



St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 11
Board of Commissioners
Minutes of the Meeting on January 14, 2020
Fire Chief Jack Dockery

ROLL CALL

Russell Lindsey – Present
Michael Tassin - Present
Emile Lombard - Present
Floyd Trascher – Present
Michele Blackwell – Present

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

FINANCIALS

MINUTES

Mrs. Blackwell said, has everybody read and approved the minutes from the December 10th meeting?

Mr. Tassin said, yes.

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

Mr. Lombard said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, they may have gone to spam on my email but, everybody else has read the minutes and didn't see any problems. I would so move that we approve them with the video governing.

Mr. Lombard said, second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Tassin said, yes.

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

Mr. Lombard said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries. We will move on to the Financial Report, Chief Dockery.

FINANCIAL REPORT – CHIEF JACK DOCKERY

Chief Dockery said, alright, for the month of December, we should be looking at a target of 100%, of course, it's the last month of the year. The only thing that went over is, I don't know where my paper is, was our audit went to 129%. What happen was, we had them come in earlier this month, or last month, and start on... no it's another paper, right there, yes. They started on this years audit to get a head start on it and had an invoice. So, I am going to talk to Moyle and see if we can move that to this year.

Mr. Trascher asked, can we pay it in January and that way it wouldn't be on our, it didn't come out of our 2019 Budget.

Chief Dockery said, exactly, it was suppose to be 2020 and they came early to get a head start and they put in the invoice in and it was suppose to hold over until 2020. So, I will get with him on that and get that corrected. Also, I want to get in touch with Moyle and his office and have them, I would like to have a, the sheet that they give us each month that tells us our line items of what's in order and what not, I would like to have them put in our other accounts and basically, our amounts in each account. I spoke with Mrs. Winn last year, when I moved the money over to the restricted fund, and kind of reiterated how things used to be and how other departments operate. We have a money market account that gives us a higher rate of interest and we also have a operating account. What I plan on doing is, basically, the majority of the money will sit in the money market account and build up interest and each month we will draw out a certain amount. We will go through and look a past year of all the finances for each month and kind of pull out a certain amount for the cost of payroll, bills and that way, the other money is staying in for the interest.

Mr. Trascher said, basically, what we are saying is we will take the operating account and we will keep a minimum balance and transfer funds from the money market to the operating account as the need arises.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I had her transfer everything that was in our old operating account that we had that was still open. We still has some checks going in it for medical payments. We are working on getting that transferred over to our other account. So, once that's completed, that account will be officially shut down. I had everything, I left a minimum amount in there and everything else came out and we put it in the money market account. Just to give you an overview. Ending account number....

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, the operating account, is that our checking account that we use?

Chief Dockery said, yes. We had that, our old one that was compromised that we had to stop putting checks out for but we still had payments going in there from Blue Cross, Humana and a couple of other insurers that used that account.

Mr. Trascher said, that used that account.

Chief Dockery said, so we are working on getting that and kind of, over to the new account. Like I said, we had the money market account that I am having everything kind of funnel into and we will go from there each month and disburse it.

Mr. Trascher asked, what balance are we keeping in our operating account?

Chief Dockery said, I would say, I really don't have a answer for you at the moment. I want to sit down with Moyle and go over each month of what exactly...

Mr. Trascher said, because we want to really look at the time it's going to take to transfer those funds and the availability. For example, if it would be on a holiday or something like that, we don't want to tie our hands too tightly in case we need some emergency disbursements.

Chief Dockery said, right, I like to have some cushion but, I don't want 1 million dollars sitting in operating account

Mr. Trascher said, right, we may need to allocate, I don't know, like off the top of my head, maybe \$40,000, or something like that.

Chief Dockery said, usually we run about \$100,000, or so and that will cover payroll and expenses for the month. But, I just wanted to make you all aware of it, that we are looking at that process again. She says actually, that Slidell uses it and it works very well with them. We had something like that a long time ago with our clearing account but we shut that down. That was just set up for PMI because we had to pay them before we could pay the employees but, being we don't have that service anymore we didn't need that account.

Mr. Trascher said, most big companies, that's what they do on their payroll accounts because they are talking about a substantial amount of money. The payroll account doesn't have anything in it and prior to issuing the payroll, they will transfer the funds into the account to cover those checks which is a good business practice.

Chief Dockery said, yes, so I will speak with Moyle and get this set up to where, next month we will have a run down of each account and you will be able to see what's in there, if it's drawing on interest, just an overview. You will know if you have any questions about our...

Mr. Trascher said, so we will have the balance on the money market account, the restricted accounts maybe, and each in the operating account that will be transferred.

Chief Dockery said, our surplus, the bond fund, the one for the bond issue, will start out with a balance of \$131,257.99. At the end of the month we had a balance of \$131,453.08. We made a profit of \$195.09, in interest in that account. So, just to let you know the money is there, it's still sitting there.

Mr. Trascher said, the only other thing we may need to do is, if you look at it structuring it that way, do we need to do a resolution to establish these accounts and for the signatures?

Chief Dockery said, the accounts are already active, it's just to move money between the accounts. We already have an operating account which we have our checks from but, we also have the money market account which is just...

Mr. Trascher said, so we don't need to do it with a new signature account.

Chief Dockery said, we are not creating a new account. It's just moving from one to another.

Mr. Lombard asked, the money that we got for the bond, that's a separate account?

Chief Dockery said, yes, that is in a separate account.

Mr. Lombard asked, how much more interest do we gain if we moved it to the operating account?

Mr. Trascher said, well, we can't.

Mr. Lombard said, I don't know why you can't.

Mr. Trascher said, because that is set up as a restricted account right now and that something that we probably need to get this year to work on with our attorney's, is to free that money up. That money has been set aside and we can't touch it encase we pay the bond.

Mr. Lombard said, I am not going to use it, I'm just going to put it in another account so it earns interest.

Mr. Trascher said, I think we had to set that account up, they told us to set that up and that money has got to sit in that account.

Chief Dockery said, I believe they want to see it just in that.

Mr. Trascher said, right, that is a separate issue.

Chief Dockery said, it did bring in almost \$2,200, in interest last year. So, it's just sitting there.

Mr. Trascher said, we need to resolve that issue.

Mr. Lombard said, yes, we can use that money.

Mr. Trascher said, with the attorney's because, there is no resolve to it if you want to know the truth. We over collected, just a brief synopsis, we over collected on a millage to the tune of like 15 years for a couple of million dollars. We went back through it and looked at it and the millage was for equipment purchases and it was specific equipment and we, when the auditor's brought this to our attention, we went through it and that one year, the money that came in for that millage, we had to set aside in a restricted account because they wanted us to come up with a couple of million dollars to pay back all these millage's. The assessor's officer's said there is no way that they can go back 15 years and determine where that millage, who paid it and who could we even refund it to.

Mr. Lindsey said, and try and figure out who to give the money to.

Mr. Trascher said, so, it just kind of sat in limbo with our \$120,000.

Chief Dockery said, actually, Chief Leos ran across it and informed the auditor that it went through numerous audits with out being found. So, yes, it's an issue. I think that we showed that we spent well more than that on equipment and in turn, we can still use this for equipment. We are just trying to get the legality of it.

Mr. Trascher said, we really need to get with the attorney's and see if, because of the period of time, maybe it prescribed, there was something that, if it sat long enough and no citizen challenged it, then it prescribed and we can put the money back into the operating account for equipment.

Mr. Lindsey asked, alright, what about the monies we had set aside after Katrina for the...

Chief Dockery said, you know, I am still fighting that one. How do I put this, with the money we received from FEMA that we have to pay back, I am still trying to locate exactly what we owe.

Mr. Lindsey said, because I thought they gave us a waiver on it saying that we didn't have to pay it back.

Chief Dockery said, I am hitting a lot of dead ends with it because GOHSEP is virtually no help right now.

Mr. Trascher said, if I remember, they told us the money that the department got after Katrina, they would not forgive it because we didn't suffer a big enough loss in the storm. District 1, because of the flooding, suffered severe tax revenue loss but, District 11 didn't. You know, a lot of our properties didn't flood and we continued to collect most of our normal property taxes. What was it, \$70,000, maybe?

Chief Dockery said, roughly \$70,000. I am still trying to...

Mr. Trascher said, but they never came up with a payment plan for us.

Chief Dockery said, I am still trying to locate exactly what. I haven't had anybody come up in black vehicles and wearing suits and tie's yet.

Mr. Trascher said, and ask for a dollar.

Chief Dockery said, it gets brought up around audit time of course. I have told the auditor, this is where we are at with it and made zero headway with it. I've showed him my work on where we are at with it.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I guess as long as we keep showing them a paper trail of what you are doing they will keep forgiving us for it because it's not our fault.

Chief Dockery said, we have the money. We have the money to pay them out right at this moment but, I don't know who to pay or how much to even pay.

Mr. Trascher said, that's been the issue with it. They won't give us an invoice. They just say you borrowed money.

Mr. Lindsey said, what I was inquiring about was, at what point can we free up the funds for that?

Chief Dockery said, we have it, right at this moment we have it to where we can pay them back no questions asked.

Mr. Lombard asked, is that in a restricted account too?

Chief Dockery said, that is sitting in our regular money market account.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, is that something we can ask the attorney's about when we ask them about this other stuff?

Mr. Trascher said, I don't know if we want to kick both of them ant hills at one time.

Chief Dockery said, I can...

Mr. Lombard said, if they are not questioning you about it I would just ignore it.

Mr. Trascher said, they are not gunning us for it or anything. It's just something that is hanging out there and we are going to have to resolve it eventually. But, I think the \$100,000 something thousand would be easier to resolve because we have gone through that before. Everybody said that there was no way it could be done. We can't refund that money.

Mr. Lindsey said, it does seem impossible.

Mr. Lombard said, it is.

Mr. Trascher said, if we could resolve that issue and then the other one, FEMA is not pressuring us for it.

Mr. Lombard said, they probably don't even know that you owe it to be honest with you.

Mr. Lindsey asked, and how much is set aside for that?

Mr. Trascher said, I don't think we have anything set aside specifically for that.

Chief Dockery said, we don't have anything set aside specifically for it but, we do have in our general funds, enough money to pay.

Mr. Trascher said, we could pay it.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, if they get us, we have enough to pay it but we didn't put that in a restricted account or anything. The other one is a restricted.

Mr. Lombard said, we could ask them for a grace period of 5 years for us to pay it back.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, when they tell us what we have to pay.

Mrs. Blackwell said, and who we have to pay it for.

Mr. Lombard said, who we have to pay it to.

Mr. Trascher said, they just told us that we didn't suffer a severe revenue loss so the money that they got needs to be paid back. Well, okay, how much. How much do we need to pay? Well, we don't know and they have had, I think, some of the State Representatives contacted in the past and asked for forgiveness for the FEMA loans and again, that was an avenue that they were working on and we didn't get any resolve yet with it.

Mr. Lindsey said, alright.

Mr. Trascher said, I'm sorry Chief.

Chief Dockery said, no that's alright.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, is that it for the Financials?

Chief Dockery said, that's it for the Financials.

Mr. Trascher said, so, basically, our year ended within the 5%, without any problem with the auditors.

Chief Dockery said, yes we are at 103%, so that's within the 5%.

Mr. Trascher said, great.

Chief Dockery said, I told Chief Little that I wanted to go look at a couple of things in here because I think a couple got a little misplaced in the coding so I am going to back and see but, everything else fell within range.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, with that being said, we will move on to the Chief's Report and EMS Report.

Chief Dockery said, it looks like last month we brought in \$9,451.50, for EMS. We actually went over our projected budget for collections by \$5,472.42. We had a total of \$173,472.42, from our \$168,000. So, we did good for the year on that. For the Chief's Report, for the month of December, Fire District Number 11 responded to?

EMS	56
MVA	5
SERVICE/GOOD INTENT	4
DISPATCHED/CANCELLED IN ROUTE	4
STRUCTURE FIRE	1
Mutual Aid for Fire District No. 7	
VEHICLE FIRE	2
RUBBISH/GRASS FIRE	1
POLICE MATTER	2
TOTAL	75

Chief Dockery said, we did have the Christmas tree lighting and everything went very well with Santa and Mrs. Claus. I thank everyone who came out for that and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. Other than that, smooth running for the rest of the year.

Mr. Trascher said, it looks like for the month of December our call volume was down a little bit, which is a good thing.

Chief Dockery said, that's always good. We have been doing some renovations around the station. In the bay we put up some, we bought some racks for the guys to put their PPE in. that way they can secure it and make sure its kind of uniform looking in the station. We also have a dumpster in there. We are cleaning out old garbage and going through there. As we are doing that, I'm actually having some work start over at Station 112. We are starting to get some painting done and have a flooring company do some flooring. We have the flooring, we are just having a flooring company come in and install it. So, a little bit of progress in the early year. We did order the monitors, the cardiac monitors and we are waiting for them to come in. Of course during the holidays stuff kind of slows down. We also ordered our extrication tools. We had two or three of them, two of the three come in. The third one we are still waiting on. As soon as they come in, as soon as the third one comes in we are going to get with a representative and kind of have a class with everybody. I will certainly let you all know in case you want to come by and see them or see them in action. We will have a good time out there.

Mr. Trascher said, so, we have the two operating, I say the operating, we have one and a back up. The ambulance is in really, pretty good shape now. What about the other ones? Have we surplus or disposed of them?

Chief Dockery said, we haven't surplussed it yet. I was going to bring that, like I spoke of it last year, we are looking for a new tender. I was going to come to the Board and see about surplussing that old ambulance.

Mr. Lombard asked, is that the one back here?

Chief Dockery said, no, it's parked over at the station across from the interstate. This one is just parked out here because we got the dumpster in there at the time to keep neighbors from dumping.

Mr. Trascher said, that's what I was wondering. Next month I need to put, I can put on the agenda that we will surplus.

Chief Dockery said, yes, we can put surplus on that one. I am trying to see if one of the dealerships would take it as a trade in for, take some off of the apparatus, the other piece of apparatus we are looking to buy. It serves no purpose to us, absolutely no purpose to us.

Mr. Trascher asked, the second ambulance?

Cd said, yes, the second ambulance.

Mr. Trascher said, I mean, it is in, as I recall, it's not in the best of shape.

Cd said, yes, it's like a rental car.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, I mean, we had issues with the air condition, the diesel thing...

Chief Dockery said, it's basically too small of a frame for too big of a box.

Mr. Trascher asked, is there any other equipment that we need to look at maybe surplussing?

Chief Dockery said, as of the moment...

Mr. Trascher said, it would be smaller equipment probably.

Chief Dockery said, I have some older extrication equipment that might need to be surplus but I am not even sure if it's good enough to surplus or if it's safe enough to sell it off. I would have to get someone to come in and actually look at it and see if it's okay to possible.

Mr. Trascher said, I mean, if we surplused it we could probably donate it to another fire district or one of the other smaller districts.

Chief Dockery said, at least, I tell you what, I'll get a list together, that way we can take it off the...

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because we should have that on the Asset Tracker.

Chief Dockery said, we can take it off the books. We are working on a different asset inventory tracker right now. We talked with the company the other day and we're setting it up to where, hopefully, it is little bit better experience than what we have now. To help us do...

Mr. Trascher said, at least we can read it.

Chief Dockery said, so, it's a very busy start of the year so far. But, I will get a list together for you and I will get it to you ahead of time so that we can go through..

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because we can look at it and get something moving on that because I think you wanted to look at a tanker this year.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, and that will help us. It will certainly help District 1 because they use the water shuttle and they rely on us somewhat for that and in our area we need it. That's important on our PIAL rating.

Chief Dockery said, it is very. So, yes, I will get a list for you.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, great. We will put that on the agenda next month along with our elections.

Chief Dockery said, alright. That's all I have for the Chief's report.

Mrs. Blackwell said, alright, anybody have anything?

Mr. Lindsey said, I don't.

Mrs. Blackwell said, well, happy new year and we will continue to hopefully have a happy new year.

Mr. Lombard said, I agree with that.

Mr. Trascher said, well, Mr. Lombard, I believe, is going for a little procedure in the morning.

Mr. Lombard said, yes, get a stone out of my kidney.

Mr. Trascher asked, you've been eating rocks again?

Mr. Lombard said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, or it fell out your head.

Mr. Lombard said, well, I noticed that the ducks ate rocks for their gallbladder.

Mr. Trascher said, well, our prayers are with you.

Mr. Lombard said, you didn't realize that huh.

Mr. Trascher said, what, ducks eat rocks?

Mr. Lombard said, they eat the gravel.

Mr. Trascher said, that's why you don't eat gizzards.

Mr. Lombard said, what, you don't eat, all you have to do is clean them out.

Mr. Trascher said, well, you have to get the rocks out of it.

Mr. Lombard said, you just split it in fours and they are right there in the pocket.

Mr. Trascher said, I am glad you shared that surgical expertise with us.

Mr. Lombard said, I am glad you don't cook wild game at your house.

Chief Dockery said, make sure you spell gizzard right.

Mr. Trascher said, with that said, I would like to wish everybody a happy new year and if there is no other business, I move we adjourn.

Mr. Lombard said, second.

Mr. Lindsey said, second.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Tassin said, yes.

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

Mr. Lombard said, yes.

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

Mr. Trascher said, can I get back to you on that? Yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, no, motion carries.

Mr. Lombard said, and I did tell a happy new year to all of you and may the health and happiness continue.

Mb said, well, if you need anything, let us know.

Mr. Lombard said, thank you.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS