

*East Baton Rouge Fire Protection District 6*  
*Board Minutes April 15, 2025*

Board Members: R. HIGGINS, CHAIRMAN  
S. GRAVES, VICE CHAIRMAN  
C. MAY, ABSENT  
R. FORT  
T. STOUT

Non-Members: C. Dunn, A. Chase, T. Lipscomb, K. Sanchez, K. Pardue, H. Williams, P. Case.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Reviewed the minutes from March 25, 2025, no questions or objections noted. Motion to adopt minutes by Graves seconded by Fort.

Motion made by Commissioner Graves and seconded by Chairman Higgins to accept the financial report.

**Old Business:**

1. The need for an electrical service upgrade at Station 52 was discussed. P Case recommended a switch from electric appliances and heaters to gas to reduce the electrical load. Quotes will be obtained to compare the cost-benefit of installing gas appliances versus upgrading the existing electrical service.
2. A motion was made by Commissioner Graves to accept the quote from Coleman Roofing for the installation of gutters and the repair and painting of the soffit at Station 51. The motion was seconded by Charman Stout.
3. A motion was made by Commissioner Graves to purchase and outfit a Chevrolet 1500 4x4, from State Contract No. 4400023794 from Gerry Lane Chevrolet. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fort.
4. A motion was made by Chairman Higgins to accept the quote from Premiere Fire Equipment for the purchase of 14 Scott SCBA bottles. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Graves.

**New Business:**

1. **Adopt 2025 Millages** A resolution to adopt and continue to levy and collection of the following ad valorem property taxes was presented. These millages represent the allowable rates permitted by law for the District for the 2025 tax year. A **public comment period was held**. No objections were raised. Following the comment period, a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-04-01 was made and unanimously approved by all commissioners in attendance: Higgins, Graves, Fort, and Stout. **Adopted Millages:**

- a. (1035015) 10.00 mills for the tax years 2025-2034 inclusive.
- b. (1035043) 5.00 mills for the tax years 2017-2025 inclusive.
- c. (1035047) 10.00 mills for the tax years 2018-2027 inclusive.
- d. (1035052) 15.00 mills for the tax years 2022-2031 inclusive.

2. **Notice of Meeting and Resolution to Call Election and Renew 5 Mill Tax**

The Board announced a public meeting scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**, for the purpose of adopting a resolution to **call for the renewal of a 5 mill ad valorem property tax**. This resolution includes authorization to call an election to be held on **Saturday, November 15, 2025**, for voter approval within the District.

The proposed renewal is for a **5 mill ad valorem tax** to be levied for **nine (9) years**, covering tax years **2026 through 2034**, inclusive. The current 5 mill tax is set to expire at the end of the **2025** tax year.

The proceeds from this tax are dedicated to the development, operation, and maintenance of the District's fire protection facilities, including the cost of securing water for fire protection purposes and the installation and maintenance of fire hydrants within the District.

A public comment period was held. No objections were raised.

Following the comment period, a motion to adopt the Meeting Notice and Resolution to Call Election and Renew 5 Mill Tax was made and unanimously approved by all commissioners in attendance: Commissioners Higgins, Graves, Fort, and Stout.

3. **Promotion of Firefighter Operators to Rank of Captain**

Commissioner Graves made a motion to promote three certified firefighter operators to the rank of Captain, in accordance with Louisiana State statutes and recognized best practices. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fort.

**Chiefs Report:**

1. **Cancer Screening Bill** - Chief Dunn provided an overview of the recently introduced cancer screening bill, which mandates that Fire Departments conduct cancer screenings for full-time personnel. The screenings are to be performed at regular intervals, with the frequency adjusted based on age, in accordance with the provisions outlined in the bill.
2. **Drowning Hooper Rd** – Chief Dunn and Assistant Chief Sanchez reported to the Board a recent drowning incident on Hooper Road, identifying it as a rescue event. They emphasized that the response required specialized training and equipment to effectively mitigate the situation. The incident highlighted the importance of continued investment in capable off-road vehicles and water rescue training.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Stout and seconded by Commissioner Graves. The motion carried unanimously.