



BAYOU CANE FIRE DEPARTMENT

KENNETH P. HIMEL, JR., FIRE CHIEF
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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD
NICHOLAS HEBERT
BOARD CHAIRMAN
MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 11, 2021

The Board of Commissioners of Bayou Cane Fire Protection District of the Parish of Terrebonne, State of Louisiana, met at the main station on Monday, October 11, 2021 at 11:30 AM.

The Vice-Chairman, Robert Page called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. Upon roll call by Angela Hidalgo, the following Commissioners were present: Nick Hebert (12:00 p.m.), Jacob Rhodes, Robert Page, Ed Lawson, and Hayward Sims. Travis Gravois and Suzanne Carlos were recorded as absent. Others in attendance were Ken Himel, Kenny Hill, Kay Hebert, Gregory Boudreaux, Mike Palmer, Nathaniel Folsie, Cole Sharai, Blake Nash, Aron Wolfe, Josh Haynes, Mike Montamat, Nick Leblanc, Adam Schmitt, Ricky Valenti, Henry Laurent, Stephen Battaglia, Stanley Lyons, Brent Tinkes, John Poiencot, Chris Aucoin, Brian Boudreaux, Sonja Labat, Angela Hidalgo, and Dana Schwab.

Motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Sims to approve the minutes of August 9, 2021 meeting. Motion passed.

Under Public Comments, John Poiencot addressed the board regarding the storm response and leadership displayed by Chief Ken Himel during Hurricane Ida. He thanked the board for their support, and then presented Chief Himel with a plaque as a memento of his fierce leadership, dedication, and bravery during a very trying event. A standing ovation followed, with words of gratitude from the Chief.

Mr. Page addressed the staff of the department stating his concerns about the communication system failure during the hurricane. He expressed the intentions of the board to pursue every opportunity, in both Federal and State resources, to assist the department to better provide communications in future emergency situations. Mr. Page then commended each member of staff for their storm efforts.

A motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Rhodes to close public address. Motion passed.

New Business, the Chief discussed the previously mentioned radio communications and its failure to perform in the hurricane. He stated the department is taking this opportunity to modify the grant application to include some options that could help with future storm communication issues. After a brief discussion, a motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Sims to approve up to \$30,000 for the purchase of new portable radios, and to amend the budget accordingly. Motion passed.



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There was no Old Business.

Fire Chief's Report, Chief Himel discussed there were 6 permits for the month, 2 were labeled in connection with Hurricane Ida. In August there were 194 calls, and September there were 341 calls, with 1,576 calls to date for 2021.

Regarding damages sustained from Hurricane Ida, there were several. A new roof is needed at the main building, including new doors, windows, overhead doors, etc. Stations 2 and 3 had minor damage, and Station 4 had some roof damage. The generator at the main station did well, but the ones at Station 2 and 3 failed. A meeting with a FEMA representative occurred and the board will hear an updated presentation on hiring a disaster management firm at the next meeting. Other than disaster response and recovery, the department is back to normal operations.


A motion by Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Hebert to accept the financial statements as presented. Motion passed.

Under Board Members, Mr. Rhodes echoed the sentiments expressed earlier in the meeting by thanking the staff of the department for the hard work.

Mr. Hebert expressed the same gratitude. Mr. Hebert further expressed his disappointment in the failure of infrastructure (communication, electricity, natural gas, and water) within our parish. He stressed that the parish as a whole should not have to rely as heavily upon others for emergency needs. He complimented the department on how well they responded considering the significant infrastructure failures.

Mr. Page also commented on infrastructure failures, and the need for accountability. He discussed the need to enforce building codes that were adopted in 2007 when inspecting rebuilds, stating this problem is a much larger problem than in Terrebonne Parish alone.

Motion by Mr. Hebert, seconded by Mr. Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 12:41 p.m. Motion passed. The next regular scheduled meeting is Monday, November 8, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.



Travis Gravois, Secretary

Angela Hidalgo, Accountant