



Michael Geissler  
Fire Chief

## St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District # 3

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### Public Hearing of the Board of Commissioners November 12, 2025 *Hearing Minutes*

#### **Called To Order:**

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

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **Prayer**

#### **Roll Call:**

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

Chief Geissler, was present representing the Fire Department.

Mark Waniewski was present representing PMI.

Mr. Hall opened the floor for public comment on the proposed 2025 budget at 5:02pm.

5:09 no public comment.

5:19 no public comment.

No comments from the public, administration or the board. No action was taken. Mr. Batiste made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Casanave seconded. A vote was taken.

Hearing adjourned .

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### Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners November 12, 2025 *Meeting Minutes*

#### **Roll Call at 5:20 pm:**

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

Chief Geissler, was present representing the Fire Department.

Mark Waniewski was present representing PMI.

**Secretary Minutes:**

Approve minutes of October 8, 2025, regular meeting.

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

Motion carried.

**Employee Recognition:**

Chief Geissler stated that he wanted Mr. Hall to recognize Drew Rousseau. Mr. Hall presented the Chairman's award which is to recognize people who go above and beyond their job. Mr. Hall stated through Chief Geissler's leadership and Chief Guillot pursuing the donation of the two reserve ambulances from Gonzales would've never come together if it were not for Drew. He stated that Drew brought the fire department's together and he wanted to thank him for making this possible. He was presented with the Chairman's award and gift certificate. Chief Geissler added that he appreciated everything that was done for the department by obtaining those med units for the department. He plans on meeting with the City of Gonzales where he will also recognize them as well. He sends his best regards to the City of Gonzales, their fire department, and their Chief's, it is very much appreciated.

Employee Recognition. Chief Geissler recognized the following employees.

Jaycen Legendre who is currently at FETA taking a fire test. He wanted to recognize him for his first call as an EMT. His first call was childbirth.

Jordy Johnson was confirmed on 10/1/2025

Gary Atrigue – 21 years as of 10/18

Chuck Adams – 8 years as a part timer as of 10/11

Spencer Ballay – 5 years as a part timer as of 10/5

Chris Canning – 2 years as a part timer as of 10/30

Daniel Fortun – 1 year as a part timer as of 10/7

Theresa McCarthy – 13 years as of 10/15

Eljay Schmalz – used to be full time here, now is here as a part time employee as of 10/20

Chief Geissler also wanted to recognize our Veteran's since yesterday was Veteran's Day.

Dalton Sances – United States Marine Corp

Nicholas Carriere – Army

Theresa McCarthy – Air Force

Jim McQuilkin – Navy

Justin Stiehl – Coast Guard

Paul Sehlinger – National Guard

Keith Kern – Navy

Chris Canning – Army

Stephen Batuk – Army

Chuck Adams – Navy

Spencer Ballay – Marine Corp

Chief Geissler stated that the department is fortunate that these veterans have continued to provide their services to our country and now here in Lacombe.

**Treasurer Report:**

Mr. Batiste stated that the operating account opened with \$377,799.46, there were 62 credits of \$1,046,262.45, 74 debits at \$825,604.67, interest paid \$1376.17 with an ending balance of \$599,633.41.

The Money Market account opened with \$659,353.88, there were two credits \$510,000.00, 3 debits \$722,575.00, \$1586.65 interest paid, with an ending balance of \$448,365.53.

The sinking fund account opened with \$1515.09 and the ending balance of \$1515.48.

Mr. Hall stated that there are still two treasury bills. One will mature on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The second will mature on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Both are around the \$250,000.00 mark.

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

Mr. Hall wanted to point out line 28 on the receipts & Disbursements that there was a sharp increase of \$28,189.00. This includes about \$22,000.00, that is a Sims Mannequin that was purchased through the Opioid grant. This will be reimbursed when all items are received and they receive copies of the purchase receipts and then the department will be reimbursed.

Mr. Hall stated that under salary, there was an increase, which was an adjustment, where Marc May was taken from suppression and included in the salary line.

Line 44 was also an increase which was the annual leave buy back.

**Chief's Report:**

Chief Geissler stated that the certificate for the Fire Prevention Bureau has been received. He also received a card for the employee who has all requirements.

Chief Geissler stated that the department participated in the following events.

- Heros at the Harbor October 4<sup>th</sup>, in Mandeville where we participated in the combat challenge
- Titans Homecoming parade
- Pop's café had a block party for breast cancer awareness
- Puppet shows at Headstart for Fire Prevention month
- Senior meeting at the senior center
- Dustin Moreau was presented the Fire Fighter of the Year award by the rotary club in Mandeville
- There was a town hall meeting at the rec district
- An ambulance was provided on standby at Northshore tech for a 5k run
- The Halloween party event here
- There was a meeting with the Republican women of Lacombe
- We participated at the Halloween Monster Mash

Training that took place as follows:

- Advanced extrication class in Slidell

- Drill towers continue with Slidell
- FETA training this month was on electric vehicles

Chief Geissler also stated that PIAL is coming this month. The department is also participating in the toy drive and food drive for the holidays. Santa will also be making his rounds.

Chief Geissler wanted to remind the public that the election is also this Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> for the “Not a new tax, millage”.

Chief Geissler stated that the department was at 100% with the two med units. There were three mutual aid responses and two structure fires.

### **Hearts of Fire update:**

Mrs. Jacks stated that *Hearts on Fire* participated in all of the events that Chief discussed. They are hoping that the public comes out and supports the department on Saturday with their vote.

### **Old Business:**

#### 1) Former employee collections.

Mr. Hall stated that there is an employee that owes for a paramedic class. His understanding was that this agreement took place around four months ago. He was looking at the general ledger and stated that the individual has made two payments. He feels that the department has a collection agency that should be taking care of these things. He would like to suggest that this account and any future accounts go to the collection company. Mr. Batiste made a motion to approve referring all current and future debt collection to the collection agency. Mr. Casanave seconded. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

#### 2) Election update.

Chief gave the election update under Chief's report. He did state that everything received from the campaign manager has been positive.

#### 3) Review 2026 medical services.

Mr. Hall stated he would be able to produce a final report in January. See PowerPoint.

### **New Business:**

#### 1) 2025-035: BOC Resolution (Adopt 2026 Operating Budget)

Mr. Hall stated the following.

WHEREAS, 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 it is in the best interest of the District, after the conclusion of a public hearing, in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statutes, to adopt the 2026 budget for the benefit of all citizens and personnel for District No. 3.

Mr. Ricks made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-035. Mr. Jacks seconded. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

#### 2) 2025-036: BOC Resolution (Approve Confirmation of Fire Chief)

Mr. Hall stated this resolution is to confirm Michael Geissler as the Chief of Fire District 3, he read the following from the resolution.

WHEREAS, 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 it is in the best interest of the District, to confirm Fire Chief M. Geissler as the acting Fire Chief after successful completion of his working test period for District No. 3.

Mr. Casanave made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-036. Mr. Batiste seconded.

Mr. Hall stated that Michael stepped into this role a year ago. He has led this department from a point where Lacombe was viewed as the armpit of fire departments. The department could not keep Full-time or part-time employees here. Mr. Ricks stated that the culture has changed completely. Mr. Hall stated that prior to Chief Geissler, the department had no personal relationship with this community. Since he has been here, you can see all the things that the department participates in and how the department is now back as part of this community.

Mr. Hall stated that prior to Chief Geissler, this department had no vision. Now, through his leadership there is a vision, there is a strategic plan that has moved into a tactical plan.

Mr. Jacks stated that he doesn't have the past experience with the Chief but with his experience with Chief Geissler that he has absolute confidence in his ability to lead the department to where we have to be and he is grateful that he is here.

No further discussion. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

Mr. Hall stated that he wanted to add that he received a call from Chief Kaufmann this morning where he wanted to discuss Michael. He discussed how Michael was a leader, how he has adapted into the role, Michael multitasking and had nothing but praise. Mr. Waniewski added that you have seen the turnaround here in the District but what you haven't seen is how the Fire Chief's Association has also embraced Lacombe because of the change in leadership. There was no presence at the Fire Chief's Association prior to Michael, there is now and the positive outcome with him working with that Association is without benefit.

Chief Geissler stated that he appreciated all the kind words and that it really means a lot. He stated that it has been a fun journey since right out of high school. He says that there is more fun and excitement to come here at District 3. He gave a lot of credit to the guys who have been patient and supportive in this process. He stated that the Board has worked with some of them in the different committees and how they work with him to make this our fire department which betters our service to our community. He gave credit to the guys, Theresa, Mike Guillot, Marc May, his family, PMI and the Board which makes his job easy because we all want the same success.

Mr. Hall asked that since he is confirmed in position, would it be possible to give a report at the next meeting how the Assistant Chief and the District Chief positions are progressing.

3) 2025-037: BOC Resolution (Approve Addendum to Emergency Dispatch Services Agreement)

Chief Geissler stated that Assistant Chief of Communications Boudreau would be coming on, which is an essential role because he is also in the field, he comes here and assists us with communication issues, he assists us programming our radios which could be a cost savings to us since that is usually outsourced. His job would be to make his rounds to each district to provide radio support as well as working dispatch. That increase is split between all fire districts and the coroner's office. It is currently in the 2026 budget that was just approved. Mr. Waniewski stated that District 1 is taking on 50% of the burden and then it is equally split between the other fire districts, the City of Covington fire department, and the Coroner's office. It is not call volume weighted, it is an equal sharing cost.

Mr. Hall read the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, 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 it is in the best interest of the District to approve the addendum for the 2024 Emergency Communications and Dispatching Services Agreement effective January 1, 2026, for District No. 3.

Mr. Batiste made a motion to accept Resolution 2025-037. Mr. Ricks seconded. No further discussion. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

4) Repairs and maintenance to reserve ambulance.

Chief Geissler stated that both donated med units were sent to Phoenix to be assessed. They have determined that it would be in the department's best interest to take on the diesel unit. He has received a list of preliminary things that need to be done on that truck so he is looking for approval to move forward with that. There are several things that he would like for Paul to do to get that fully operational for the department. His estimate is \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 based off of some of the things he saw that needed repair. Mr. Casanave made a motion to approve spending up to \$20,000.00 on repairs. Mr. Batiste seconded. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

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

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.