



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES
SUPPLEMENTAL Pay

***FIREMEN'S SUPPLEMENTAL PAY
BOARD OF REVIEW***

Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 15, 2019

Call to Order

Mr. Ruiz called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Supplemental Pay at 10:00 AM on August 15, 2019 at the Financial Services Conference Room.

Roll Call

The following people were present at the Firemen's Supplemental Pay Board of Review meeting on August 15, 2019; Brien Ruiz, Ronnie Schillace, Frank Cusimano, Richard Parker, Dwayne Thevis, Paul Schexnayder, Candace Oby, and Mark Campbell.

Review & Approve Minutes

Board Meeting minutes for May 16, 2019 were edited to reflect that Mr. Ruiz called the meeting to order. Mr. Cusimano made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Parker. Motion passed.

Old Business

Mark Campbell reported that as of August 15th the employment status of Jude Galliano remained unchanged. As a side note, Mr. Galiano is now working at Lafourche FD and will be added to the Lafourche warrant in December.

NEW BUSINESS

East Bank Consolidated – The status of Shane Tournier's Supplemental Pay at East Bank Consolidated was discussed. Mr. Tournier neglected to apply for State Supplemental Pay when he became eligible and all the while he was being paid Supplemental Pay picked up by the Parish (Jefferson). Now, Mr. Tournier has applied for his State Supplemental Pay including all back pay owed. Back payment of State Supplemental Pay overlaps that paid by the Parish. The Parish is asking for the amounts they paid Mr. Tournier in error to be repaid by Mr. Tournier. Mr. Cusimano reported that Mr. Tournier is aware of what he owes the Parish and is making efforts to pay the Parish. Mr. Ruiz expressed his concern of Mr. Tournier collecting double payment. Candace Oby stated that "we cannot control what the Parish says or does, we can only control what our obligations are". Mr. Schillace made a motion that all Supplemental Pay due to

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Mr. Tournier be paid according to the guidelines for receipt of State Supplemental Pay. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cusimano. Candace Oby reviewed the months owed to Mr. Tournier and reported that Mr. Tournier was entitled to back pay from July of 2017. All agreed that Mr. Tournier is to receive a total of \$12,000. \$1,000 will be paid in August 2019 and \$11,000 will be paid from ACT 110. Motion passed. The \$1,000.00 payment in August was made to Mr. Tournier.

NEW BUSINESS

East Bank Consolidated – Mr. Cusimano had requested that discussion revolving around East Bank Consolidated Warrants be added as an agenda item. At question is the appropriate status of four individuals (Scott Berthelot, Joseph Greco, David Saunders and Arthur Zink) currently listed on the EBC warrant. Previous discussions on this topic occurred in the May 16, 2019 Board meeting. In attendance at the May 16th meeting was Chief Dave Tibbetts. At discussion in both May and August's meeting questions were raised as to;

1. Who do these four individuals report to?
2. What is their job description?
3. Should Chief Tibbetts continue to approve EBC Warrants with the four individuals listed?
4. If the four individuals do not belong on EBC Warrants where should they be?
5. Whose responsibility is it to remove the four individuals from the EBC Warrant?

Mr. Ruiz stated that "we (the Board) are not here to police every fire department in the State. It is the Chief's responsibility to approve Supplemental Pay not the Board's". Mr. Ruiz asked legal counsel, Paul Schexnayder, what he thought about the situation and whose responsibility it was to remove someone from a warrant? Mr. Schnexnayder stated that this was an area "never dealt with". Mr. Schnexnayder went on to say that the problem is that we as a board are now aware of a situation and we can't "look away". Mr. Schexnayder suggested that we ask

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Chief Tibbets back to our December meeting. Mr. Schillace suggested that we should consider asking the four individuals and the Parish President to be invited as well. Mr. Cusimano made a motion to have all five individuals (Chief Tibbets, Mr. Berthelot, Mr. Greco, Mr. Saunders and Mr. Zink) be sent a written request to attend the next Board meeting on December 12, 2019. Mr. Ruiz seconded the motion. Motion passed with four affirmative (Ruiz, Cusimano, Parker, and Thevis) and one opposed, Mr. Schillace.

NEW BUSINESS

Killona Vol. Fire Department – Killona Volunteer FD filed an application to be included as eligible for Supplemental Pay. Killona VFD is contracted to provide fire protection to St. Charles Parish Fire District #1 through a contract between the St. Charles Firemen's Association and St. Charles Parish. Employees are not Civil Service. Killona VFD currently has one employee. Mr. Ruiz asked Paul Schexnayder if Killona is eligible as a District or Municipality? Mr. Schexnayder said that Killona VFD is more of a rural FD providing fire protection services, much like a contractor. Mr. Cusimano asked if all paperwork was in order. Mark Campbell confirmed that all paperwork was in order. Mr. Cusimano made a motion to accept Killona VFD as eligible for State Supplemental Pay. Mr. Schillace seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Board was given the application of Rodney Woods to be added to Killona VFD as eligible for State Supplemental Pay with the submission of required papers. Mr. Cusimano made a motion to accept the application of Rodney Woods, Mr. Schillace seconded. Motion passed.

Iowa Fire Protection District 1

Question brought to the Board for discussion on contractor status and term of contract for Mark A Lewis. Mr. Lewis was working as a contractor beginning 08/01/18 to 08/01/2019. State Supplemental Pay office sent an email to Chief Joseph "Scooter" Lewis asking if Mark A. Lewis would continue to work past 08/01/19. Mr. Joseph responded by saying that Mark Lewis will continue to work past 08/01/19 as a Firefighter for Ward 8 District 1. Chief Joseph Lewis has since sent in an updated contract that shows Mark Lewis as a contractor for Ward 8 Fire District 1 with the term of 08/01/19 to 08/01/2020. Mr. Thevis was very familiar with the situation at Iowa Fire Protection District 1 and said that we will be getting more applications for Iowa Fire in the near future. Candace Oby voiced her concerns over whether or not Iowa FD was reporting earnings to the IRS since we do not issue W-2's or 1099's. Mr. Thevis said he could find out. Mr. Thevis made a motion that all contractors come before the Board for approval. Mr. Schillace seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Legal – Mr. Schexnayder had no additional comments or concerns.

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New Applications

Seventy-eight new applications were presented to the board for approval. An error was noted and corrected that applicant listed on line 56 (Opelousas) was a fireman and not Police. Motion made by Mr. Cusimano to approve the 78 applicants. Mr. Ruiz seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ruiz and seconded by Mr. Schillace. Motion Passed.

SET TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING: December 12, 2019

Minutes submitted by: Mark Campbell

Brien Ruiz, Chairman