



St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 11
Board of Commissioner's
Minutes of the Meeting on May 11, 2021
Fire Chief Jack Dockery

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

FINANCIALS

MINUTES

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

Mr. Lindsey said, I browsed through everything and they seem to be in order.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, I also reviewed them and I don't see any discrepancies and I would move that we approve them with the video governing.

Mr. Lindsey said, second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries.

Mr. Trascher said, if you would, Madam Chairman, I would like to make a motion at this time that we open the agenda to move one of the items up in New Business, prior to conducting our regular boring business.

Mr. Lindsey said, second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes. Madam Chairman, the item that I would like to move up would be the Health Insurance Renewal Premium.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, Chief Dockery?

Chief Dockery said, I would like Mr. Rosenbohm do a presentation for you all.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, I met with Chief...

Mr. Trascher asked, Chief, what happened to the podium?

Chief Dockery said, it is being worked on right now.

AGENDA OPEN TO MOVE NEW BUSINESS ITEM:

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL REVIEW – Chief Jack Dockery

Mrs. Blackwell said, we are ready when you are Mr. Rosenbohm.

Mrs. Rinkus said, I met with Chief last week and went through the proposal, the renewal with Blue Cross and some companies that I got normal quotes through, like I do every year, and gave him a packet of all the proposals. What he wanted me to do is give you a recap of what we got in those proposals and what the renewal is. The first thing I would like to review is the paid claims versus the premiums collected by Blue Cross in last 30-32 months. If you look at that paid claims and monthly enrollment statistic, basically, this breaks down by month how many participants we had in the plan and we have broken down how much premiums have been paid to Blue Cross every month and how much claims were paid out by Blue Cross every month for the last 30 months. As you can see, Blue Cross \$171,421, in that period of time and it paid out \$384,000. Now, if we go back several years when the ACA was approved and went into effect. If you remember, for the people that were on the Board at that time, what I suggested back then was to keep our plan Grandfathered. What the Grandfathered

plan does for you is, if you have a healthy group and you have very little claims, premiums are down. So, what we decided for, when the claims started to increase is, we decided to go to a Non-Grandfathered plan and by doing that, what we have done is, we've went into a bigger pool so we have community ratings so, we are not experience isn't where our rates are developed. So, what we did several years ago was, move to a Non-Grandfathered plan and two years ago we moved to a narrower network plan with Oschner which includes all of the Oschner facility docs and St. Tammany Hospital's, Oschner facilities in Slidell which reduced the rates somewhat in that point in time. In that point in time, we kept two plans. We kept our original Grandfathered plan, which is a point of service HMO, and we also went to the Oschner plan. What was decided at that time was, we would use the Oschner plan, which was lower premiums, as the base plan and if someone wanted a bigger network, they could buy up to that higher option plan. That's where we were at at that point in time going into this year.

So, the next page, actually the next two pages, the first page continues to the second page with benefits. If you look at in the first column, is what our renewal is for the Blue Cross Point of Service, The Blue Connect, which is the Oschner Plan.

The third column is the Point of Service, the Statewide Network Plan is from a standpoint of our rates from 7/1/20, it should be 2021. if you see what I have in yellow, it's the employees. I think Jack was the only one that did the buy up and everyone else is on the Blue Connect plan, which is what the Fire Department pays 100%, of the premiums for the employee. The other yellow line is dependents that are on the plan of which, employees pay for the dependents. So, we've have had a 10% increase in the medical insurance rates from last year to this year. What I did was, as I mentioned, I went out into the market place and I looked at Humana, which is the next best company as far as rates for small groups in this market. Their rates are higher but, the other thing is, if you look down toward the bottom, about three quarters down the page, and you look at where the benefits start, these are the benefits. The max out of pocket on the current plan is \$2,750, for the current plan. That means all the co-pays for office visits, all the co-pays for surgeries, in hospital, prescription drugs, once it reaches \$2,700, the plan shifts into 100% coverage. With the Humana Plan, that gets up to \$6,500. So, again, the benefits are not as rich. Humana doesn't offer as rich a benefit plan as we have here for the Fire Department as Blue Cross does. So, again, this is a recap of the apples and apples. The best Humana Plan as opposed to the best Blue Cross plan which we have now. I believe, Chief, when we were meeting, I think you said you have 15% into the budget or something like that.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, for the medical this year. But, anyway, again, just looking at the rates and looking at what the benefits that are offered, unless we go to some kind of higher deductible and some kind of higher deductible and some higher expense with a Blue Cross plan, we are not going to reduce the rates. And again, when we do that the employee is going to share more of the cost when the plan gets utilized. My concern is, and one of the reasons I showed you the claim, is the plan is being used. So, if we do shift the cost to the employee when they use the plan, they are going to be out of pocket long term more money than they would be by paying the premium. Again, when we do deductions for employees, we have a Section 125 Cafeteria Plan here so whereby, the employees can pay any out of pocket expenses that they have with pre-tax dollars so they save the Federal, State, Social Security,

Medicare taxes on that. So again, what we did was positioned the plan since I have been your agent, to the best plan that is offered in the State and trying to keep the premiums as reasonable as we can based on how ever you want to think, premiums are reasonable today.

Mr. Trascher said, Mr. Rosenbohm, the plan, the renewal plan, I guess the Blue Cross, the first one we looked at.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, basically, what you are saying is the benefits are the same.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, the benefits are the same. There's been no change in benefits.

Mr. Trascher said, the only thing we are having is as basic 10%, raise in premiums. How much does that equate to monthly?

Mr. Rosenbohm said, it equates to about \$450 a month.

Mr. Trascher said, that's total for the department for the month?

Mr. Rosenbohm said, total for the department for the month, yes. It may be \$500. The increase is about \$500. If you look at the bold, total monthly cost, on the first column, \$697 of that is what the dependents pay. In other words, the Fire Department doesn't bore that cost.

Mr. Trascher said, health care cost now certainly took a terrible jump over the last year.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, it has and part of it is because of the pandemic but I think more of it is because of the healthcare today is pharmaceuticals, prescription drugs. You know, 10 years ago .11 cents on every dollar was spent on prescription drugs. Today, that's 30%, of every dollar we spend is prescription drugs. Number 1, we have more expensive drugs, and number 2, we have people living longer. So, again, when you put those things together the cost of pharmaceuticals are going higher and higher. I dare to say that, next year, because of all the vaccines and everything, all the research and development that went into that, that's going to have to be passed on at some point in time, somewhere and I know the government...

Mr. Trascher said, somebody is going to eat that expense.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, the government is going to fund it now but, does it get passed on as premiums in the future? Does it get passed on in taxes? So again, that's going to be something in the future. The only thing I can say is, Blue Cross has about 70% of the business of all the people that are insured in the state and the reason they have that is, they've got the best rates and the best plan design's. The other companies, whether it be United Healthcare, whether it be, and United Healthcare can't even get close on this size group in rates. But, none of them have the richness of the benefits that you have here at the Fire Department. As you can see, the best plan with Humana is a \$6,500, max out of pocket. So again, the rates aren't even as good as you have now with the better benefits.

Mr. Trascher said, what we have now, with this renewal, we still have the option of the employee to have the option to buy into the richer plan.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, yes. We have the option of the employee to buy into the richer plan. One other thing that I want to mention and I mentioned it to Chief when we met, I never got rid of that Grandfathered Plan in case, let's say a year from now or 2 years from now, these claims turn around and our claims are better than the premiums that we are paying. I can always go back and flip flop back in forth on what ever benefit's the fire department best whether we be Grandfathered or not Grandfathered. If we were Grandfathered this year, the rates, number one, the rates starting this year the rates were a lot higher because of the claims we've had and we had an additional 18% increase on the Grandfathered plan if we had anybody on that plan, which we don't. So, what I am trying to do is position to where we always have the best access and the best flexibility on all the plans.

Mr. Trascher said, the availability.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, yes, on all the plans.

Mr. Trascher said, I think it's kind of a no brainer. I think we need to go ahead and move to accept the proposal on the Blue Cross renewal.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I agree.

Mr. Trascher said, and I would so move.

Mr. Lindsey said, second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries.

Mr. Rosenbohm asked, is there anything else you would like to ask me or talk about on the medical? You know, rates are just outrageous the way they are going.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, they are and, George, if you could, if there is any programs or something you can do to help the Department help the employees better understand their coverage and how they can reduce the premiums. If you could pass that on to us, we would appreciate it.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, what we instituted two years ago, and again, we've not only done this in the Fire Department and it don't cost the Fire Department anything. What we instituted a

couple of years ago is a program called EASE. What EASE is, it's a web based enrollment system but, it's also a web based informational system where by, each employee has access. Whether it be in a doctors office, whether it be at home, the spouses or whatever, he can access his benefits, he can see what the structure of them are and things like that. One of the things that we try to talk about is the employee assistance program. But again, because of group size, I can't get an insurance company to pay for it but, the employee assistance program could be something that, when an employee is having problems, he can go to someone besides the employer or somebody and talk it out whether it be financial, whether it be stress, whether it be a marriage problem. But again, it's something that a price tag is associated with that because of the group size. I know that Chief has asked me for that and we looked at some pricing on that but, it just, at this point in time, we didn't want to step out because of the cost.

Mr. Trascher said, we are going to bare the increase here and the additional coverage, too.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, and again, I am always looking for things that we can do that would help alleviate some of the cost.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because we are using not only the insurance side of, but Oschner is like an evil octopus.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, they are buying up everything.

Mr. Trascher said, really, right here, Slidell Memorial, to deal with your billing you have to go to the Heart Hospital in Lacombe. The accounting department is on Robert Road. I mean, they are spread out and it's all because of the Oschner affiliation.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, and again, I think what is happening here with the ACA, and we are one of the two percent of agents in the country that are certified with health reform agents because we can do individual, we can do group, we can do Medicare, we can do Advantage, everything and one of the things that, when it came to pass, a lot of the doctors sold their practices to the hospitals and you see more and more of that happening. I mentioned earlier that Louisiana Heart Hospital is a client of mine. What happened with them, they sold their employees to the hospital but, they kept their own status and they contract out to the hospital. So again, what you have done is, you just made a bigger monster.

Mr. Trascher said, it's a network, my personal doctor, when you go to him you get a bill from the doctor but, you also get a bill from Oschner because he is working out of their office.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, and one of the things that I think can be, I tried to, I hate to use the word preach but, I've tried to talk to my groups about this for years, is when tele-medicine came out. Now, you would think with the pandemic coming out the way it is, more people would be using tele-medicine but, it's a lot easier for people to do an office visit for the most common things over your smart phone or your smart device than it is to take time off of work, drive to the office, sit in the office, get back, and now you have the billing to deal with, okay. So again, if we can use tele-medicine, number one, it cuts down on cost, it cuts down on the cost of the employee, too, or their family.

Mr. Trascher said, and for the good that it does to go to the doctor, you get the same service.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, you get the same service and you know, one of the other things that Oschner has come out with is, they have come out with a situation where, if you have that tele-medicine visit, they got the stethoscope and everything that you can have at your house and they are actually listen to your heart. There's like, on your screen, there's little X's that shows when you hit the right spot so the doctor can hear your heart. There's tongue suppressors so he can see down your throat. I mean, there's a lot of different things from a technology standpoint that I think we can do to try and reduce the cost. But again, it's getting people to adhere to that and use it and that's the biggest challenge that I have is to, you know, they may listen to me when I talk about it but, when they have to use it, it's two months down the road, three months down the road and it's not fresh in their mind.

Mr. Trascher said, well, maybe if you have any literature or something that would help pass that along, pass it to the Chief and he can help disseminate it to the department.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, we definitely will because, the long of the shot of it is, is to try to control as much cost as we can.

Mr. Trascher said, if that is going to lower the claims and that is going to help reduce the premiums and we will all benefit from it.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, and one of the things, and I know I am taking up your time, but one of the other things that is not really thought about is, with the ACA, with the cost shifting that is happening with the ACA because, what you have is, you have people who make under 400% of poverty level and they have a family of, let's say 4, they may not be paying into premiums but the people that have to pay the premiums to help support that function are getting rate increase which are your group business, your individual business and the people in the middle class that have to pay the full price. Some of those individual rates, for \$1,000 deductible and a \$8,000, max out of pocket for a person that is in his 50's, is like \$2,200, a month. A \$8,000, max out of pocket for a person that's in his 50's is like \$2,200, a month. My biggest challenge is, the person that is married and has a spouse that is working and he is aging to age 65, that spouse may be 3 years younger than him. When he wants to go on Medicare, he can't get off the group plan because the spouse, I cannot get a reasonable price for them. So, anyway, that's some of the things, I think, we can...

Mr. Trascher said, we have too many people riding the wagon and not enough pulling.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, what I was trying to do is explain where some of the cost is and I think what we can do is push some of the technology and try to reduce cost.

Mr. Trascher said, absolutely, thank you much, George.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, I appreciate it as always.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you Mr. George.

Mr. Trascher said, we appreciate what you do for us.

Mr. Rosenbohm said, I appreciate you all, believe me.

Mr. Trascher asked, so, do you want to do the Public Comment now?

Mrs. Blackwell said, alright, we will move back to the Financial Report, Chief Dockery.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay with that said, we will move to the Chief's Report, Chief Dockery.

Chief Dockery said, one second. For the month of April, we are looking at a target rate of 33.36%. The only three things we had were Line Item 22, Bank Service Charges. Line 23, Dues and Subscriptions and Line 62, Postage. All of these are either programs being renewed and postage was some stamps and renewal of our post office box. But, as of re-occurring expenses, everything looks to be in line and under 33%.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have any more on finance or questions?

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

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Chief, do you have anything else?

Chief Dockery said, no ma'am, I do not.

Mrs. Blackwell said, if there is nothing else, we will move on to the Chief's Report and the EMS Report.

CHIEF'S REPORT - Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, on EMS, I have not received any paperwork for that but, we will go to the

Chief's Report. For the month of April, we responded to:

EMS	57
MVA	2
STRUCTURE FIRE (One was Mutual Aid District #1)	2
GRASS FIRES	3
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	3
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE	3
FALSE ALARM	4
POLICE MATTER	2
TOTAL	76

Chief Dockery continued, like I said, not much going on for April. I was, if you remember, I sent an email that I was out for roughly 2 weeks with Covid but, I kind of worked from home through everything,

Mrs. Blackwell said, alright, if there is nothing else on the Chief's Report, we will drop down to Old Business. Chief's Proposed Update to Policy Cards and Signatures, Floyd.

OLD BUSINESS

CHEIF'S PROPOSED UPDATE TO POLICY CARDS AND SIGNATURES – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher said, has everybody got their proposed policies that the Chief emailed out?

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, I looked at it.

Mr. Trascher asked, Mr. Swann, have you had the chance to look at it?

Mr. Swann said, I looked at it.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, is there any discussion on that? I was just a little confused but, I mean, right now we are reviewing the monthly credit card statements. Haven't you been?

Mr. Lindsey said, I haven't gotten any in the last several months.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I was going to ask you to maybe come in maybe Thursday or Friday if you have a chance to look at some.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, because we really need to do that.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because that was the point of that policy. The policy, I don't really have a problem with this but, it's not really clear. It just says that a member of the Board would review it. I really want to be sure that we adhere to that monthly policy that the credit card statements are reviewed. As I appreciate it, you are going to only issue the one card in addition to your card. The other thing that it doesn't address is, are you going to allow employees to use your card.

Chief Dockery said, they shouldn't have any access. Usually, they come to me if they have anything, if they need to order something, they will come to me usually with a purchase order request. I will give the the okay and I am usually right there with them when we order.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, that's what I am saying, I just don't want it to evolve into where you are handing the employee the card or they just go out and make a purchase.

Chief Dockery said, no.

Mr. Trascher said, most of the things that they need will be handled with a purchase order. A credit card would be something on an emergency.

Chief Dockery said, yes, anything they might need for the truck or as of supplies, we order supplies so we keep them in our closet. Anything maybe needed for the truck, as like an auto part, I will give a purchase order number and they can go to the parts store and give them that and they get it.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, that way you keep track of it.

Chief Dockery said, this card never leaves me. It stays with me and it doesn't go anywhere.

Mr. Trascher said, and that would be also for the Deputy Chief, also.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, with that said, I move that we approve the Credit Card Policy. At this time, the credit cards that will be issued by the department will be for the Chief and the Deputy Chief, Matt Parish.

Mr. Lindsey said, I second that.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you Chief for your patience and working with us on that.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, if that's all for the Credit Cards and Signatures, we will move to View Quotes for Brick Work on Station 111, Chief Dockery.

VIEW QUOTES FOR BRICK WORK ON STATION 111 – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, alright, in front of you, you have three quotes:

One of them from ABW Masonry, LLC. All three of them I asked for the same. I asked for demo price, I asked for the install with new bricks and all three of them, I got kind of a different take on it. So, ABW Masonry, they have masonry labor to demo bricks off front of veneer of fire station and reinstall new bricks. Now, this is labor only. It would be \$15,500. He never gave me a demo cost and he was kind of late in getting it to me.

The second one was Dino's Masonry. They have:

1. Remove and haul off brick from the front of fire station. They allotted \$5,000, and
2. Brick veneer front wall of fire station using new bricks, commercial wall ties, type S masonry mix and replacing all irons with galvanized lintels. That comes up to \$17,500.

So, he is only \$2,000, more and that's including the brick for the actual brick for in the front.

The third quote is from ECO Builders, Inc. He had a few more things on here than the other guys. He had remove and reset awnings, shutters, letters and cameras. I'm sorry that would be "others remove". That would be us, the department is to remove that. They had:

- Remove Lights, gutters, downspouts
- Remove Brick,
Which after talking with them was a very interesting conversation lest I leave it on record. He allotted \$5,000, for demo.
- Install new brick with new metal lintels
- Install new cap flashing over new brick
- Reinstall gutters and downspouts on exterior of new brick
- Reinstall lights on exterior of new brick
- Remove debris

This total was \$34,800. So, we can figure if the department demoed it would be \$30,800.

Mr. Swann asked, are they putting up new gutters or are they going back up with the same?

Chief Dockery said, it would be the same gutters unless they were damaged beyond any type of repair.

Mr. Lindsey said, well, I think the ABW we can scratch because it didn't include the material and it didn't include most of what it needed to include so, it's not even up for consideration as far as I'm concerned. Dino's, I don't think is a bad, it doesn't seem like a bad price and its definitely more considerable than the ECO one although we will have a little stuff we are going to have to do ourselves or get someone else to reset the gutters or something like that. But, the difference in price is so far beyond, it wouldn't be no problem to get someone to reset the gutters up there and whatever flashing that we need over the top to make it waterproof. I like the ECO proposal but, the cost is more than, in my opinion, more than we can afford or we should because I think we can do this and still get the gutters and the flashing and everything done and still come under by a whole lot. That's just my thought anyway.

Mr. Trascher said, in concur with that line of thinking. With Dino's, I would like to find out a little more about setting and resetting the light fixtures or removing the light fixtures. Just something.

Chief Dockery said, I mean, the light fixtures could be reset by the department.

Mr. Trascher said, I would like to talk with them because we don't want to hold them up from doing their work and cutting back in forth. Just to clarify their proposal a little bit. For example, the gutters, I am sure they are not going to be able to take them down and rehang those gutters.

Mr. Swann said, yes, because they have been up there, and I would imagine they would want whatever damaged be taken down.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, just so we have an idea of what else it is going to cost. I agree with that proposal. I think that is in line with what we need, I just don't want to accept this and get into it and find out we got another \$15,000, between the gutters and...

Mr. Lindsey said, I think basically, what we are going to have to do here, instead of, like with the ECO that is for resetting the gutters that we have. I think we are going to have to get a separate price, which I don't anticipate this being that expensive, of somebody resetting the gutters.

Mr. Trascher said, right.

Mr. Lindsey said, but, the cost difference that we are looking at is a difference of \$30,000 and \$17,500. So, I mean we can definitely get some gutters hung back up there for a whole lot less is what I am thinking. So, in saying all of that, we can get some prices on installing new gutters with the flashing or if the gutters, if we get them down and they don't get damaged, we can reset them and we will still need the flashing work done. But, as far as, I think that has to be a separate price because, I think we should say we have our brick guy, we know that part.

Mr. Trascher said, also, again, you said remove, now, that means that the department will have to knock the old bricks down?

Mr. Lindsey said, he has two cost here. \$5,000, if we want to pay him to do it, to take it down and haul it off for \$5,000. If we want to do it ourselves, we can save \$5,000.

Mr. Trascher said, maybe it would benefit us for \$5,000. I was just concerned taking the bricks down that we don't damage the driveway or hurt somebody.

Mr. Lindsey said, I do think we will need to get something. Roll the doors up, put some plywood down to absorb the impact.

Mr. Trascher said, can we afford plywood?

Chief Dockery said, if you get some at \$40, it's thin sheets.

Mr. Lindsey said, it would be cheaper to put new cement!

Mr. Trascher said, yes, a new driveway. I'm sorry.

Mr. Lindsey said, I probably have some old plywood that we can pull off of one of my racks. We can do it in sections. We can pull off maybe 20 or 30 feet, then clean it all up and then move the plywood. I am up for trying to do it for ourselves. If you are on board and you can get a couple of people to help, I would like to see us put that \$5,000, towards new gutters or some new lights if we need it. Whatever it's going to make that complete and look 100%. I think we are pretty good with the brick. We just have to figure out the gutters.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, the only other thing would be, let's say that would be the complete job and maybe identify the brick a little better.

Mr. Lindsey said, we would definitely have to pick out the color and all that.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I think that would be our choice of picking out a color.

Mr. Trascher said, well, you know the cut of them, we have to know what we can pick from. If he gives us a list or something that identifies that material.

Mr. Lindsey said, right,

Mr. Trascher said, so we don't get second hand brick, or second rate brick. Let me put it that way.

Mr. Lindsey said, I would like to see whatever selections you all come up with. I would like to see maybe 2 or 3 options. Like, this is our first choice, this is our second choice or maybe even this is our third choice and then, I would like the Board to take a look at it as well and say, okay, I agree with your first choice. It looks good. I would like a little more input rather than of one person saying, hey, give me the brick, I want this orange and purple brick. I like it.

Mr. Swann asked, is there brick any where else on the building or just the front?

Mr. Lindsey said, just the front. So, just before, I mean, I am good with the price and all that stuff. Just, before we actually pull the trigger on ordering the color, I would like to see what we are getting before we order the color, that's all.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, let me see if maybe we can suggest this. Ask the Chief to get a little more clarification on the proposal as far as materials we are able to select from so maybe, we can identify the brick, like you said, the colors and something like that and something in here that that would be, whether he removes it or we remove it, that would be something in total cost with those bricks. I know we can have unforeseen damage when it comes down that he would have to repair. Then, we can get a quote on replacing the gutters.

Mr. Lindsey said, I would like to see us replace it while we are doing it.

Mr. Trascher said, I am afraid when we take it down, they are going to leak or they are going to be bad.

Mr. Lindsey said, well, we are going to have to paint them anyway. They have been up there all this while.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, you may just be better to just go ahead.

Mr. Lindsey said, I am not about doing it half way. I mean, we are investing the money. I think we should invest it wisely and be done with it and have no maintenance for a long time.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, they have been up there. Are they rusty, six months from now they can get pin holes in them and start leaking.

Mr. Lindsey said, they may get bent when we pull them down.

Mr. Trascher said, I am sure, yes. So, maybe we can either...

Chief Dockery said, or maybe a joint come loose and try to get that joint back together would be...

Mr. Trascher said, so, maybe it's a good idea to go ahead and get a quote on replacing the flashing and the gutters.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, that would be totally separate from the brick. We will get a little clarification on it if it's going to include all of the brick material and some color options. Other than that, we will be good to go on the brick.

Chief Dockery said, should we do a three option minimum?

Mr. Lindsey said, for the colors.

Chief Dockery said, or is it the sky is the limit?

Mr. Lindsey said, I think three would be sufficient for me.

Mr. Trascher said, all my taste is in my mouth so, I defer.

Chief Dockery said, I don't like the style that is up there now. I am not a fan of that.

Mr. Trascher said, it just looks dirty.

Chief Dockery said, well, it is moldy, what is the word I am looking for, it's got algae and stuff. But, I don't like the, it's almost like it's a used brick. When it was brand new it had that white like crust on the outside.

Mr. Lindsey said, wash.

Chief Dockery said, yes, like white wash. I am not a fan of that.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I seen new houses with it and I don't like it either.

Chief Dockery said, so, I can tell you right now that will not be one of my choices if I have any type of say in it. I am not a fan.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's why I think it would be good to have three options to look it over and then we can go between all of us.

Mr. Trascher said, and fire everything up.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, some of us may disagree but, we will have to find out what the majority of the consensus thinks and that's what it will be. I am good with the price of it and Chief, it's strictly up to you. If you think we can get a couple of hands for a day, a Saturday or something.

Chief Dockery said, I believe we could.

Mr. Lindsey said, and I could get some equipment together and we just have to get a dumpster dropped up here or...

Chief Dockery said, or some dump trailers. I know at least one person that has one.

Mr. Lindsey said, we can get some dump trailers. But, we can get some dump trailers and some equipment and take the baby down and get it all ready and save that \$5,000. I am on board with that. I will sign up for, I could probably line up, I will sign us up for two dump trailers and at least one tractor for scooping it all up and loading it. We will just have to figure out what we are going to pull it down with. That shouldn't be a problem, it looks like it's about to fall down.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Lindsey asked, what are you all's thoughts on it or how we can proceed to get it done?

Mr. Trascher said, I think that sounds great and I think we should ask the Chief to get those three things together for us for the next meeting and move forward from there. If you agree, Mr. Swann?

Mr. Swann said, yes.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, I think we should finalize it for next meeting.

Mr. Trascher said, let's get a quote for the gutters, a little clarification on this contract with Dino's as far as the materials, meaning the bricks and materials and then what is the options there and then it going to be as far as any hidden damages. That's going to be the total cost.

Mr. Lindsey said, it shouldn't be anything since it's metal behind it. If it was like wood behind it, then I would be like we may have some rotten wood from it leaking. But, if it's metal siding...

Mr. Trascher said, we could have some rust. Once it comes down, I will feel better.

Mr. Lindsey said, right.

Mr. Swann asked, where do you get rid of brick?

Mr. Trascher said, well, if it was me that was getting rid of them it would be down at the lake. I could use every bit of bricks.

Mr. Lindsey said, all we need is some pickup trucks and we can tow it wherever we want to tow it.

Mr. Trascher said, you can dump it at the house and I will load it or if you need a place to get rid of them it's not a problem.

Mr. Lindsey said, I can use my truck for one of them.

Chief Dockery said, I am pretty sure, I mean, I have a pickup and a trailer.

Mr. Trascher said, I have that little flat trailer

Mr. Lindsey said, I can get two of them. I will bring one of my work trucks in to pull one trailer and I can get my other pickup to pull another trailer. We can have two at least. If you know anybody that has another trailer and truck. So, we can run it out there, it's not problem with me.

Mr. Trascher said, I mean, you can dump it in Pearl River. If it's small pieces I can pick up by hand.

Mr. Lindsey said, we just need a driver for one of the trucks.

Mr. Trascher said, we can haul it down and stack it along the edge of the lake with a boat.\

Mr. Swann asked, where are you going to dump it?

Mr. Trascher said, by the cabin or at the house.

Mr. Swann said, okay, you have a lot there?

Mr. Trascher said, yes, dump it at the house here and haul it down and stack it down the edge of the lake on the bulk head.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes, we can bring it out there. It's better than paying to dump it.

Mrs. Blackwell said, that's right. It's free.

Mr. Swann said, your right.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, if it's small pieces we can dump it here. Whatever we can do with it.

Mrs. Blackwell said, but he is offering to take it out there.

Mr. Trascher said, I know.

Mr. Lindsey said, okay, that's all I got. I am glad we are moving forward with it.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, Chief we understand that? What we can do for the next meeting?

Chief Dockery said, yes sir, brick selection, three quotes for new gutters and I guess we can see where the bricks are coming from, like St. Joe or what the locations...

Mr. Trascher said, he may be able to give us a brochure of where he is going to get the bricks and materials from.

Mr. Swann said, bricks cost different amounts, too.

Mr. Lindsey said, right, different colors, different sizes. We need to know the colors on it, too.

Chief Dockery said, I think the last guy said it was a queen size.

Mr. Lindsey said, well, if he could just make maybe, on his quote, just clarify that so there is no miscommunication where we say we want this color and he shows up and for some reason it's, well that's the only size that color comes in. Just for clarification of size and color range and then, for next meeting, I say we are good to go with that. Now, when you get gutter quotes, just keep in mind that, tell them that it is more like a metal building, it's more of an industrial type. You know, it's not going to be some kind of little household type little gutters.

Chief Dockery said, right.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's all I got.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Chief, did the Brick Removal go in with that conversation?

Chief Dockery said, yes, ma'am.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, we will skip over Brick Removal. Are we ready to go into Millage Rates Discussions, Floyd?

MILLAGE RATES DISCUSSION – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher said, okay, the millage rates, I guess we need to set our millage rates this year. Chief do you want to take this?

Chief Dockery said, okay, I have had a couple of conversations with Mr. Dugas on this. I asked him about these 15 mills that expire this year and that we had the renewal on. He stated that we would have to go back with the 14.15 that we voted on last year which would bring our total to 40.3. Now, looking at the rate grand recap that was just sent out, with the 40.3, we are looking at a \$63,274, increase for next year from this year's budget projection. I would say that we go back with the 40.3 and at the next meeting we adopt the millage rate that we had from last year.

Mr. Lindsey said, so, the \$63,000, is just the increase in the uptick in revenue but, the millage rate is still the same?

Chief Dockery said, 40.3, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, now, the 15 mills that we have, this year the new millage will not be collected until next year, right. So, we still got time to look at it and there's, I think he indicated there was a bill that went through the House.

Chief Dockery said, let me find it.

Mr. Trascher said, we would roll back one.

Mr. Lindsey said, where if you roll it back we would still be able to keep it.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, we wouldn't have to roll it up to protect it.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's the way I read it.

Chief Dockery said, it was Senate Review and Fiscal Affairs Committee. They looked at the, it was SB154 and SB165, Adjustment of Ad Valorem Millage's, it was heard on Thursday on Senate Review and Senate Affairs Committee, it allows taxing bodies to roll back their millage but retain ability to go back to their maximal millage at a later date without losing it in a reassessment year. It was passed by the Committee with flying colors. That's what Mr. Dugas sent out.

Mr. Trascher said, so, at this point, it is my appreciation of this Legislation, it is going to go from that Committee to the full Senate and then it has to be approved by the House. Then, if the Governor signs it, it becomes law. So, it's on track, it's just not law yet. It definitely would be a good thing.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I would rather stop the...

Mr. Trascher said, the unnecessary practice of rolling forward because...

Chief Dockery said, to hold it for that year.

Mr. Trascher said, exactly, because and again, our \$60,000, that is coming up, that is just property value appreciation. I am good with that millage.

Chief Dockery said, I will put it in, start the paperwork, the affidavit, and will have a resolution cut for next meeting and I will have it on the agenda to adopt the millage rate.

Mr. Trascher said, right, and by keeping the same rate, we don't have to have the meeting.

Chief Dockery said, we don't have to go into July to do it.

Mr. Trascher said, right and advance to the tune. Great, sounds like a plan to me, I am good with it.

Mrs. Blackwell said, if that's all on Millage Rates Discussion, anything else on that? That's it. We will move to Public Comment under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT – Michele Blackwell

Mr. Trascher said, we did that already.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have any comments?

Mr. Trascher said, we don't have any public. I would, really we are blessed with, we used to have a lot of people turn out and fuss. You know.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we must be doing something right.

Mr. Trascher said, it's disheartening not to see anybody but, it's comforting to take thought in that, maybe they think that we are, at least, functioning to the best of the ability and in their best interest.

Mr. Lindsey said, well that and we seem to have a little peace with department as well which is nice that we don't have 10 fire fighters in here screaming and pointing fingers.

Chief Dockery said, yes, everything is running peacefully now. Any little squabbles we have between them...

Mr. Trascher said, you don't tell us about them, great.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

Chief Dockery said, I consider that day to day. Let them try to work it out and if not, I

intervene and come to a good conclusion for everything. We haven't had anything, we are ticking along.

Mr. Trascher said, we do have an appointment available on the Board. I understand the Chief said there may be somebody, I am not sure who it is that put in for it. It would be the Alderman, the Town of Pearl River, that would make the appointment.

Chief Dockery said, I will check next Tuesday at the Town Hall meeting. I will make the inquiry on the progress of that. If they have push it through or is it still sitting there for what ever reason.

Mr. Lindsey asked, so, the Town already has a person in mind?

Chief Dockery said, well, I know one person dropped off an application to them so, whether or not they choose that person that is going to be up to them.

Mr. Trascher said, if you know anybody that would...

Mr. Lindsey said, I know somebody had mentioned to me a couple of weeks ago. I said we need somebody, we are looking for somebody. So, I don't know if it's the person that dropped off the application or not.

Mr. Trascher said, the Town does their appointments and they fill out applications. The Parish did it. The Parish sometimes asks for resumes' so, certainly turn them in. We have had some controversial Board appointments in the past. I hope we can get somebody that will be able to work with us on the Board.

Mr. Lindsey said, right.

Mr. Trascher said, it's a fine line to walk. Anyway, we have a resolution here, what is this Madam Chair? Is that something that just needs a signature?

Mrs. Blackwell said, I don't know, where did this come from?

Chief Dockery asked, is that, I think that is from the...

Mr. Trascher asked, millage's?

Chief Dockery said, the millage. That was the outcome of the millage's. So, I don't know if we need to read that into the record. I was not really given the instructions on it. I know I sent it in an email and I wanted to make a copy of it for you.

Mr. Trascher said, let's see it. See, we signed it but it hasn't been filled out. Georgette, did we do a resolution. I see here that it says signed by Emile.

Chief Dockery said, it might just be the first sheet. I think that...

Mrs. Rinkus said, I don't know what that is.

Mr. Trascher said, it needs to be filled out. Let me show you. It shows Motioned by, and Second. That would be filled out right here.

Chief Dockery said, that wasn't from...

Georgette asked, is that from you?

Chief Dockery said, yes, that is from me.

Mr. Trascher said, and you had to record the votes, yeas, nays, absent. It says signed by Emile and Michele but, do we have a resolution to this effect accepting this?

Mrs. Rinkus said, no, not that I know of.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, Chief, what I would suggest, I don't know where it came from but, you see...

Chief Dockery said, it came from the lawyers office, Fowley, Judell.

Mr. Trascher said, you see it says motioned by and seconded by. Okay, and then, they are asking for a vote and it says sign.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I think they want a signature beside it, by the secretary or somebody else.

Mr. Trascher said, but, we should have a resolution number. It says resolution...

Chief Dockery said, this is one the lawyer drew up. Let me see if I can find it.

Mr. Trascher asked, from the attorney?

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher asked, do we have that resolution?

Chief Dockery said, I don't believe we have a resolution for the department. I believe last year all we did was, well, we had a resolution for the department and we read that into the minutes.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, that's what I am saying. We need to read that into it. This is the votes.

Mrs. Rinkus said, if you want to use the same one, make that one ours, I can give you our next number if that would be easier.

Mr. Trascher said, well, if we have...

Chief Dockery said, it's from Melissa McCarthy. She said, attached are the proceeding, canvassing returns of the elections to be adopted at the May 11th, meeting. We need you to

complete..

Mr. Trascher said, well okay, I think what they want is for us to adopt this, the votes on the election.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, so, what I am going to do is, I am going to offer, I am going to ask the Chairman to offer a resolution, to open the agenda once again to add this resolution to the agenda accepting the election results, I would so move.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have a second?

Mr. Swann said, second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carried, agenda is open.

Mr. Trascher said, Madam Chair, we have the, this is on our Millage Election Returns and we are required to adopt the election results. So, this is a resolution providing:

For the Canvassing of Returns and Declares of the special election held in Fire Protection District No. 11, for the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana on Saturday, March 20, 2021, to authorize a levy and special tax therein.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of Fire Protection District No.

11 of the parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana (the “Governing Authority”), acting as the governing authority of Fire Protection District No. 11 of the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana (the “District”), that:

Section 1, Canvass, that this Governing Authority does now proceed in open and public session to examine the official tabulations of votes cast at the special election held in Fire Protection District No. 11 of the Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, March 20, 2021 (the election), to authorize the levy of a special tax therein pursuant to the following proposition (the Proposition).

Mr. Trascher continued, and the Proposition is:

PROPOSITION

Shall Fire Protection District No. 11 of the Parish of St. Tammany State of Louisiana (the “District”), continue to levy a special tax of fifteen (15) mills on all property subject to taxation in the District (an estimate of \$570,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the 2022 and ending with the year 2031, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and/or operating facilities and equipment to provide fire protection and emergency medical service to the public, including the payment of salaries and the cost of obtaining water for fire protection purposes.

SECTION 2. Election Results. According to the official certified tabulation of votes cast at the said Election, there was a total of 204 votes cast IN FAVOR OF the Proposition and a total 99 votes cast AGAINST the Proposition, resulting in a majority of 105 votes cast IN FAVOR OF the Proposition. The Proposition was therefore duly CARRIED by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified electors voting at the Election.

Mr. Trascher said, the rest is just the resolution, the stuff that we read and then it's going to be signed. Emile Lombard is listed as the Secretary so, we will have to change that and Michele Blackwell as Chairman. We have the Precincts that were in that were in the Election and the certificate where everything was advertised in the St. Tammany Farmer and then we are going to have Promulgation:

The Board of Commissioner's, Governing Authority for the Fire Protection

District No. 11, Parish of St. Tammany, State of Louisiana, do here by, declare, proclaim and announce that the Proposition submitted to the Special Election held in the District on Saturday, March 20, 2021, was carried by the majority of votes cast in the Special Election described and set out in the Proces Verbal.

Mr. Trascher said, and then follows the Certification by the Secretary. I would move that we adopt this Resolution. Mrs. Rinkus, would you give us the next number?

Mrs. Rinkus said, 2021-013.

Mr. Trascher said, in that, we will number this resolution 2021-013, approving the returns from this Special Election.

Mr. Lindsey said, second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries.

Mr. Trascher said, I move we adjourn.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have a second?

Mr. Lindsey said, I will second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Swann said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.