



Michael Geissler
Fire Chief

St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District # 3

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Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners September 10, 2025 *Meeting Minutes*

Called To Order:

Chairman Danny Hall called the meeting to order on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer

Roll Call:

Danny Hall, Leo Casanave, Raymond Batiste, Mike Ricks, and Adam Jacks were present.

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

Mr. Chad Danenhower was present representing PMI.

Mrs. Rosa Jacks was present representing Hearts on Fire.

Secretary Minutes:

Approve minutes of August 13, 2025, public meeting.

Mr. Ricks made a motion to approve the minutes of August 13, 2025, regular meeting. Mr. Casanave seconded. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

Employee Recognition:

Chief Geissler recognized the following employees.

Patrick Pereira – 8/14/2025 - 2 years, full time

Donald Torregano – 8/27/2025 - 4 years, part time

Austin Gay – 8/28/2025 - 2 years, part time

New hire:

Blake Spiers – 8/25/2025 – has been employed here before and was rehired 8/15/2025, part time.

Captain Justin Stiehl was recognized as a confirmed Captain for almost a year and was presented with his red helmet.

Chief Geissler stated that there was a pretty significant call a couple days ago that involved a 17-year-old blind and deaf dog named Meatball. He wanted to recognize employees that went the extra mile to save this little dog. He was found in a drain that leads out in the bayou. Our men, Joe Impastato, and members of the public works department were on scene. The family was ultimately happy and visited the department and provided homemade po'boys which was very much appreciated. He hopes to bring the family to the next meeting to recognize them.

Treasurer Report:

Mr. Batiste stated that the operating account opened with \$377,916.27 and closed with \$190,973.02. The Money Market account opened with \$805,184.42 and closed with \$1,062,795.41, The sinking fund account opened with \$1514.33 and closed with \$1514.72.

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 total calls for the month of August was 147, of that, 124 were EMS calls and of the 124, 81 calls were billed.

95% of the total coverage was two ambulances. We also handled 99% of our EMS calls. There were two mutual aids received, both of our med units were on calls. We also provided mutual aid assistance to District 7 for a motor vehicle accident.

He stated fun fact, while playing with First Due he can see which employee has run the most calls for the month of August and year to date. So far, Elijah Jacks receives that recognition.

Chief Geissler stated that they met with Chief Marquette, the Chief of Fire Prevention from Slidell. He has been a wonderful in assisting us getting our Fire Prevention Bureau going. Chief Geissler has sent his request to the Fire Marshall's office and was told he should get some kind of approval in the next couple weeks to be formally and officially recognized as a Fire Prevention Bureau. He has submitted Taylor Tassin, who has completed the requirements, to become an Inspector recognized by the Bureau. There will be other employees that will be completing the requirements as well.

Chief Geissler stated that the department received funding for the opioid grant to purchase items for opioid medical materials. This will include video laryngoscopes, CPR mannequins, and mannequins that will be able to be used internally for training codes, IV's, and I/O's.

Chief Geissler stated that a few months ago the board approved some surplus items which he wanted to give an update. Captain Stiehl has cleared out the MCI trailer and it will be put up for bid after getting it appraised. There is also turnout gear that are expired. He had a Chief out of Washington Parish reach out to him, he wants anything and everything that the department is parting ways with. He will be meeting with him and looking to see if there is anything else that he may be interested in. Once he has that list of items, he will present it to the Board to be signed off on.

Station 32's generator is up and running at 100%. He got a second opinion, and they fixed the radiator cap and leak and also turned down the power.

Open House- They did form an open house committee where there are a few employees that are on board with that. Open House will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2025 from 9:00 – 1:00 at the administrative building and station 31. The prep has already started for this on the grounds. Once the time has been locked down this will be advertised.

District Chief May stated that some events for the month of August were as follows:

- Tip a Firefighter at Empa Taco. This was a fun and successful event.
- The department participated in the lock down drills at Bayou Middle School and Chat -Ima.
- Last months FETA training was on strategies and tactics on electric vehicle fires.
- Mutual aid training with Mandeville fire was held at Monteleon Middle School. Mandeville then came to Lacombe for IGA training.

Training:

- two employees participated in swift water rescue training.
- four employees are registered for A&P this fall which will lead into paramedic school in January 2026. Hopefully in a year and a half there will be four new paramedics full-time.

Chief May answered Mr. Hall's question regarding training from the last Board meeting. Chief May stated that the training percentage increase from last year, 2024, went from 0% to around 83% voluntary request. All requests were fulfilled totaling over 2200 hours, 38 students at a 94% pass rate.

Hearts on Fire:

Mrs. Jacks stated that *Hearts on Fire* has been busy out in the community. Their first major fundraiser was Tip a Firefighter which was hosted by Empa Taco. The funds raised were \$2468.00 in tips that night.

They are also meeting for the Open House where they will have a table for the community to let them know who *Hearts on Fire* is and why they are here.

The only social media they have right now is on Instagram. They are still waiting on the card and non-profit number.

Committees and Initiatives:

Election Committee: Chief Geissler stated that they have hired a campaign manager, Sam Caruso, who has been highly recommended. He has been working with him daily to develop a timeline which he should have soon. They are also developing a webpage specific to the election where citizens can go to for information. Meetings are being scheduled with members of the community and different organizations to make sure they can discuss the election information. Mr. Hall added that the campaign manager is willing to come meet with the other members of the board and he and Mr. Jacks recommends that all board members meet with him.

Mr. Hall stated that there was another committee where they were going to do some comparison between us and other fire departments. Some information is starting to come in but he is not ready to discuss this information yet.

Strategic Planning committee. Mr. Hall stated that this committee has been meeting regularly on Thursday mornings, usually from 0900 until. Mr. Hall presented a PowerPoint to show some of the work that is being done.

Old Business:

1) Fence on property located at Turken and Pontchartrain.

Mr. Hall stated that there was discussion several meetings back where the neighbor on that property was concerned that his cattle getting out of his property and getting on to our property and getting out of the fence. He wanted to let the Board know that it has been resolved. The department bought barbwire fence, and he put it up and is satisfied with it.

2) 2025-029: BOC Resolution (Approve Engagement of Professional Services) – Record Keeping. This resolution was for the engagement of The Campaign Depot.

New Business:

1) 2025-031: BOC Resolution (Approve Financial Services Institution – Hancock Whitney)

The Board finds that it is in the best interest of the District to approve the one-year extension for financial services as provided by Hancock Whitney bank.

Ms. Williams stated that this contract was renewed in 2024, and they are extending it for one more year. The interest for 2024 and year to date for 2025, \$77,125.00 was earned. Total with investments \$111,144.00 in interest. Mr. Batiste made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-031. Mr. Casanave seconded. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

2) 2025-030: BOC Resolution (Approve Workers' Compensation Insurance – LWCC)

Mr. Danenhowe stated that this is a flat rate, no increase except for wage increases since tied to the number of employees that you have. Mr. Casanave made a motion to accept Resolution 2025-030. Mr. Ricks seconded. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

3) Introduction of 2026 budget.

Chief Geissler stated that it will be a broad overview of budget so there are just a few line items that some adjustments were made for next year versus this year.

Chief Guillot stated that there will be some revisions to come and meetings scheduled. He stated that general information, he spoke with Mr. Waniewski and they agreed to leave the Ad Valorem the same as last year.

The EMS revenue is the same.

EMS training is up because the department is sending four employees to paramedic school.

Fire Equipment purchased is a little higher than last year because in the 5-year plan, it is to phase out all old 2 ½ inch hose. The plan is to do 1/5 of it next year, which is a lot of that expenditure.

Hourly Suppression. This year, the department is running about 7 ½ people that's why some of the salary is out of wack. 2026 is projected for 7 ½ which is why that number looks different.

Incentive pay. This is higher because the 4 employees in paramedic school will be receiving their incentive while in school.

Sick leave. Significantly higher than last year. We have two employees that will probably be out another half year.

Cancer Act. This will be reflected in 2026. There will be 8 more employees for their cancer screens.

Health Insurance. This is actually less than previous year until the rates get adjusted when renewed.

Bond expenditures. This line is higher; this reflects the \$105,000.00 last payment on the bond and projects \$75,000.00 for what is decided to do with the million on that bond.

R&M Vehicles. This is up from 2024, but less than what was spent this year. He figures that some of the maintenance that was not taken care of last year has been taken care of this year.
No further discussion.

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

Meeting adjourned 6:19.