



St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District # 3

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Michael Geissler
Fire Chief

Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners February 12, 2025 *Meeting Minutes*

Called To Order:

Chairman Danny Hall called the meeting to order on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer

Roll Call:

Danny Hall, Leo Casanave, Raymond Batiste, and Murphy Arsenaux were present.

Chief Geissler, Assistant Chief Guillot, and Chief May were present representing the Fire Department.

Chad Danenhower was present representing PMI. Mr. Waniewski was present by phone.

Secretary Minutes:

Approve minutes of January 8, 2025, public meeting.

Mr. Casanave made a motion to approve the minutes from January 8, 2025. Mr. Batiste seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Employee Recognition:

Chief Geissler recognized the following employees' time in service.

- Paul Sehlinger, 9 years as of 2/8/25
- Micheal Couch, 2 years on 2/28/25
- Michael Geissler, 18 years 2/20/25

Mr. Hall recognized Mrs. Hutchison for her years on the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Hall presented Mrs. Hutchison with a plaque award of appreciation.

Swearing in of new Commissioner:

Mr. Hall stated the Councilman Joe Impastato nominated Mike Ricks to fill the vacant position of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Ricks was approved on February 6, 2025 by the Parish Council. Mr. Danenhower swore Mr. Ricks in as the new Board of Commissioner.

Election of Officers:

Mr. Hall stated that the election officers was tabled at the January meeting with changes that were being made. The election of officers is as follows.

Mr. Arsenaux made a motion that Danny Hall stay in the Chairman position. Mr. Ricks seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Mr. Arsenaux made a motion Mr. Ricks is the Vice Chairman. Mr. Batiste seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Mr. Arsenaux made a motion Mr. Leo is the Secretary. Mr. Batiste seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Mr. Casanave made a motion Mr. Batiste is the Treasurer. Mr. Arsenaux seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Chairman – Danny Hall
Vice Chairman – Mike Ricks
Secretary – Leo Casanave
Treasurer – Raymond Batiste

Treasurer Report:

Mr. Waniewski stated that a vast majority of the Ad Valorem is collected in the first quarter of the year so it is over collected by 16%. That number will go up throughout the year.

#7 - \$66, 242.00- that is money received for January, \$24,000.00 was January billings and collections, the other \$42,000.00 are collections that occurred September through December of 2024 that is just now coming through the system.

Payroll is high due to a lot of training that took place in January and the snow event. This will come back in line. The holiday is also a front-end loading expense.

The EMS billing fee \$4981.00 is 8.5% of the money collected in December. It will always run 30 days behind.

Repairs and Maintenance is 8.61%. January is running pretty good.

Mr. Casanave made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Mr. Ricks seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Chief's Report:

Chief Geissler stated that the call volume is 157 for January. 233 Year to date. In January 100% of calls were covered by two paramedic trucks. A total of 98.87% calls were handled by District 3. During the month of January there were two calls that required mutual aid because the two med units were on other calls. There was a nonemergent transport where Acadian was called to go across the lake. There was also a mutual aid request in Slidell today.

Chief Geissler also stated the during the beginning of the year the department is doing vehicle maintenance/preventative maintenance. Brake tags will also be handled.

Employees are also attending LIFT training in St. George. All shifts will have the opportunity to attend.

The PIAL packet was received, and they are steadily working on that. The deadline is the 27th of next week and they are aiming to have everything in by the end of next week. Once they have the information, there will be a meeting to discuss all the information given and a water shuttle will be scheduled.

He is currently working on replacing all full-time employees' safety vests. They will be reflective and have the breakaway feature that is mandated. They are trying to promote safety on scene.

Chief Geissler stated that he has been on zoom calls with First Due, the software that was adopted by the Board, to document fire and EMS incidents. CAD will also be live tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Hall stated that on the 25th there will be a meeting with the Republican women. Chief Geissler stated that they were invited to come and meet with them. They will be discussing safety, the smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors.

Chief Geissler stated that the department will be participating in other PR events. The department will be participating in the Easter egg hunt at the recreation center. An open house will be scheduled for the end of this year as well.

Chief Geissler stated that the audit is still ongoing, and he is confident that will go well.

There was also a blood drive the department worked with the Cardinals football team from the recreation center, Gerrin Narcisse. There were 23 units of blood donated, each unit supplying enough blood to three patients. This will be an event that will be scheduled multiple times a year.

Mr. Hall also mentioned that at the Council meeting, a gentleman complimented the department on the social media work being done.

Old Business:

1- Fire Prevention Bureau. Mr. Hall stated that last week at the Council meeting it was indorsed. It has been vetted and approved by the Council. Chief Geissler stated that there are employees with Inspector I and II and will have some that will become Inspector I so as soon as they can find training with that more employees in that training. The employees that have that will be doing some ride times with District 1's Fire Prevention Bureau. Once that is signed off, the Resolution will be sent to the State Fire Marshall's office, and we will be official. There are certain locations where the department will not do initial inspections. There are health facilities and schools that have to be done by the State.

2. 2025-005: BOC Resolution (Approve BOR for District Sponsored Employee Benefits). Chief Geissler stated that he met with Michael Olinde and his group and they will be able to provide the benefit services as far as medical, vision, and dental. They will be managing what the department

already has, no changes of coverage are expected. They also have other items, EAP, investment options, and supplementary insurance, he feels they will be better for the department and are up to date as far as technology services, things will be done through apps. There is a small increase, especially under the EAP portion, there will be a \$173.00 increase, but you get 6 sessions instead of 3 with the previous company. They send out information each month and do in-house training.

Mr. Batiste made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-005. Mr. Ricks seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

3. Balance on current bond. Mr. Hall stated that a question was asked at the last meeting about the balance due on the bond. As of January 13, 2025, there was a balance of \$206,376.57 of which \$205,000.00 was principle and \$1376.57 was interest. No action required.

4. LLA 2024 Amended Budget Requirement as to Total Receipts & Total Expenditures (in excess of 105%). Mr. Hall stated that Chief Geissler was going to be working with Mr. Waniewski. The goal is to have this completed by the next Board meeting on March 12th. No action required.

New Business:

1. Civil Service Board nomination. Mr. Hall stated that now that Mr. Ricks is on the Board of Commissioners, he has vacated a position on the Civil Service Board. Mr. Hall would like nominations to fill the position on the Civil Service Board. Mr. Ricks nominated Matthew Bindewald. No other nominations were received. Mr. Batiste made a motion to accept Matthew Bindewald to the Civil Service Board position. Mr. Casanave seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

2. Swear in Fire Department Civil Service Board member (Stiehl). Mr. Danenhower swore in both Matthew Bindewald, the Governing Authority Board member, and Justin Stiehl, the Firefighter department Board member.

3. 2025-006: BOC Resolution (Approve Financial Ladder Strategy) The Board finds that it is in the best interest of the District, its employees, citizens and taxpayers to implement a program and procedure whereby the District has determined that is in the best interest of the District to approve to engage in a financial ladder strategy with the district's banking institution of the investment of both operation and/or restricted funds to maximize interest earnings for District 3. Mr. Ricks made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-006. Mr. Casanave seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

4. 2024 Audit Compliance Questionnaire. Mr. Hall stated that no action was needed. Compliance letter was signed as required by the auditors.

5. Murphy Arsenaux. Mr. Arsenaux stated that he has been on the board since 2015 and felt it was time to resign to get new ideas and personnel on board. He stated that he has enjoyed his time on the board and wished interim Chief Geissler and interim Assistant Chief Guillot luck in their positions. Mr. Hall presented Mr. Arsenaux with a plaque award of recognition.

6. Nominations for Board of Commissioners. Mr. Hall stated that at the March 6th Parish Council meeting, Joe Impastato will be nominating Adam Jacks to fill the vacancy of Mr. Arsenaux. No action needed.

Mr. Batiste made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Casanave seconded. A vote was taken.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:09pm.