



FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 13
ST. TAMMANY PARISH
P.O. Box 2109

Mark Cortez
Vice-Chairman

Eryn Jones
Secretary

Tony Devillier
Chairman

Lonnie Johnson
Fire Chief

COVINGTON, LA 70434
985-898-4913

Jorge Fernandez
Commissioner

Jeffery Stern
Treasurer

Meeting Minutes

The St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 13 Board of Commissioners met in regular session at **7:00 PM** on **October 16, 2024**, at the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 13 fire station located at 13053 Hwy 190 Covington, LA 70433.

7:02 PM the meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Tony DeVillier

Roll call: Absent: None; Present: Tony DeVillier, Jeffery Stern, Mark Cortez, and Jorge Fernandez

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Awards and Recognition: Pinning for Fire Equipment Officer Darius Freeman and Administrative Assistant Gretta Golden

Minutes Review: Review and consideration of approval of September 18, 2024, board meeting minutes, Mr. Stern made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Mr. Fernandez, no further discussion, all in favor. (See attached).

Financial Report: Mr. Stern reviewed the credit card report before the meeting and reported all in order. Mark Waniewski reviewed the through September 30, 2024, financial report, and performance report with the Board. Mr. Fernandez made a motion to adopt the financial reports, and credit card reports, seconded by Mr. Stern, no further comments or discussion, all in favor (see attached).

Old Business

1. Discussed the status of Station 134. Chief Johnson advised that the pre-bid conference for questions was held today at Station 131 at 1pm. There were 24 contractors in attendance. Bids will be opened on November 4th at 3pm at Station 131.
2. Mr. Stern spoke on the Verizon tower contract. Mr. Stern advised that Verizon has proposed a \$190,000 lump sum and extend the contract for 40 years. Mr. Stern advised that he would like to move forward to sign the contract. The board approved and gave authority to Mr. Stern to sign the contract for the tower lease.

New Business

1. 2024-016: BOC Resolution (Approve Advertisement of 2025 Operating Budget for Public Comments) Mr. Cortez made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Fernandez, all in favor
2. 2024-017: BOC Resolution (Approve Goodbye Volunteer Fire Department MOU for Annual Funding) Mr. Fernandez made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Cortez, all in favor
3. 2024-018: BOC Resolution (Approve Financial Services Removal of Signature Authority) Mr. Fernandez made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Stern, all in favor
4. 2024-019: BOC Resolution (Election of Officers) Chairman: Tony DeVillier, Vice Chairman: Mark Cortez, and Treasurer: Jeffery Stern. Mr. Cortez made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Fernandez, all in favor
5. Additional comments from PMI: Mr. Waniewski advised the board that the property coverage will be increasing by almost double upon renewal due to the 90 mile coastal radius. Mr. Waniewski also presented to the board the recommendation for the new cascade system to be purchased in 2024 and be allocated to the Equipment line item on the budget; board approved, all in favor.
6. Civil Service report – Fire Fighter and Fire Equipment Operator tests will be called for in December.
7. Training Report: TSO Michael Getscher advised that the numbers for training are looking great. A home was donated in Station 132 area that will be used for training of various types for 3-4 weeks and then the final controlled training burn will take place. There was a 100% pass rate for all those who participated in the Officer I class (there were 7 from FD13). There will be an Instructor and Officer II course next year. The annual training at Diversified Foods is being planed now.
8. Fire Prevention: Not present, at a class.
9. Maintenance – Rodney Waltrip advised that all trucks are in service. We are still waiting on Deep South.
10. Fire Chief's Report: Provided a call breakdown report. There were 112 calls last month.
11. Additional New Business: Chief Johnson advised the board that the department needs to purchase a new generator by the end of the year. We have a quote of \$37,500. This would be for Station 134. There will a resolution in the upcoming



meetings to vote.

12. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Cortez and second by Mr. Fernandez, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m

Pending approval October 16, 2024