



Michael Geissler
Fire Chief

St. Tammany Parish Fire Protection District # 3

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Public Meeting of the Board of Commissioners April 9, 2025 *Meeting Minutes*

Called To Order:

Chairman Danny Hall called the meeting to order on Wednesday, April 9, 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 Chief May were present representing the Fire Department.

Mr. Waniewski and Chad Danenhower were present representing PMI.

Mr. Ricks made a motion to change items 1 and 2 under new business and combine the two instead of discussing them separately. Also, table Resolution 2025-015 until all information is received. Mr. Jacks seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Secretary Minutes:

Approve minutes of March 12, 2025, public meeting.

Mr. Casanave made a motion to approve the minutes from March 12, 2025. Mr. Batiste seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Employee Recognition:

Chief Geissler recognized the following employees.

- Two new employees – Brian Marquette (FF/OP/EMT) and Addaline Johnson (EMT), both part time.
- Travis Collignon has been part-time for 5 years with District 3.

Swearing in of Board of Commissioner:

Mr. Adam Jacks was sworn in by Mr. Danenhower as the new Board of Commissioner.

Treasurer Report:

Mr. Batiste stated that the operating account opened with \$532,535.40 and closed with \$601,921.45

The Money market account opened with \$1,624,163.69 and closed with \$1,398,530.23.

The sinking fund account opened with \$1511.42 and closed with \$1512.81.

Mr. Hall stated that he received an email from Hancock Whitney letting him know that one Treasury Bill would be maturing on April 8th. He stated that the initial investment was \$249,532.40. It matured with \$251,000.00 which gave a gain of \$1467.60. He instructed Hancock Whiney to roll the \$251,000.00 over to another T-Bill with a maturity date of October 2, 2025, with an interest rate of 3.95 and the expected return should be another \$4700.00.

Mr. Casanave made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Mr. Ricks seconded. No further discussion. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Chief's Report:

Chief Geissler stated that year to date there are 468 calls with March ending with 132 calls. There was 100% ambulance coverage for the month of March. There were two med units up 100% of the time for the month of March.

PIAL – Chief Geissler stated that they are hoping by tomorrow or Friday he will be mailing the flash drive with all of the PIAL information to Mr. Kenny Weber so he can review and move forward with the PIAL process. He also stated that Chief May and Chief Guillot have been working to make sure all information is accurate. It could be up to three months before they move to the next part of the process. Mr. Weber will meet with the Chief's regarding the information received and then a water shuttle operation will be scheduled.

FirstDue. Chief Geissler stated that a lot of this has taken the back burner to PIAL being a priority. This will be worked on more starting next week.

Chief Geissler stated that there is another dumpster at station 32. Captain McQuilkin has taken the lead in cleaning out things that are worthless to the department and anyone else. There are things that will need to be surplusd.

Chief May stated that all firefighters completed the March drill tower training.

Operator Albretson completed and passed his Instructor I.

Chief May and Chief Guillot completed passed the Officer IV test.

Chief May also stated that this Saturday, the department will be participating in the Easter event at the Rec. center. They will provide the smoke trailer, and someone dressed as the Easter bunny.

Chief May stated that on April 22nd the department will be hosting FETA (Fire Emergency Training Association) at station 32. They will be bringing their class A burn trailer so all full-time employees are asked be there but part time employees are also welcome. He also stated that in the future he will try to schedule different props since this type of training hasn't been done. It is also free training.

Chief May stated that May 8th is the graduation for the Rookie academy in Pearl River.

Chief Geissler added that FETA has a series of props that they can bring to the department that benefit us where we are smaller and don't have the opportunity to go out and train at some locations away from the district.

Old Business:

1) Ambulance billing practices. Mr. Hall stated that one issue we have is the ambulance billing practices. At the March meeting, the billing practices by Koronis were discussed and the board agreed that there were three items that the board wanted information on. One being the debt collection write offs. The hardship collections write off and the third is the standard collection policy and how long will they continue to chase payment and does the payment structure change after a specified period. We do not have all this information yet, Koronis is still working on it. It was decided to discuss the information that the board currently has.

Mr. Hall stated that he sent the Board some policies received from Koronis. He stated that of these three, the only one unique one is how they age the billing. Definition of "a period of time" in the policy needs more definition. More discussion took place regarding debt collections. Debt forgiveness was decided to only be forgiven by the Board. Mr. Wanievski stated that once all policies are received the Board would adopt each separately by resolution.

Hardships and collections write off. Mr. Hall stated that a form that Koronis uses from District 4 was received. It is not a policy, only a practice that is done by District 4. The form will be provided to a person requesting to waive all or part of a bill to show a hardship. The hospital the patient was transported to must also be waiving payment for the ambulance bill to be waived.

The above will be presented at the next meeting. No action needed at this time.

2) Fire Chief exam.

There were five people that took the March 27th Fire Chief exam. Mr. Hall stated that earlier in the year, the Board agreed that a senior member of the operations be interviewed to find out what they thought the attributes of the Lacombe chief should be. The selection committee, Mr. Hall, Mr. Casanave, and Ms. Valette met with Captain McQuilkin for about an hour and received a lot of good information. This information will be blended in with the interview process for the position.

3) 2025-012: BOC Resolution (Approve VFIS Renewal Quote – Building Replacement Costs)-Record Keeping. This was discussed and voted on at the last meeting.

4) 2025-015: BOC Resolution (Approve Commercial Property, Casualty and Automotive Insurance). This Resolution was tabled until all information is received.

New Business:

Mr. Hall stated that his was where the board voted to combine items 1 and 2. He introduced Mrs. Rosa Jacks, Chair of the Department auxiliary support organization with the official name of "Hearts on Fire" – Lacombe Fire Support.

Mrs. Jacks introduced herself and the Heart on Fire Board as follows:

Mrs. Rosa Jacks – Chair

Mrs. Debbie Hall – Co-Chair

Mrs. Karen McQuilkin – Treasurer

Mrs. Rachel Sehlinger – Secretary

Mr. Davin Navarre –Public Relations Media Director

Mrs. Jacks stated that they are registered with the State of Louisiana, the Secretary of State and have obtained an EIN number for Hearts on Fire. They are in the process of finalizing the nonprofit 501C 3 tax exempt status. Mrs. Jacks addressed the Chief's and stated that Hearts on Fire is ready to help them and the firefighters and medical personnel during times of need and support the team as a community. She also addressed the community of Lacombe and stated that there is a membership form. The form can be individual (\$20.00) or household (\$35.00). If you are a member, there will be social media pages where they will announce committee events. They are discussing different events to help support the fire department. This Board will be meeting monthly, but this is still being set up at this time.

2025-014: BOC Resolution (Approve Official Name “Hearts on Fire” – Lacombe Fire Support Organization). Mr. Ricks made a motion to formally recognize the name of the STFD3 support organization, “Hearts on Fire” – Lacombe Fire Support organization. Mr. Batiste seconded. No further discussion. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

3) St. Tammany Economic Development Corporation. Discussion took place. No action needed.

4) 2025-013: BOC Resolution (Approve Surplus of Equipment & Act of Donation) Donation of expired fire hose. Mr. Batiste made a motion to approve. Mr. Ricks seconded. A vote was taken.

Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned 6:12.