanars.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws – Don Thanars

Mr. Thanars said, this should go fairly quickly. Everybody should have a copy and this is just put in a format of Problems Statement. Basically, in short, that our Bylaws don't satisfy the compliance issue that was cited in the manual for Boards and Commissions that we recently received. So, what I basically did is kind of, extracted from those areas. Many of which, when I submitted the draft bylaws that were included. But anyway, this is just extracted from that manual. It talks about things, in fact, one item I left out and that was dealing with financials and records and things like that. But in short, our bylaws need to be revised to include all of those things. They should be unique to Fire District 11 and how we operate and so, those are the things that I cited there. The recommendations are one, that the Bylaws be rewritten within the next 30 days and available for us to vote on it within 60 days.

Mrs. Gallo said, so, my first initial comment is the timing of this is great because we did talk about, we adopted the Bylaws, let's look at them in January. So, just having received this and reviewing it, it does give a pretty good outline on some points of clarification that we could

revise in the Bylaws that we have adopted. Just to give a more descriptive detail, one of the things that it pointed out was being Don and I haven't been able to read through all of this yet, being clear about what the different positions on the Board do. It talked about some succession plans as far as how Board members should rotate on and off. Things like that so, we have had some verbal discussion about that, but it's not something that we've had, that we have in our current version of our Bylaws that I recall.

Mr. Trascher asked, I don't understand, that Board members rotate on and off, like?

Mrs. Gallo said, yeah, to make sure that we don't have a whole Board flip at one time.

Mr. Trascher said, yeah, but see that steps on the appointing authorities, that's in their category because the original creation of this provided for that and I think we addressed that with some of the last appointments on the expiration of the terms.

Mrs. Gallo said, well, I think our, I think we do address it the way that we normally roll on and off because two of us roll on at one time and our terms seem to be staggering. So, we're already in line with it and if we could simply make a point in our Bylaws to keep in line with it moving forward. For instance, it might be as simple as saying or making sure that our Bylaws say, I shouldn't say saying because it might already say it, that if someone falls off for a personal reason or has been terminated from the Board, that the person coming on would simply fill their term, not start a new 3 year term from that point so that we would stay in order of...

Mr. Trascher said, right but your still, you see the State Law and appointments says that. I think it would be redundant. I am willing to look at some of the revisions once their posted.

Mrs. Gallo said, so, it's just a matter of making sure that we are incorporating the, it's one page.

Mr. Trascher said, that's the Boards and Commissions Manual.

Mrs. Gallo said, the Boards and Commissions Manual recommendations in making our Bylaws just a little bit more unique to just us. So the timing is great because we already said we would look at it.

Mr. Trascher said, I am willing to look at anything.

Mr. Thanars said, so, my point in submitting these, I have no problem, you know, actually doing all the modifications myself. I guess what I am asking you to, kind of, go through and if you have input things in terms of wording and things that could make ours obviously, clarify, be more and I'm going to say more user friendly for the purpose of the discussion, but again provide more clarification on some areas where we can expound on them. I will just use one that they talked about, like the financial reporting. We have had a lot of discussion about that we talked on last meeting about that making sure that the accounting was available. Whatever our expectations are for our Board. You know, we want him here once a quarter or

like a certain document that was mentioned, Wynn Williams mentioned, that we are suppose to have and maintain a record. Certain things, and again I am just using those as examples.

Mr. Trascher said, oh yeah, but those would not be good examples for the Bylaws because that is administrative.

Mr. Thanars said, I am just throwing that out. My point is that there are things that we do that somebody is responsible for that we don't have conveyed or articulated anywhere and I know that there are things that are not in there. One of the push backs that I got when I submitted my draft was that it was a lot of detail that didn't need to be in there. What the manual is asking for is more detail and so, a lot of areas is that we said, in terms of training, well we can talk about it in terms of what training and a lot of times it's like out in different mechanisms. But again, when somebody comes onto this Board, you know, typically the documents they are going to have is probably going to be Bylaws or something like that we have and if those items are identified in that document, they will get this one document that they can read and kind of get an idea of all the things that the Board does, how the Board functions, you know, rolls and responsibilities and again, it kind of directs them there. Grant it, things change, laws change and that's why we should review and approve, re-approve or basically an annual review. It may not be necessary to make changes but you'll annual review your Bylaws and if the laws have changed or you want to refine things. That's the opportunity to do that and that's my point. That's all I am asking is that we go and revise to fall in line with the manual that was published and we suppose to follow it. So, I am saying that we need to revise those to address those areas that are not currently in there. There's some formatting issues, page numbers, again, that's just administrative stuff, but again, I think all of that stuff is part of a revision. So, that's what I am asking. Saying those things get done within 30 days and we have them ready to be able to vote for adoption within 60 days.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we need to get them ready and we still need to send them to the District Attorney's office for, or the attorney to say that they are ok.

Mr. Thanars said, and that's fine. What I am, my recommendation is that we get the revisions done within 30 days and they are ready so if we can get the input in and they are ready to go and they can be sent to the District Attorney's.

Mr. Trascher said, not the District Attorney's. Our attorney, the Board attorney. Mr. Hand, Terry Hand.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Terry Hand.

Mr. Swann said, didn't we let the other stuff lay over so people had a chance to, for 30 days?

Mr. Trascher said, yes, laid over for 30 days for review. Once the public accepted it as a Board, we introduced it. We could do that if we had this ready, we could have the 30 day lay over period with, while the attorney's are reviewing it. The same attorney's that wrote that manual approved our Bylaws and wrote them.

Mrs. Gallo said, the ones that we adopted from the other district.

Mr. Trascher said, the ones that we asked from Terry Hand is the one that put these Bylaws together.

Mrs. Gallo said, this is a good example of what could be added tonight. We talked about the ethics training, the financial disclosure.

Mr. Swann said, that's law.

Mr. Trascher said, that's law. It doesn't need that in the Bylaws.

Mrs. Gallo said, I understand, but in the owners manual, I'm sorry, owners manual...

Mr. Trascher said, owners manual!

Mrs. Gallo said, yeah, in the owners manual that we had to read, the Manual for Parish Boards and Commissions, it explicitly says that it should include specific knowledge and should create policies for training new members and transitioning materials. It just becomes a go to document for new people like me who are very dumb to this process to start. To say, hey, can I have one thing to read to see, ok, this is what I should have done.

Mr. Trascher said, that's why they put that manual together because for years, the Parish has appointed and ...

Mrs. Gallo said, the manual is saying it should be in the Bylaws.

Mr. Trascher said, I don't know, it could be and if it is, for procedures, and if it is...

Mrs. Gallo said, if we could just be a little more inclusive of those things in our Bylaws. I think it's a great add. I think it's a good start with what we have adopted. We make the adjustments to add.

Mr. Trascher said, I am perfectly willing to look at it. Yeah, whatever things we think are necessary are given good consideration. Nobody should be apposed to that. It's something we should look at. I don't have a problem with that.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok, is that it?

Mr. Thanars said, that's it.

Mrs. Gallo said, that's it. All eyes on you.

Mrs. Blackwell said, so, you will revise them, send them out to us and...

Mr. Thanars said, within 30 days, right. All I am asking the Board is that if you have input in

areas you want to include, send that information to me with as much detail as you want to and if it's straight forward, I will put the words to it and I will have it out and available in time for our next meeting. Once they get cleaned up and are available or ready to be submitted for review by whom ever we need to review.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok.

Mr. Swann said, whatever you get, if you could go ahead and email them to us, we can read over them before we ever get here.

Mr. Thanars said, got ya.

Mrs. Gallo said, right.

Mr. Thanars said, ok. That's all.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you Mr. Thanars. Anybody else have anything to add to that?

Mrs. Gallo said, no ma'am.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you, thank you, thank you.

EMS COLLECTIONS PROCEDURES

Mrs. Blackwell said, we kind of touched on that, do you have anything else on that Floyd?

Mr. Trascher said, yeah, I was going to ask to open the agenda. We could have discussed it with Chief Dockery was up at the podium before. I think that's what, from our last meeting, we had a discussion on the billing procedures. What was our procedure, what are we doing to determine if we should go in to collections.

Chief Leos said, that was always a verbal from way back.

Mr. Trascher said, I know we sat down and we, Chief Leos, you worked on a departmental procedure.

Chief Leos said, yeah, basically what it was, they would come in. If they could prove they were financially hardship, that they could pay \$100, we held that over but if not we could refuse the bill.

Mr. Swann said, basically we left that in your court, didn't we?

Chief Leos said, yes, and that's one of the things I would like to see change. Instead of just one person making the determination. I think whenever we find these policies from Mandeville, Lacombe and all, it should be at least a three person committee that reviews it.

Mr. Trascher said, I think, and if I remember correctly, it was set up. It was going to be you and the Chief or the director of EMS.

Chief Leos said, my suggestion would be one Board member, the EMS coordinator and myself. But we still need some kind of format of questions to ask to determine that and that's what I don't have. That's what we are trying to figure out.

Mr. Trascher said, yeah, and that would be something...

Mr. Swann said, would other fire or ambulances have that?

Chief Leos said, that's what we are waiting to get those from them. I had requested 4's two days ago and of course, I asked Marty Latino and when Marty walks out the door he forgets, so. I will probably have to go over there and physically get it.

Mr. Trascher said, yeah, because I'm sure those are going to be some questions that really have to be scrutinized.

Chief Leos said, maybe even our new billing company will have some kind of policy that we can look at. But, we need some kind of criteria to determine ...

Mr. Trascher said, that fairly judges and if you start asking pointed financial questions the HEPA laws and there are so many things that come into play with all of that.

Mrs. Gallo said, If I could add, I, on another Board that I sit on which is Pope John Paul. The Archdiocese of New Orleans uses a very standardized financial aid questionnaire and you do have to provide financial data, tax returns, explain your hardship and if you would like, I could certainly request to see if I could get a copy of something along those lines or just an idea of what is on there for us to create or even amend what you are able to get from other Districts. Again, to make it unique to us.

Chief Leos said, we could create it and I would highly suggest that legal look at it to make sure we are not violating any HEPA laws.

Mr. Swann said, why don't she pick that up and you get the stuff you are talking about and let's try to find out what we need.

Mrs. Gallo said, and we can incorporate them together. Just like we did the Bylaws. We have a great bases and add to make it unique to us.

Mr. Trascher said, yeah, because I think, I know we talked about it and there were some things that were set up and I think that question came up is, how do we do it.

Chief Leos said, yeah, there's got to be some criteria you can use

Mr. Trascher said, something because we, with the ambulance billing we're constantly going through it. Should we turn this into collections. At what point do we turn it into collections.

At least, if we have a procedure that we followed logically, I think it will help protect us from law suits and something like that by forgiving somebody and not forgiving somebody else. So, that would be good. If you get those Chief Leos and Mrs. Gallo.

Mrs. Gallo said, I will work on getting some other information.

Mr. Swann said, Michele.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mr. Thanars?

Mr. Thanars said, I understand what the issue is. It could even play devils advocate you know, but it's our ability to enforce a decision that we would make and then the potential perception that a negative perception that could follow. I am talking about in the community. You know, being able to, if we were doing this and then turn around and you know, I just think it's something that we need to be sensitive and mindful of as we think through, you know, how we are going to proceed if we are going to do something like this.

Chief Leos said, we haven't, in six years I think I have only had two that came in.

Mr. Trascher said, when this ambulance was started, it was started with the public perception that there is no charge for it. You'll get one bill or two bills and if you don't pay them...

Mr. Swann said, if you don't pay the three bills, that was the end of it.

Chief Leos said, yeah, that's kind of what he did.

Mr. Trascher said, we can't function like that so we've been working to change that public perception.

Mr. Thanars said, I would just say that one of the other things, whatever we going to do, it's just all the other things you have to think about. I think, public announcements and things like that that probably, to make sure that people are aware of what we are doing. If we are going to have a process, how your going to go about doing it, implement it. You probably need to state what the issues are and I understand that, what the problem is, you know, but I...

Mr. Trascher said, I think to make a public announcement would be like scratching a cut.

Mr. Swann said, yep.

Mr. Trascher said, we cause more problems by doing that. We need, this department needs a procedure to follow and we need to follow that procedure diligently so that we can explain and defend.

Mr. Swann said, if you look at some of the other stuff, I am sure that, there is no point in reinventing the wheel. I am sure that you have a lot of that stuff.

Chief Leos said, that's why we are looking at other districts.

Mr. Thanars said, we are going to site people based on, invite them to this meeting so we can make a determination if they can pay. That's what I am hearing.

Mr. Swann said, I don't think we were going to invite them to a meeting like this.

Mr. Trascher said, no, not a public, it's going to be a closed meeting with what Chief Leos recommended. The Chief and possibly a Board member and the Chief of EMS.

Mr. Thanars said, and if they don't come? I'm just throwing it out, if they don't come.

Mr. Trascher said, well, if they don't come...

Mr. Swann said, if they don't come then that means they don't want help.

Mrs. Blackwell said, that person has to come and state his hardship so it's not beneficial to them not to come.

Mr. Swann said, they have to come to you. You don't have to go hustle them.

Mr. Thanars said, so I guess what I am asking then, if we got a collections entity. Somebody that's going to go and do that then what's the purpose of, what's our roll then if they are already going to be a collections entity that's going to go out and

Mrs. Gallo said, so it sounds like we're talking from two different angles. So, the point here is to create a process for someone that initiates contact with the department.

Mr. Swann said, has a hardship that they couldn't afford to pay.

Mrs. Gallo said, to say I couldn't afford to pay. So, we're on the same page with that. Don's question is, ok, so they come in and say, I can't afford to pay, and our Board makes a determination, well, yes you can. We think that you can pay something. How do we then, in turn, enforce our ruling? Do we really have a mechanisms to enforce our ruling?

Mr. Swann said, first, they don't come to the Board. They go to whoever is on that group.

Mrs. Gallo said, they go to that three person panel.

Mr. Swann said, at that point they would make a decision that they can or they can't.

Mr. Trascher said, then you can turn it over to collections.

Mr. Swann said, and then you would go ahead and turn it over to the collection agency if they had the money to pay it. If they don't...

Mrs. Gallo asked, do we already have a relationship with a collection agency?

Chief Leos said, no, we don't.

Mrs. Blackwell said, it comes along with the procedures. We are building something from the floor up.

Mrs. Gallo said, so, we would have to employ a collection agency and that's what I think I am hearing is the backup question too. If we do put something in to place, then how do we enforce it after the ruling is made in a case of, yes you can pay.

Mr. Trascher said, we would have to turn it over to collections but, we would, what we've done in the past is, when we bill whatever billing company it is, if the people don't contact us, then if they can collect it then they collect it. We have really refrained from going after any debts that we were owed. We lost hundreds of thousands of dollars like that. What we would like to do is, fairly, the ability is there to pay, we would like to, maybe that Board would come up and say; ok, you got a \$5,000 bill, we can reduce it to \$200 or something that the departmental procedure that puts that in. If they flat refuse to pay, then we can establish, turn it over to a collection agency and I think they would do it for a percentage.

Mrs. Gallo said, so that would be the next leg of homework is to find a collection agency that would not charge us in excess of what we are trying to collect, obviously.

Mr. Trascher said, right. They take it for a percentage. They may take it for 50% of what they collect.

Mrs. Gallo said, but, that's your point, correct?

Mr. Thanars said, part of it. It's like we're, how are we authorizing to establish some panel or whatever you want to call them. What legal authority do they have and go and bring people in to make this determination?

Mr. Swann said, you are missing the point. They are not bringing them in. This is somebody in the public says, I can't afford to pay, and they would come in and make a determination if that's correct or not. It's not like we calling the guy and saying hey, can you afford this?

Mr. Trascher said, when we loaded you on the ambulance you were financially obligated.

Mrs. Blackwell said, but then you get this bill and you say, oh, I can't pay it. So, if you can't pay any other bill, what you do is pick up the phone and you come up here and say, hey I can't pay this bill. They are going to start asking well, why and this, that and another. That's where this comes into play. Well, either Chief can reduce it with the questions that he asks, he might, you might be in a little bit of a hardship or your in a great big hardship. If you can afford to pay \$10 per month we will reduce it to \$200. Pay up to the \$200 and then your done. If they refuse that, then they will go to a collections agency.

Mr. Trascher said, I mean, whether it's us or Acadian.

Mrs. Blackwell said, do you understand what I am saying, I mean if I get picked up and I can't pay the bill they are calling my phone. They want to know where the money is.

Mr. Trascher said, it still looks like you are not quite satisfied with this.

Mr. Thanars said, it's that this process is uneasy, I am uneasy with the process...

Mr. Swann said, there is no process yet. That's what we are trying to put together.

Mr. Thanars said, right, but in some way you got to get the people in and we are... it just seems like it's out of scope for the fire department to do it if it's an accounting mechanisms like the entity that goes out to, that we just transition to. If we are doing this outside as part of their scope of work and not internally within the fire department. It's just that, what qualifies, when I say most likely anybody, just us, we have this board of people, commission of people that's just going to come in and make this financial assessment of a citizen, their ability to pay. Personally, why I am more sensitive to this, personally, for a lot of folks that are on a fixed income, no kidding, fixed income, so you say \$10 so that seems like it's not a lot but it is a lot. So, and if they can't pay and then we in turn, then we send it to collections. It's just a negative backlash that comes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, but, if they can't pay, they are here to state their hardship. I can't pay, this is what my bills are.

Mr. Trascher said, let me ask you this Mr. Thanars, that may help out a little bit. When we go out and we do a roll with a ambulance and we generate a bill, what do we do with it?

Mr. Thanars said, it's partly, I'm not from here so pardon me when I say this. You go to Houston or different places, I wouldn't have thought you had to go and get billed. You got picked up as a part of paying taxes and city. They transport you to the hospital.

Mr. Trascher said, Acadian runs all over and they bill everybody.

Mr. Swann said, you can't run a business like that. If you, I can tell you we were very close to having to get rid of the ambulance when this all first started.

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, do you want to help us out a little bit here?

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mrs. Cutrer, I think you had your hand up. Would you like to say something?

Mrs. Lora Cutrer said, I was just going to say it reminds me, as far as people coming in and everything, it reminds me of people that come to us for variances.

Mr. Swann said, they couldn't pay the water bill.

Mrs. Cutrer said, well, not even paying the water bill, just with a variance. They wanted to do something that is out of the norm for them and they come to us to show why they had to have this and they had a hardship. They can't go by this law and they want to have a trailer here because of the fact that they are having a hardship, they can't afford this or whatever. They come to us as a panel, right. So that's the same thing here, they are coming to someone and trying to show them this is why I can't pay it and it's a, they are trying to work with them. So, I believe that it would be in the best interest of the community if they can't, they will work it out with them. I don't think that, it's not that they are trying to over bill or overpay, they are actually trying to help them.

Mr. Thanars said, right.

Mr. Trascher said, we need to give them a vehicle so that they can adjudicate whatever financial responsibilities they have in fairness.

Mrs. Cutrer said, I think they would be glad, as a resident, I know that I would be glad that if I had some kind of hardship that, at least that would be available, that maybe they would work with me. You know, oh gosh, that would be such a load off my mind, I'm bankrupt right now, whatever is going on in my life, they are going to work with me and let me make installments where some people wouldn't, they just send you to collections. I think it's kind of a good thing.

Mr. Trascher said, that's right. It might not be that the person really, is not able to pay it and we certainly do not what to withhold any care, anything for them. As far as your tax dollars for the ambulance, we are providing a 3 minute response time in our district. Acadian can't match that anywhere in St. Tammany Parish. So, we are providing a life saving service and we are able to do that and pay the cost on the user fees that it generates. So, by giving them a vehicle that they can contest this bill, they can come in and they can state their case and fairly. You know, I'm not talking about questions, show me everything you got but, some type of vehicle that they can explain.

Mr. Thanars said, I understand, I really understand the issue I am just not, I'm just, you know...

Mr. Trascher said, the devil's advocate.

Mr. Thanars said, well, I am just somewhat uncomfortable with, you know, but again, I understand what the issue is...

Mr. Swann said, we won't put you on the Board.

Mr. Thanars said, there you go...

Mrs. Gallo said, and how do we adhere to the policy which is, we have to put the correct

agency in place.

Chief Leos said, can I make a suggestion?

Mr. Trascher said, certainly.

Chief Leos said, why don't we wait until we get policies from ALS, Fire and ambulances and see what's in there and then we will go from there.

Mr. Trascher said, absolutely.

Chief Leos said, that would be the easiest way.

Chief Dockery said, also, I will get with Matt and we will check with the billing company and see if they have any type of procedure. I want to say that this is somewhat in place now because I have this little old lady that sends a check every month for \$25. It's for EMS services but that's been going on for months and months and months. So, the service is there, it's not in writing.

Mr. Trascher said, right, we just need procedural with the department.

Chief Leos said, right. It's not in writing.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we need a protocol.

Mr. Trascher said, I think that's what we trying to address.

Chief Leos said, my suggestion would be, see how other fire based ALS handles it.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, and Mrs. Gallo is going to get some information on the other one and we will go from there with it. Sounds good.

Mrs. Gallo said, and the enforcement side will come from our employment of a collection agency. I would have to because I certainly would want, Chief Dockery, would you like to add that to your file 13 of things to do as Chief of Operations?

Chief Dockery said, be the enforcer?

Mrs. Gallo said, yes. Sargent of arms.

Mr. Trascher said, if you turn it over to the collection agency for 50%. 50% of something is better than 100% of nothing.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok, is that it? We're good?

Mr. Trascher said, yep.

Mrs. Blackwell said, alright. Thank you. Ok, New Business. Election of officers of 2017, Mr. Floyd Trascher?

NEW BUSINESS – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher said, yes, we put that on there. I think we said that we would elect the officers within the Board which would be the Vice-Chairman, Secretary and the Treasurer on the first meeting in January.

Mr. Swann said, that being the case, I would like to nominate Floyd for Vice-Chairman.

Mrs. Blackwell said, anybody got any other nominees for Vice-Chair?

Mrs. Gallo said, I was going to nominate Mr. Thanars for Vice-Chair and Mr. Eugene Swann for Treasurer.

Mr. Swann said, no.

Mr. Trascher said, no, that won't go. Do you want to do them one at a time Madam Chairman?

Mrs. Gallo said, it makes me awfully nervous. I am not comfortable with that.

Mrs. Blackwell said, let's do them one at a time. Vice-Chair, we have a nomination for Floyd and we have a nomination for Mr. Don Thanars. Everybody in favor of Mr. Floyd. Verbal vote, let's do that. Mr. Floyd Trascher?

Mr. Trascher said, I.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Eugene Swann?

Mr. Swann said, I.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mrs. Jackelyn Gallo?

Mr. Swann said, nay, I love you Floyd.

Mr. Trascher said, I can tell.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Don Thanars?

Mr. Thanars said, nay.

Mrs. Blackwell said, a verbal vote for Mr. Don Thanars. Let's go, Mr. Floyd?

Mr. Trascher said, nay

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Eugene Swann?

Mr. Swann said, nay.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mrs. Jackelyn Gallo?

Mr. Swann said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Don Thanars?

Mr. Thanars said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, so that's two and two. Can I postpone my vote for later?

Mrs. Gallo said, no ma'am.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I have to go with Floyd. I vote Floyd as Vice-Chair. I'm sorry Don, I just, I have to. That's what my heart says. ok.

Mrs. Gallo said, congratulations Floyd.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you.

Mrs. Gallo said, that's a tough role.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok, we have the Treasurer.

Mr. Swann said, I nominate Jackelyn Gallo.

Mr. Trascher said, I nominate Mrs. Gallo.

Mrs. Gallo asked, can I decline?

Mr. Trascher said, you can but it won't do any good.

Mrs. Blackwell said, you are so familiar with it, I'm just teasing. Ok, do we have any other nominees?

Mrs. Gallo said, I will nominate Mr. Thanars again. I think you'd be a great addition to the executive portion of the board.

Mr. Trascher said, he is going to be Secretary. I am going to nominate him for Secretary.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok, let's do a vote. Well, Mrs. Jackelyn, how do we vote nobody against

you?

Mrs. Gallo said, I nominated Mr. Thanars.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok, ok. For Mrs. Gallo. Let's do a verbal vote. Mr. Trascher?

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Eugene Swann?

Mr. Swann said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mrs. Jackelyn Gallo?

Mr. Swann said, nay.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Don Thanars?

Mr. Thanars said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, congratulations Mrs. Gallo, you remain in your seat.

Mrs. Gallo said, thank you.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok, Secretary?

Mr. Trascher said, I nominate Mr. Thanars.

Mrs. Gallo said, I will second that nomination.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have any other nominees?

Mr. Thanars said, I would like to withdraw my name.

Mr. Trascher said, it won't do any good.

Mr. Thanars said, no, I'm ok.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, you ok? Congratulations Mr. Secretary.

Mr. Trascher said, wait, you got to vote.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, we have to vote? We don't have, we can't vote against nobody.

Mr. Trascher said, ok.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes, I nominated him, I have to vote for him.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Eugene Swann?

Mr. Swann said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mrs. Jackelyn Gallo?

Mr. Swann said, absolutely.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Don Thanars?

Mr. Thanars said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, that's the only one we were unanimous.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok, I think we are done with that. Any other questions?

Mrs. Gallo said, no ma'am.

Mr. Thanars said, I move to adjourn.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you, do I have a second?

Mr. Trascher said, before we adjourn, I would like to thank everybody for coming. Mrs. Lora, it's good to see you again.

Mrs. Gallo said, absolutely. Before we move for adjournment, our next meeting is scheduled on Ventalendine's Day, Valentine's day and I would like to request the Board. We don't have any dates written in stone anywhere, to consider moving our next meeting Board date. I am sure we, a lot of us are going to have some spousal commitments.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, our meetings are, we do have a resolution that was passed, that our meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday but, we can move that meeting by resolution. If, tonight if we vote, make a motion to open the agenda.

Mrs. Gallo said, I make a motion to open the agenda to change next months meeting by a resolution.

Mr. Trascher asked, second?

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have a second?

Mr. Swann said, I second.

Mr. Trascher said, now, we vote on that, we open the agenda.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we have a verbal vote. Mr. Floyd Trascher?

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mr. Thanars said, I just have some unreadiness. Just to that point, for the Bylaws, and I am saying just because of what happened last month, November's meeting. Because I don't want us to always have to do, if we can just modify they resolution. I think there are going to be extenuating circumstances beyond Valentine's Day. It's no different than if a hurricane was coming, common sense would say we would reschedule the meeting. So, we shouldn't have to have a resolution, so the resolution, to me, should be broad enough to allow us to, when extenuating circumstances that warrant either availability...

Mrs. Blackwell said, this resolution would only be for this month.

Mr. Thanars said, what I am asking though, due my unreadiness, always having to do resolutions if the resolution could be broad enough to allow, by exception by these exceptions, so we only have to do one resolution, so that's what my unreadiness is.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mr. Trascher?

Mr. Trascher said, point of order right now is that we are voting to open the agenda. After we open the agenda then we can discuss it.

Mr. Thanars said, ok.

Mr. Trascher said, Madam Chairman?

Mrs. Blackwell said, let's continue to vote. Mr. Thanars?

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Eugene Swann?

Mr. Swann said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mrs. Jackelyn Gallo?

Mr. Swann said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Don Thanars, to open the floor.

Mr. Thanars said, ok, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you.

Mr. Trascher said, now, Mrs. Gallo, would you like to do a resolution?

Mrs. Gallo said, I would. I would like to move the February meeting. We could either move it up one week or move it back one week.

Mr. Trascher said, whatever, we need to have a day, now, to move it back one week would be the same night as the town meeting.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, when is the town meeting, the 28th?

Mr. Swann asked, why does it have to be on Tuesday, why couldn't you move it to Thursday or...

Mrs. Gallo said, to Thursday or Wednesday.

Mr. Swann said, I don't want to move it to another week because...

Mr. Trascher said, I would like to say this, we can move it to that day and Mr. Thanars, the point you were making before about broadening or changing it in the Bylaws, it is State Law that we have to adhere to our meeting schedule. We published our meeting schedule on the second Tuesday. There's only one way that a meeting can be postponed, if there's not a quorum. So, if there was something like a hurricane or something that came up and there was no quorum, we would have to do a page for the minutes that says, you know, we had a meeting and there was no quorum. Then the Chairman can call a meeting to replace that one when there is no quorum. But once we have set a meeting date and we advertise that we meet on that day, we can't change it but by Board Resolution.

Mr. Thanars said, I understand that but what I am saying thought is there are going to be circumstances just like during the election.

Mr. Swann said, that's not, that's not something that...

Mr. Trascher said, the only way we can cancel that meeting is by resolution or no quorum if nobody shows up.

Mr. Thanars said, in the law, what it says is the meeting should be announced 24 hours in advance be posted out for the public

Mrs. Blackwell said, but at the beginning of each year, there is a thing, we set this meeting. We set it by resolution, we're going to have it and we published it to everybody. We ran it in the paper and everything so everybody knows this is written in stone that this meeting is going to take place every Tuesday, second Tuesday.

Mr. Thanars said, we have to do it every year?

Mrs. Blackwell said, we have to do it every year.

Mr. Thanars asked, did we do it this year?

Mr. Trascher said, no, we haven't done it because it's successive. It just continues just like the Town of Pearl River sets their meetings. We set ours by resolution by this Board established because we changed it two or three times already.

Mrs. Blackwell said, and if everybody can't, we moved it because the Town, we moved ours because something was mixed up with the Town's and they moved theirs.

Mr. Swann said, at the same time.

Mrs. Blackwell said, right, it was the same night.

Mrs. Blackwell said, that's why, with this meeting, if we go to the following week that would be the same time as the Town meeting.

Mrs. Gallo said, what about the next day. I have no objection as to what day or when.

Mr. Trascher said, Thursday is a bad day for me.

Mr. Swann said, what about Wednesday unless somebody's got a long lasting commitment.

Mrs. Gallo said, I make a motion that we move it to the 15th, which would be the next day.

Mr. Trascher asked, so your resolution is that we, the February meeting...

Mr. Swann said, you can't make that one?

Mr. Thanars said, I can't do Wednesdays or Thursdays. I have another commitment. I can do Monday.

Mrs. Gallo said, Monday the 13th.

Mr. Trascher said, Mondays could be evictions, I can't. Mondays are, hi your getting a new address.

Chief Dockery said, so the week ahead, the 7th?

Mr. Swann said, I'm going to be tied up probably that week.

Mr. Trascher said, well guys, we got to come to some kind of decision.

Chief Dockery said, well the 21st, which is the Town Hall meeting. Then, they have the

28th...

Mr. Trascher said, which is too long because we need to do our audit.

Mrs. Gallo said, the 28th is Mardi Gras, Chief.

Mr. Trascher said, that's out.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we have the 20th, which is the day before the Town meeting.

Mr. Trascher said, could we make it earlier on a Wednesday or something or later? Because I would like to get this meeting in February over with as soon as possible because we need to do our audit thing.

Mr. Thanars said, I can do earlier I just can't do 7, I mean qualify it. Yeah I can do a earlier meeting. If we could do a earlier meeting.

Mr. Trascher said, can we do it at 6?

Mr. Thanars said, no, I need to do it at 5. I have church on Wednesday.

Mr. Trascher said, ok can you, can we do it at 5?

Mrs. Blackwell said, I can do it at 4:30, is the earliest I can do it.

Mrs. Gallo said, I can do that.

Mr. Trascher said, I can do 5.

Mrs. Gallo said, so what day are we looking at?

Mr. Trascher said, Wednesday.

Mr. Swann said, Wednesday, the day after.

Mrs. Gallo said, the 15th?

Mr. Thanars said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, the 15th at 5:00.

Mrs. Gallo said, ok.

Mr. Trascher said, so do your resolution.

Mrs. Gallo said, ok, so prepare a resolution to move the February 14th meeting to Wednesday, February 15th, here at 5:00 pm.

Mr. Trascher said, yes ma'am. Georgette, is that a problem for you?

Mrs. Blackwell said, oh, we didn't even ask her.

Mr. Trascher said, if not, leave your camera here.

Mrs. Gallo said, to prepare the resolution and be present.

Georgette Rinkus said, no problem.

Mr. Trascher said, ok, I second the resolution.

Mrs. Gallo said, thank you.

Mrs. Blackwell said, ok, let's do a verbal vote. Mr. Don Thanars?

Mr. Thanars said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mrs. Jackelyn Gallo?

Mrs. Gallo said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Eugene Swann?

Mr. Swann said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Floyd Trascher?

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, now who is going to be the first one to forget.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mrs. Cutrer?

Mrs. Cutrer said, I just wanted to let y'all know before I leave, Saturday we are having a "Keep America Beautiful" affiliate come down and we are going to be doing a 4 hour training to become affiliated with "Keep America Beautiful, a Town", and we would like to welcome any you that would like to come the first hour, from 8:30 to 9:30, on Saturday, if your available. It's just to, it's introducing it to our Town and they said anybody that would like to come for that first hour in our Town that would like to be a part of it in any way, shape or form needs to be there. So, I just wanted to make sure I extended that to y'all.

Mr. Trascher said, I know it's a good organization. I know the Parish is working with it now.

Mrs. Cutrer said, yes, and we are going to be working with the Parish, too.

Mr. Trascher said, very soon there is going to be a announcing that there is going to be three liter crews that will be picking up throughout St. Tammany Parish.

Mrs. Cutrer said, well, I hope y'all can come. It's 8:30 Saturday.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you. Is that it?

Mrs. Cutrer said, that's it.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you for coming. We have minutes available. Let's adjourn this meeting real quick.

Mr. Trascher said, I move we adjourn, thank you firemen, thank you Chief Dockery.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we have a second,

Mrs. Gallo said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, verbal vote. Mr. Don Thanars?

Mr. Thanars said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mrs. Jackelyn Gallo?

Mrs. Gallo said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Eugene Swann?

Mr. Swann said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Floyd Trascher?

Mr. Trascher said, yes, yes, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, everybody, motion carried.