

Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Date: August 21, 2024
Time: 11:00 am
Location: 28911 Krentel Rd. Lacombe, LA 70445

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 am.

A roll call was ordered by the Chairman, report as follows:

Present: John Evans, Merrick Tassin, Bret Ibert, Michael Ferrell, Martha Cazaubon

Absent: Joe Impastato, Patrick Burke

A quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Rodney Hart, Sean Spansel, Stephanie Torres, Athena Walker, Matt Parish, Wynn Williams

1. Consider Approval of July 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion: A motion was made by Merrick Tassin to approve July 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Support: Martha Cazaubon

Ayes: John Evans, Merrick Tassin, Bret Ibert, Michael Ferrell, Martha Cazaubon

Absent: Joe Impastato, Patrick Burke

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Chairman asked for any further discussion or public comment, no response.

2. Consider Approval of July 2024 Financial Reports.

Motion: A motion was made by Bret Ibert to approve July 2024 Financial Reports.

Support: Martha Cazaubon

Ayes: John Evans, Merrick Tassin, Bret Ibert, Michael Ferrell, Martha Cazaubon

Absent: Joe Impastato, Patrick Burke

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Chairman asked for any further discussion or public comment, no response.

3. Consider Approval of July 2024 Financial Meeting Minutes

Motion: A motion was made by Martha Cazaubon to approve July 2024 Financial Meeting Minutes.

Support: Michael Ferrell

Ayes: John Evans, Merrick Tassin, Bret Ibert, Michael Ferrell, Martha Cazaubon

Absent: Joe Impastato, Patrick Burke

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

4. Public Education Report July 2024

Athena Walker presents the Public Education report.

- Working with the Public Schools to schedule presentations.
- Red Ribbon Week
- Driver Education Classes
- Girl Talk, Guy Talk Classes
- Monster Mash
- APCO class in September 2024 for dispatchers

5. Review, Discuss and Consider Approval of a Contract Extension with Hancock-Whitney

Wynn Williams explains to the Board, the current contract was put into place November 2022. The 10 months prior to the contract the interest rates were at 1.5% fixed. Currently the interest rate is floating at about 4.22%. Hancock Whitney is asking to extend the contract for one more year. August 2025, Wynn Williams will start analyzing and present a new contract.

John Evans asked if this is floating rate.

Wynn William answers yes, it is a variable rate. The rate follows the U.S. Treasury Bill.

General Conversation

Motion: A motion was made by Merrick Tassin to extend the Hancock Whitney contract.

Support: Bret Ibert

ROLL CALL

Ayes: John Evans, Merrick Tassin, Bret Ibert, Michael Ferrell, Martha Cazaubon

Absent: Joe Impastato, Patrick Burke

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Chairman asked for any further discussion or public comment, no response.

Wynn Williams out at 11:09am.

6. Review and Discuss New Annex Bids and Consider Approval to Accept or Reject Bids

Rodney Hart presents to the Board the second round of bids. The lowest bid initially came in at \$1,970,000.00 from Devier Enterprises. After reviewing their numbers, Divier Enterprises retracted their bid. The second lowest bidder is WH Ward for \$2,000,000.00.

Initially, 1,500,000.00 was budgeted for everything from permits, architect fees and construction. For STPCD to move forward the budget will have to be adjusted to \$2,000,000.00 or not do the project.

General Discussion

John Evans asks what this will do to the 10 year projection.

Rodney Hart says that if we continue in the current projection of revenue, we will be in the neighborhood of \$200,000.00 – \$300,000.00 over budget.

General Discussion.

John Evans says that if we are going to do this project, we should bite the bullet even though the fund balance will be in the negative at the end.

General Discussion.

Bret Ibert says that this is a lot of money to spend. From the beginning, the project grew from the original vision and scaled back again. This is a bunk house and living quarters for something that may happen. When was the last time that we have had to fully active? We do not know. Katrina could happen again tomorrow. It has been 20 years since Katrina. He asks if it is worth the expense to go to that level for something we might need every few years. We are managing the manpower with what they do and where they stay now. Does it need to be scaled back to do 2 phases to the project?

Rodney Hart replies that since being in the current facility, we have activated 3 times.

Bret Ibert asks how long have we been in the current facility?

Rodney Hart says 2019.

General Discussion.

Merrick Tassin says his opinion is we do need the Annex because he lived through Katrina.

Bret Ibert replies that he also lived through Katrina. A lot of companies survived Katrina. There are not a lot of companies with a \$2,000,000.00 bunk houses for their employees to live in.

Merrick Tassin says that it is more than a bunkhouse. It is also a maintenance facility.

St. Tammany Parish Communications District

28911 Krentel Rd.

Lacombe, LA 70445

Telephone: 985-898-4911 Facsimile: 985-898-4974 Website: www.stp911.org

Bret Ibert replies that a maintenance facility will not cost \$2,000,000.00. It is a lot of money to spend. When we started, we were at \$1,500,000.00 all in. We will be well over \$2,000,000.00.

Merrick Tassin says that prices will continually go up in the future. He feels that we need it.

Martha Cazaubon asks if there are any grants that we can apply for.

Rodney Hart replies that anything pertaining to 911 facilities have to go through the state. All 911 facilities are individualized through the parishes, we are not able apply for them.

General Discussion.

Motion: A motion was made by Merrick Tassin to go ahead with the current bid of \$2,000,000.00 and move forward with construction. Also, amend the long term forecast in order to afford the building.

Support: Michael Ferrell

General Discussion

ROLL CALL

Ayes: John Evans, Merrick Tassin, Michael Ferrell, Martha Cazaubon

Absent: Joe Impastato, Patrick Burke

Nays: Bret Ibert

Abstain: 0

Chairman asked for any further discussion or public comment, no response.

7. Review and Discuss Radio Tower Quote and Consider Approval of Project

Motion: A motion was made by Bret Ibert to approve the budget increase to \$680,000.00 needed for the Radio Tower.

Support: Merrick Tassin

ROLL CALL

Ayes: John Evans, Merrick Tassin, Bret Ibert, Michael Ferrell, Martha Cazaubon

Absent: Joe Impastato, Patrick Burke

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Chairman asked for any further discussion or public comment, no response.

8. Director's Report

Rodney Hart presented the July 2024 PSAP Call Statistics: 9,024 total 911 calls. All met 90% under 15 seconds. All agencies met requirements for 95% of calls answered in 20 seconds or less.

Rodney Hart informs the Board the parts are in and it is scheduled to complete the grounding project by the end of the month.

9. Fire QA Report

Matt Parish presented the July 2024 Fire District 1 Call Statistics. Calls answered under 10 seconds was 99.19% and calls answered under 20 seconds was 99.96%. Total 9-1-1 calls answered was 2,225. The call answer times were acceptable by PIAL/NFPA standards.

10. Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Michael Ferrell at 11:54 am to adjourn.

Support: Martha Cazaubon

Ayes: John Evans, Merrick Tassin, Bret Ibert, Michael Ferrell, Martha Cazaubon

Absent: Joe Impastato, Patrick Burke

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Chairman asked for any further discussion or public comment, no response.