



St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 11
Board of Commissioners
Minutes of the Meeting on September 11 , 2018
Fire Chief Jack Dockery

ROLL CALL

Don Thanars – Present
Russell Lindsey - Present
Emile Lombard - Present
Floyd Trascher – Present
Michele Blackwell - Present

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

FINANCIAL REPORT

MINUTES

Mrs. Blackwell asked, has everybody read and approved the minutes from August 14th meeting?

Mr. Lombard said, I saw them and I didn't see anything that was out of line or not correct.

Mr. Trascher said, I did review the minutes and they do seem to be in order and I would move that we approve them with the video governing.

Mr. Thanars said, second.

Mr. Lombard said, second. Go ahead Don.

Mr. Thanars said, second.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carried, I am sorry, Mr. Don, how do you vote.

Mr. Thanars said, yea.

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

Mr. Lindsey 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. Ok, we have a Financial Report, Chief?

FINANCIAL REPORT – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, okay, for the month of August, we are looking at a target range of 67%. As you can see our Ad valorem is at 102.26%, right now. So, we have collected what we budgeted, plus some. I spoke with Bobby, I have been on the phone with him all day working on some amendments. Most of these have been addressed. EMS Service, we are at 73.36%, so we are still ahead. I am looking to complete our \$168,000, for the year. Reoccurring, the only one I had concern with was the telephone and that is the land line issue. That was addressed in the amended budget.

Mr. Thanars asked, what number are you?

Chief Dockery said, number 88, that should be line item 6630. Also, I have been working with Bobby to rename some of these. On my sheet I have Telephone and Land Line, Telephone, Cell Phone, that way we can break them out easier. But that, as of the reoccurring, is the only one that is standing out. Everything else is falling in line, if not, a little bit under.

Mr. Lindsey asked, do you have another copy of this? This is the July report.

Mr. Trascher asked, are you going through August?

Mrs. Blackwell said, that's because it's in the meeting.

Mr. Thanars said, oh, that's his...

Mrs. Blackwell said, that's because it's his meeting, that's his minutes.

Chief Dockery said, okay, got ya.

Mrs. Blackwell said, it's right there.

Mr. Lindsey said, I'm sorry.

Mr. Lombard said, it's alright. No body knew it.

Mr. Thanars said, Madam Chair? I have a question.

Mrs. Blackwell said, Mr. Thanars.

Mr. Thanars asked, Chief, for clarification, the telephone, you were saying that number should be broken out at the two different areas

Chief Dockery said, 6629 and 6630 are two different...

Mr. Thanars said, right.

Chief Dockery said, 6629 is the Cell Phone, our cell phone or any type of hot spots where the 6630, Telephone, would be our one land line that we have with dispatch.

Mr. Thanars said, okay.

Mr. Lombard said, we had made a motion last month. I asked him to rename it so we would see the difference.

Mr. Thanars said, so my question is then, this 114%, it's well above, and I guess that's what I was trying to get at, I thought two things were embedded in that line item but, if that's one...

Chief Dockery said, it had some items that were taken out of it that were miss coded. That's where the majority of our...

Mr. Thanars said, so, you are saying that it's a lot less.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher asked, didn't we have to make a purchase, kind of in the beginning of the year. We bought something that was charged to that account.

Chief Dockery said, yes, we changed over the service and that's where...

Mr. Trascher said, and that caused it to go up.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Thanars said, okay.

Mr. Trascher said, it's just been progressively coming down and it's just that prior to the year end, we will need to amend it so that we can end within 5%.

Mr. Thanars said, okay, thank you.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, is that it, Chief, on the Financial Report?

Chief Dockery said, that is it on the Financial Report.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, can we move to the Chief's Report/ EMS Report?

CHIEF'S REPORT/EMS REPORT – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, for the month of August, we had:

EMS	54
MVA	2
GAS LEAK	1
STRUCTURE FIRE	1
BRUSH/TRASCH FIRES	3
SERVICE CALLS/GOOD INTENT	8
CANCELED IN ROUTE	3
ALARM MALFUNCTION	10
TOTAL	82

Chief Dockery said, (structure fire) of course, the hardware store in Slidell. I don't have much on there. Basically, we are still doing some stuff around the station, trying to get some areas cleaned up. I have been tackling right next to the building this past couple of weeks. I had them come out today and actually remove the oil we had in the containers. I will get the containers removed and continue to clean up that area, so..

Mr. Trascher asked, is that what the dumpster is outside here?

Chief Dockery said, yes, the dumpster, yes, is to help for any old stuff we have.

Mr. Trascher said, to clean up around the station.

Chief Dockery said, basically, go through the whole station and get it tidied up.

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, on the Alarm Malfunction, you had 10 of them. Is that something that seems higher than normal?

Chief Dockery said, this month it is a little higher. Usually we get 4 or 5 a month, at least. You got to figure the different schools. Anytime you have a storm come through the high school would go off or AWG, so that is considered malfunctions in their eyes, so.

Mr. Lindsey said, and that's actually things we respond to.

Mr. Lombard said, we did have a lot of storms.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, you have to respond.

Mr. Lombard said, it like to fried my generator.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Matt Parish said, I just wanted to address that. They are higher. The schools have always notoriously been the lone culprit and all over the Parish, honestly. And this month alone the high school had 5 alarms just in the cafeteria. It's been addressed. Parish wide, Mitchell can probably answer this better than I could. But, I know that Parish wide, the fire service is looking at a nuisance fire alarm policy of some sort to try and help address some of the nuisance alarms. I mean, the high school has been bad this month but they were really good prior to this. Everyone knows the high school has a lot of construction going on plus the, it's not really the public buildings that the policy is looking at going after but the private ones. 84 Lumbers alarms go off every time the water fluctuates because of their fire pump. AWG's goes off, again, power surges. But this month, Pearl River High School, exhausted us.

Mr. Trascher said, but these are all events that we have to respond to.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, so, there's an inherit cost to the department.

Chief Parish said, we have to respond to it because, according to PIAL, they look at a fire alarm exactly like a structure fire. You have to respond exactly what you would to an alarm, fire alarm as you would a structure fire otherwise you lose points. We have to treat them the same, we have to unfortunately, send everything. That's why we can't just get away with one unit because we need those points.

Mr. Trascher said, and that was just my concern, I appreciate it and I am sure the department provided the proper response but, there is an inherit cost to these alarms that are going off all the time.

Chief Dockery said, actually, it is starting to be addressed like Chief Parish said, they have Districts starting to come together to have a nuisance alarm and when certain districts start to fine tune it and when they get it right it is going to start to spread out to other Districts. That way we can address these different alarm companies. If the alarms keep progressing and keep, they will start getting fines.

Mr. Trascher said, we will have a record that we can monitor it.

Chief Dockery said, yes, because it does have a cost. Every time a truck starts, it's a cost.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, thank you.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, we have the EMS Report?

EMS REPORT – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, alright, the month of August, we brought in a total of \$13, 616.89. Like I said, we are still projected ahead of our goal of \$168,000. Right now, I think we are in the 73%. So, we are still on track. We are well above our \$10,000, mark that we set for ourselves each month.

Mr. Trascher said, on our, I am sorry, I guess back to the Financials, on the Supplies for the ambulance, how are we within the budget on those? I guess that would be in the...

Mr. Lombard said, in the EMS Services?

Chief Dockery said, number 65, it would be item 6411. We are at 64.51%. Like I said, we are still in range. That is not a reoccurring as a constant every month. It's just when ever we get low we will order. So, we are still well within range on that one.

Mr. Trascher asked, I'm sorry, what was the line item on that one?

Chief Dockery said, 6411.

Mr. Trascher asked, 6411?

Mr. Lindsey said, 6500.

Mrs. Blackwell said, 65 is on that one, it's the next page.

Mr. Trascher said, I'm sorry, yes, here it is right here, Medical Supplies. I mean, could that be attributed to maybe a purchase that we made. Maybe we had a big purchase of supplies to restock that we may not have to purchase through the rest of the year where it will come back in to the line?

Chief Dockery said, it's still within the...

Mr. Trascher said, within the 100% guideline?

Chief Dockery said, yes. We have only spent \$9,677.13. We had budgeted \$15,000, which leaves us \$5,322.87, which puts us at 64.51%.

Mr. Trascher said, okay.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Chief, is that it for the EMS Report?

Chief Dockery said, that's all I have.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, if there is nothing else there, we will move onto New Business.

Mr. Thanars said, just a point of order/information. Now, I discussed this with Madam Chair, I am not sure when the agenda was changed but, we should address Old and Unfinished Business before we tackle New Business. The agenda used to be set up so that way and I am not sure why it was changed but, according to Robert's Rule and previous protocol, that's the way we conducted business and it makes sense that we conduct Old Business or any other unfinished business, that we resolve that before we take on new business. But, I just wanted to say that for the record. We can move on with the New Business.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, we are going to move on with the New Business because that's the way it is on the agenda tonight. Millage Renewal, Floyd?

NEW BUSINESS

MILLAGE RENEWAL – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher said, okay, the item that I put on the agenda for the Millage Renewal, we do have our election this Fall. Is it December, Chief?

Chief Dockery said, December 8th.

Mr. Trascher asked, okay, how is the paper work and everything progressing? Have we got all our T's crossed and our I's dotted?

Chief Dockery said, yes, paperwork has been sent off to the lawyers. I just sent out to the paper the article to put in the paper. It's not due until next week but I put it in a week early and run it on these dates. We have been in contact with them and they have been in contact with the lady dealing, handling the millage and we are talking and it's going.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, I just wanted to be sure we had everything in line. I did hear some positive comments about the Department from the schools and that is something that I guess, is important now with our millage coming up for renewal. The other thing on that was, we had some signs in the last renewal. Do we still have those signs?

Chief Dockery said, we still do. As of tactic wise, I don't really know when we want to start putting them out. I really didn't want to flood it right now.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, it's too early.

Chief Dockery said, I didn't want to flood it right now because we still have to get through the November election and then after that, we are December 8th. So, I would say somewhere in December we will start getting them out.

Mr. Trascher said, yeah, November you mean, like mid November or something like that. 30 days or a little less than 30 days.

Mr. Lombard said, I would put them out 2 weeks before. That way it doesn't get confused with anything and everybody vote against the tax and all and then it comes up and all and people start asking...

Chief Dockery said, that's exactly it, I didn't want to flood the whole thing, they got plenty of them out there right now.

Mr. Trascher said, boy do you.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have any like, Fall Festivals coming up or anything that we are going to attend to get out there and do some public relations?

Chief Dockery said, we have the Night Out Against Crime. I believe it is October 12th. We will be present out there with our little bounce house and some goodies for the children and I want to say that will be at Town Hall and put on by the Pearl River Police Department. So, we will be out there for it.

Mr. Trascher said, if we just, on the signs, if we have enough then we don't really need to do anything with it, we can use what we got. I may have some of the little metal racks we can use if we don't have any and if not, maybe we can start making some arrangements to have a few made before the time comes up to put them up.

Mr. Lombard said, either that go volunteer to go out and pick up the loser's signs and keep the rest. Your litter patrol aren't you?

Mr. Trascher said, I seem to run into a few racks.

Mr. Lindsey asked, are you all going to be participating in any kind of way in the Trunk or Treat?

Chief Dockery said, usually, every year we are at the Trunk or Treat.

Mr. Lindsey said, because that would be some good pr for us. There's normally a lot of people there.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I want to say every year so far we have been out there handing out candy and papers for (inaudible) or what not. So, I am pretty sure we will be out there again this year.

Mr. Lombard said, years ago they had a program for the seniors and it was a little tube like and you put your medicine list in it and you keep it in your freezer so when the fireman or EMS got there, they knew where to go in case you weren't stable, they can go pull your medicine list and see what medicine your on. Do they still do that?

Chief Dockery said, they still. We actually, I want to say we have it on our website, Mitchell?

Captain Mitchell Geissler said, there is actually a different program that is done through the Bureau of EMS. I just have to make the trip to Baton Rouge to get the materials for it. It's called Yellow Dot. It's a similar idea of what you are speaking about but, it's a different program. It's kind of like, State wide I guess. So, it might be something we are going to look into, I just have to make the trip to Baton Rouge.

Mr. Lombard asked, do you get a container to put your medicine list in?

Captain Geissler said, it's the same concept just a different...

Mr. Lombard said, they used to have a sticker you put on the window.

Captain Geissler said, yes, that's what the Yellow Dot will represent.

Mrs. Blackwell said, cool.

Mr. Lindsey said, it seems like that would be something good to have during Trunk or Treat when people are up there. You know, have it available or somebody sees it and needs it.

Mrs. Blackwell said, I didn't even know they had anything like that, so. I mean, I don't have medicine's but...

Mr. Lombard said, your not old.

Mr. Trascher said, Emile's got a freezer full.

Chief Parish said, the Vial of Life.

Chief Dockery said, yes, Vial of Life.

Mr. Lombard said, Vial of Life.

Mr. Trascher said, if I wrote mine down they probably couldn't read it when they take it out the freezer.

Mr. Lombard said, no, just get it from the druggist, he will print it out for you.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, okay, is that all we have for the Millage Renewal? We will move on to the 2019 Budget, Floyd.

2019 BUDGET – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher said, the 2019 budget, I know, is a work in progress right now. Sometime in October, we probably need to introduce it so that we can vote on it in December, I mean November or the very latest, our December meeting or it's going to necessitate a special meeting. In the 2019 Budget, do we have any Capital Expenditures planned? Are we looking at a truck? We started with the Asset Tracker and we may have to find some of the equipment that we have to look at next year on replacing and we can include that in our 2019 Budget.

Chief Dockery said, I will say yes, I have a couple of different items. SCBA's will be on the list but, with that being said, we are in the works with other districts for another grant. So, if the grant goes through, we should be able to get what we need relatively cheap. I'm also going to start looking at a another tender. Actually, that will be brought up a little bit later when I have the Amended Budget to do with our surplus funds that we have right now, I would like to set a certain amount into the Restricted Funds for apparatus. So...

Mr. Trascher said, yes, because we do have the account that is set up now that funds for Capital Purchases. So, that's something that we could, if you have it, address it and put it into the budget so you can make those purchases. I just wanted to know if we were looking at that now.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Lombard said, Chief's got it covered.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, is that it on the 2019 Budget? We can move to the 2018 Amended Budget, Chief.

2018 AMENDED BUDGET – Chief Jack Dockery

Chief Dockery said, alright, a little quick reference. Anything in blue we are adding money. Anything I yellow, we are taking money away from. This is, I am going to come out and be frank, this is not what I had planned. I spoke with Moyle, I spoke with Bobby at Moyle's office for last week or so and I talked with them a lot today to get this out and for some reason, I don't have my other paper work that I asked him to give me so, I have to make this work. We are projected for our Ad valorem 1.3 million. Training Services in the first part is Firefighter 1 class that we put on. I had him add that account so, any other time in the future that we have any type of class that we charge for the money from that will go into that account that way it has a home to go to. I cut back on Advertising, Mileage, Fuel. I have also cut back on some of the Maintenance for some of the vehicles that we have not used any yet for this year. A couple of them are still the same because I have planned maintenance for them. I added a category of SCBA Maintenance. This is something we never had in the past. A lot of our maintenance is done just changing batteries. I have nowhere to put or take that fund from so, that's why we added the SCBA Maintenance. The Compensation Payroll for Firefighter, it was bumped up roughly \$2,500. That's what I talked with Bobby a lot about today was, the payroll for the rest of the year. I am looking to add a part time shift over at 112 to man the engine 24 hours. I want to start off with part timers first and if we can withstand that rate, eventually move to full timers. This, right now, will help us with PIAL. It's more personnel at the station. It's within range of what we can do for this year so, I plan on, as long as everything flows right with this, starting in October, having an extra person over at that station.

Mr. Trascher said, that means it would be the Porter's River Road facility we will be using?

Chief Dockery said, no, it would be the one over on 3081 right now. In the future, we are still looking at Porter's River Road, because right now, over at station 112, which is 3081, if that Med Unit gets called out for anything that station is completely empty. There's no one there to take the ladder truck for any type of commercial fire alarm, structure fire. There's no one there to take the engine. So, at least with the other person there, if the Med truck has to leave, there is someone there to take the apparatus. You see Telecommunications, I have Cell Phone, it's staying the same. Telephone Land Line, we bumped it up to \$3,200 to finish out the rest of the year. Training was bumped to \$5,000 and a little bit further down, the Board of Commissioner's Fee, that is set in place for each meeting for the Commissioner's. That did not exist in the past so it had to be added. Right under it we have Professional Fees, Other. Now, this was a catch all in the past and we used it for Mrs. Georgette. After speaking with Bobby he came up with the idea of having just a line item for Clerical Work. So, we are taking \$18,000 out of that line item and right underneath it, on number 6757, we are adding \$18,000 back.

Mr. Trascher said, for Clerical.

Chief Dockery said, Travel Expenses was bumped \$1,000. Now, we get into Capital. EMS Capital, I took \$8,000, away. I do have plans for two items this year. One of them would be a lift, a patient lift for heavier patients. This helps responder's significantly to not have back injuries. This I have applied for a grant for but the deal is, we have to pay for it up front, once we get it in then we show the Parish and they give us the money back. Usually, the money won't come back until early next year.

Mr. Lombard said, right.

Mr. Trascher asked, on the EMS section, I know we had some controversy with the monitors. Do we have anything for next year or put into the amended budget now because, we talked about in the past replacing one and going through because we had the one and then we had the backup.

Chief Dockery said, yes, I very well could put money in right now for the monitor. We do have enough in surplus for it.

Mr. Trascher said, I am just questioning the needs of the department. We had some, (Batman watch), I know we had some needs and it almost developed into an emergency with getting them calibrated.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, we did discuss putting those in there. I was just wondering if you included that.

Chief Dockery said, I did not include it for this year. I didn't want to inflate it more than we had to. I do have it in funds, in surplus. We most certainly could add that in there but, we are getting close to the end of the year and I don't really want to...

Mr. Trascher said, it may be something that is better put in 2019.

Chief Dockery said, yes, 2019, most definitely put it in there because I just had them give me a quote. There again, I am searching for different grants. Firehouse Subs has a grant that a lot of the districts around here have one, I was going to throw it out there and see. Yes, sir?

Mr. Thanars said, is the money, does our dollars need to be obligated or spent by the end of the year?

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Thanars asked, obligated or spent?

Mr. Trascher said, obligated.

Mr. Thanars said, okay, where I was going with that and to on Floyd's point, if we have enough in excess funds at the end of the year that we could go and make this purchase, if we obligate it and have a purchase order, have it, although we haven't received it, and it's obligated out of \$18, then that would free up the money for 19.

Mr. Trascher said, but I think what the Chief was eluding to is that, he didn't want to make a major expense at the end of the year because it would look like the District was trying to spend money just for the cause. If we go ahead and allow this to go through December, we can put it in January's for the 2019 budget as a capital purchase. If I am not mistaken.

Chief Dockery said, we can set it in the, yes Matt?

Chief Parish said, you can split that, we found out that too. Mr. Floyd, I want to apologize for all that controversy. We are in a lot better shape than we thought we were when we had that controversy last year. We found out, we found a company that will still calibrate it for us and take care of it. We are having problems finding parts for one of them but, we are still able to kind of find them. Until we completely exhaust that, that's when we are looking at that. We also found out that for that purchase, we can pay for half of it now and half of it next year so we are not out of \$30,000 out of one budget. It would be 15 and 15.

Mr. Trascher said, I am not questioning you on that, I think it's a department decision on what equipment you need. The only, my suggestion, I didn't see anything major towards the end of this year in the purchasing. So, if you feel that the department doesn't need it this year, maybe we need to include it in the budget for next year out of our Capital Funds. So, that would obligate those funds. We are probably going to have a surplus at the end of the year so we can take some of that surplus and allocate it for a monitor for next year.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, switch it over to there. How does that...

Mr. Thanars said, you know part of the reason I thought they were doing the asset tracking, part of the reason was so that we wouldn't do wholesale like we did a couple of years ago. You know, everything needs to be replaced like now. So, we had that and we had this list of priorities that you could, when you go through your forth quarter you could realize that you have some dollars. You already have a list of priorities that you need to fund. So, I don't think it's like you are trying to spend money if you already identified needs that you may have and then, based on, because there may be the unknown but, as you get into the forth quarter, you make whatever adjustments you realize that some of the things you can take off because you have a budget, excess available to be able to do that. I don't think it would give that appearance if you don't have that in place and I think that's how you utilize the asset tracking tool. You have that understanding that you are going to replace 25% or 30% or whatever the breakout is and then, as you get into the end of the year it allows you to look at that list and see what your budget is going to allow and then you can kind of, and again, it's not, I don't

think it would give that appearance because you've already done your justification, your needs justification for whatever you are trying to replace. But, I understand your point though. The money can carry over and do it in 19, but...

Mr. Trascher said, yes, we can dedicate it now and I don't have a problem with it either way, purchasing it or dedicating it. But, we can hold, that was a purchase that we identified that we need.

Mr. Thanars said, right.

Mr. Trascher said, just like we talked about the stretcher. You know, it's something that we need and now is the time, just like you are saying, to review for 2019, what equipment. Are we going to need to look at leasing another truck? The Chief has identified a water tender before, so, that's something we need to include in the budget and I was just concerned with the monitor and if we have the surplus, we could dedicate it. If the department needs it now, I don't have a problem with purchasing it this year.

Mr. Lombard said, I think once he gets the asset tracker all laid out and you can see what's coming up next year and we still got the 2019 budget to finish and we can always amend it and that would make a logical sense. Okay, the asset tracker shows this needs to be done and we are going to do it this year for third or fourth quarter and we have the money in the budget.

Mr. Trascher said, we can't, my understanding is that we cannot have like a savings account.

Mr. Lombard said, right.

Mr. Trascher said, if we have \$100,000, left over, we have to allocate that money to a capital purchase or something like that.

Mr. Thanars said, right.

Mr. Trascher said, so, we already have an account that we allocated for capital purchases. We are going to be adding to it so if there are any assets that we may need to replace next year, we need to include that in the 2019 budget. That was my only point.

Mr. Lindsey said, Chief, I know we talked about doing some renovations in your office, up to par over there and doing some renovations at that station. How are we looking as far as budget issues for doing some necessary renovations?

Chief Dockery said, this year we are still good. I don't have it on here. I want to say we have roughly \$8,000, left over at Station 112 for any type of maintenance so we can get the office complete for certain and a couple of other minor modifications. But, it is something that I want to add for both stations. Like I said, this year I am taking care of the outside of this one and next year I want to start taking care of the inside. Updating some of the cabinets and the kitchen and what not.

Mr. Trascher said, get the electrical panel out of the kitchen.

Mr. Lindsey said, yeah, I mean, we got some serious updating to do in there to get it back up to speed.

Chief Dockery said, yes. So, yes, I do have it in the budget this year to address the Chief's office and how, I know you talked about the living room over at 112. I am getting that taken care of but I will be looking at next years budget for more renovations at both stations. This year we had, I knew at the end of last year I wanted to change the a/c units here. That task has been completed at both stations. They are both up to date. They are not leaking in the ceiling anymore. So, we do have plenty for this year. I don't know what we are looking at next year to continue. The last thing I have on there would be the Fire Capital. This will be, I will be making a phone call relatively soon. I did my homework and received all my quotes. I am looking to purchase a gear washer and a gear dryer for this station. I am looking at, roughly \$13,000, for the pair. So...

Mr. Trascher asked, what is that again?

Chief Dockery said, a gear washer.

Mr. Trascher said, oh, gear.

Chief Dockery said, for PPE, you use it to get any contaminates out. The biggest thing now a days with fire service is cancer. Anything that we can do to help reduce the chance of cancer is a win, win for us. We will be looking at next year, possibly some more grants to do the diesel exhaust for the bays for each station. I kind of walked around Slidell's department and looked at what they had to get some ideas, but this is something I would like to address next year also. With that being said, with the projected increase in ad valorem and all the areas that were cut back, we are projected to have a surplus of \$243,840. Now, I propose that we move, I would like to move \$140,000, into that reserve, restricted account for apparatus or capital purchase. Always at the end of the year we like to leave a little bit for roll over for the beginning of the year until we start getting our other ad valorem checks in.

Mr. Trascher asked, do you have a cost on the water tender?

Chief Dockery said, I do not at this moment. I would say roughly, just for a ball part base line, \$250,000.

Mr. Trascher said, because I think you are right on point with that. That is something that we are going to need for our PIAL rating.

Chief Dockery said, like I said, that's just base line figure and I could be off.

Mr. Trascher said, and that is at least half or at least, tentatively, half of the cost of the tender.

Chief Dockery said, I am trying to think ahead to whenever it does come time I can go in there and say, I want to buy that, and there won't be any interest on it or what not or if there is, it will be very minimal for payments. So...

Mr. Trascher said, yeah, I don't have a problem with that.

Chief Dockery said, other than that...

Mr. Trascher said, so do we need to introduce these budget amendments tonight and vote on the at the next meeting? Any layover? Because, you are proposing, you know, moving the funds, dedicating them and switching the amounts in the line items.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, so, right now, what we would do is, your tentative proposal here is for introduction tonight.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, and then, we will approve it at the next meeting.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, now, the approvals, what we are looking at here, it doesn't have, I don't see anything about moving any of the funds into the other account.

Chief Dockery said, I...

Mr. Trascher said , is there a page missing?

Chief Dockery said, no, I had to scribble on the bottom and it didn't take with it. So that's something, if we want to make a resolution on to move those funds.

Chief Dockery said, so that, we would, included in this budget is to move, what was it?

Mrs. Blackwell said, \$140,000.

Chief Dockery said, I would like to move \$140,000.

Mr. Thanars asked, to the restricted account?

Chief Dockery said, to the restricted account. At this time I believe at this time it has \$40,000, sitting in it so that would give us \$180,000.

Mr. Trascher said, now, we did have something there that was for the, was it a loan? No, we over collected or taxes we collected.

Chief Dockery said, no that's a different account.

Mr. Trascher said, that's a different account.

Chief Dockery said, that is still an account we can't touch right now.

Mr. Trascher said, that's a nest egg because there's still \$120,000, sitting in it. One day we will be able to get to it.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, how much longer do we have to wait? Til they say we can?

Mr. Thanars asked, was that the one we are waiting on the State to make a decision on?

Mrs. Blackwell said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, that's the one where they said we over collected taxes.

Chief Dockery said , it was the bond issue, it was a bond and they got moved into general funds instead of going down each year.

Mr. Lombard said, and they wanted us to give it back and all.

Mr. Trascher said, right, and then that year we collected some \$120,000, on that obligation. So, we moved that into an account to keep from spending that money. But, yeah, it is sitting there and at some point the attorney's have said that it is almost moot because, to collect it, if the State held our feet to the fire, what was it, like \$200 million or something, \$1 million, that over the years that this department collected in excess of what the bond was originally for and it was a misunderstanding because the bond was for a truck and the Board didn't roll back the millage's just to make the truck payment.

Chief Dockery said, yeah, the truck, either one truck or two trucks, I want to say one truck was purchased, wrecked, then sold and they moved that bond money into the general account and that's where it stayed for years.

Mr. Trascher said, for 19 years or something.

Chief Dockery said, I don't want to call it an over site but, Chief Leos caught it.

Mr. Lombard said, well, the auditor's over looked it even.

Mr. Trascher said, right, I mean it went through and all of a sudden it became an issue and the State said that we needed to take the \$1 or whatever this figure was, and refund it to all the property owners and the attorney's told us that was totally impractical. That there was no way we could go back and trace the heirs and everybody else to give that money back. We did at that time, look at the budgets from previous years and the funds were spent on

equipment purchases.

Mr. Lombard said, right.

Mr. Trascher said, so, our attorney's said that they felt it was like purchases and it shouldn't be a problem but, we just need to sit on it for a little while...

Mr. Lombard said, and hopefully they will forget about it.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, let the State, and it will go away. Anyway, I am sorry, I took up too much time with that.

Mr. Lombard said, that's okay.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, so that's the only thing we don't have included here with these figures, would be to move the \$140,000, into the restricted account.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, okay.

Mrs. Blackwell said, so, we need to make a motion tonight.

Mr. Lombard said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, all we doing is receiving it. If we make a motion to receive it, we don't have to do a resolution to receive it.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we need to make a resolution to roll the \$140,000, over?

Mr. Trascher said, no, that's going to be included, that's going to happen with all the changes that the Chief is proposing. If you want to make a motion to receive it, it's in our minutes, I would so move, but I don't think we have to. We will need a motion next month to either approve it or not.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay. Is that all you have on that Chief?

Chief Dockery said, yes Ma'am.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, then we will move to the next item. Under Old Business, Department Appointing Authority, Floyd.

OLD BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT APPOINTING AUTHORITY – Floyd Trascher

Mr. Trascher said, we had a discussion at the last meeting and we tabled it for a special meeting so, we have an issue that is on the table right now and I would move that we take it off the table and discuss it.

Mr. Lombard said, I will second that.

Mr. Lindsey asked, to take it off the table to discuss it?

Mr. Trascher said, yes, to open it to discuss it tonight.

Mr. Lombard said, yes, you can't just discuss it without taking it off the table.

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

Mr. Thanars said, yea.

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

Mr. Lindsey 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.

Mr. Trascher said, the issue that we dealt with, and we had Civil Service here, was to define the Appointing Authority with the Parish. There was some confusion regarding where eliminating positions and creating positions should come from through Civil Service. I think that we had a nice discussion with Civil Service and they explained a lot to us. In 2015, the Board approved an Organizational Chart, that, as we went into Civil Service, that defined the positions within this department. It's pretty much been the policy of the department that, any changes to the structure would come from the Board. The Chief would be the Appointing Authority to hire employees but, the Board would be the Appointing Authority to hire administration as the administrators work directly for the Board. Alright, I think that, what we need to do, I don't see where there is a problem in our Bylaws addressing it but, we should have an operating procedure that would define the Appointing Authority and how the department works. I would propose that we develop or the Chief of Operations, develop a standard operating procedure that defines the Chief as Appointing Authority for within the

department with the exception of administrative positions, which would be the Chief and the Chief of Operations because either of those could work for the Board and in the absence of the Chief, the Chief of Operations would be our employee and that the Chief be given the authority to make a 30 day temporary appointment within the ranks that would comply with the Civil Service Guidelines.

Mr. Lindsey asked, now in that, like we discussed last meeting, it only comes under the Civil Service if it's a full time position.

Mr. Trascher said, right.

Mr. Lindsey said, if it's a part time position or a volunteer position, it has nothing to do with Civil Service.

Mr. Trascher said, right, so the Chief could make a thirty day appointment in any of those classifications as long as it complies with Civil Service.

Mr. Lindsey said, okay, but as far as making an appointment that isn't Civil Service like just a...

Mr. Trascher said, not a permanent appointment. If it were going to be a permanent appointment then we need to come to the Board and let the Board address it and approve it because it would involve the pay. You don't want to tie the Chief's hands in a fire situation. He may need to make an appointment for command on a scene or thirty days anytime after that.

Mr. Lindsey said, I don't want to tie the Chief's hands for any time, fire scene or not.

Mr. Trascher said, that's what I am saying, we want to give him that ability to make that appointment. But, if we are going to structure the department, it needs to be structured through this Board.

Mr. Thanars said, well, I think it's tying his hands if you put 30 days on it.

Mr. Trascher said, I don't think we should create a permanent temporary appointment. If we are going to create permanent temporary appointments, then I think what we are doing is restructuring the department and that needs to come to the Board.

Mr. Thanars said, the other piece that we are not discussing was in terms of titles, well, not titles. When you say classifications, we talked about a reservist or a volunteer being in certain positions in lieu of a full time paid person, that you felt that that was not, and my analogy to that was, in the military, when you have reserves that actually, you know, they train once a month and they are in command billets and when it's time to deploy, and they are actually integrated into active component in leadership positions. I thought and the same applies. The Fire Department, contrary of what many might not want to believe but it is a para

military organization. It's structure was kind of, based on that so, that is not uncommon and it's common place throughout the country where you would have part time and/or reserve employees in command and in administrative positions. That is not uncommon.

Mr. Trascher said, I personally have a problem with that because I believe it circumvents somewhat, the Civil Service authority. I think that there could be a division and those employees or temporary people could operate in that division but, I think if you are going to create a structure, then it needs to be within the department guidelines. If you are going to change that structure, if the Chief wanted to make an appointment and have all volunteer fireman, or all temporary, you know, or part time fireman, then I think he needs to come to the Board and let's either approve it or not approve it and implement it. I'm sorry, there's...

Mrs. Blackwell said, Chief Parish?

Chief Parish said, I have a question for Mr. Floyd, I am trying for clarification. You keep referring to a temporary appointment. You can't have a permanent, temporary appointment. I guess I want you to explain that to me because I don't understand what you mean. I have been in the Civil Service for the fire department for 21 years. Mitchell is a Captain. He gets 365 days of sick leave by state law. He gets injured, we have to place someone in a temporary appointment after 30 days. Up to 30 days he is on sick leave, at 30 days, Chief, Pam, somebody has to produce a PAF form to go from sick leave to long term and to take an operator from operator to temporary appointment as a Captain for the duration of his sick leave, which goes to the Civil Service Board, not this Board.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, the only PAF we get is for the Chief.

Chief Parish said, that's a temporary appointment.

Mr. Trascher said, no, that's not what I mean.

Chief Parish said, that's why I am asking for clarification. Because I just can't understand...

Mr. Trascher said, for clarification, and I said, the 30 day temporary appointment would comply with Civil Service guidelines. What you are saying is that you would take a Civil Service employee that's going to be out, that is going to be put on 365 and you are going to appoint a Civil Service employee to fill that person's position.

Chief Parish said, that's right, that's exactly right. That's how it's suppose to be, that's how it is.

Mr. Trascher said, right, that's Civil Service. The 30 day temporary appointment would be for the Chief to appoint a volunteer, or let's say a part time person, to that position for more than 30 days, I think the Board should approve it.

Chief Parish said, so, just to be clear, I don't mean to step on your toes Chief, we can't do that because when we started we didn't have Civil Service. Civil Service wasn't here, we didn't

have it originally and I been here as long as Russel. I was the only paid person 5 days a week, 40 hours, there was no Civil Service. Once we, because I was here Pre-Civil Service, and I am going to use myself as an example, some things are different but they will never be that way again from the time we started Civil Service. So, Pam goes out sick, I am not a Civil Service employee. I can't be put into her temporary appointment. It would have to be Mitchell, he is the next up. There's nothing we can do about that whether you give him the authority to do that or not because you can't.

Mr. Trascher said, I don't have a problem with that. That's Civil Service guidelines and that's not anything to do with the Board.

Chief Parish said, when I leave, when I leave, when Russell leaves, my brother leaves, because he is a Captain also from 23 years ago. That's about it. As a matter of fact, everybody plays out because Civil Service was instituted and it plays out semi-normal.

Mr. Trascher said, and I think that structure that we approved in 2015, you were Chief and you were in charge of the entire volunteer division, and the temporary division, all the employees that weren't Civil Service.

Chief Parish said, so,...

Mr. Trascher said, I think that's the chart that we approved with Chief Leos.

Mr. Lindsey said, there is no separate chart, one for volunteers and one for paid employees,

Mr. Trascher said, right, but the structure was the Chief, then the Chief of Operations, and then Chief Parish was there and the rest of the department reported to those 2 and the division that was going to be created reported to Chief Parish.

Mr. Lindsey said, I think there is a misunderstanding because there is no...

Chief Parish said, there is, there is because, we are a combination department. We always have volunteers, we didn't create them in 2015. The point to the fact of Mr. Don, that we are a para-military organization, you can't be a Chief when it's convenient for you here, but not be a Chief here, it doesn't work that way, it can't work that way. Command cannot work that way. Civil Service speaking, I can't take her spot. A volunteer, a part timer, cannot be put in a temporary appointment for her for him, because he is different.

Mr. Trascher said, yeah, I understand. The Chief, we address the Chief. Right.

Chief Parish said, he's different, because he is competitive. It's promotional, promotional, operator, well, operators are competitive too. We don't have firefighters, so. In 2015, I know what you are talking about because I got put out of here and we discussed 2015, was a bad period and things happen that shouldn't have happened and I am not going to bring that up.

Mr. Trascher said, it has nothing to do with that. The whole thing was started when, and

Chief, when you attempted to go to Civil Service Board and eliminate a position. I don't think that is proper and I don't think that's the way this department should work. I think that any changes to that command structure should come through the Board prior to going to the Civil Service.

Mr. Lindsey said, well, one of the things that we were talking about, like for instance, if say, Chief Parish for instance, is on a fire scene and he is suppose to be the Chief of Volunteers and you are running around on a fire scene and he's telling people go get this, I want you to do this, I want you to force it, they are not going to say, "hey, you are just Chief of Volunteers. I am not a volunteer. Oh I'm sorry, let me go find one of my volunteers to go follow my order". You can't have a Chief of Volunteers, it's a combination department, it's all one.

Mr. Trascher said, and I understand that but, that same logic, just what Chief Parish said, is that, he can't fill in for Pam, he can't fill in for the Chief.

Mr. Lindsey said, I agree.

Chief Parish said , in Civil Service.

Mr. Trascher said, right, in Civil Service, this department is Civil Service.

Chief Parish said, it is.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, so in order to address that issue, I think the Chief should have the ability to make a temporary appointment for 30 days. So, if Chief Parish is on the scene and he is going to be the senior officer on the scene, Chief, oh your getting me all confused, Chief Dockery could make an appointment for Chief Parish for not exceeding 30 days.

Chief Parish said , that's where you are confusing me. I don't understand your temporary appointment. That right there, that's what I don't understand.

Mrs. Blackwell said, we need to hold this thought, we need to go off record to change the tape.

OFF RECORD

Chief Parish said, that's the part I don't understand Mr. Floyd. If you could explain that to me better because this is how I am receiving what you are saying and you can tell me if I am understanding it right. Today, there is nothing going on. The world is great. Jack, Pam, Mitchell, I am over here in la la land with the volunteers. We get a structure fire tonight and Jack appoints me on the scene as the officer in charge. Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Trascher said, yes, and because, in a position that is on that chart, you have a defined responsibility to develop our volunteer program. We need it, we need the volunteer fireman.

Chief Parish asked, so what do we do if Jack's not there, Pam's not there?

Mr. Trascher said, then they have to make a temporary appointment.

Chief Parish asked, who's going to do it if they are not there to make the temporary appointment?

Mr. Trascher said, one of them is going to be here, one of them has got to be here. We got to be able to get one of them unless we have a nuclear explosion there ain't nothing we are going to be able to do.

Chief Parish said, Chief might be on vacation or she might be some wheres. He might have his daughter. We are small, we are not a huge department. I can tell you, they are not always going to be there. Am I wrong or am I right.

Mrs. Blackwell said, hold on, Chief Mitchell had his hand up first.

Mitchell Geissler said, I am just trying to understand. So, we are talking about making a temporary appointment during a active scene? Is that what we are talking about?

Mr. Lombard said, not necessarily.

Captain Geissler said, that's what I am...

Mr. Trascher said, it could be an active scene, it could be something that the Chief wants to assign him to do.

Captain Geissler said, but on an active scene, let's say the first one firefighter that gets there takes command of that scene.

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Captain Geissler said, if they are running that scene perfect, smooth and beautiful. It may be up to the Chief or a Captain not to take the command of that scene from them because they are doing what they are suppose to be doing.

Mr. Trascher said, exactly.

Captain Geissler said, so on an emergency scene, I will have to wait. If I get there, the other night we has a structure fire on Pine Street. I got there and I took command. Jack showed up after the fact. I assume I was doing well because Jack never asked to take command from me.

Mr. Trascher said, okay.

Captain Geissler said, so, in that situation would he already, are you saying he has to come and take command?

Mr. Trascher said, no. No, it doesn't change any of that.

Chief Parish said, see, I didn't...

Mr. Thanars said, that's where my problem is at. I think that the operational thing, we are getting into the area of the operation that it's not even an area for us even to address. I think that, if they go to the scene, there are needs of the department, if it's a reservist, if it's the full time person, if it's Civil Service, I don't really think it going to make a difference. I think that what's going to happen, whatever the needs that needs to happen to keep the wheels turning to address the issue, if it's administrative, then I think it applies as it would in an operational situation.

Mr. Lombard said, let the Chief talk.

Mrs. Blackwell said, let the Chief talk.

Chief Dockery said, I think your right. We are jumping off in a different area. Mr. Floyd, I believe you are referring more to the day to day operation. Your right, I cannot have Matt come in and Pam goes, Matt I want you to come in and do accounts payable. I want you to run the department as my second. I don't work that way. It would be Mitchell come up (inaudible). As of the scenes though, that's where we got the gray area. I am put feelers out to other departments that have volunteers, they have volunteers that are in rank. I have asked, what exactly do y'all have set up? How does that and Civil Service work together? Chief should be a Chief. Now, I understand Civil Service, we have to go by certain guidelines and certain procedures. Yes, if I am not here, Chief of Ops will be acting Chief. That's what it says in the classification plan. Chief of Ops has her own classification plan of what is expected of her. Same as Captain and Fire Operator. Day to day, day to day stuff. We are not asking, or I am not asking for, you know, how do I put this? Yes, I had a vision. I wanted to do a certain step. I wanted to eliminate the position. That did not happen. She, Pam, Ms. Little is in the position. It cannot be terminated anymore. So, that is a moot point. Now, with that being said, I want to find somewhere for my Deputy Chief to fit in to where he can be a productive member with out having a temporary appointment every 30 days. He is, correct me if I am wrong, back in 2011, I'm sorry, back in 2008 he was moved from a Captain to the District Chief. Like I said at the last meeting, he was actually Interim Chief for a brief moment. 2011, he was moved from District Chief to Deputy Chief. The clarification I got for that was because we went Civil Service and my position was created.

Chief Parish said, the District Chief, the Civil Service the District Chief positions were created which is why I left that rank and went to Deputy Chief because it was that was non, we didn't have Civil Service e.

Chief Dockery said, it's a non classified position. Of course, my position was abolished and Chief of Ops was created. So, that being said, the Chief of Ops is here. It's not going any where. It's a moot point. I am looking for somewhere for my volunteers, my part timers to fit in to be effective within the department. I understand what you are saying. If, as Mrs. Jacklyn

said, the Board holds the purse strings. I don't want to create anything without having to come to the Board first and say hey, I want to do this.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, the very, just let me say this and it may clear it up.

Mr. Lombard said, no, no, it won't clear it up. Let him finish because I want to hear what he's got to say.

Chief Dockery said, this is not creating a new position. This is a position that's here and it's been here. Like I said, I had a different vision for it. I wanted to cease a classified position and have a unclassified in that spot. That did not work. That vision did not come to pass. There again that is gone. Mr. Floyd?

Mr. Trascher said, yeah, and this may clear it up. At the very minimum, we need to define the Appointing Authority and I think, what I am saying is that, we can define the Appointing Authority as the Chief appoints or hires within the department but, the Board is the Appointing Authority for the Chief, Chief of Operations and the structure of the department. Now, with that done, the only thing I was mentioning with the 30 day appointment was to give you more latitude. If you have a specific way you want to structure the department, bring that to the Board and we can approve it so that you can have a productive department.

Chief Dockery said, I just wanted to clarify, I know that was the hard point at the last meeting. This is not anything new. Yes, like I said, I am talking with other departments to get some type of structure to see how they use (inaudible).

Mr. Trascher asked, do you still have that chart that we used at the last meeting?

Chief Dockery said, I do.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, because that's the one, when this Board approved Civil Service, we approved reorganizing the department, that was the command structure. Now, I don't have a problem if you would like to change the command structure, to present it and we can look at it. That's not a problem. The problem is, we need to define the Appointing Authority so we don't get into this situation again.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Lombard said, let me tell you. This whole thing started with Johnny Leos and Tim Bruns. I can remember it like it was yesterday. His idea was to get rid of Jack and he did that. Took Jack out of his position and put Tim in there. I am not lying to anybody about it. I am telling you that's what he wanted. He never politiced for it but you could see what he wanted to do. We don't want that to happen to another firefighter in this department. Just so, when they come in to work one day they Ex-Chief and then they come in the next day and they a Captain. I think that's the only thing we are trying to protect is, when we set a structure, that structure stays. If you want to change it, you got all the right in the world to change it. Bring it to us, make common sense out of it or to where we can understand it because some of us

cannot understand common sense sometimes.

Mr. Trascher said, speak for yourself.

Mr. Lombard said, I'm telling you but no, that way we got it and we know that nobody is going to be taken out of a position and lose pay in order for someone else to be put in that same position just by changing the structure.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Lombard said, that's my only intention.

Chief Dockery said, no, and I will (inaudible).

Mr. Trascher said, that's my objective is to define the Appointing Authority in that manner and the only thing that I was saying with the Chief having the 30 day appointment is so that you can make any temporary appointment that you wanted. We don't have to include that. We can define the Appointing Authority as, the Board appoints the Chief and the Chief of Operations and approves any organizational changes in the department.

Mr. Lindsey said, I have no problem with...

Chief Parish said, okay, promotional, just for clarification, she is promotional not competitive, so, that's kind of Civil Service.

Mr. Trascher said, yes, so when I say Appointing Authority, the only thing I want to say on that is, because she may fill in as Chief, we need to more closely supervise her than any other employee.

Chief Parish said, and for clarification, technically, if Jack goes out...

Mr. Trascher said, she's Chief.

Chief Parish said, she's not, it's still up to you to figure out who you want to fill in for him. He truly, truly, belongs to you.

Mr. Trascher said, right.

Chief Parish said, she kind of, belongs to them and us because she is under him. So, if he goes out and by all rights, typically what happens, why wouldn't you make your number...

Mr. Trascher said, exactly and that is my only point in looking at it.

Chief Parish said, but, you have the ability to appoint...

Mr. Trascher said, no. That has to be hired through Civil Service. It has to be tested.

Chief Parish said, no, I mean, for the temporary appointments, it's is for him. It's up to you. He is the only person that you can theoretically, put anybody in his temporary appointment if he is out for an extended amount of time.

Mr. Lindsey said, I totally understand that, from what you are saying and the fact of, if it is anything financial, that it needs to come through the Board. Now, if Chief, my feeling is, if Chief wants to appoint somebody that's a volunteer or part time or something like that, if he wants to create a position for him to shred papers, whatever, as long as he is not trying to take somebody out of Civil Service position. If he wants to have a volunteer and call him a Captain or Chief or whatever he wants to call him. It should be his discretion to set up his rank structure he way he wants to set them up.

Mr. Trascher said, the problem I have with that is, we have Civil Service personnel and if that happens then the Chief could appoint people over the Civil Service personnel that wouldn't be doing their job. So, if that's what is going to happen...

Mr. Lindsey said, they have a classification.

Mr. Trascher said, I know but, say he appoints somebody, he could appoint 3 Deputy Chiefs that are volunteers. Then we have confusion again. We should have a clear structure that all the employees know who they report to and what job responsibilities everybody has.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Finger, do you have something you want to say? I see you are over there thinking.

Mr. Finger said, I had a quick thought but it's moot now.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, thank you.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, I mean, that's my only objective is, I would like to see that, and I understand, I can appreciate what you are saying, Chief Parish, about the Chief of Operations because we couldn't just pick someone to fill that spot. There are guidelines with Civil Service that we have to follow. So, anything that we do we have to follow Civil Service guidelines. We should approve a departmental structure and any deviations from that structure should come back to the Board for approval.

Mr. Lombard said, why can't you say any structural changes to the department would have to come to before the Board.

Mr. Trascher said, that is basically what I said.

Mr. Lombard said, leave it at that and that's the same way we operate now, basically.

Chief Parish said, that's typically how it is. It's typically and historically how it's always been. If he...

Mr. Lombard said, I can understand Chief the 30 days but he doesn't need it because he can do it.

Chief Parish said, you were just confusing me with that temporary appointment thing.

Mr. Trascher said, I am just trying, I am looking, I am trying to give the Chief the ability.

Chief Parish said , you can't have two...

Mr. Trascher said, the incident command structure dictates just what you are saying. The first person on the scene becomes the incident commander. Now, as the higher ranking officer comes in, he can relieve that person and take command. That's the way the department operates.

Chief Parish said, with the current structure, and this is the problem and you can help me if I am wrong because I haven't looked at it in a while. But, in 2015 when Chief, you know, God rest his soul, did the structure, we have already touched base on some of the issues, he put me out here. It can't work that way. There has to be a line of succession and we are a combination department. We are a blended department, we are not 100% Civil Service and we are not 100% volunteer. So, with Civil Service they even say I can command a Civil Service employee and because I am in the line of succession. Like Mr. Emile said, you make a chart, Jack makes a chart and he gives it to you, which is the way it's suppose to be. He is suppose to say, hey this is what our new organizational chart is going to look like and that becomes her bible, my bible, his bible. Somebody wants to know who to go to, well here's the line but there's not a branch out here that is confusing people. That's the part that confused people. When I got stuck out here.

Mr. Lombard said, why couldn't we take, now the Chief give us a chart showing us him, showing us Pam and showing us you.

Chief Parish said, that's exactly right. That's the way it should be.

Mr. Lombard said, even though it's a unclassified position for you, you still have the ability to go on to a scene, if something is being done wrong, you can tell the command. However you want to handle it and make it right. If one of them, if Pam is gone, you become the next in line for the Chief to give an order to to pass it on down the line.

Chief Parish said , right.

Mr. Lombard said, I mean, this has been working all this time, it's just that it's all over the page.

Chief Parish said , to be fair, Mr. Emile, we didn't realize that I was out here. We always assumed that our organizational chart was the way it was for years and that I was still in line. Apparently, I got moved out here so, what Jack, if Jack wants, what Jack should do is get it

back in line and come to you and say, this is what I would like it to look like. Just like you said, Jack, Pam, or whoever he wants next, it just can't be, wherever I fall into the line, I just can't be out here.

Mr. Trascher said, okay, I don't have a problem with that but, we need to define the Appointing Authority to change that chart so that we don't run into the situation that we had last time with the Chief just going to Civil Service to amend the department. And again, if you would write a standard operating procedure that would define the Board as the Appointing Authority for the command, department structure, I'm sorry, and Chief. That way, if he wants to restructure the department, he comes back to the Board, the Board agrees with it, if it's Civil Service, sends it to Civil Service, if not, the Board approves a command structured chart. That's my proposal.

Mr. Lombard said, yeah, I mean, as long as you the written text that the command structure is what the Chief submits to the Board.

Mr. Trascher said, the Board approves.

Mr. Lombard said, the Board approves it.

Mr. Trascher said, exactly.

Mr. Lombard said, if it wants to be changed, it has to come back to the Board, by the Chief, and see what those changes are and give it a yea or nay to it.

Mr. Trascher said, if we would have had that, we wouldn't have had the problem we had with restructuring the department last month. We wouldn't have had that problem because the Chief would have clearly understood what the Board would like.

Mr. Lombard said, how does that sound to you Chief?

Chief Dockery said, I am good with it.

Mr. Lombard said, Matt?

Chief Parish said , it's good, I just want to make a point. I want to use this as an education for you real quick. I don't know if you know this or not, anytime you make a policy change, the right thing to do is, that goes to them to because ultimately, they approve all of our policies in our handbook so, when you make those, they are suppose to go to the Board also. I don't know that or not but, I wanted to point it out.

Mr. Trascher said, right, that's what I was saying. Rather than us do it, if the Chief or the Chief would assign somebody knowledgeable to write that standard operating procedure, that the...

Mr. Thanars said, that the Board would approve the organizational structure and stop there.

Mr. Trascher said, that the Board is the Appointing Authority that approves the organizational structure.

Mr. Lombard said, bottom line.

Mr. Trascher said, and if there is going to be any changes to Civil Service personnel, the Chief would present it to and we can approve it or not approve it. If the Chief...

Mr. Lombard said, stop talking.

Mr. Trascher said, no, I am not, the Chief is going to submit a command structure and we will approve it or not approve it with our operating procedure.

Mr. Lombard said, alright, your comments are redundant.

Chief Parish said, alright, I have to ask again because you kept talking.

Mr. Lombard said, see.

Chief Parish said, when you say changes to Civil Service, I am trying to be clear here, because in the day to day operations, not any positions, if there is money involved he cannot do that but when it comes the day to day, she's sick or she's hurt, or he's up or this one is up, those are all, every single one of those things in the Civil Service world is a document.

Mr. Trascher said, exactly. We have nothing to do...

Chief Parish said, when it goes to them, but your saying if he does this it has to go to them but it also has to go to you?

Mr. Trascher said, no, what I am saying is he's got three Captains in the department, right.

Chief Parish said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, let's say he only wants to go to two Captains.

Chief Parish said, three Civil Service Captains.

Mr. Trascher said, he want's to go to two Captains, he has to come to this Board to go to Civil Service.

Chief Parish said, that's a money change.

Mr. Trascher said, let's say he's got three Captains and he wants four. He's got to come back to the Board.

Chief Parish said, again, that's a money change.

Mr. Trascher said, let's say he's got three Captains and one is sick. We don't have anything to do with that.

Chief Parish said, as far as the day to day...

Mr. Lombard said, operations.

Mr. Trascher said, right.

Chief Parish said, changes, he is good not going to you but going to them like he is suppose to do.

Mr. Trascher said, right, right. As long as we are not changing the, because he has to come up with a chart. Just like he is saying that is going to run down and show all the employees and that chart will be submitted to the Board and we will approve, once that is approved, if you are going to change that chart, it needs to come back to us.

Mr. Thanars said, can the chart, and I think it should, it shouldn't be just Civil Service positions.

Mr. Lombard said, it's not.

Mr. Trascher said, no, it's not. It's the whole department.

Mr. Thanars said, the whole department?

Mr. Trascher said, we are structuring the whole department.

Mr. Lombard said, like when it first come up, Matt was a non-classified employee in the Captains position or Chief's position, whatever you want to call it. But, you could still do that but the structure would show where his authority starts.

Mr. Lindsey said, I guess that's what I wanted to make sure of, that we can, if Chief wants to put him in whatever position it is, that it can fit in between all those other...

Mr. Thanars said, it just has to be reflected on the chart.

Mr. Trascher said, all he has to do is submit the chart to the Board and say, I want to make these changes and why, or whatever and the Board can approve it. That's the official command structure of this department. If we had that last month, we wouldn't be where we are today. Because that's where the confusion came in...

Mr. Lombard said, if we would have had that a few years ago we wouldn't be here today.

Mr. Trascher said, is, our Bylaws say the Appointing Authority and Civil Service got into it and so on and so forth. That's...

Mr. Lombard said, last time they did the changes, they did the changing and then came to us. Is that a motion?

Mr. Trascher said, Chief, would you be willing to work on the operating procedure that would accomplish those objectives? I am sure Chief Parish will work with you on that.

Chief Dockery said, yes.

Mr. Trascher said, I bet Chief Little will, too. If that's the case, then I would move that the Chief present that to the Board at our next meeting.

Mr. Lombard said, second.

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

Mr. Thanars said, just to make sure it's clear, we want him to present an organizational chart...

Mr. Trascher said, yes, I can't talk any more, he is going to fuss.

Mr. Thanars said, I got it. Yea.

Mr. Trascher said, he is going to do an organizational chart and the operating procedure. You know, the Appointing Authority defined.

Mr. Lombard said, standard operating procedure, SOP.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Lombard said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Trascher?

Mr. Trascher said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, motion carries.

Mr. Trascher said, thank you.

Mr. Lombard said, I ain't never wandered around the block the wrong way.

Mr. Lindsey said, we got there though.

Mr. Lombard said, no, no, you didn't get there, wait until you vote on it. Then you going to see if you get there.

Mr. Trascher said, I think we are all, kind of, on the same page. I may have been a little more complicated with the 30 day appointment thing, but, I didn't want the Chief to feel like I was tying his hands. He can appoint somebody without coming to us, temporary.

Mrs. Blackwell said, okay, is that all said?

Mr. Lombard said, and done.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, do we have a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Lombard said, yes.

Mrs. Blackwell said, let's keep the people in South and North Carolina and Virginia in our prayers as we go through the week.

Mr. Trascher said, and Texas and all the other storms that are coming.

Mr. Lombard said, and Mexico.

Mrs. Blackwell said, it is getting very active as well as our own people here at our department. With that said, a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Lombard said, yes.

Mr. Thanars said, second.

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

Mr. Thanars said, yea.

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

Mr. Lindsey said, yes.

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

Mr. Lombard said, definitely yes.

Mrs. Blackwell asked, Mr. Trascher?

Mr. Trascher said, does it matter? Yes.