

ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #8
Minutes of Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 16, 2022

Call to Order: 5:31pm

Roll Call:

Michael Anderson, Chairman
Sandra Slifer, Vice-Chairwoman
Stephen Saussy
Brandon Brener

Jeff King

Also, Present:

Susan Ohlenforst, Board Secretary
Chief Brandon Stein
Captain Eric Givens

Absent:

None

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited

Modification of Agenda: None

Hearing of Public Concerns: None

Secretary's Report:

Upon motion by Slifer, seconded by Saussy, the meeting minutes for January 19, 2022, were unanimously approved.

Financial Report including a P&L Budget Performance for the month of January 2022 and a Check Register Report for the General Fund Account up to January 31, 2022, was presented. Balance of General Fund as of January 31, 2022, was \$1,312,712.71 with \$974,420.67 being current year funds and \$338,292.04 being Capital Funds from previous years money. The balance in the Emergency Fund was \$300,015.65. Upon motion by Saussy, seconded by Slifer, the financial statements for January 2022 were unanimously approved.

Communications: Ohlenforst reported the FICA Alt plan was under way and should be set up within the next few weeks. Confirmation PAF for John Segura was recommend by Chief Stein. FF/OP John Segura made his 1 year on 2/9/2022.

ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #8
Minutes of Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 16, 2022

Chief's Report:

Vehicles and equipment

Normal general repairs and upkeep on units.

The Sparky Costume has arrived.

Brush unit was picked up and is currently operational. New carburetor and fuel tank was ordered due to small fuel leak. Permanent mounting is underway. Minor equipment additions are needed as well, all needed equipment we have on hand

Two pumps, one 500 gpm and one 750 gpm are being repaired and will be placed back in service as needed.

Reserve Engine progress has stopped due to the chilly weather conditions which hinder the removal of graphics and surface re-new process to the paint.

Scene lighting replacement on Rescue-81 to take place. Two fixed, telescopic scene lights that we use frequently are inoperable. Akron was contacted and stated that it would cost \$2000 dollars to repair the lights. The cost of new lights is \$3200. Research was conducted and a more efficient light, with the same lighting capabilities was identified and available at a fraction of the cost. Replacement lights are ordered.

Facilities

No reports of any issues at facilities

Personnel

No quarantine due to covid

Current personnel numbers are as follows:

Paid- 12 Part-time- 13 Volunteer-6

Training

Daily training continuing

Tower drills continuing

We continue to have Certifications being achieved on a regular basis

ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #8

Minutes of Board of Commissioners Meeting

February 16, 2022

Annual testing and inspections

Working with the Town of Abita to develop a program that includes a flush plan and hydrant testing. Fire District 8 is required to test all fire hydrants annually and the Town of Abita is required to flush water systems at certain intervals.

Inspections are continuing. We continue to discover facilities that have never been inspected or pre-planned. Pre-plans scheduled to start at beginning of April.

Update on Mama D's Pizza. Initial inspection occurred in early October 2021. The Inspector issued a report with deficiencies and allowed 1 month for compliance. Multiple follow-up inspections were performed with compliance still not achieved. The owner, on multiple occasions, made it clear that he would not comply with codes and requirements. The Fire Marshal's Office was contacted and became involved. With it being apparent that the owner would not comply, the Fire Marshal's Office authorized FD8 to issue a cease and desist until compliance was achieved. The situation of a temporary closure was expected months prior to install a new oven and hood system. The owner was required to apply for permits both locally and with the Fire Marshal's Office. This process did not start until the cease-and-desist order was issued, and during this time, the owner provided false information to the Town Administration. The hood system that was present at the initial inspection was insufficient but was somehow allowed over 20 years ago. The owner advised the Town that the system had the ability to be re-certified by Clement Fire and Safety. Clement Fire and Safety was contacted and stated they would not service or certify the current hood system. In addition to being insufficient, the owner had disabled the hood system, in which he admitted to. We have worked closely with the Town of Abita, the Fire Marshal's Office, Mama D's Pizza, and all contractors to expedite the process to minimize the time of closure for the business. Mama D's Pizza is a well-known establishment and a staple in our community, with customers traveling from out of town frequently to eat there. We support all businesses in our district, and we want them to operate safely for the benefit of the employees and customers.

Old Business:

NONE

New Business:

Policy and Procedure discussion: Chief Stein stated the SOP will always be under review for updating. Currently the Drug Testing Policy needs to be revised. In addition, it was brought to our attention recently that we needed a more in depth written policy as far as the way we purchase meals in emergency situations. This policy would in tale how the purchase

ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #8

Minutes of Board of Commissioners Meeting

February 16, 2022

of meals would be made when the personnel were held over due to storms or calls that would require the personnel to work or be on the scene for a lengthy period.

Investment Discussion for Emergency Fund: Chairman Anderson led the discussion about investing the emergency funds in CDs. Anderson stated the interest on the 11-month CD was four times the interest we are getting on the money now. He opened the floor for discussion. After discussion it was suggested that Anderson find out what the penalty would be if we had to cash out early in an emergency. Anderson asked that this be placed on the agenda for the March meeting by resolution.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Slifer to adjourn, seconded by King, the motion was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.