



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  
September 18, 2024  
7:01 pm – 7:36 pm

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **INVOCATION**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **MINUTES**

The rescheduled meeting is called to order by Mrs. Blackwell at 7:01p.m. Roll is called, Mr. Russell Lindsey and Mr. Ryan Dreux are Absent. (The regular meeting was scheduled for September 10, 2024, but canceled due to hurricane Francine)

Mr. Trascher reviewed the minutes and makes a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 13, 2024, with the video governing. Mr. Eugene Swann seconds, the minutes are approved with 2 yeas, no nays, motion carries.

### **FINANICAL REPORT**

Chief Dockery presents the Financial Report and states for the month of August we are looking for a 67% range. The monthly expenses seem to be in line. We have a few trucks that are a little higher but these are general repairs, not monthly.

Fire prevention is at 91%. We just made an order for our yearly supplies for Fire Prevention Week and this will go on into next year. Fire Equipment is still at 93%, which should be it for the year.

Medical Billing is at 107.68%, that's because we took in a lot more as we spoke on in different meetings, we've collected more than what we budgeted for and we are billed more. This will have to be amended at the end of the year.

As for the monthly bills, they are running in line or a little under. Even the Fuel is running at 61%, which is lower because, thankfully, the prices of fuel have stabilized.

## EMS REPORT

EMS Services, we collected, \$22,575.22, for the month of August. It looks like \$588.21, was Retro Upper Payment Limit (UPL), which is what we spoke about last month. Medicare changed their pay scale where we will see more money coming in and you will see these from time to time and they will show as Retro UPL. That brings EMS Services higher by \$35,291.89, than what we projected for the budget.

Mr. Floyd points out that it's about 125% of our projected budget for the year.

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

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

EMS	58
VEHICLE FIRES	1
STRUCTURE FIRE	3
(all for District #7)	
GRASS/TRASH FIRE	2
MVA	5
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	7
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED	6
FALSE ALARMS	9
POLICE MATTER	1
 TOTAL	 92

Chief Dockery checked into living quarters for use during the renovations. I reached out to a couple of companies. I checked with Sunbelt Rentals and United Rentals, neither one do any type of living quarters, just office type. While going around town, I noticed a spot off Porter's River, some small mobile homes. I called the gentleman and he has a number of small mobile homes and I am talking with him to see if we can rent, lease or purchase when we get a time frame.

Mr. Floyd asked if it's a camper type or mobile home. Chief Dockery said it was small mobile homes. It is 1 or 2 bedrooms. He said it's his overflow that he is storing there. He sent pictures of others that he has. He seems to be willing to work with us. I will keep in touch with him, the process is started.

Mr. Trascher asked if it would be an interest of buying and using on Porter's River Road after the renovations. Chief Dockery said that may be a possibility.

#### LETTER OF APPRECIATION – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery reads a thank you letter that was received about 3 weeks ago for the crew on April 22, 2024. It read:

*Fire District Number 11, just a short note to thank the crew on April 22. You responded to my house with that afternoon with haste and efficiency to care for my wife. She had fallen on the front lawn and was paralyzed temporarily. She is still doing rehab but has regained all functions of her limbs and is getting stronger all the time. Without your response, I fear this event would have had a far worse outcome. So, to the crew on duty that afternoon, you have my gratitude for doing your job very well. My apologies for not remembering your name.*

Chief Dockery said, I did go back and look for the crew that was working that day and it was Paramedic Holland and Fire Operator Ebarb. I will let them know of the letter and the gratitude. I wanted to put it on record for them and we will do something for them.

Mr. Swann suggest giving them the letter.

Mr. Trascher said, please express our sincere gratitude for the job well performed and like Mr. Swann suggested, we can get them a certificate or something for the recognition for the services they perform.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### FIRE HOUSE UPGRADES – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher asked for Chief to respond. Chief Dockery said, the gentleman (the architect) and I am waiting to hear back from him but he just got back in the country on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The storm, Francine, moved in and he lives in Metairie so, not sure how he faired through the storm. I emailed him and while waiting to hear from him. While I am waiting on him I am trying to get some quotes on the sheds. I check,ed with Adco, in Lacombe and got a price for a 20X20 shed but they have, I checked on line but all are not the same. I am trying to get similar products. It wouldn't be fair if I didn't because ADCO is probably going to be like a iron building and Mr. Trascher said and the others maybe like a tin shed. Chief agrees.

##### WELL PUMP

Mr. Swann asked, where do we stand with the well. Chief Dockery said, that was the second one. I called Well Works, in Covington and I spoke with the gentleman that came out last year. We spoke for about 30 minutes and I gave him the part number of the pump we are looking at and he stated that, doing the calculations, he said it should put out around 500. I

asked if we contract him to install it, could he guarantee that? He said, no, we will not guarantee it because it's not our pump. I asked could you order the pump then guarantee it? He said no. unless it was his brand, they could not guarantee it. Mr. Trascher asked if he could provide one in his brand and Chief said his brand is not high enough in GPM's. The quote they gave us before was the same brand but lower horse power. I asked him about he one quoted to put out 300 gallons? He said even with that one they cannot guarantee the GPM at the end of it.

Mr. Swann said then we should find somebody else. Can you get the brand of the pump?

Chief Dockery said, I can get the brand of the pump.

Mr. Swann suggest to get the brand of the pump and call that company and ask if they have someone that would install it and guarantee it.

Chief Dockery said I get what he is saying and that's what I am working on. I checked with the place in Denham Springs has the pump but they mostly deal with oil rigs and are just a supply outlet. They don't install.

Mr. Trascher said he agrees that we need some assurance on what we spend money on and Chief said he understands.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **BANK CONTRACT – Chief Jack Dockery**

The Board is supplied with two packets. One is a two page contract from Hancock Whitney and the other one, the big package, is a proposal from Gulf Coast Bank. Chief knows of other districts that use Gulf Coast Bank and that's why he asked for a proposal from them. Just looking through it, what they are basically telling us is that they can get us a better rate for what we do now. Back in August when Mrs. Williams sent me an email, the T Bill was at 4.15%, in August and that's what they were going off of. They are showing theirs at 4.68%. they are claiming to be able to get us \$2,619.54, more per month in interest. This is just introducing it and we can vote on it next month. I just wanted for you to read through it. I still have a couple questions for them. I asked about remote banking and they said they have that. Hancock Whitney has what they call Treasure Management. They have something similar to that. It seemed to be apples and apples. The plus side is that they (Gulf Coast) don't charge for checks and they don't charge any monthly fees. Right now we get charged for \$55 per month for a Treasure Management system. Gulf Coast said they don't charge for that. Right now we get charged for checks and Gulf Coast said the checks are free. I definitely have more questions and this is a introduction so please look over it. I haven't heard any complaints by anyone using them and Chief named District's 9, 7 and maybe 13, that bank with Gulf Coast.

Mr. Floyd asked if the interest rate that they are quoting, is it for 1 year? Chief explained if you look on the page with the Earning Estimate, the interest rates will go off of the 90 day T-Bill. It's no worse or less than what we have now. It's 75% of what the T-Bill is for Hancock

Whitney. They are not going to offer any less than what Hancock Whitney is going to offer. Mr. Swann asked Chief if he could talk with Hancock Whitney and see if they will match what Gulf Coast is offering. Chief said he would ask her. Mr. Swann said, she has been good to us for a number of years and Chief agrees. If its substantially the same and maybe ask for them to do the free checks, then why move. We don't have to vote on this right now. We can vote next month because our contract reinstates November 1<sup>st</sup>. We can vote next month.

Mr. Trascher asked, you said with Hancock Whitney, we pay a monthly service fee? Chief Dockery said, yes. When we first started it was \$195, per month and we talked them down to \$55 a month which is basically for their remote deposit and for us to look at the account from our office. That's Treasure Management Service. With Gulf Coast, it is free. I just ordered a box of checks and it was roughly \$250, whereas, theirs are free. If we can get them to meet somewhere with that. The main differences is the \$50 monthly service fee and the cost of the checks. We have been with them for a while but, it note bad to look around and see what other offers are out there. Mr. Trascher agrees and said we must be good stewards.

#### SCBA DISCUSSION – Chief Dockery

We have SCBA's that we use for fighting fires and we are starting to come up on the age limit of the ones that we have, they no longer make parts for anymore. We do have new ones that we purchased in sections throughout the years but, the last 8 that we have that are old, they no longer make parts for. What I am suggesting to the Board is, using some of the money that we have in the Surplus Bond Account for equipment, that we use to purchase said air packs. For 8 packs and 16 bottles, we are looking at \$72,406. That amount will be about half of what is in that account. We have about \$140,000, in it right now.

Mr. Swann commented that it would still have to bid out for purchase. Chief Dockery said, yes, we still have to do our side of it the equation. I wanted to bring it to the Board's attention and this is something we can use to mitigate account that's been lingering. This is something that we do need. We have been purchasing them over the years but, this is the last 8 packs that we need. Mr. Trascher ask if by doing this will we get on a schedule that we could maybe buy one a year or something that we can operate with? Chief said, the packs itself, these I would say we have 10 or 15 years to go because it's such a new style pack, we should be able to get parts for them for at least that. The bottles are the ones that have a time line. X amount of years they have to be hydro'ed and they can only be so many times.

Mr. Trascher said then we can establish a rotation to where we will not have a big expense all at once. We could rotate 2 or 3 a year. We can make this purchase and bring us up to where we can start a rotation.

Chief said we have been trying to stagger the bottles because what happened long ago, and not that it's a bad thing, it's a double edge sword with grants. Last year we got a grant and bought all new packs, all new bottles and all new spare bottles. The problem with that was, all the bottles expire all at one time. Years ago we started doing 2 or 3 bottles a year to stagger them out so they don't expire all at once. They still have to be hydro'ed but, the life of the bottle will not be all at one time.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, we can take the oldest next year and get 2 more in and the year after bring 2 more in and so on and in 10 years, we will have replaced all of them. Chief agrees and that's what he is trying to do.

Mr. Swann asked if they have it on State Contract? Chief said, if they don't have it on state contract they have others that have the bid already that we can piggy back off.

Mr. Trascher said he had no problem using the funds. The funds have been sitting for over 10 years and under the advice of the attorney's it can be used for equipment. Chief said as long as we are good with this, he will start the process of the purchase. We spent some of that money, didn't we?

Chief said, I would have to look it up. I now what you are talking about. That was when Johnny was here. We bought some extrication equipment. he is still looking at ambulances and that it is working in the background so he stays in the loop with the sellers.

Mr. Trascher said I thought it was something just recently that we authored and prior to approving the expenditure, I think what we need is some numbers on the packs so we can approve the amount and Chief said this quote was from 7/26 so he will get him to make a new quote just to make sure nothing has changed. Again, for 8 packs and 16 bottles is \$72,406. Che if Dockery do we need to vote on that?

Mr. Trascher asked that he get the numbers for the purchase so we have a dollar amount and to make sure we have enough in that account because he recalls making a purchase from that account previously and would like the ending balance after the purchase.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Michele Blackwell

Mrs. Blackwell thanks the personnel that came to the meeting and Mike Taylor said thank you.

Mr. Trascher makes a motion to adjourn, Mr. Swann seconds. Mr. Swann votes yea, Mr. Trascher votes nay, Mr. Blackwell votes yea, motion carries.