



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  
January 14, 2025  
7:00 pm – 7:39 pm

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **INVOCATION**

### **MINUTES**

Mrs. Blackwell calls the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call is done and all board members are present. Mr. Floyd Trascher does the invocation and Mr. Russell Lindsey leads the pledge.

Mrs. Blackwell asked if anyone has read the minutes of the meeting held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Trascher reviewed the minutes and Mr. Trascher moves to approve the minutes with the video governing. Mr. Lindsey seconds. A roll call vote is called, all in favor, motion carries.

Chief Dockery presents the Financial Report, for the month of December we are looking for 100%, on the budget. Chief Dockery points out a couple line items that have gone over the 100% mark, especially the Soft Ware Maintenance. I asked for the records to be pulled and apparently, something was put on this that was suppose to be for this year. That will be corrected. Line Item 6480, I will ask about this because the budget should have been higher than \$2,000. Also, that truck changed over midway through the year from being the original 2014, Engine 111, to the 2023. In the grand scope of everything, we came out at 95.81%, of the budget. We are within range of the actual total budget minus these discussed.

## EMS REPORT

The EMS side brought in \$19,489.88, for the month of December which gave us a total revenue of \$305,812.14. Mr. Trascher points out that it is another month above our projections of EMS and then asked about the Income line item, our income projection was 126%? Chief Dockery said, yes, we budgeted for around \$869,000 through all our budgeted items and we actually brought in \$1,104,484.00. Mr. Trascher asked if, just as an overview, were there any major incomes that we received or is this in line with the taxes? Chief Dockery explained it's in line with the actual taxes.

With no more questions on the Financial Report or the EMS Report, we move to the Chief's Report.

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

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

EMS	61
MVA	8
VEHICLE FIRE (Mutual Aid Dist. 7)	1
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	8
FIRE ALARM	2
TRASH FIRES	2
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE	3
 TOTAL	 85

### FIRE CLASS 1 HAS STARTED - 13 RECRUITS

Chief Dockery said our Fire Fighter 1 class has started. They met last Friday for orientation and Saturday was for physical training. The first official class was last night and it will run until April. We have 13 recruits right now and they are just getting started with it.

Mr. Lindsey asked if all of these recruits are paying to go to the class and is there any issue for personnel coming to sit in on the class and do a refresher? Chief said yes, everyone is paying and there are no issues with personnel coming to sit in on the class. Chief said he will email him the syllabus on it. It starts at 6:00 pm and it goes to, I think, 10:00pm. They are held on Monday and Thursday and I believe every other Saturday.

Mrs. Blackwell said, if we are finished with the Chief's Report, we will move to Old Business.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

## UPDATE ON RENOVATIONS AND TEMPORARY LIVING QUARTERS - Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher asked Chief Dockery to update the Board. Chief Dockery said he spoke to the architect and he still has us on the list. He received the down payment on the blue prints and now we are waiting on that.

The living quarters, we are still kicking some ideas around, either a mobile home or travel trailer. I did get another number for a company that does temporary housing from some of my guys that work on rigs. I will do some more research to see if that is plausible. Mr. Lindsey asked for a time frame or goal set to break ground on this and get it started?

Chief Dockery said it would probably be after this class is done in April. Once the blue prints are in then we will have to go out for bid and go through that process for the contractors. Mr. Trascher said the priority is that we need to do is the living quarters first.

## RENEWAL OF SERVICES OF CLERICAL ASSISTANT TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S – Floyd Trascher

As you know, we have Mrs. Rinkus as Professional Service Contract, it's time to renew her contract for another year. Her proposal is before us and there is no increases in the price and the terms are still the same. Mr. Lindsey makes a motion to accept it. With no questions or discussions, Mr. Swann and Mr. Trascher second. A roll call vote was done, all in favor, motion carries. Mrs. Rinkus thanks the Board. We can move on to New Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ELECT POSITIONS OF THE BOARD FOR 2025 – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Floyd explains that annually we have to renew our officers on the Board. The Chairman is appointed for a 2 year term and was elected last year by the Board. The Chairman will be up for appointment next year. The Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, etc., would be the ones up for election now. If everyone is in favor of keeping it the way it is, we can vote for all at one time, Madam Chair, it is up to you. Mrs. Blackwell asked if everyone is in favor of keeping it the way it is, we can do it all in one. All board members agree to keep it the way it is. Mr. Lindsey makes a motion to accept all in globo, Mr. Swann seconds. Mrs. Blackwell calls for a vote for each position in globo, a vote was called, all in favor, motion carries. The Resolutions are as follow:

2025-002	-	Vice-Chair, Mr. Floyd Trascher
2025-003	-	Treasurer - Russell Lindsey
2025-004	-	Secretary – Eugene Swann
2025-005	-	Vice-Secretary, Ryan Dreux

### SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS FOR 2023 – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher explains the Summary of Resolutions for 2024. This is a list of Resolutions approved by the Board in 2024. The Board decides to recognize this with out reading the 25 Resolutions. These were approved last year and this is memorializing them and moves to approve the Summary of Resolutions (2025-001). Mr. Lindsey seconds. All in favor, motions carries.

#### AUDIT ENGAGEMENT – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said Mr. Chris Johnson got in touch with me on December 30<sup>th</sup>, to see if he was going to be our auditor again this year. This is the one we used last year with Hebert Johnson & Associates. I asked him what the cost would be this year and that the Board meeting was tonight and he stated the cost would still be the same, \$10,000 for the audit and since there are only a couple procedures to perform on the AUP, the cost would go down to \$750. Last year the cost was \$3,000, for the AUP's. The total cost would be \$10,750. Mr. Trascher asked if that would include the Parish report and Chief Dockery said yes, that would be both of them. It's the general audit and the AUP's. Mr. Trascher asked how it was to work with this firm last year. Chief Dockery said that last year was the first time working with them and that he would like to stay with them again this year. Mr. Trascher noted the reduction of cost and he moved to approve the engagement contract with Hebert Johnson & Associates. Mr. Lindsey seconds, roll call vote was done, all in favor, motion carries.

#### MILLAGE ELECTION DISCUSSION – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery looked through our millage's and stated that we have one coming up for renewal in 2026. I contacted Foley and Judell, LLP, sometime last week and they called back yesterday, I spoke to Mr. Hardy Andrews who worked with Allen Hoffman, and said they are trying to get us on the October ballot and I am working on getting everything he needs for that. Mr. Trascher confirms that this will be the 2025 ballot. We could have worked on this last year but I thought last year was too volatile to touch it. Mr. Trascher said he was concerned the Spring ballot could be a problem because it would be a re-dedication. Chief agrees with not being on the Spring ballot, this will be a fall ballot. Mr. Trascher asked if we had to go the Parish Council and Chief Dockery is waiting to see what our Councilman says. Mr. Lindsey asked what millage is coming up. Chief Dockery said it is 10 mills but I'm not sure of the actual value of it. The next millage following after this one is in 2029 and the others are in the 2030's. Mr. Lindsey said it's about a quarter of our budget and then asked, when do we have to have this done by in 2026 because, if for some reason, if it fails in October of 2025, what is our options to run it again? Chief Dockery said it would be in the Spring. Mr. Lindsey stated so we can run it again in the spring. In the mean time, I think we need to be very visible in the public. Chief said he thinks in the Town of Pearl River, we are very public in a sense. We have the team working on that and when we have new information we will put information on social media. Mr. Lindsey said hopefully the economy will improve by then because, everyone I spoke to about the millage discussion, they are voting no on everything. Mr. Trascher said it seems to be that people are satisfied here and it's the other agencies. We have to stress that it is a Renewal, not a new tax, we are not asking for more. Once we have these renovations done, I think we need to look at our millage's and maybe roll back one of the millage's. Mr. Lindsey agrees and thinks that's what we talked about before, that we were maxed out to get a new ambulance and then roll it back some and then let the public know we are looking to roll it back some. Chief Dockery said in the grand scheme of things, this year or in 2024, we were told to stay where we were with the

millage's and we did. That was the suggestion and by all means, if he (the tax assessor) would have said to roll back 2 mills, we would have. This year will be the same. Mr. Trascher said but we have a defined need this year and Chief agreed. Mr. Lindsey said we also need to look ahead at maybe needing another station and man that station.

Mrs. Blackwell asked about the cold storage coming. Chief Dockery said if Chief Parish is here when we finish, I would like to talk to him because he brought up a law that I was not aware of. When I spoke to the tax assessor, he told me that was District 1, which is great but, since the Town of Pearl River has Annexed it in, he told me of a law that two municipalities cannot compete in a sense. I don't want to spew my words but, I want to get the actual law and bring it to the tax assessor. Mr. Trascher stated that he believes that when two municipalities are involved in the fire district, each municipality gets an appointment to that board. Chief Dockery said he believes he is correct. Mr. Trascher continued, that would mean that the Town of Pearl River would gain an appointment on Fire District 1's Board. I don't think Slidell would want to give up an appointment for that one reason. I think they would rather amend the fire district to clear up the lines. Chief said that's where we are with that and in a sense, we have 84 Lumber, we have Rooms to Go, Associated Grocer's and our lines cut AWG in basically in half. District 1 said you can have it. Mr. Lindsey asked what kind of deal was made? Chief asked, like a Pilot Reduction? To my knowledge, it should have excluded public safety out of any tax deals. It should be the actual tax instead of the 30 year deal of \$50,000 a year tax. That is a need to know. It has really hindered us on if it is actually ours, we were not in the process of it going up for our fire protection or any type of codes for fire prevention. So, it's a hindrance to us. I am trying to get a yes or no. If it is a no, then the Town of Pearl River can do what they need to do. Mrs. Blackwell said, if we do have it, it gives us more of a stand of needing a station on that side of the tracks. Mr. Trascher asked if we would be the closest station to it. Chief said yes, us or Station 17 on Johnny F. Smith, the business park is manned with a full crew. Mr. Trascher thanks the Chief for working on this and if he needs the Board to speak on this or anything, we will accommodate. Also, I agree with the millage election being on the Fall Ballot and get it worked out so we can get it on the ballot.

Mr. Lindsey asked what is going on with the proposed camp ground? To our knowledge, everything was shot down for that and a lot of the backers backed out. The zoning commission may be looking at rewriting that zone. It's back on the market for sale also.

Mrs. Blackwell said, if there's nothing else, we can move to Public Comment.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Blackwell asked for any public comment. No public comment. Mr. Trascher wishes everyone a happy and prosperous new year. Next week is a milestone in our political lives with the inauguration of our new president and hopefully move forward in a positive manner. Mrs. Blackwell asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lindsey made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Swann seconded. All in favor, motion carries.