



St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 11
Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes
37546 Pine Street Extension, Pearl River, Louisiana
Fire Chief Jack Dockery
May 14, 2024
7:01pm – 7:38pm

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

The regularly scheduled meeting is called to order by Mrs. Blackwell at 7:01p.m. Roll is called, Mr. Eugene Swann is absent.

Minutes of the meeting held on April 9th, 2024, is approved with 3 yeas, no nays, motion carries.

Mr. Floyd Trascher makes a motion to open the Agenda to move Mr. George Rosenbohm up on the Agenda when he arrives and to add Executive Session to the Agenda.

Mr. Russell Lindsey seconds. A vote was called and voted on, 3 yeas, no nays, motion carries.

FINANICAL REPORT

Financial report is started until Mr. Rosenbohm arrives.

Chief Dockery reviews the Financial Report, for the month of April, the target range is 33%.

Monthly bills are in line. Small Motors Maintenance was reviewed which is the Hertz Equipment Maintenance which is not a monthly bill. I will fall out through the months.

Monthly bills are in range.

Medical Billing is at 51.66%, this is not a constant each month. This washes out at the end of the year and the billing company takes a percent of what we collect.

EMS REPORT

Chief Dockery said, Last month on Medical we collected \$16,088.51, for the month of April.

Mrs. Blackwell announces Mr. Rosenbohm has arrived.

INTRODUCTION OF INSURANCE RENEWAL – Chief Dockery

Presentation by Mr. Rosenbohm

Mr. Rosenbohm hands out Paid Claims and Monthly Enrollment Statistics, Current and Renewal Comparison worksheet and Alternative Non Grandfathered Options List.

Mr. Rosenbohm gives a brief overview of Blue Cross sale to Elevance is off, there were several meetings with the State Legislator and it didn't seem right, all the things that were being presented by the standpoint of protecting the insured in Louisiana. Elevance is a For Profit Company and Blue Cross is a Nonprofit Company. Blue Cross keeps 2% of reserve for future risk whereas profit companies have to do that and have stockholder, dividends, etc., to pay. Another issue is the a big portion of the money from the sales were to go to Blue Cross Foundation controlled by 12 people on the Board. What was learned was, the Trust was going to be refiled where political contributions could be done and things like that. It was not what they thought it would be on the front end. Seemed it was not what they thought as an entity. Stockholders would have received a one time payment of \$3,000. Rates would not go up. Mr. Rosenbohm thought rates would not go up for the first 2 years but after 2 years, they would try to make more money to make stockholders happy. The thing that we loose and that was attractive, we would not have gotten better prices with the providers, it would be better pricing with the pharmaceuticals. Pharmaceuticals are about 35% of all cost in healthcare.

2 positives for this could have been:

1. Better provider pricing but better pricing with pharmaceuticals. Pharmaceuticals are about 35% of all cost in healthcare.
2. Blue cross's are individually owned in by each one of the States. Consequently, there are not enough resources for technology and Elevance, they purchased 14 Blue Crosses and merged so they have a better financial situation to have more money for IT advancement.

It will still be Blue Cross of Louisiana and no purchase will be done.

The renewal has been reviewed by Chief and Mr. Rosenbohm about a week ago. An overview of the policies and the premiums that were paid by the Fire Department and how

many claims paid out on your behalf. This is for a 2 ½ year running total. Over the period of time they paid out over \$315,000, in claims and took in \$225,416, in premiums. Basically, 30% over what they have taken in, they paid on claims.

When Mr. Rosenbohm started writing the business here, 3 years after that the AFC (Affordable Care Act). At that time we discussions keeping the plan Grandfathered. Because of these claims started to escalate, we kept the Grandfathered Plan but, we also went to the ACA Plan (Community Rating) which is community rated based on no claims but based on age. We put that plan in which is almost identical to what we had before from a benefits standpoint but, able to reduce the rates. I did keep the Grandfathered plan also. The rate increase is 35% higher than our rate increase is for this year if we were to go to the Grandfathered Plan. So, again we made the right move. The Grandfathered plan is still in place in case we ever have to go back to it.

Next sheet, the breakdown of what the current rate is and renewal rate by participant. The yellow lines are the dependents under those Firemen, they pay for that cost out of their deduction. At the bottom, Fire Department Monthly cost is \$7,466. With the rate increase it will be \$8,324, for the same benefits. The increase is the employees cost is \$783 and with the increase will be \$1,078.09. This is open enrollment if they want to continue or make any changes, they can.

The next step up, as far as reducing the premium, but, the benefits would be reduced as well. Blue Cross calls their Copay Plan 1. if we went to Copay Plan 1, it reduces the rates for the Fire Department is \$6,970. However, right now where it says Individual Out of Pocket maximum, the maximum out of pocket right now is \$2,750. If you go to Copay Plan 1, Out of Pocket Maximum is \$8,000. Co pays are higher and the hospital stays are higher. If a individual went in for outpatient surgery, the out of pocket expense would be \$350. With Copay plan one, the cost would be \$1,500. Listed are the benefits side by side on all those plans.

Last page, all the plans that Blue Cross offers in this category. Mr. Rosenbohm recommends not going up than the co-pay Plan 1 on standpoint of the cost. We have looked at everything there from Blue Cross standpoint, to squeeze savings out of the plans.

Humans is completely out of the medical market. All they are doing now is the Dental, Vision and Short Term and Long Term Disability, Basic Life and Voluntary Life. The only other company writing medical in the State for this size group is United Healthcare. They have what they call a Level Funded Plan, which is a self funded plan for small groups. They do not write fire departments.

For the healthcare coverage today, we are looking at a 11% increase in cost this year. Something has to be done with pharmaceuticals. The legislation in the State is asking for weight loss medications like Ozempic, Wegovy, diabetic medications that are being used for weight loss, they asking for those to be covered by insurance. If that happens, that means a 5% increase on premiums. Ozempic cost \$1,300 monthly but in the UK, it cost \$270. We are funding medical, especially pharmaceuticals, throughout the whole world.

Mr. Trascher mentions he would like to see a reduction in the premiums but, to reduce the benefits that the Department has now would be a hardship on the employees and thinks the current plan, with the increase, is the best for the Department and Mr. Lindsey agrees and does not want to put he added cost on the employees. The rates are based on the age of the group. The Board agrees any other plan adds catastrophic out of pocket cost and asked Chief Dockery his opinion.

Mr. Lindsey ask Chief Dockery if he is good with staying with this plan.

Chief Dockery has agrees the current plan is the best choice.

Mr. Lindsey moves to accept the renewal, at the rates presented this evening. Mr. Trascher seconds. Motion passed unanimously with 3 years. Motion carries. The Board thanks Mr. Rosenbohm for coming out.

CHIEF'S REPORT/ EMS - Chief Jack Dockery

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

EMS	65
STRUCTURE FIRE (Both Mobil Homes)	2
VEHICLE FIRES (2 Being 18 Wheeler's)	3
GRASS/TRASH FIRE	5
MVA	10
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	15
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED	5
FALSE ALARMS	5
POLICE MATTERS	1
TOTAL	113

Chief said the day after our meeting, April 10th, we had two fallen trees on multiple houses, multiple calls. We also had an old lady run her car in the ditch. We handled all of the calls and would like to thank the guys of the Department for standing by with him and getting it done.

Service 111 back from the shop. They replaced the rear end and all suspension components. It was all warranty work.

New Engine 111 is in New Orleans. It arrived last week. We are waiting on a windshield. On the trip down it was hit with a rock and the windshield has to be replaced. We should receive it this week or the next week after the windshield is replaced.

The audit is complete. No findings, but one correction with the CPA. The auditor said our CPA was doing a good job otherwise this one thing. They thought it was getting sent and it was not. It was corrected.

Mr. Trascher said it was a pleasure to have an audit with no findings or issues. Mrs. Blackwell mentions the Minutes of the meeting was resolved and advised that they will be shortened also.

OLD BUSINESS

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION UPDATE – Mr. Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher ask, since this is a personnel matter, the agenda has been opened to add Executive Session. For this matter of discussion, because it is a personnel matter, I move to cease all recording and go into Executive Session.

Mr. Lindsey seconds, motion passes unanimously, with 3 yeas.

OFF RECORD – EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 Hour 9 Minutes

Mrs. Blackwell closes executive session and ask for a motion. Mr. Trascher says the personnel matter and Executive Session has been discussed and moves to accept the Performance Appraisal as presented.

Mr. Lindsey seconds, a vote is called and passed unanimously with 3 yeas. Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION TO INSURANCE RENEWAL – Chief Jack Dockery

Moved up on the Agenda and covered earlier in the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Michele Blackwell

Mr. Trascher thanks everyone for their patience and efforts for the Appraisal and for the Chief and his performance as the Chief for the Department and makes a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Lindsey seconds, a vote was called and passed unanimously, 3 yeas, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.