



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

George Osbourn
Chairman

Mark Cortez
Commissioner

Tony Devillier
Commissioner

Clint Ory
Secretary

Lonnie Johnson
Fire Chief

COVINGTON, LA 70434

Jorge Fernandez
Commissioner

Norman Voelkel
Treasurer

985-898-4913

Meeting Minutes

The St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District No. 13 Board of Commissioners met in regular session at **7:00 PM** on **February 24, 2021**, at the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 13 fire station located at 13053 Hwy 190 Covington, LA 70433.

Due to COVID-19, exposure history, symptom and temperature checks were required for entry, reduced capacity was enforced and a link to view remotely established for any not able to enter.

7:01 PM the meeting was called to order by Chairman Osbourn

Roll call: Absent: None, Present: Norman Voelkel, George Osbourn, Jorge Fernandez, Mark Cortez and Tony Devillier

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Awards and Recognition: Mark Wanawski with PMI addressed the Board of Commissioners as a resident of Bossier and business owner in Shreveport he wanted to thank the district for sending a 9000-gallon tanker and two personnel to assist during the freeze and catastrophic water system failure that occurred in Shreveport. The assistance has been invaluable and well publicized.

Review and consideration of approval of the January 20th, 2021 board meeting minutes, Mr. Devillier made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Mr. Cortez, no further discussion, all in favor. (see attached).

Financial Report: Chad Danenhower with PMI discussed and reviewed the January Financial report, the overall expenses are under budget. Several front-loaded expenses were outlined that effect individual accounts on the ledger but the finances are in order. The January credit card report was also submitted to the board and was found to be in order. Mr. Devillier made a motion to adopt the financial reports, and credit card reports, second by Mr. Voelkel. No further comments or discussion, all members in favor (see attached). Chief Lonnie Johnson provided the Board with a change order to a previously approved emergency repair and improvements to Station 132. Mold was found in the walls and ceiling during demolition increasing the cost by \$10,164.00 to correct. A motion was made by Mr. Devillier to approve the change order and second by Mr. Cortez. No additional discussion, all in favor motion passed.

Old Business

1. Chad Danenhower reported on status of the land acquisition for Station 134. The Architect is finalizing the engineering recommendations and watershed impacts required to use the land. The Champagnes have agreed in principle to provide topographical measurements to assist in the finalization and the Parish is scheduled to go review the site to confirm requirements.
2. Chief Johnson reported that repairs to Station 132 by contractor, KB Kaufmann & Co. Inc. during the Financial report due to the mold found and change order required.

New Business

1. A motion was made by Mr. Devillier to untable the Board tabled 2021-001: BOC Resolution (Approve a resolution authorizing the district to amend the 2020 budget ref State law) and second by Mr. Cortez. The resolution was then discussed, the 2020 budget is within the 5% and complies with state law so no need to amend it. Mr. Cortez rescinded his second, the motion died. No further action taken.
2. The board adopted 2021-004: BOC Resolution (Approve/Adopt the Jan 2021 incentive pay scale adjustment) motion made by Mr. Devillier, second by Mr. Cortez, all in favor, resolution passed.
3. Civil Service report. Mr. Ostendorf stated the board has a new appointment for the civil service board, Mr. Scott Lambert



is now in place, they have called for a Captains test, Admin Assistant test and FEO test.

4. Maintenance – Maintenance Officer Waltrip was absent due to deployment to Shreveport. Chief Johnson reported that Ladder 132 had an EGR valve go bad, scheduled for repair. Tanker 133 is completed and will be picked up next week.
5. Training Report: Chief Hecker provided written training report, on Company training and EMT class. Discussed annual skills assessments. 5 volunteers passed Hazmat Awareness.
6. Fire Prevention: FPO Holcombe was absent, due to deployment to Shreveport.
7. Fire Chief's Report: Reported 45 calls in January, calls remain down due to COVID-19. Chief Johnson reported that the PIAL rating packet is almost complete. Chief Johnson announced the Verizon tower is moving forward at Station 133 after being on hold for many years. The district has two antennas on the tower and will receive \$1000 per month rent.
8. Safety Officer Karl Stahl asked the board to consider renaming Station 133 to include recently deceased former Volunteer, Board Member and land donator Mr. Chopin Cusachs. It is currently named only after his deceased wife. A motion was made by Mr. Devillier and second by Mark Cortez, no additional discussion, all were in favor, motion passed.
9. **Motion to adjourn** by Mr. Devillier and seconded by Mr. Cortez, all in favor, Adjourned at 8:05 PM.