***State of Louisiana***

***FIREMENS' SUPPLEMENTAL PAY BOARD OF REVIEW***

***MEETING***

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***NOVEMBER 17, 2021***

***10:00 a.m.***

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**Firemens' Supplemental Pay Board of Review**

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**NOVEMBER 17, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

**-----**

**MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT:**

Brien Ruiz, Chairman

Dwayne Thevis

Ronald Schillace

Richard Parker

Charles Morgan Williams

Kay DeBenedetto

Suzanne Tessier

Wayne Tedesco

Candy Diez

Connor Junkin, Esq.

Mark Campbell

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Chief Chad Majors, Baton Rouge Fire Department

Travis Perrilloux

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Call to order

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**Firemens' Supplemental Pay Board of Review Meeting**

**November 17, 2021**

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**ROLL CALL**

**MR. RUIZ:**

All right. We'll call to meeting to order.

Roll call, please.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

We'll start with the roll call. Mr. Ruiz.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Here.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Mr. Schillace.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

Here.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Mr. Thevis.

**MR. THEVIS:**

Here.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Mr. Parker.

**MR. PARKER:**

Here.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Mr. Williams.

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

Here.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Morgan.

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

Here.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Here, okay. All right.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 18, 2021**

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. We're going to have the review and approval of the minutes from the August 18th, 2021, meeting.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

This is Ronnie. After reviewing those minutes, everything appears to be in order; therefore, I make a motion to approve the minutes of August 18, 2021.

**MR. RUIZ:**

I have a motion. Do I have a second?

**MR. PARKER:**

Richard Parker second.

**MR. RUIZ:**

All in favor, signify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Motion passes.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. Mark, are you going to handle the meeting, or is Wayne going to be handling the meeting? I want to know who I need to address as we go along with the agenda.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

I'll be going through the agenda. This is Mark.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MR. RUIZ:**

Old business.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

I don't show any old business. I was not in the August meeting, but the minutes, looks like it's -- it was primarily about the new changes coming up.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. We have no old business. We're going move on to new business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

TRAVIS PERRILLOUX

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

All right. Right. The first thing on the application (sic) is Travis Perrilloux, and it's his application. And Candace had given this back to me with the question on the -- the title and -- and what it is that Mr. Travis Perrilloux does. The letter from the -- the letter from the application says Colonel Travis Perrilloux, Assistant Director of Public Safety. He does have his Firefighter I, and his responsibilities are listed, and if you look through it, it looks like they're all training responsibilities.

**MR. RUIZ:**

This is -- this is Brien speaking. Yes. I reviewed the minutes. And, to me, this gentleman who worked for Homeland Security and he went and got a Firefighter I certification. He's a colonel, so I think we have to go through the Sheriff's Office. I read his qualifications, and then down at the bottom, it says, we -- we required to report full time during emergency, including hurricanes, chemical spills, or all natural disaster situations. Why is he only full-time (inaudible) working part time rest of the time? I mean, that's what this letter is saying. He's working part time until a natural disaster happens, and it says it right here in writing.

**MR. PARKER:**

Mr. President, this is Richard, if I can -- if I can add something

**MR. RUIZ:**

Go ahead, Richie.

**MR. PARKER:**

I agree -- I agree what you're saying. What I get out of reading it, it's basically like he's an emergency manager, and we don't cover emergency managers or emergency management.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

I'm sorry. Wait. I'm sorry. I was muted.

Mr. Perrilloux, you have to be sworn in before you -- you speak.

**MR. RUIZ:**

He's not speaking.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Who was speaking?

**MR. PARKER:**

This is Richard. This Richard Parker speaking.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry, forgive me.

**MR. PARKER:**

Yeah. But -- but what I get out of reading it is similar to you, Brien. It's, basically, he's an emergency manager, and we don't cover emergency management under fire -- fire supplemental pay.

**MR. RUIZ:**

I agree with you, but if Mr. -- Mr. Perrilloux wants to speak, we need to get -- get him sworn in.

**MR. RUIZ:**

All in favor, signify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Motion passes.

**MR. JUNKIN:**

All right. Is he there?

**MR. PERRILLOUX:**

I'm here. I would like to speak.

**MR. JUNKIN:**

All right. Mr. -- Mr. Perrilloux, please, raise your right hand.

(Witness sworn.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. Do we have any questions for Mr. Perrilloux?

**MR. THEVIS:**

Yeah, I have one. Dwayne.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Go ahead.

**MR. THEVIS:**

Who -- who do you answer to? I mean, I see where Chief Cane (phonetic) is chief. Do you work directly under Chief Cane?

**MR. PERRILLOUX:**

Actually, Chief Cane works directly under the Department of Public Safety of which I oversee. The Department of Public Safety -- and which Donna should have added this per ordinance with St. John the Baptist Parish, the Department of Public Safety administratively oversees the parish's fire rescue services. Cane is the Chief of Operations for the Office of Fire Services.

This department has been ran by -- the fire department has been ran by the Department of Public Safety director's (inaudible), and it actually is in ordinance, Ordinance 8780, in St. John Parish.

And, of course, I heard the statements about the emergency management aspect. The emergency management aspect is one facet of the job. However, the day-to-day budgetary, also appropriations for, not just training, I respond to HAZ-MAT calls in the parish, as I am also a member of Louisiana Emergency Response Commission. I'm not just an emergency manager. Before this, I actually worked close to 20 years at Avondale Fire Department, fire department responses, hazardous materials response. Of course, it's irrelevant to this, but this department does oversee the Department of Public fire services, as well as rescue, and HAZ-MAT in St. John the Baptist Parish, and has --

**MR. RUIZ:**

**--** supplemental pay according to the law.

**MR. PERRILLOUX:**

Could you repeat that?

**MR. RUIZ:**

I said, in my opinion -- this is Brien Ruiz -- I don't see where that's under the statute that (inaudible) the supplemental pay. I mean, it --

**MR. PERRILLOUX:**

And I didn't just get --

**MR. RUIZ:**

You respond to all fives out there that -- that you -- that the people go to?

**MR. PERRILLOUX:**

I respond to the ones that are major, just as the deputy chiefs, as well as the Chief of Operations. We don't respond to every fire call. I don't respond to vehicle fires and things like that, but if there is a -- a large-scale structure fire, I typically respond. I also respond to car accidents, hazardous material spills, spills on the Mississippi River, as well.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Is the lawyer there?

**MR. JUNKIN:**

Yeah. I'm here.

**MR. RUIZ:**

All so -- and -- and forgive me for forgetting your name. This is -- this is Brien.

**MR. JUNKIN:**

Connor.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Connor.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Connor. I'm sorry, Connor. I'll write that down.

Underneath the statute, do you feel this gentleman falls underneath the statute?

**MR. JUNKIN:**

It's not necessarily anything that I would feel. I just don't see any -- I -- I don't see anything within the statute that would cover necessarily what would appear to be the vast majority of full-time duties of this position. It's not necessarily a -- a question of if he occasionally or if he is able to respond to fires, but it's more a question of what are his actual full-time duties. If that's -- he might be able to respond to fires, but is that like -- is that his job description, essentially?

**MR. RUIZ:**

Right. (unintelligible). I don't see it anywhere.

**MR. THEVIS:**

No, it's not.

**MR. RUIZ:**

I don't see it anywhere.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

There's also --

**MR. PARKER:**

This is Richie. I agree.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Who would -- who would sign the warrant? Because he is not employed at a fire department. He's employed by a parish. So would there be a fire chief? We have to have a fire chief to sign the warrant.

**MR. THEVIS:**

But the chief works for him.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Right. So --

**MR. THEVIS:**

So, I mean, the -- the chief has -- the chief has no kind of jurisdiction or authority over him, you know, to sign the warrant, from what I'm reading.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Right. I agree. I just don't see where he -- other than going to get Firefighter I, I don't see how he qualifies underneath the statute.

**MR. THEVIS:**

No. I agree with you, Brien.

**MR. PARKER:**

This is Richie. I agree a hundred percent.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

This is Ronnie. From what I see and what I've heard so far, I don't -- I don't -- I have to agree, as well.

**MR. RUIZ:**

All right. Well, we -- I'll entertain a motion one way or another, and if we -- if we vote to -- not to give Mr. Perrilloux supplemental pay, he has the right to appeal.

So can -- can somebody entertain a motion for me, please?

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

I'll entertain a motion.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Is it a motion to deny?

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

Yes.

**MR. PARKER:**

Richard Parker. I'll second.

**MR. RUIZ:**

I have a second. Is there any further discussion?

(No response.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Hearing none, all in favor of the motion signify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Motion passes.

Wayne, you can write a letter --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Mr. Perrilloux, you'll receive a letter from the Department stating your denial with -- with your appeal rights.

**MR. PERRILLOUX:**

Okay.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Thank you, Mr. Perrilloux.

CITY OF KAPLAN - JACOB MATHIEW

**MR. RUIZ:**

The next thing on agenda is the City of Kaplan reimbursement for suspension. I looked through that and I notice on the applications that out the city of New Orleans No. 71 and No. 72 were (unintelligible) suspension, so why couldn't the city of Kaplan do the same thing that the city of New Orleans did and their name just appear on the -- on the warrant.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

I'm not sure about your question, Mr. Ruiz.

**MR. RUIZ:**

All right. So the city of Kaplan reimbursement for suspension, employee Jacob Mathiew, I was looking -- I was looking through our applications that we're will approve later on in this meeting, and I see where the city of New Orleans had two gentlemen who were suspended and they are reinstated and it shows the amount of money that -- that we got to give them back, and I'm wondering why the city of Kaplan didn't do the same thing that the city of New Orleans did to get this gentleman his money back, or are they -- or am I confused on what they want?

**MR. THEVIS:**

Can -- I can comment on that for you, Brien.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Who is this?

**MR. THEVIS:**

Dwayne Thevis.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Go ahead, Dwayne.

**MR. THEVIS:**

The -- the mayor and the -- the police -- the fire chief got into (unintelligible), things got real ugly, and the mayor just flat out refused to sign the warrant when they -- they reinstated it. They just -- they just took his name off the warrants and said they wasn't -- they wasn't going to pay him.

**MR. RUIZ:**

So I understand what you're saying, Dwayne, but what does that got to do with us?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. Let me -- let me shed some light maybe on this. Normal business, if someone goes on suspension and then gets reinstated from his suspension, when they take him -- they take -- excuse me -- they take him off of the warrant at the time he goes on suspension, and then they notify us, okay, now he's returned from suspension, just normal business, start paying him again. That's probably what you're seeing on the new hire spreadsheet, some situation like that.

This is a situation where --

**MR. RUIZ:**

We've got -- we've got -- well, let me tell you, we've got one gentleman that's got $4,550 in Act 110 money coming back to him and the other gentleman's got $4,367 coming back to him Act 110 money. And then out of this budget, each of them is getting 2,500, so --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. And I don't -- I'm not familiar with those. Mark, can you enlighten us on those two?

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Kay, yeah, it may be that I handled that wrong, in that -- so for Kaplan, we made them pay the reinstatement and we -- what the Board agenda is, is that we are going to pay Kaplan back, because Kaplan did pay them their suspension time and has invoiced us and we're resending them -- or we're asking to resend them their money.

In the case of the New Orleans situation, Brien, you may be right, in that, that -- I -- I may have mishandled that, and that should have been made for New Orleans to pay them back instead of me putting them back on the warrant per their instruction.

**MR. RUIZ:**

I don't think New Orleans paid their people. I understand what you -- what is -- the city of Kaplan paid the gentleman his supplemental pay, and the city of Kaplan is asked the State to reimburse them the money that they -- that they paid him --

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

That's correct.

**MR. RUIZ:**

I understand what we got to do now. I just didn't understand it before. Okay.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Now, Mark, those other two gentlemen though, were those suspensions that were reinstated, were those as a result of -- why are there -- why is there that much -- perhaps we should pull those --

**MR. RUIZ:**

It took the city of New Orleans that long to hear their case. I mean, the city is kind of slow.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

They're pretty slow. And, Kay, you're right. We probably should pull those two applications and review that -- the --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

So y'all can go ahead and act on the Kaplan, and then we'll amend the -- the new applicant spreadsheet.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Do I have a motion to reimburse the city of Kaplan?

**MR. THEVIS:**

I make a motion. Dwayne Thevis. I make a motion that we go ahead and reimburse Kaplan.

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

Charles. I second that motion.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Any more discussion?

(No response.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Motion pass.

NEW DEPARTMENT - NORTHEAST BOSSIER FIRE DISTRICT #5

**MR. RUIZ:**

New department, Northeast Bossier Fire District No. 5. This is a brand-new department that we need to recognize.

Am I correct in saying that, Mark?

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Yes, you are.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. You've reviewed the application to -- they qualify to become a new fire department?

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Yes, sir. I'm trying to get to the transcript. I'm sorry.

**MR. RUIZ:**

My only question about this whole situation is that what I was reading the transcripts earlier, it says Northeast Bossier Fire District No. 5. When they wrote the letter, it says Bossier District No. 7.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Where does it say No. 7?

**MR. RUIZ:**

I'm working -- I read them this morning. I noticed they have Fire District No. 5 on our thing, and maybe it's just the way he writes his five, but it certainly looks like a seven to me. I think it was -- you know what, I think it was on his application. It wasn't on the paperwork for this -- let me pull up his application.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Oh, it -- the 7 is where he came from.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Oh, okay.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Yeah.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Because I thought the gentleman worked for the city of Shreveport before he came here?

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

No. He was with Bossier Parish Fire District No. 7.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Yeah. I see it now. Okay. So you came from there and now he's going to be chief at 5.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

This is Ronnie. I'll make a motion to approve the new department Northeast Bossier Fire District No. 5.

**MR. THEVIS:**

I second the motion. Dwayne Thevis.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Any further questions?

(No response.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Hearing none, all favor of the motion, signify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

The motion passes.

CHIEF JASON VAUGHAN APPLICATION

NORTHEAST BOSSIER FIRE DISTRICT NO. 5

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

All right. I make a motion to approve the new applications for the Chief Jason Vaughan at Northeast Bossier Fire District No. 5.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Do I have a second?

**MR. THEVIS:**

Dwayne Thevis. I'll second that motion.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. I've got a question. How much money is owed to this gentleman, or if it's a new department, he starts from today?

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Let's see. So his start date with the new department is 9/16, because when he left Bossier No. 7, it was 9/15, so we owe him from 9/16/21, through this month, so --

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. Was he collecting supplemental at -- at -- at Bossier District No. 7?

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

He was.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. All right. I was just wondering.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Okay.

**MR. RUIZ:**

All right. My question is answered. Any more questions?

(No response.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

All in favor of the application for Chief Vaughan to receive supplemental pay, signify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Motion passes.

NAME CHANGE THERIOT FD TO TERREBONNE PARISH FIRE DIST #10

**MR. RUIZ:**

It's a request to change the name of Theriot Fire Department to Terrebonne Parish Fire District No. 10. I got some questions.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Okay.

**MR. RUIZ:**

If -- I read through his letter, and his letter says that there's no such thing as Theriot Fire Department. So if there's no such thing, who is signing the warrants for Theriot, why was there a warrant for Theriot? And now that -- I -- I understand they wanted to change the name, but to state there was never such a fire department in that letter, it doesn't sound so good, sounds like somebody's doing a little fraud work.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

No. I -- I -- I think it's unfortunate wording. But when the town was originally started, and I don't know when that was, on -- and when I say started, I mean, put -- given a number for a warrant, they put it as Theriot, Louisiana, and that's where the station is, but it's not known as -- according to Chief Minor (phonetic) as Theriot. It's Terrebonne Parish Fire Protection District No. 10. Their trucks say that, their millage is paid to that.

**MR. RUIZ:**

I know -- to write in your letter there's no such department as Theriot Fire Department -- I mean, I know the guy is not -- his language is bad, I mean.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Right. It's unfortunate that he said there's no such department. Yeah,

**MR. THEVIS:**

This is Dwayne. We do it -- do -- maybe we can -- you can change it -- to make it right, we need to change it.

Brien, this is Dwayne. As the secretary for the state association, we changed their name back in 2015 or '16. They came to me with the name change. I don't know why they hadn't changed it prior -- you know, prior to today with supplemental pay, but they changed it, you know, like I said, '15 or '16. I'd have to go back and look at the exact date they changed it, but it's been several years they've changed that through -- through the state association.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Right. I understand that there's a fire department there, you know.

**MR. THEVIS:**

Yeah. Why the name change --

**MR. RUIZ:**

Can I have a motion to have the name changed?

**MR. PARKER:**

This is Richie. I'll make a motion.

**MR. THEVIS:**

Second.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. And Dwayne seconded it.

**MR. THEVIS:**

Yeah, I'll second.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Any further questions?

(No response.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Hearing none, all in favor saying about saying "aye."

(All aye.)

CHIEF CHAD MAJORS, BATON ROUGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**MR. RUIZ:**

All right. Ms. Kay, and -- and, Wayne and Mark, I -- I put Chad Majors on the agenda today so he can listen to the -- the conversations that we're getting ready to have, so we can maybe get the situation solved.

Numerous fire appointments over the last couple weeks called me and told me that they was -- and I don't know if this is the right word or not, but getting invoices for money that was paid to firemen that was -- no longer worked there. And we know this happens at different times, somebody quits in the middle of a pay cycle, the chief forgets to remove the guy's name.

But what I need to know is -- and that's why I have Chad here -- how much is owned to the supplemental pay just on the fire side? Because I got people calling me about these letters that date back to 2004, 2006, 2010, 2012. Why weren't -- and then talking with Chad, Chad -- Chad been getting them a couple -- every couple years. I talked to Richie. Richie told me he's been getting some every couple years. But then I got fire departments that go all the way back to 2004 who have never received -- received it. Is it -- is it an invoice or is it a bill or give me the correct language that you want me to talk about?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Let me address --

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

Also -- also for the -- also for the record, this is Ronnie, I too have received calls from my area fire chiefs in regards to this, and they flat out told me that they just want to put it on hold and they're not paying it at this time.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. Let me -- let me explain to you the procedure. Number one, as a part of the monthly reconciliation that the office does on the warrants, billing is included. So if we find where a recipient has been overpaid for any reason, immediately, within that month, the town is sent an invoice, okay, for that person. Most towns are good and go ahead and -- and repay the funds, but some towns do not pay them back. Where we may have been a little lax and it's because supplemental pay has kind of tumbled in this office as far as the supervision is in following up second and third invoices. And so this is our attempt to get all of these old, past due invoices paid. But believe me, each of these towns received with that next month's warrant an invoice for the individual person that the money was owed for. I don't have -- I'm sorry.

Candy, do you have the total amount due for fire?

**MS. DIEZ:**

I don't know. Mark, do you have a -- a history that shows the total amount?

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

For the total- - no, not for the total fire department, no.

**MS. DIEZ:**

All right. I'll pull it up.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

While she's doing that, let me just go ahead and say that we are -- of course, as you know, we've talked about this before and I will give an update on our progress that we're making with the project to modernize the systems and the processes, and so we are trying to get the accounts receivable up to date before we go into this new system.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. Ms. Kay, this is -- and the reason -- this is one of the reasons why I got Chad listening in on this. We know that the biggest problem is that we are getting paid -- we are paying people a month in advance instead of letting the work and then getting paid. We discussed this before, and we -- we trying to stop -- have a solution, and if this -- if this is a large amount of money that she -- that this lady's going to find, but then we can go back to the Governor's Office -- Chad and them can go back to the Governor's Office and say, look, this is the problem that paying people in advance causes, so we need to change it. So what -- what we trying to do is, we're trying to get the Governor to pay, I guess between us, the -- just everybody is out there so we can get back in line so we can work, then get paid. I know there's a lot --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

That is actually what you're doing. We're not paying you in advance. We're paying you at the end of the month for that month.

**MR. RUIZ:**

That's not what we were told earlier.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Well, that's the way it's been since -- in the '90s when I took it over. Okay. Because -- because you think -- because the payment doesn't hit your bank account until the 1st or the 2nd, you think it's for that month, but it's actually for the previous month.

**MR. RUIZ:**

So there is no problem -- what you're telling me is that there is no problem with -- because, I mean, I -- and she's not here to defend herself, but the way Candace explained it to me and this Board, and Ronnie was there, that we was getting to pay -- we was getting paid a month in advance.

**MS. DIEZ:**

No.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

No, no. If you will look at -- if you will look at the warrant that went out last month, at the month of October, it's dated October the 31st, and it says, this is the payments for the -- for October 31st, and you -- you are signing as eligibility for the coming month. You -- the chief is signing to say, yes, these people got paid for October, and they are still employed, so they will become eligible for November. Okay. That's the way it works. You have to look at the date on the warrant. The date is always the last day of the month.

The problem in these overpayments occur because when it gets to that last week or so of the month, people will retire, resign, or whatever, and the towns do not -- we have to -- we have to cut off early to get you the payments by the 1st or the 2nd of the month. And so we actually have to cut off like the 25th of the month and say, okay, this is it, pay people. What happens is, these people that retire or resign on the 27th and the payment has already gone, and so we have to recoup money.

Now, we are looking at options in the new system to make that schedule work better for both the departments and our staff where they will be able to input changes up until the very last day of the month.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Which would -- which would get rid of a lot of this billing issue, and then, of course, we will set up -- there's always going to be instances where they forget or a late something happens or whatever, but we will improve in the new system on the billing process also, but our thing now --

And has somebody gotten that total figure yet?

**MS. DIEZ:**

No.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Hold on one second. Ronnie, Richie, I think you was there when we discussed this. Wasn't we told that we was getting paid in advance, because Ronnie, you went and talked to other chiefs and -- and -- and Richie and I went to Chad and we stopped the Governor from -- from doing what they wanted to do? Mark, you was there. She wanted to (inaudible) pay for one month to do what I just said we was doing.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

No, no, no. You -- you misunderstood that.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

This -- this is Ronnie. I was at that meeting, and what you saying, Brien, is totally true, that is what was said, and that is what was discussed at that time. That might have been before you started coming back, Kay, to these meetings, but that -- what Brien is saying is true.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

What Candace --

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

The impression at that -- we were all under the impression, basically like Brien said is that you are getting paid ahead for work that you haven't done yet.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. What Candace proposed, and that was told to y'all before it ever should have been, I'm -- I'm just going to be honest because it had not been vetted yet. What she wanted to do was create a lag time. For example, here at the State, we have a -- we have a five -- a seven-day lag period. The pay period ends on the Sunday, and we don't get paid until Friday -- excuse me -- a five-day lag period, and that is what she wanted to do with supplemental pay. She wanted there to be a 30-day lag and say, you worked the month of October, you will get paid for that November the 30th. And that is when you know what broke loose, and y'all went to the Governor's office. But there was miscommunication there. I'm going to tell you flat out, because you've never been paid in advance. You are paid at the end of the month for the month. The payment just doesn't hit your account until the 1st or the 2nd.

**MR. RUIZ:**

That's what I always --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

But the payment date is the last day of the month, and you're getting paid for that 30 or 31 days of the month.

**MR. RUIZ:**

So explain to me this lag theory that she was talking -- why -- why was somebody -- why would -- why would -- and I know it was miscommunications and she's not here to defend herself, but all this time I've been talking to Chad, telling Chad that we're going to lose a month pay because it -- and now you're telling us that --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

You wouldn't have -- you wouldn't have lost a month pay -- a month's pay. But that first month when we went to a new system with a 30-day lag, you would not have received a payment.

**MR. THEVIS (phonetic):**

You would have got it after your retirement probably?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

No, no, no, no. It would simply (inaudible) all of the payments.

**MR. THEVIS (phonetic):**

Right, exactly.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

So like at -- at the end of your career, if you retired on October the 15th, you wouldn't get October the 1st through the 15th until November, okay, instead of at the end of October, like you do now. It's -- it simply would've shifted the pay cycle 30 days. You never would've lost any money, but there would be a month when you would forgo receiving a payment, and -- and that was not -- it should have never been brought to y'all, because that had not -- not been vetted through the proper channels.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

This is Ronnie. I think we talking about maybe -- in essence, maybe two different issues here. What we have been talking -- talking about is trying to correct the problem, you know. But the issue is, these towns, small cities, getting this invoice as far back as 2003, that they owe the State money, and that is something that, this is that, that they're saying, well, you know, at some point in time, you know, the city closes its books, I'm sure the State closes their books, and now you're coming up and saying that we owe you money. And -- in some cases, it's little as $200, maybe $400. So it's like, okay. I mean, so how far are you going to go with this to the point of, you know, getting attorneys involved, you know, to go after this money as far back as 2003. That's -- that's the issue that -- and -- and that's the response I'm getting from my area chiefs.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

And -- and there, again, we need to do some further research on the prescriptive periods for those. The -- the -- the statements that were sent out perhaps shouldn't have been sent that far back in the past. There and again, it's --it's all in the learning process now. We're just trying to get as much paid as we can.

Do we have that total yet? Okay. I can say -- I want to say it's close to a half a million dollars that is owed in total back to the State of Louisiana.

**MR. RUIZ:**

And that's just the fire side?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

That's just the fire side. It's somewhere between, I want to say, 300,000 and 500,000 that is due in total. The majority of that is the city of New Orleans.

We can work with towns on payment plans and stuff like that. We can give them a little bit more information if they want more information on the exact occurrences on that statement. That statement -- I -- I'll be the first to say, our accounts receivable system is so antiquated it's not funny. So we'd have to get --try to get some -- if they need more information as to when and where, how that took place, we can go back and get that or tell them that. If we can't provide that to them, then, obviously, it would not be due.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. I got a question. This is Brien speaking. I got a fire department that has a -- a billing or whatever you want to call it back to 2003, no matter how much it is, if it's $100 or it's $5,000, what are we going to do to get that money back? What have -- if they refuse to pay it, are we going to sue them? Because if we sue one, we sue them all.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

That -- and that's why we -- we're talking with Connor now. We've had several conversations with Connor about what we can realistically expect in the form of repayment. So if someone -- I'm going to suggest that a town, if they cannot pay -- repay it, send us that in a letter.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Just let us know, and we will -- we'll respond in whatever method we can find. We're certainly not going to try to do anything that we don't have authority to do.  
**MR. RUIZ:**

Right. And -- and --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

But, certainly, the more recent ones, the ones that happened within the last three years, they need to go ahead and pay.

**MR. RUIZ:**

(Inaudible) three years, you know, that's -- that's proper, but to go back 16, 17 years.

**MS. DIEZ:**

Okay. Can I talk -- can I talk for just a second? Okay.

**MR. RUIZ:**

They're telling me that they haven't received any invoices since 2003. That's the first one they got since 2003.

**MS. DIEZ:**

That's not correct.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Who was that?

**MS. DIEZ:**

I even emailed Candace about this, and we can't prove it, because I did try to find some kind of proof that we sent this out, but she knows a hundred percent that we did mail these statements out at least about two years ago, they were mailed out.

**MR. RUIZ:**

That makes sense, because Chad told me -- Chad told me he got one a couple years ago and he paid it, and Chad said he listened to what --

**MS. DIEZ:**

So if he got one, everybody got one, because we pulled -- the report is pulled at the same time. We don't print each individual statement. You know what I'm saying?

But what I wanted to say was, Kay, in order for me to know exactly how much -- just fire departments would owe, I would have to go through each department and add it up, but I do know the combined amount between police and -- and fire is almost 600,000.

**MR. RUIZ:**

So (inaudible) Chad talks to them. I don't talk to them.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. And to answer your other question, Brien, they may not have gotten a statement in, let's say, two years, but they get the individual invoices at the -- it happens, right.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Absolutely.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. And -- and if they're not paying -- that's the thing. They're not paying when they get that original invoice. And I know for fire -- wait. For fire, Mark's procedure is that he puts that invoice with the next month's warrant. They send the warrant back in, but they do not pay the invoices. Not everybody. Some people do, but not everybody.

**MR. RUIZ:**

The fire department itself gets the -- gets the -- gets the invoice.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

That's correct.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Not the individual. That was going to be my next question. (Inaudible) and the new chief takes over and he sees, and he says, what's this? You know, well, the old chief didn't tell them that he failed to --

Okay. I understand.

Chad, do you got anything you would like to add since I asked you to come to this -- this meeting?

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

Well, this -- this is Ronnie. I want to say this. Based on the conversations we've had, if -- if -- if it's something over three years old, I'm -- and the department is financially unable to, I'm going to tell them to submit their letter. And then if it's within the three years, I'm going to simply say that you must pay it.

**MR. RUIZ:**

That's -- that's a good answer, Ronnie. I'm going to do the same thing.

**MR. TEDESCO:**

This is Wayne on that. And I guess we'll defer to Connor, but we've had some internal discussions in the last couple weeks on that in particular prescriptive period, and from our side, I believe we're looking at five years, not three. So I'll let Connor, you know, speak to that.

**MR. JUNKIN:**

We're not sure at this point because it's kind of -- well, yeah, more research needs to be done into the actual authority that the Board has in this respect and what these billing or what these statements are stemming from, because that's going to affect which prescriptive period applies.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. So, Connor, can you have that information for us for our next meeting, if possible?

**MR. JUNKIN:**

If possible.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

And we'll certainly -- as soon as we get something, we'll -- we'll let y'all know.

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

Is there a --

**MR. RUIZ:**

Ronnie and everybody else, this is what I say. I say you go back to the fire departments that call you, you tell them we are investigating the situation, and if you can afford to pay whatever you can pay, pay it. If not, just wait until we finish the investigation, and then we -- we'll handle it from there. That's what I would tell, and that's who I'm going to tell those departments that got in touch with me about it, you know, and then we'll determine later whether we can go back five years, whether we can go back three years, or whatever Connor tells us how we going to handle it. But it ain't no sense putting pressure on people that ain't got no money to try to pay something until we can find out exactly what is the Board's realm in handling this situation.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Mr. Williams had something he wanted to say.

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

Also, is there a way that y'all can get us the -- what departments owe what money?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

And I'm sorry. It sounds like you're talking in a barrel. Could you get closer to your microphone?

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

Is there a way for you to get us a list of the departments and what is owed?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yes. We will send, -- I -- I'll make this promise. We'll get it to y'all. It won't be today. It'll probably be next week, but we will get y'all a good report of all of the fire departments that owe money and the total amounts, and we will that out to the Board members.

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

And if you can --

**MR. RUIZ:**

As long as we get it, you know, before our next meeting, as far as I'm concerned. It don't have to be next week. We just need to know that information and the sooner the better, but --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Mr. Williams, did you have something else?

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

I just wanted to make sure you included the dates as how far back it went.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

I'm sorry. I can't hear you.

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

Include the dates and how far back it went per department.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

And, Kay, let me --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

I'm sorry.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Let me answer this. Brien, for the records, what I have done is that, since that statement has been sent out, I have gotten many -- maybe 40 or 50 inquiries from the departments saying, what is this for, can you send me the original invoice? In every instance, I have answered with a copy of the invoices, original invoices, as well as the statement, Mr. Williams, that shows all of the invoice, the dates, and the payments made for the whole period that it lasted.

So in -- so far, that's how I've answered everything, Brien, and I got to tell you that I've had next to none pushback from any of them, doesn't mean that they're going to pay it, but I -- I haven't had anything back saying, forget it, I'm not paying this back.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Right.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

It's been positive impact. They just want to know who -- who the person was.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Right. Well, that -- well -- and that's good, because then that makes what Kay's saying job a whole lot easier., because you got about 40 of them done.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Right.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. I -- I understand a whole lot that I -- we -- we misunderstood Candace when she was talking earlier. We truly did, and I'm not the only one. Everybody -- the whole Board misunderstood.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

I understand. I mean, I've heard a lot from that -- those conversations and understand that it was -- it was very confusing and upsetting to a lot of people, but we want to make sure that everybody does understand how supplemental pay works, and that is why we are trying to involve y'all. And I'm going to let Wayne go ahead -- I mean, Mark, go ahead -- are we finished with this topic to go on and approve the new applications, and then I'll give you a new update on the

system?

**MR. RUIZ:**

Well, no, we're not finished yet.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay.

**MR. RUIZ:**

One more -- Chad, you're still there?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

I think he dropped off.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. I'll talk to him later. All right.

**NEW APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL - 119**

**MR. RUIZ:**

Then we can move on to new applications submitted for approval. We've got 114 applications.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Mark, do you want to remove those two?

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Well, it should be 121.

**MR. RUIZ:**

It is.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Okay. Good.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

The agenda says 114.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Right, but I'm looking at the sheet. The sheet says 121.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

And do you want to remove those -- do you feel like we need to remove those, Mark.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

I think we probably should.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Will you give us the names of those two?

**MR. RUIZ:**

Eric P-L-A-I-S-A-N-C-E from New Orleans and Eric James Waterman. No, I'm sorry. It ain't Waterman. It's Roy Neely and Eric, however you say the last name, that's the two from New Orleans. Roy Neely and Eric Plaisance.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Plaisance.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Plaisance.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Roy Neely and Eric Plaisance from city of New Orleans.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Correct.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

This is Ronnie.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

So that's 119.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

I've got a question. I got a question on No. 110. In the comments, it says, overpaid Wilmer Fire Department, so that's one that was overpaid that you're getting money back?

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Yes, sir.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

They owed money. Okay. So they owed -- so they owed money. Okay.

I've got another question. On No. 84, eligibility calculator used, what does that mean?

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Well, his dates were all over the place, and that's again an internal note for me.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

Oh, okay.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

His dates -- we have a system that Candace had made up, so --

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

I didn't know what that term meant. Okay. All right.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. So new applicants --

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

Everything else appears to be in order; therefore, I'll make a motion to approve the 119 applicants.

**MR. RUIZ:**

A second?

**MR. PARKER:**

This is Richie. I'll second.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Ms. Kay.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yes.

**MR. RUIZ:**

I'm seeing that Chad sent me a -- a message. He said that he -- he needs to be allowed back into the conference, but I don't know if he's still there.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. Wayne, can you --

**MR. MAJORS:**

I'm back on now. I just -- I just got back on about two minutes ago.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

Is this Chad with the -- phone number?

**MR. MAJORS:**

Yeah.

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Chad's in, Wayne.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. Well, we'll have to back up a little.

Chad, I'm going to --

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

Wait, wait, wait. You've got a motion that you need to deal with.

**MR. THEVIS:**

We need to approve the applications. A motion and second was made.

**MR. RUIZ:**

All in favor of approving the applications, signify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Motion passes. Sorry, gentleman. I was just -- popping across my screen here.

All right. Chad, what we were discussing while you was gone was, there's probably about $600,000 that goes between police and fire. Ms. Kay is going to give us a list of every fire department that owes money.

And another thing is, Ms. Kay assures us that people aren't getting paid in advance. They're getting paid on time. What they want to do is have a 30-day drag so that --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Lag.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Lag. So can you explain that one more time to make sure I ?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Sure. What Candice presented to y'all way back when was, she wanted to establish a 30-day lag period. Currently, the payments work like this. In October, the warrant for October, which is dated October the 31st, that is for the month of October. You receive that payment on or about the 1st or the 2nd of November, but you're not getting paid in advance. You're getting paid for the month of October. What she wanted to do was increase that time therefore the month of October, you wouldn't get that payment until, say, like the end of November, or even like the 15th of November, that would create a lag period to give the staff more time, both the department staff and our staff, to get all of the changes and updates in to make sure that the payroll was actually correct before we had to process it. Because currently right now to get you a payment on the 1st or the 2nd of the month, we have to cut our time off by about the 25th to actually give the processing time, and that's what causes a lot of these overpayments. But we're going to handle that differently in the new system, and we're going to make sure that everybody is aware of any changes that we make in the new system that will make sure the billing process and the accounts receivable process is much more user friendly for everyone.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Yeah. Okay. Thank you, Ms. Kay.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

All right.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Go ahead.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

So that's all for the agenda.

**SUPPLEMENTAL PAY NEW SYSTEM UPDATE**

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

All right. I'm going to give you a brief update on the new system. We have just hired our business analyst who is going to help us direct this project. It's a homegrown guy from Baton Rouge. He's going through the vetting process right now. We hope to onboard him by January the 1st, and so January the 1st, we're going to have a big kickoff. Okay.

Before that happens, you're going to get two things. And we've spent a lot of time today talking about accounts receivable, and what's going to happen is, our internal audit section is going to do a survey and we're not -- we're going to send out an email blast, Wayne is preparing that now, to all the departments, fire and police to say, hey, our internal audit has done a -- they've audited our accounts receivable, we'd like to get some opinions, some anonymous opinions, from the towns on accounts receivable, the problems associated with it, and does everybody understand what's going on. That's going to happen this week. Everybody's going to get an email saying, you may get a questionnaire, and then Wayne's going to send the -- the internal audit section is going to send out a questionnaire to about 50 departments. So there'll be maybe, I don't know, 20 or so fire departments that will actually get the questionnaire. And it's simple, seven questions, basically, how it's handled, how -- what causes these, any comments you may have, and -- and do they do some proper reporting.

Following that, probably in the month of December, we're going to send out another questionnaire, but this will go to every department, and it's going to be saying -- it's going to really announce to them the new system, the modernization project that we are embarking on, and briefly explain what we're doing. And we're going to do two things with this questionnaire. We're going to ask, would you be -- would you want -- would your town want like to participate in the testing and training process? And we're going ask that they say yes or no, that they would, or they would not. And then we're going to ask them some technical questions about the platforms, and do you have a -- what -- what email platform do you use, what scanning capabilities do you use, how do you access your internet, how many people actually will be working in the system, those kinds of questions, so we can get an idea of volume so that we know how to -- to proceed through this project. I imagine that y'all will get a lot of questions as a result of this. So, please, feel free to let me know if you get questions or towns that don't know what they need to do.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

Kay, Kay, I don’t mean to interrupt, but, at point in time -- this is Ronnie --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yes.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

**--** whatever you send out as a questionnaire to whoever you choose to do so, can you send that to the Board members, as well, so this way we'll be somewhat familiar --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yes.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

**--** of that questionnaire in the event we get some questions?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

That's a very good idea way. Wayne, can you, please, include all of the Board members on the emails?

**MR. TEDESCO:**

Well, like you said, it's going to come from internal audit, the actual survey to the sampled participants. So we can give internal audit a list of those Board members, so that they -- or we could just do it in a separate email just so that they're aware of --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yeah, we could, yeah, either way, but we'll make sure y'all get it and maybe even send it out before. I'm not sure, but we'll try to -- it's very easy though. I --you know, I looked at it. It's very easy, clear cut, just how -- why do these things happen and what are your comments and how do you handle certain things. But when -- we'll certainly let y'all know before we send out to all the departments about the new system.

We'll have more detailed information as we get a little closer. We're actually really ramp -- ramping up now. As to what parts of the system will be done first, we're using a -- a business analyst manager who we will do this project in what's called sprints, where we'll pick one particular area and do a targeted two or three-week work on getting one little piece of the puzzle finished, whether or not that goes out to start actually being used by the departments or just in-house at first, that's the kind of stuff that we're going to let y'all know beforehand.

We'll also keep you up to date on any changes to our administrative rules and any statute changes which might be necessary. Because of the new system, there are going to be some cleanup things about paying individual checks and -- and references to things like paper and mailing that we're going to totally remove from the statutes to give us the leeway we need to do things in an automated world.

**MR. JUNKIN:**

Remove it from the rules.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

I'm sorry?

**MR. JUNKIN:**

You said the statute. We're going to remove it from the rules.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Well, we'll -- we'll have -- we'll have revisions to both statutes and rules along the way for different things.

Any questions?

**MR. RUIZ:**

No. It seems like this is going to be a whole lot easier and better for everybody.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

It will be. It's going to be a rough year; I'm going to tell you. It's going to be a rough year for this staff, and we'll have to get a lot of people used to dealing in a different environment. Some of these smaller towns may need assistance in getting the -- the technical capabilities they're going to need to work in an automated environment.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Chad, you still there?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yes, I'm here.

**MR. RUIZ:**

No, no. Chad.

**MR. MAJORS:**

I'm still here.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Yeah. Thank you for coming. I'm sorry. You missed -- missed the debate -- debating about.

And -- and the reason, Ms. Kay, had him come in, because we was just trying to figure out with Chad -- and -- and Chad's our voice to the Governor, so if we need anything, we got -- we go through Chad. Chad talks to the Governor and to -- to head of State Police for us. And, you know, it was a big misunderstanding, and I -- and I wasn't the only one. Ronnie said -- came to my defense, and thank you, Ronnie, but we all misunderstood what Kay was trying to say -- I mean, what Candace was trying to say.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Right.

**MR. RUIZ:**

You know, but I'll talk to Chad more about the way to see, you know -- missing in 30 -- missing 30 days, not that you're going to lose the money, it's still going without a check from the State for 30 days, especially for a lot of those departments that don't make no money. You know, they can't go 30 days without that $500. And that's what the -- Chad and I and his executive board had been discussing, trying to figure out a way and convince the Governor to maybe give the police and fireman a bonus like the teachers have been getting for COVID or for -- for whatever.

So, with that, Chad, I appreciate you listening, I have you hear, and then Wayne and Mark and Kay and Candy, as soon as we find something out, we'll let y'all know. You know, I know we're not going to do that 30-day thing right away.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

No. And there would be lots of discussion before that would happen.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Yeah, I know that.

So I want to thank Chad for coming.

Go ahead, Chad.

**MR. MAJORS:**

Hey, Brien. I understand, and Ms. Kay is right, and I don't know what y'all discussed when I was -- I kind of got knocked off. I don't know what happened. But, anyway, I mean, I understand it's after the fact, but the problem is, is once you submit -- once the department submits it warrants back and -- and -- and Candace and Ms. Kay can correct me if I'm wrong is, if I turn them in on the 20th and subsequent to the 20th, I have a resignation or a termination or whatever the case may be that -- that wasn't scheduled, something that you didn't know was going to happen, I mean, if I have a retirement effective on the --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

It happens all the time.

**MR. MAJORS:**

**--** 25th, I can -- I can -- correct. So then that person gets an extra ten days or five days pay or whatever it may be, that's where the problem falls in. I mean, we got a -- an invoice the other day here for $7,400 or whatever it is, and that's some on our part too, you know, the person we had doing it wasn't keeping up with it like they should have, so -- but that's -- you know, I know you get paid after the fact, but it's so close in timing and --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yes.

**MR. MAJORS:**

-- and the -- the lag thing that -- that was discussed before, you know, I mean, I would be totally opposed to that, and -- because I just know too many places where people might not be able to pay their mortgage. They're going to be late if you -- if you lag it, so we're trying to work it out.

And -- and my biggest interest was, over the lifetime of, or -- or as far back as we can go, what was the amount -- what is the amount that the -- the system has lost due to it, and so that I can, you know, explain that to the Governor and why we should look at doing -- you know, having a freeze on y'all's side and having a one-time pay from the State side, so the -- the guys and ladies -- that work for the fire and police, and then y'all are able to get your feet under you and be a month ahead of it, so to speak.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. Chad, what I'm going to suggest here, and I can tell you the total and that's police and fire, we don't have a separated figure we can give you today. I'm sorry, is what Candace -- Candy, 600,000?

**MS. DIEZ:**

Yes, close to.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Police is definitely a little more than fire, so you'd probably say under 300,000 for fire, but we are going to get all of the Board members and we can send it -- and, Chad, if you want to talk with me offline, I -- I really need to get your phone number and your email address, and we can start including you on some of these things, particularly with the new system. We're doing research on the accounts receivable right now. I would ask that you hold off saying anything right now until we come to some final resolution here, and then we will be sure and let you know, and then y'all can move forward.

**MR. MAJORS:**

Okay.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

We are going to send out to all the Board members and we'll include you the exact fire by town of what is owed.

**MR. MAJORS:**

Yes, ma'am.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Chad, it's just us. Would you give me your number where I can give you a call?

**MR. MAJORS:**

Sure. It's 225-XXX-XXXX (off-the-record).

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

I will give you a call offline.

**MR. MAJORS:**

Yes, ma'am.

**SET THE TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**MR. RUIZ:**

Let's move on to -- to set the time date of the next meeting. Gentleman, the 16th is the week of the Professional Firefighters' convention, so I would like to move that from that week.

**MS. DIEZ:**

Okay. So can I just interject for just a second, because I wanted to propose something to the Board. You know, we have a lot of applications.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Is this Candy?

**MS. DIEZ:**

Yes, Candy.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. Go ahead.

**MS. DIEZ:**

We have a lot of applications, new applicants, to enter after these Board meetings, so what we were thinking, if -- if the Board is okay, we already have some proposed dates for our police board meetings. We would like to have both police and fire meetings on the same day just at different times. So if y'all would be okay with having a one o'clock Board meeting, the dates would actually be a week earlier than what y'all are looking at.

**MR. PARKER:**

So like February 9th.

**MS. DIEZ:**

Ninth.

**MR. TEDESCO:**

This is Wayne. I have those dates handy if you want me to call them out.

**MS. DIEZ:**

Yes. February 9th, May 11th, August 10th, November 9th. Correct. Would that be a problem for y'all as far as the one o'clock?

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

When is August, August what?

**MS. DIEZ:**

Tenth.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Tenth.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

August 10th, February 9th, May the 11th, August the 10th, and November the 9th.

**MS. DIEZ:**

Correct.

**MR. RUIZ:**

At 1:00 p.m.

**MS. DIEZ:**

1:00 p.m.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Do y'all -- I don't have a problem with one o'clock. Anybody else has a problem at one o'clock?

**MR. PARKER:**

Earlier -- earlier usually works better for me, but I can make it work. I'm -- if everybody else is good, I can make it work. This is Richie.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Charles, what about -- what about you, Williams?

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

(Unintelligible.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

What did he say?

**MR. THEVIS:**

He's fine with it.

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

So that's what we're going with, these dates at this time?

**MS. DIEZ:**

Yes, sir.

Mark, can you, please, send that to all the Board members whenever we get off the call?

**MR. CAMPBELL:**

Will do.

**MS. DIEZ:**

Thank you.

**ADJOURN**

**MR. RUIZ:**

Okay. Gentlemen --

**MR. SCHILLACE:**

I'll make a motion to adjourn. This is Ronnie.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Second?

**MR. WILLIAMS:**

Charles. I'll second.

**MR. RUIZ:**

Williams seconded.

All in favor to adjourn signify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. RUIZ:**

Thank you.

CERTIFICATE

I, MICHELLE S. ABADIE, Certified Court Reporter in and for

the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this hearing was reported, certify that on November 17, 2021, a meeting for the Firemens' State Supplemental Board was held, that this testimony and matters were reported by me, was prepared and transcribed by me, and that the foregoing pages, numbered 1 through 55, inclusive, is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding; that I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this proceeding.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MICHELLE S. ABADIE, CCR #24032

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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BRIEN RUIZ, CHAIRMAN

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DWAYNE THEVIS, VICE-CHAIRMAN