



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  
December 12, 2023  
7:00 pm – 7:24 pm

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **INVOCATION**

### **MINUTES**

Mr. Trascher said, Madam Chair, if you would, something has been brought to light this evening. We have a matter that we need to include under Old Business. We did receive the contract renewal for the Communications District. I would move that we open the agenda to include that item under Old Business.

Mr. Lindsey said, I second.

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, Mr. Lindsey, how do you vote?

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Dreux 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, ma'am.

Mrs. Blackwell said, so, we are going to do that in Old Business?

Mr. Trascher said, yes, under Old Business.

Mrs. Blackwell said, so, we are going to go to, has everyone read and approved the minutes from the November 14<sup>th</sup>, meeting?

Mr. Dreux said, I read them.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, I did receive the minutes. I reviewed them and they seemed to be in order and I would move that they be approved with the video recording governing.

Mr. Lindsey said, second.

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

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries. We will move right on into the Financial Report, Chief.

## FINANICAL REPORT

Chief Dockery said, alright, for the month of November we are looking at a goal of 92%. Just going through, most of them are what we talked about last month. Fuel being at 97%, of course that is always fluctuating each month. We talked last month about Workman's Comp, how we received the audit and they increased the rates. So, that will have to be adjusted next month. And, also, Engine 111, on the second page, Line Item 6480. We got it back from Sid Martins. Right now, we are \$26,178.05, over. I would say, I know we talked about taking funds out of the restricted account to pay for the repairs. I would ask that we hold off until next meeting if we can. I need to go this week to get two tires put on the front of it so, that going to be about another \$4,000. So, once that is done, we can approve that and have the funds transferred.

Mr. Trascher asked, will we be able to approve that transaction along with the other Line Item adjustments that we will need to make the year end figure?

Chief Dockery said, yes, next month's.

Mr. Trascher said, okay.

Chief Dockery said, one other line that was new was Fire Prevention. We had a double charge on one vendor. The check was cut but was not sent so, I will have to get with the CPA and have that adjusted to bring that back down to where it needs to be. Other than that, the monthly bills are running in line with where we need to be.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, is there any discussions?

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

Mr. Trascher said, no, I am good. We will visit the issues next month when we make the final adjustments for the year end.

#### EMS REPORT

Chief Dockery said, on the EMS side, for the month of November, we brought in \$16,485.07.

Mrs. Blackwell said, good deal. Any questions or discussions on the EMS Services?

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

Mrs. Blackwell said, if you all are okay, we will move right into the Chief's Report, Chief Dockery.

#### **CHIEF'S REPORT/ EMS REPORT - Chief Jack Dockery**

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

EMS	59
MVA	4
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	5
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE	9
FALSE ALARM	4
GRASS/WOOD FIRES FIRE	8
POLICE MATTER	4
VEHICLE FIRE	1
TOTAL	94

Mr. Dreux asked, did you say 58 or 59?

Chief Dockery said, 59 EMS.

Mr. Dreux said, okay.

Chief Dockery said, just a brief, brief supplement. We did go to the Town Hall Christmas. We were able to bring Santa on the Fire truck and the Town loved it. We got a lot of praise for it. I would like to make it and I know we put it on Facebook but, I would like to thank Walmart Market on Robert Boulevard. They donated the fruit for the event and it was a great turn out and a great time for everybody.

Mr. Lindsey said, good.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, is there any other discussion on the Chief's report? We will move to Old Business.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Blackwell continued, we will move to Old Business that we opened up the agenda for, Communications.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, Chief Dockery?

Chief Dockery said, yes, every 3 years we have a renewal with Fire District's Number 1, Communications Division. Funds are disbursed equally from each Department. It goes off of the calls that you have for that year. So, we went from 1,009 calls back in 2019 to 1,350 calls for this next renewal process. That being said, we have to adjust the funds that we pay dispatch for this next 3 year period.

Mr. Dreux said, so that's over 200 calls.

Chief Dockery asked, what's that?

Mr. Dreux asked, what is your increase number?

Chief Dockery said, the increase was about 350 calls from the 2019 when we did the first initial contract. It goes off of per call. They charge X amount of dollars per call and each District gets charged that depending on how many calls they have. We are looking at a increase each year just because 911, the supplement that was given, it's starting to be taken out over the next 3 year period I believe, Chief Paris?

Chief Parish said, for the next 3 year period. Not only is the increase of the supplement they gave us it's over a 3 year period so, it's for the next 3 years that the amount will go down to I think (inaudible) a month. So, that's why you will see an increase next year and the year after. Instead of just kind of one big increase.

Mr. Trascher said, basically what they did was they prorated the increase over a three year period to all the departments.

Chief Parish said, that's correct.

Chief Dockery said, correct.

Mr. Trascher said, and this is a standard renewal. I mean, all Fire District's, it's imperative...

Chief Parish said, when the contracts up we will have to renew it but, with all of this it should be stable this 3 year cycle billing (inaudible).

Mr. Trascher said, (inaudible) right. Again, it is imperative that we participate in the 911 system because all agencies that are effected in the area are notified.

Mp said, that's correct and because 911 is solely there, we used to have a 911 center and it would go to Lacombe. All the equipment is there and it's cheaper and you don't have equipment everywhere, the maintenance cost (inaudible).

Mr. Trascher said, and your not duplicated resources with each AQ.

Mp said, our ratings are basically efficient points we get. All the recording equipment and everything is there providing the communications. It is definitely beneficial.

Mr. Trascher asked, Chief, would you give us the rates that we are going to approve for the renewal?

Chief Dockery said, alright, for the year 2024, the annual fee will be \$44,724, for the the year 2025 the annual fee will be \$50,047, and for the year 2026 the annual fee will be \$51,195.

Mr. Trascher said, based on that and the renewal, if there's no discussion, I would move that we approve the renewal of our 911 contract.

Mr. Lindsey said, I will second it.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you.

Mrs. Blackwell said, thank you. With that being done, we will move to Old Business which is our agenda item, Fire Fighter of the year, Chief Dockery.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

Chief Dockery said, alright I know for the last couple of years with Covid and what not, it put us back a little bit so, I am trying to get things kicked off again by having the Fire Fighter of the Year. I put out a poll for all the employees to vote and give a reason why and they were very unanimous on the decision this year. So, Captain Geissler...

Chief Dockery said, this is Mitchell Geissler who is Fire Fighter of the Year, 2023. It says "Fire Fighter of the Year 2023 is presented to Mitchell Geissler in recognition for your dedication and service of the St. Tammany Fire Protection District Number 11".

Mrs. Blackwell said, congratulations.

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, who is going to take the picture.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Georgette's got it for you.

Captain Geissler said, she's got it.

Mrs. Blackwell said, let's get one shaking the Chief's hand.

Captain Geissler said, thank you.

Chief Dockery said, thank you.

Mr. Lindsey said, thank you, Mitchell. How many years do you have in now?

Captain Geissler said, years, about 15 or 16 years.

Mr. Lindsey said, that's good. Thank you.

Mrs. Blackwell said, good job, thank you Mitchell.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Blackwell continued, alright, we will move down to Public Comment under New Business. Do we have any Public Comment?

Mr. Herman Netzhammer said, actually, I do.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, do you want to come up to the podium and state your name and address, please.

Mr. Netzhammer said, sure, how are you all doing tonight.

Board members said, good.

Mr. Netzhammer said, my name is Herman Netzhammer and I live on Archie Singletary Road in District 7. First, I would like to start off, I would like to commend the Chief for the cooperation that they had in District 7 in that big structure fire on Allen Crawford and Highway 41 and also for the repeatability that, I went in there today and asked for piece of paper work regarding that fire and I would also like to commend him on how fast he got to it because, I was having problems with my own District Fire Chief. It took me over a month to get that very same report. So, thank you, sir.

Now, however, there is another issue I discovered while I was there.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay.

Mr. Netzhammer said, there is two stumps burning on the side of the building on the property line, by the parking lot. They were unattended, there was no water hose or anything run out to it. After I got the paper work from the Chief, you know, I asked a question about fire safety. Now that the burn ban is over with, what do you do. He explained that, you are suppose to keep it under 4 feet high, have somebody attending the fire at all times and a water hose out there. None of which was present at the actual fire department. No body was out there, there was no hose ran, nothing. Everybody was inside playing on their phones and stuff and

hanging out when I went in there. Now, I know it's kind of a petty issue, that particular thing but, I am sure you all heard about the fire department, I believe it was up near Bogalusa, that caught on fire. Do you know which one I am talking about?

Mrs. Blackwell said, vaguely.

Mr. Netzhammer continued, yes, that was locally. It's about an hour and the Chief just mentioned that you all had 8 grass fires in the month of November. And, unattended fires is actually one of the main causes of grass fires. So, in order to get this issue resolved because, I figured like possibly, a citation should have been issued. I got nowhere. I went to the Mayor's office and they sent me to the Pearl River Police Department and I got the run around there too. They sent me to the State Fire Marshal and the State Fire Marshal said, there was nothing they could do about it. They told me to call the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office so, I called them. They said, there was nothing they could do about it. So, I figured I would come to you guys, you know, to do something about this complaint because, mainly, I feel one, it's a danger to the public and the Chief, one of the Chief's job, the Fire Department's job, is to train and educate the public and to serve as a good example and that was not a good example. Those fires were visible from the street so the public could easily see them so, if you are out there teaching kids, you know in the school's, to don't do this and then the kids see that they are doing it, why can't I do it. The same thing with the adults also. So, I just kind of felt it needed to be addressed.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, well I appreciate you bringing it to our attention and we will do an investigation and take that actions as necessary.

Mr. Netzhammer said, thank you. Can I be informed on if and when all that happens?

Mrs. Blackwell said, leave Georgette your phone number and when ever we get it done, we can discuss how , the letter or whatever, how get it to you.

Mr. Netzhammer said, okay.

Mrs. Blackwell said, just leave Georgette your name and number.

Mr. Trascher said, leave your contact information.

Mr. Netzhammer said, yes, sir.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we appreciate you coming out and acknowledging us. Is that all for Public Comment? Okay, Chief Parish.

Chief Parish said, I think I do want to say something. I want to put it on the record. Can I stay here?

Mrs. Blackwell said, you can stand up here if you want.

Chief Parish said, I just want to say, have you seen the ladder truck that's been driving around the neighborhoods? We were doing the parades for Santa Clause?

Mrs. Blackwell said, yes.

Mp said, I just want to put it on the record that our guys paid for that out of their pocket by decorating the truck and did all of that on their own without anything from us.

Mrs. Blackwell said, good deal.

Mp said, I just want them to get recognition for that because the community is absolutely loving it.

Mrs. Blackwell said, good.

Mp said, you know, they picked a couple of neighborhoods every night of the week, they are doing it on their own time. The volunteers come in, they are off duty when they do it. They pay for everything themselves and the Town is loving it and I think they deserve recognition.

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

Mr. Trascher said, thank you for bringing that out Chief and I personally would like to thank you guys for doing that. We really do appreciate what you do.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we do.

Mr. Trascher said, I am glad to see tonight, and I know I have been beating on the awards and I think we need to do more for the recognition of the Fire Fighters and the endeavors that they do. Thank you Chief Parish.

Mr. Dreux said, I would like to say a little bit.

Mrs. Blackwell said, yes sir.

Mr. Dreux said, I agree with you, Chief, we used to do it every year in St. George. Then we would get the public, the stores and stuff would donate candy and then we would get a Santa and we would have a big train through the whole neighborhoods for the whole week we would do it. That's PR, that's Public Relations and that's what you want and they loved it. Now they can see you in a different light instead of seeing you sitting in front the fire station, you know I get that all the time. So, good job.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mr. Chuck?

Mr. Netzhammer said, yes, I have a Santa costume, a professional Santa costume if you guys need to borrow it this year.

Mr. Dreux said, yes, we will have to keep that in mind.

Mr. Netzhammer said, I was a mall Santa but, I had a cancer scare so I shaved everything off and I didn't have to work this year. I was a mall Santa for 4 years and I am not doing it this year so, if you all need one, call me up.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you sir, that is very kind of you. We appreciate it.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Lindsey, do you have anything to add to that? About the Santa trip?

Mr. Dreux said, he is going to grow a beard and be Santa.

Mrs. Blackwell said, your going to be Santa next year?

Mr. Lindsey said, getting close! I, in the future, and I wouldn't even mind if you know, doing it this year, the guys that are putting out money to do this, I don't see why there would be any problem with a other people pitching in. I wouldn't mind to help to where it didn't have to come out of a few peoples pockets. I mean, if you are good enough to do it, I definitely don't think it should come out of your pockets to do it for our community. So, you could let us know through Chief or what ever, what kind of funds were involved in it and I would like to donate towards it to give back to you all for putting it on. I am sure we could get some others to pitch in a few dollars so you are not out of pocket. But, I do thank you all for doing it.

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, yes, sir. I want to say thank you all and I appreciate everything you do for our community and everything. I think Santa is riding on Spur 41 Friday night. Chief?

Captain Anderson said, so, Friday Santa is actually going to be at Little Pearl Elementary and he will be reading a book for the kids.

Mrs. Blackwell said, nice!

Captain Anderson said, Friday night he will be on the ladder going up Spur 41.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Spur 41 and Pine Street Extension at 5:00, am I right?

Captain Anderson said, that is correct.

Mr. Lindsey asked, can you guys think of anything that, as a Board, that we can do to help you all or assist you all other than rounding up some funds to help you all recoup your money?

Firefighters and EMS said, I can't think of anything. Not right now.

Mr. Lindsey said, alright, if you do, just pass it to the Chief. We, I am speaking for myself but I am sure some of the other Board members would be willing to help where ever we can.

Mr. Dreux said, absolutely.

Chief Parish said, just the Mr. Russel it's just the continued support from you all. You know you all support us and it makes it easier for them. They don't do this for every District, they do this because they (inaudible). They don't go out and (inaudible) you know Halloween, they went out and spent their money and bought candy for the kids. Not because they had to or

that we couldn't. They did it on their own because they wanted to. They enjoy it.

Mr. Dreux said, you are inspiring young kids to want to be Fire Men, you know.

Mrs. Blackwell said, yes. If you let us know, we can chip in or whatever. Okay, if that's it...

Mr. Trascher said, okay, with that said, I would like to wish everyone a very merry, blessed Christmas for their entire families and a happy and prosperous New Year. I move we adjourn.

Mr. Lindsey said, I second.

Mr. Dreux said, I third.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Dreux said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, no.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries. Meeting is adjourned.