

State of Louisiana

FIREMENS' SUPPLEMENTAL PAY BOARD

COMMISSION MEETING

MARCH 12, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Firemens' Supplemental Pay Board Commission

March 12, 2020

10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Brien Ruiz
Frank Cusimano
Richard Parker
Ronald Schillace
Dwayne Thevis
Kay Debenedetto
Candace Oby
Mark Campbell
Paul Schexnayder, Esq.

ALSO PRESENT:

Chief Dave Tibbetts
Arthur Zink
Ken Majors, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana

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Firemens' Supplemental Pay Board Commission
March 12, 2020

MR. RUIZ:

All right. We're going to call the Firemens' Supplemental Pay Board meeting to order.

Roll call, please.

MR. CAMPBELL:

Mr. Ruiz.

MR. RUIZ:

Here.

MR. CAMPBELL:

Mr. Cusimano.

MR. CUSIMANO:

Here.

MR. CAMPBELL:

Mr. Thevis.

MR. THEVIS:

Here.

MR. CAMPBELL:

Mr. Parker.

MR. PARKER:

Here.

MR. CAMPBELL:

And Mr. Schillace.

1 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

2 Here.

3 **MR. RUIZ:**

4 We have a quorum.

5 All right. We need to approve the minutes of the 12/12/2019
6 meeting.

7 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

8 Motion to approve.

9 **MR. RUIZ:**

10 We have a motion.

11 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

12 I'll second the motion.

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 We have a second. All in favor, signify by saying "aye."

15 (All aye.)

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 We need a motion for our special meeting on the 1/16/2020.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 Motion to approve.

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 We've got a motion.

22 **MR. THEVIS:**

23 I'll second.

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 We have a second. All in favor, signify by saying "aye."

1 (All aye.)

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 Old business, East Bank Consolidated.

4 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

5 Mr. Ruiz, I'm just giving an update on the East Bank Consolidated
6 with the meeting -- the special meeting on the 16th of January, and the --
7 Mr. -- Chief Tibbetts has removed Saunders and Berthelot from the
8 warrants. Zink remains and Greco has retired.

9 **MR. RUIZ:**

10 Okay.

11 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

12 My question too is, Mr. Zink is going to remain as long as he
13 qualifies and is classified under East Bank Consolidated. So I would
14 advise the Board, maybe not in my presence because I may not be on the
15 Board, to review that warrant again in three months to make sure that Mr.
16 Zink complies with the motion that I made at the special meeting, that he
17 needs to be under Title 33 classified at the East Bank Consolidated to
18 receive supplemental pay on that warrant.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 And, Frank, are they going in front of the Civil Service Board?

21 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

22 I think they're going today, Brien. But, you know, I talked to the
23 Civil Service chairman, it may not be today. It may -- because he's got
24 tests. They haven't gotten the test date from the State Examiner yet. He
25 has to pass that test. So I would think we need to -- y'all need to review

1 this in the next meeting of the Board to make sure that he complies with
2 the motion that I've previously made.

3 **MR. PARKER:**

4 Mr. Chairman, just to add to that too, it's not just Mr. Zink. It's also
5 the two Haz Mat guys that's under -- or they are trying to transfer under
6 his warrant and under the Fire Department Civil Service.

7 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

8 Okay.

9 **MR. PARKER:**

10 I think one of them is getting it. I'm not sure if the other one is
11 getting it yet.

12 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

13 I have a -- I have a question. In the meantime, when all -- between
14 now and when all this is finalized, are these guys going to continue to
15 receive their pay?

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 Well, there's only one of them that receives the pay, and that's Mr.
18 Zink.

19 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

20 Mr. Zink receives it, but then he's saying some Haz Mat guys are on
21 it, too.

22 **MR. PARKER:**

23 Yeah.

24 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

25 Mr. Zink. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

1 **MR. PARKER:**

2 Yeah. The Haz Mat guys, Steve Mutz.

3 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

4 Okay. So I don't want to --

5 **MR. PARKER:**

6 I'm not sure -- I'm not sure if -- I think he's getting it, and the other
7 Haz Mat guy, I don't think he's getting it yet.

8 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

9 Okay. So, during the transition period, I don't want to see these guys
10 lose their -- their pay. Okay. So, if at all possible, if they can continue,
11 but I know the issue is going to be who's going to sign the warrant
12 between now and then.

13 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

14 Right. So they --

15 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

16 And like was mentioned, this may -- may not be finalized until our
17 next meeting, which would be, what, June, I think.

18 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

19 Right.

20 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

21 So bottom line, I don't want to see these guys lose their -- any
22 money.

23 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

24 Well, they are removed. They have been removed from the warrant,
25 which means they are not being paid, but they will be paid retroactive,

1 when and if, they get reinstated, but they are not being paid.

2 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

3 Well, Mark, I don't think he's meaning the ones removed. I think he
4 means that right now East Bank Consolidated has Arthur Zink and two
5 Haz Material guys?

6 **MR. PARKER:**

7 Correct.

8 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

9 They weren't -- they weren't part of this -- when we removed the
10 others.

11 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

12 Right. So --

13 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

14 That was Berthelot and Saunders that was taken off.

15 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

16 Right. So is that who you are talking about, Mr. Schillace?

17 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

18 The ones that are currently receiving it, okay, and have been, even
19 before they created this Fire Service division.

20 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

21 Mr. Chairman --

22 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

23 Well, the -- the procedure is --

24 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

25 Excuse me. Recognize -- recognize Bryan Adams, because he can

1 straighten this out.

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 Hold on a second. I can straighten it out too, because I understand
4 each one of these ones.

5 The two guys that you're talking about that fall under the Fire
6 Services, that -- that Chief Adams is taking over are going to -- they're
7 going to lose it for the time being, and -- until we create the new Fire
8 Service district. Then they will get them -- the warrants will be sent back
9 in, and they will get their money reimbursed back to them. There's no
10 place for them to get a warrant for them to sign for them to continue to
11 get it, where Mr. Zink is continuing to stay on East Bank Consolidated's
12 payroll, so he's not going to lose his, even though we've got to make sure
13 -- and I wrote it in my notes -- to make sure that his -- what they're
14 supposed to do, they do.

15 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

16 Okay.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 So there's no way we can stop them other gentlemen from losing.
19 All we can do is make sure that they get their money back at the end.

20 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

21 Okay.

22 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

23 Right. And the -- the procedure anytime someone transfers from one
24 department to another is that they stop in the old department, submit a
25 new application under the new department to come for y'all's review.

1 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

2 Okay.

3 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

4 But they would be fully back paid if qualified.

5 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

6 All right. Are they aware of this?

7 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

8 Well, I mean, that's the standard procedure for anything.

9 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

10 Yeah, I know, but, I mean, just so that it won't be blindsided that
11 next month they expect this money --

12 **MR. RUIZ:**

13 I'm sure they are aware of that.

14 **MR. PARKER:**

15 Yeah. They're -- they're aware.

16 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

17 Yeah. I'm sure they are, Brien. They knew this was coming.

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 All right. I seen under Old Business we've got Fire Services. I
20 really think that's going to be under New Business. I don't know if we
21 ever discussed that in an open -- I mean, we --

22 **MS. OBY:**

23 We can move it.

24 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

25 Yeah. I mean --

1 **MS. OBY:**

2 If y'all want to move it to New Business.

3 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

4 Are we finished with the East Bank Consolidated? I don't have any
5 more questions.

6 **MS. OBY:**

7 Yeah. That -- that was just an update.

8 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

9 So long as -- as you -- that that will be revisited.

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 I wrote notes.

12 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

13 Got it.

14 **MS. OBY:**

15 We can move it to New Business.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 I mean, it can stay under Old Business if you choose, if you want it
18 to stay there.

19 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

20 I really kind of -- I mean, it has been discussed.

21 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

22 Right, in the September meeting.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 Okay. Well, leave it there.

25 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

1 And in the January meeting.

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 Fire Services.

4 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

5 Okay. On Fire Services, that's the -- the new spinoff off of the East
6 Bank Consolidated. Bryan Adams is here today. He's the director for
7 that. They are to put in a questionnaire to gain status as a department or a
8 district. He said he mailed it Tuesday. We have not received it as of
9 today, but I do have copies that he brought with him today. So that's to
10 be discussed.

11 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

12 Do you have a copy of the -- what he brought?

13 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

14 Yes, yes.

15 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

16 Okay. Hand them out.

17 **MS. OBY:**

18 And does Mr. Adams want to speak?

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 Yeah. We need to swear him in.

21 **MR. ADAMS:**

22 Yeah. If anybody has any questions, if there's any questions.

23 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

24 If you want to speak, we need to swear you in.

25 **MR. ADAMS:**

1 Sure.

2 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

5 You, too?

6 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

7 Yeah. I just wanted to --

8 **COURT REPORTER:**

9 And you're Mr. --

10 **MR. ADAMS:**

11 Adams.

12 **COURT REPORTER:**

13 Adams. And you're?

14 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

15 My name is Amanda Plaiscia. I represent Jefferson Parish. I'm here
16 on Mr. Adams's behalf and the Parish's behalf if you guys have any
17 questions for me as well.

18 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

19 Do you want me to swear her in, too?

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 Do you want her sworn in, Frank?

22 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

23 Yeah. I mean, if we have any questions for her, I want to swear her
24 in.

25 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

1 Are you an attorney?

2 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

3 Yes.

4 **MR. ADAMS:**

5 Yes.

6 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

7 Okay.

8 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

9 Are you going to try to make the Civil Service meeting, too?

10 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

11 Maybe -- yeah, maybe two in one day.

12 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

13 Swear her in or not?

14 **MR. RUIZ:**

15 Yeah, you can swear her in.

16 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

17 Yeah.

18 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

19 (Witness sworn.)

20 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

21 Okay. This seems to be an -- an application for a new fire division

22 for Jefferson Parish, the Jefferson Parish Department of Fire Services.

23 This page seems to be in order.

24 All right. Let me ask you, your division will oversee fire

25 departments on the West Bank in a capacity?

1 **MR. ADAMS:**

2 Yeah. So all departments on the West Bank and one on the East
3 Bank.

4 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

5 Okay.

6 **MR. ADAMS:**

7 They're all volunteer commendation departments which have about
8 125 paid individuals.

9 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

10 Okay. So you'll have some say-so into what they operate and how
11 they operate?

12 **MR. ADAMS:**

13 Yeah. So they -- the contract is here. The motion from the Council
14 is here. So there's actually a motion and a contract with the -- with the
15 Parish and those individual departments that I oversee their budgets, their
16 -- their PIAL ratings, and everything that they do every day. I respond to
17 all structure fires with them to assist them from the Parish's standpoint, if
18 we can offer any support. We do all the training through the training
19 center for actually all the departments in Jefferson Parish, including the
20 fully-paid department. We -- we manage that facility, with my two guys,
21 Dave Saunders and Scott Berthelot. We give tests. We -- we administer
22 training. We proctor the test for the East Bank guys when LSU comes in.
23 So we are very much related with the fire service as a whole in Jefferson
24 Parish.

25 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

1 Employees that are -- would be eligible for supplemental pay under
2 your division are -- are who?

3 **MR. ADAMS:**

4 Dave Saunders and Scott Berthelot.

5 Now, if I can, for Mr. Ruiz's information, so the administration has
6 agreed to be part of the move for Mr. Zink and the Haz Mat guys.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 I understand.

9 **MR. ADAMS:**

10 We're just trying to figure the logistics of moving them and how we
11 work that with 15 fire departments in Jefferson Parish. So I'll tell you,
12 that's going to happen.

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 Thank you.

15 **MR. ADAMS:**

16 So the -- the Civil Service Board has -- has offered to give us -- and
17 they will make a motion today -- six months to figure this process --
18 process out. So you will see that transition at some point, so -- and those
19 guys are very well aware that they may miss a month or two. We're
20 going to try not to let that happen, but they -- they understand it.

21 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

22 It's three months?

23 **MR. ADAMS:**

24 Yeah. So they -- they understand it.

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 Do we have any more questions for Mr. Adams?

2 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

3 I don't.

4 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

5 I don't.

6 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

7 This is -- Mr. Schexnayder, let me ask you this. A division of fire
8 would be an entity -- an entity of a fire department under this -- under
9 Jefferson Parish?

10 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

11 Uh-uh.

12 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

13 The way it was described. It would be -- it would be not a
14 department. It would be an entity of that department.

15 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

16 But it's going to be separate --

17 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

18 It's separate. Okay.

19 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

20 I don't see a problem with it.

21 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

22 Okay. I'll make a motion to approve the Jefferson Parish Division
23 of Fire.

24 **MR. PARKER:**

25 I'll second it.

1 **MR. RUIZ:**

2 Any more questions?

3 (No response.)

4 All in favor, signify by saying "aye."

5 (All aye.)

6 **MR. RUIZ:**

7 Motion passes.

8 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

9 Okay. Do we have employees -- those employees, do we have to put
10 a motion for them to keep receiving --

11 **MR. RUIZ:**

12 He's got -- he's got to resubmit applications for each one of the
13 individuals.

14 **MS. OBY:**

15 We have everything in this packet.

16 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

17 It's in the -- it's in the --

18 **MR. ADAMS:**

19 Yeah. That's all in the packet.

20 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

21 Right. We haven't received the original.

22 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

23 We haven't had a chance to review it yet though.

24 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

25 Right, right.

1 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

2 Okay. You want to --

3 **MR. RUIZ:**

4 One at a time, please.

5 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

6 Okay. No problem.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 No, not this -- to you, Frank. Everybody is speaking. Go ahead.

9 **MS. OBY:**

10 Candace, Candace Oby.

11 We need original applications for everyone who is applying. They
12 will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

13 **MR. ADAMS:**

14 Okay. So -- so you guys had the originals and you mailed them back
15 to me because it was missing one page, so it's on its way back.

16 **MS. OBY:**

17 Okay.

18 **MR. ADAMS:**

19 We mailed it. It's been certified mail. We've been tracking it.

20 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

21 It should be received today --

22 **MR. ADAMS:**

23 You should receive it today.

24 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

25 -- according to the certified mail receipt. We did provide copies to

1 the Board members.

2 **MR. ADAMS:**

3 And we understand there's a waiting period.

4 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

5 And we would ask that -- I'm sorry. We would just ask that if -- if
6 you guys are waiting for the originals, if you guys could vote for the
7 receipt of these individual's State supplemental pay pending receipt of the
8 originals.

9 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

10 I'm sorry. Could you say that again?

11 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

12 I said that, we would ask that the Board vote in favor of the
13 individuals receiving State supplemental pay today pending receipt of the
14 original applications.

15 **MS. OBY:**

16 Would you like to review the applications before you approve them?

17 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

18 Well --

19 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

20 There's only two of them, right?

21 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

22 Three.

23 **MR. ADAMS:**

24 Three.

25 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

1 Hold up.

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 One at a time. Frank, go first.

4 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

5 My question is this. Those two individuals that we're talking about
6 have already qualified for supplemental pay before?

7 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

8 Yes.

9 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

10 They have just been taken off one warrant and placed with him.
11 Now he signed a warrant that's approved. Why do we --

12 **MS. OBY:**

13 I understand, but -- but, just like Kay stated earlier, everybody who
14 moves from one application -- one warrant to another warrant submits a
15 new application, and they go through the same process. It's not anything
16 different than any other applicant goes through. But it's up to the Board.
17 It's the Board's decision. If you want --

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 Right. As a Board, we can -- we can make a motion --

20 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

21 I'm going to make a motion to continue their supplemental pay.

22 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

23 I second that motion.

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 After approval of them reviewing it.

1 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

2 At the -- well, they're supposed to receive it sometime today or
3 tomorrow.

4 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

5 It should be today. It was in route.

6 **MS. OBY:**

7 Can you list out their names separately, whose application you want
8 to receive --

9 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

10 Scott Berthelot, Dave Saunders.

11 **MS. OBY:**

12 -- after -- upon our receipt.

13 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

14 Scott Berthelot, Dave Saunders --

15 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

16 And Bryan Adams.

17 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

18 -- and Bryan Adams.

19 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

20 Scott Berthelot, B-E-R-T-H-E-L-O-T, Dave Saunders, and Bryan
21 Adams.

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 Excuse me. Not to pick on Mr. Adams, the other two gentlemen
24 were qualified prior.

25 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

1 Yeah.

2 **MR. ADAMS:**

3 So was I.

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 This is going to be a new application, to me.

6 **MR. ADAMS:**

7 So was I.

8 **MR. RUIZ:**

9 Well, who were you with?

10 **MR. ADAMS:**

11 I received State pay under Terrytown Fire Department, so I was
12 qualified as well.

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 Okay. All right.

15 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

16 And I just wanted to make the point that Mr. Adams's predecessor,
17 Mr. Greco, was in the same exact position as Mr. Adams is now and was
18 receiving State supplemental pay.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 That's besides the point.

21 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

22 He had -- he was qualified.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 He's got -- once he told me he received it from Terrytown --

25 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

1 Okay.

2 **MR. ADAMS:**

3 My prior service is in the packet.

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 I'm just trying to clear it up.

6 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

7 Okay.

8 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

9 Well, I -- I had seconded that motion, so.

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 All in favor -- any more questions?

12 (No response.)

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

14 (All aye.)

15 **MR. RUIZ:**

16 Motion passes.

17 Time out.

18 (Off-the-record discussion.)

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 We're back on the record.

21 Actually, you're finished, Bryan. You can -- y'all can leave.

22 **MR. ADAMS:**

23 Thank you.

24 **MS. PLAISCIA:**

25 Thanks for your time.

1 **MR. RUIZ:**

2 Under New Business --

3 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

4 Where are we at, Brien?

5 **MR. RUIZ:**

6 New Business, Port of New Orleans, Town Code #3605.

7 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

8 Okay. Just for a little explanation, the reason I put Town Code
9 #3605 is because in the last meeting talking about Port of New Orleans,
10 there was a question about the warrant, and I just provided the -- the
11 Town Code. They've been receiving supplemental pay for years.

12 **MR. KLEIN:**

13 Since 2007.

14 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

15 Since 2007.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 And so -- speak when I -- you know, because of the court reporter.

18 **MR. KLEIN:**

19 I understand. Yes, sir.

20 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

21 So the reason that they're on the agenda today is, they had submitted
22 an application for Landeche, and the application was questioned about
23 the certification, the certification being from Delgado versus LSU, the
24 Firefighter I training.

25 **MS. OBY:**

1 Candace Oby speaking.

2 We questioned -- well, in the last meeting, we discussed how the --
3 we needed to get reciprocity from LSU for the training. However, it
4 appears that everybody on their warrant has this Delgado training and
5 they do not have any reciprocity from LSU. The -- there is a statute that
6 states -- it's specifically for New -- the Port of New Orleans -- if they --
7 they shall have completed and passed a certified fireman's training
8 program equal to the National Fire Protection Association's Standard
9 1001 Firefighter I certification or a fireman's training program as
10 approved by LSU in accordance with the statute and -- or other State or
11 federally approved maritime firefighter training program.

12 So we just -- apparently, this maybe has been discussed before our
13 time.

14 **MR. RUIZ:**

15 It was.

16 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

17 It was.

18 **MS. OBY:**

19 So when these applications come in and they're different than
20 everybody else and we have never seen them before, we're going -- you
21 know, we're addressing it.

22 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

23 Yeah.

24 **MS. OBY:**

25 So we just wanted confirmation from the Board whether this training

1 is acceptable per the statute only for Port of New Orleans.

2 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

3 Well, I -- I think when this -- I was the chairman at the time this first
4 came up, and I remember when we asked the -- I think it was the chief or
5 whoever he had here to go back to the legislature to add this language in,
6 and I think that's where you get the other State or federally approved
7 maritime, which wasn't in there previous. And we approved his warrant
8 and approved his -- his department for supplemental pay at that time
9 based on this language.

10 **MS. OBY:**

11 Okay.

12 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

13 So I would think, you know -- I don't know if it's germane just to the
14 Port of Orleans or if it can be applied to other Ports. I mean, it's a statute.
15 I don't see --

16 **MS. OBY:**

17 We -- we'll talk about Plaquemine Port later.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 Okay. But I think -- I don't have a problem with the language as it
20 says "or other State or federally approved maritime."

21 **MS. OBY:**

22 So the Delgado certification --

23 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

24 Yeah, that's maritime.

25 **MS. OBY:**

1 -- is a State or federally approved training that qualifies them for
2 supplemental pay?

3 **MR. PARKER:**

4 Yeah. It has -- it says as approved by U.S. Coast Guard, that's
5 federal.

6 **MS. OBY:**

7 Okay.

8 **MR. KLEIN:**

9 I -- Claude Klein.

10 I can shed a little light on your question.

11 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

12 I'm sorry. Would you tell us what -- who you are with?

13 **MR. KLEIN:**

14 I am Master Captain with the Port of New Orleans. I'm retired. I'm
15 the one that was instrumental, with Mr. Frank here -- Chief Frank, to get
16 all of this done, get it through the legislature, and get it approved. And
17 we had to -- actually, once we got the State constitutional amendment
18 done, we had to go back the next year because we didn't have training
19 that was acceptable according to the by-laws of the Board. So we went
20 to LSU -- we did a lot of things, and within a year's time, we worked it
21 out.

22 But as to your point directly with the Port of New Orleans, in this
23 statute that you just read, it is primarily for the Port of New Orleans, but I
24 think you've researched it further and the Port of Plaquemines comes in
25 with their own statute, which is exactly like this -- like our statute.

1 **MS. OBY:**

2 It's word -- it's word for word.

3 **MR. KLEIN:**

4 Exactly, but it's just with the Plaquemines Port. And to my
5 understanding, they had to do that because of the way we did it with our
6 people, and we had to do that because of the legislature. When we were
7 in committee, they were adamant about only approving Harbor Police
8 and Port of New Orleans Fire Department. They did want the Levee
9 Board on there. They did not want the Bridge Police on there. They did
10 not -- and -- and they told us, they flat out told us, if they saw anybody
11 else on there, you know -- so our attorney reworded it, the revised statute
12 also, to just include the Port of New Orleans, and that's why it was done
13 like that. And then everybody else that's come behind us has had to get
14 the wording the same way.

15 **MS. OBY:**

16 Right.

17 **MR. KLEIN:**

18 Because legislators are very particular about who they're approving
19 funds for.

20 **MS. OBY:**

21 Right.

22 **MR. KLEIN:**

23 And they don't want anybody just to -- jumping in riding on your
24 coattails. They want to be specific and have them come before them and
25 ask, why do you want this and why do you deserve it, you know. So we

1 -- we faced some pretty good obstacles, but we thought we had it all
2 done. And it was a very -- I appreciate your explanation for why it was
3 questioned.

4 **MS. OBY:**

5 Why we request -- yeah.

6 **MR. KLEIN:**

7 Yeah.

8 **MS. OBY:**

9 We -- yeah. When you have new people coming in --

10 **MR. KLEIN:**

11 I understand.

12 **MS. OBY:**

13 -- and we've never seen it before, it -- it's our responsibility --

14 **MR. KLEIN:**

15 I -- I totally understand. We were just a little upset because, as Chief
16 can tell you, we went through two years --

17 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

18 And it did.

19 **MR. KLEIN:**

20 -- to get this for our people.

21 **MS. OBY:**

22 I understand.

23 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

24 And I -- I should add that the Board had requested us to --

25 **MR. KLEIN:**

1 No, no.

2 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

3 -- to look into it to see about reciprocity with LSU.

4 **MR. KLEIN:**

5 I understand.

6 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

7 That was specified.

8 **MR. KLEIN:**

9 Reciprocity was attempted, but LSU refused.

10 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

11 That's right.

12 **MR. KLEIN:**

13 And they did not want to certify our training from Delgado, even
14 though Delgado was a State recognized school, but it was two different
15 types of training. So once we got our training from Delgado certified,
16 which -- for everybody's information on the Board here with a fire
17 background, Delgado was originally started by the federal government,
18 okay, as y'all know. And the fire boats were one of the first ones to go
19 out there and take this course because we were experienced, and -- and
20 then, once the federal government got out of it, Delgado stepped up the to
21 plate and took it over, and they're running it to this day. And it's -- it's a
22 very -- it's very good.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 I've been there.

25 **MR. KLEIN:**

1 It's good. It's very good for -- for marine firefighting and for plants.

2 They have a lot of people in the plants and all.

3 And I -- I appreciate y'all listening to us when we came up here
4 today.

5 I only have one more question. The gentleman who were -- who's
6 been forth for the application, Mr. Landeche, will he be approved back to
7 his original?

8 **MS. OBY:**

9 They -- they're going to approve it --

10 **MR. KLEIN:**

11 They're going to approve him?

12 **MS. OBY:**

13 They're going to approve his application right now.

14 **MR. KLEIN:**

15 Okay. Okay. That was all I needed to know.

16 **MS. OBY:**

17 Okay.

18 **MR. KLEIN:**

19 Do -- does anybody need copies of the -- the -- the revised statute?

20 **MS. OBY:**

21 We'll take one.

22 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

23 Is that Act -- it's Act --

24 **MR. KLEIN:**

25 Yes.

1 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

2 Yeah. Because I've got a new Act here. This is your Act.

3 **MR. KLEIN:**

4 That's -- that's the original Act of the -- of the -- constitutional
5 amendment, and then on the -- on the --

6 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

7 I got you.

8 **MR. KLEIN:**

9 Candace, in the back, they have the revised statute.

10 **MS. OBY:**

11 Okay.

12 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

13 And I applaud you for your efforts, because I know it was a hard
14 fought battle.

15 **MR. KLEIN:**

16 I thank you for your efforts. You were very instrumental in helping
17 us get this.

18 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

19 Chief, I would just ask that you let everybody know, if these
20 firefighters left the Port of New Orleans and went to a different fire
21 department, of course, they would be subject to having to get training
22 approved by LSU firefighting.

23 **MR. KLEIN:**

24 Yes, ma'am. That's been addressed, yes, ma'am.

25 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

1 So I don't want to, you know, get anybody blindsided by that.

2 **MR. KLEIN:**

3 It would be a completely different type of firefighter.

4 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

5 Right.

6 **MR. KLEIN:**

7 Yes. They understand that. We addressed that originally when we
8 made application for our firefighters, if they left the -- because at the
9 time, we had some cross -- we had one -- one or two gentlemen that were
10 working for Jefferson Parish as paid operators, and they couldn't draw it
11 for both things, you know.

12 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

13 Exactly.

14 **MR. KLEIN:**

15 When I told them that -- you know, you have to have the marine
16 firefighting training to do -- for the fire boat, and then if you went back to
17 Terrytown, you needed the --

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 Firefighter I.

20 **MR. KLEIN:**

21 Land-based firefighting training.

22 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

23 I can only -- I can only attest to, you know, in my department for 28
24 years, I was a structure firefighter, when we had to go out on the River
25 Road or the river for maritime, it was these kind of guys that -- that come

1 out. It's a totally ball game.

2 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

3 Right. I understand. And understand why we are so picky about the
4 firefighter certificate.

5 **MR. KLEIN:**

6 I totally understand.

7 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

8 I have -- I have been to court, in criminal court, over towns who've
9 used fraudulent certificates.

10 **MR. KLEIN:**

11 Right.

12 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

13 So we -- we go over these certificates with a fine-toothed comb to
14 make sure.

15 **MR. KLEIN:**

16 I appreciate that, and I applaud you for your -- you know, I just
17 didn't know why it was being questioned, and she explained it. And I
18 thanked her for it, because that was one of -- going to be one of my final
19 questions was, why was it questioned after 13 years, you know, of -- of
20 being paid.

21 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

22 Yes.

23 **MR. KLEIN:**

24 But I appreciate your explanation.

25 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

1 I'm going to make a motion that we approve Norman Landache's
2 application for supplemental pay.

3 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

4 Second.

5 **MR. RUIZ:**

6 Is there any more questions?

7 (No response.)

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

9 (All aye.)

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 The motion passes.

12 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

13 One -- one other thing. Now, on his back pay, we are not able to pay
14 it all at this point in time, because anything previous fiscal years, we will
15 have to go before the budget committee for that.

16 **MR. KLEIN:**

17 I understand.

18 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

19 So --

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 Candace, when was -- what's his date?

22 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

23 February 19th, huh?

24 **MR. KLEIN:**

25 No, October.

1 **MS. OBY:**

2 October of '19.

3 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

4 That's when he got it.

5 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

6 Oh, it's in this year?

7 **MS. OBY:**

8 Yeah.

9 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

10 Okay.

11 **MS. OBY:**

12 It's this year.

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 It's this fiscal --

15 **MS. OBY:**

16 It's this fiscal year.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 It's all within the fiscal year.

19 **MS. OBY:**

20 Yeah. He --

21 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

22 I was looking at his --

23 **MR. KLEIN:**

24 Hiring date?

25 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

1 10/15/18.

2 **MR. KLEIN:**

3 That's his hiring date.

4 **MS. OBY:**

5 Yeah, but he --

6 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

7 He didn't have prior service?

8 **MS. OBY:**

9 He didn't have prior service.

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 So we don't need Act 110 money?

12 **MS. OBY:**

13 No.

14 **MR. RUIZ:**

15 He will get all of his money at one time.

16 **MR. KLEIN:**

17 He'll get all of his money at one time. Right. Thank you very much.

18 I appreciate it.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 All right. Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal Port, New

21 Applications.

22 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

23 Okay. We were contacted by Plaquemines Port about a new district

24 application and legislation. It will -- the Port will begin on July 1st of

25 '16 -- I mean, of '20, and so we're talking along the same lines of -- about

1 the certification and then also the questionnaire for the -- the new district.

2 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

3 Who's here --

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 Who's here representing the Port?

6 **MR. MATTHEWS:**

7 Paul Matthews, Deputy Port Director of Plaquemines Port. We also
8 have Donald Durr who is Director of Security and Vessels for
9 Plaquemines Port.

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 Can you swear all of the gentlemen and ladies in, please?

12 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

13 (Witnesses sworn.)

14 **MR. MATTHEWS:**

15 Paul Matthews.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 Paul Matthews.

18 **MR. DURR:**

19 Donald Durr.

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 Durr.

22 **MS. MARUSAK:**

23 Jennifer Marusak.

24 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

25 Where is the sign-in sheet?

1 **MR. DURR:**

2 We signed in. Donald Durr, D-U-R-R.

3 **MS. MARUSAK:**

4 Jennifer Marusak, M-A-R-U-S-A-K.

5 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

6 I'm ready.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 Wait for --

9 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

10 A side bar?

11 **MR. RUIZ:**

12 A side bar for the --

13 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

14 Sorry, sorry.

15 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

16 Okay. Who's -- let me ask you this. Which one of you individuals
17 are going to sign the warrant if it -- if it's approved?

18 **MR. DURR:**

19 My name is Donald Durr again, Director of Port Security and
20 Vessels. So in y'all's world, gentlemen, and --

21 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

22 You're the chief?

23 **MR. DURR:**

24 -- I'm the chief. I'm the IC and chief of the department, so I would
25 be in the capacity signing the warrants.

1 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

2 Okay. And you -- how long y'all have had this -- have had this
3 department; do you know?

4 **MR. DURR:**

5 We've started since 1977. The fire boats went into service -- full
6 service, all the fire vessels, in 1983. So we've been missing the boat for a
7 long time, but, finally, we've got the legislation -- as Chief had just said
8 here -- Captain had just said here that -- and went through this process to
9 be approved.

10 We maintain the first 100 miles of the Mississippi River, 6,000
11 (unintelligible) comes through us before they get to you or anybody
12 else in the world. We ran -- we run 24/7, 365, with three vessels, two
13 57-footers and a 90-foot. We pump a capacity, just for y'all's knowledge,
14 is 15,000 and 20,000. Those vessels are manned 24/7. We assist all that
15 area and any district we can get to --

16 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

17 And how many --

18 **MR. DURR:**

19 -- St. Bernard, Jefferson Parish, anywhere.

20 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

21 How many individuals do you have employed?

22 **MR. DURR:**

23 We work full staff. We have 35 individuals.

24 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

25 Thirty-five individuals.

1 **MR. DURR:**

2 That's correct, that's full staff. We do not have full staff at this time
3 and will not be coming with you at full staff because we have new -- new
4 folks coming in, with turnover, things of that nature.

5 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

6 Well, then before --

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 What you mean full staff -- excuse me, Frank -- is that -- at the
9 maximum, when you have all your employees, you're going to have 35?

10 **MR. DURR:**

11 That's correct.

12 **MR. RUIZ:**

13 How many do you have today?

14 **MR. DURR:**

15 Today, we have 32.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 So you're missing three?

18 **MR. DURR:**

19 That's correct. And out of the 32, we probably have two or three,
20 sir, that don't have a year's service yet for the Commissioner's, so they're
21 -- they're coming -- I was not sure the process. Then I contacted Mr.
22 Mark Campbell. The applications were, if you want to call it, it's
23 Plaquemines Port Harbor and Terminal District, for short, we say
24 PPHTD, or you can say the Port, whatever y'all prefer.

25 So we made application as a district, and at the same time, the

1 gentlemen that are qualified have been sending in applications as well.

2 I'm not trying to put the cart before the horse, but I wasn't sure of the
3 process so I wanted to get application for the district in, and then also let
4 you start seeing the -- the qualifications. I've got guys 20-plus years,
5 numerous -- besides firefighting, Haz Mat, MCT, MEAR, so on and so
6 forth, so I wanted to let you guys see that, whoever is reviewing, to see
7 how many years we've been doing it and what we do.

8 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

9 Well, that's the process. You need to be approved as an -- an entity
10 first --

11 **MR. DURR:**

12 That's correct.

13 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

14 -- before you can have the application for the employees.

15 **MR. DURR:**

16 Yes, sir. I appreciate that. Mr. Mark clarified that. I have no
17 trouble kind of navigating and getting ahold of folks and trying to learn
18 it, because I was new, but I believe I've got a good grasp of how the
19 system works. I am definitely open for any suggestions from the Board
20 and any others in the room to move forward.

21 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

22 You --

23 **MR. DURR:**

24 But we wanted to be ahead of the eight ball and not behind it in
25 anticipation of July 1, 2020.

1 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

2 And you utilized the same language that the Port of Orleans used --

3 **MR. DURR:**

4 That is correct, sir.

5 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

6 -- to get your Act 95 passed?

7 **MR. DURR:**

8 Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Yes. It's Act 95, House Bill 87. Yes, sir.

9 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

10 All right, guys.

11 **MR. RUIZ:**

12 So it's -- so it was passed last session?

13 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

14 Yeah.

15 **MR. DURR:**

16 That is correct, yes, sir.

17 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

18 Brien, I have a question.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 Go ahead.

21 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

22 Are y'all a State agency?

23 **MR. DURR:**

24 Yes, sir. There's five deepwater ports in the state of Louisiana.

25 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

1 And it's State classified Civil Service?

2 **MR. DURR:**

3 Yes, sir -- no, sir.

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 No.

6 **MR. DURR:**

7 We actually are -- our employees fall under Plaquemines Parish
8 Government Civil Service. So we're not in State Civil Service, and we're
9 not in municipal fire or police Civil Service. It's Plaquemines Parish
10 Government, that's where -- the Port was run under the umbrella, that's of
11 2013, but -- that's the government employees, so that's why there's civil
12 service under PPG, Plaquemines Parish Government.

13 **MR. MATTHEWS:**

14 Paul Matthews here.

15 Let's be clear, in 1954, the Port of Plaquemines was created by the
16 State legislature. This is Louisiana Revised Statute Title 34, Section
17 1351 through 1365. The Port of Plaquemines is a political subdivision of
18 the State and a public corporation of Louisiana, just like the Port of New
19 Orleans and all the other 30-plus ports in the state of Louisiana.

20 Our Civil Service, we go through, as he said, Plaquemines Parish
21 Government, but we are a political subdivision of the State, created by
22 the State, a creature of the State.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 And, Paul, why you wanted to know that? I mean, you was trying to
25 figure out --

1 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

2 Well, typically, this is designed to help out the municipalities, that's
3 what this was all about. It was not designed to add on to the pay of State
4 employees. State employees, in this case Civil Service, they are set by
5 State Civil Service, they don't -- are not intended to get supplemental
6 pay.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 Correct.

9 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

10 It sounds like they don't have the State agency but their own Civil
11 Service. So I recognize why you say that, it's just that Kay brought up
12 the question and I thought it needed to be asked. Because their
13 application says they are a State agency.

14 **MR. RUIZ:**

15 And State agencies don't qualify for supplemental pay?

16 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

17 That's not what supplemental pay is designed for.

18 **MS. OBY:**

19 The statute is -- is conflicting. There are some -- there was verbiage
20 early on in the statute that says they must be a municipality, can't be a
21 State agency, and then -- their new statute it says, you know, these people
22 are eligible. So there is some -- there's conflicting verbiage in the statute.

23 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

24 You're talking about Act 95 that -- that they had passed that says,
25 every fire protection, blah, blah, blah?

1 **MS. OBY:**

2 Yeah. And it -- and it's verbatim, word for word, just like Port of
3 New Orleans. So Port of New Orleans is, you know -- we're just
4 bringing up the question. We're just -- did it -- did it --

5 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

6 We're probably -- we're going to probably ask Paul to do some
7 research with us and --

8 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

9 What we may end up doing is going back to the legislature and
10 getting them straighten this out, because it's worse and worse as opposed
11 to better.

12 **MR. RUIZ:**

13 Right. And I --

14 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

15 And understand that there are a lot of State employees who patrol
16 waterways, the Bridge Police, all of that stuff. It's -- it's -- you know,
17 unfortunately, now they are all looking --

18 **MS. OBY:**

19 I was --

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 Right. And I understand, because the gentleman -- the Captain from
22 New Orleans just got through saying that -- he showed that the Levee
23 Board Police and the River Police and -- wasn't on board with their bill
24 when they -- when they did it.

25 **MR. KLEIN:**

1 Right.

2 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

3 Right.

4 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

5 Well, just to say --

6 **MR. RUIZ:**

7 I was looking -- I was looking at that -- what do we need to do -- or
8 they need to do it, actually, to clear -- to clean this up in order to stop
9 everybody from --

10 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

11 And really we're mixing apples and oranges. We're starting to talk
12 about police, and that's a problem. They didn't -- they didn't define it
13 clear enough, and we ended up with a State agency jumping on board
14 with another -- with a similar statute that was done for New Orleans, we
15 have Southern University New Orleans jumped on board because it
16 wasn't clear. That's a different issue, that's police.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 Right.

19 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

20 With fire, we're starting to get more and more people jumping in,
21 throwing additional people in that maybe this wasn't intended for.

22 **MR. KLEIN:**

23 Well, what I wanted to say here was, y'all are referring to the statute
24 as far as the training, but the Act, which was Senate Bill No. 286, was a
25 constitutional amendment that was passed specifically to allow the State

1 Police departments and the -- police departments and fire departments
2 that was under the State umbrella to receive State supplemental pay. The
3 revised statute is to accept the training that these departments go through,
4 and the bill -- the bill itself is here. It was passed in 2007.

5 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

6 Your issue is training. That's -- that's a separate issue.

7 **MR. KLEIN:**

8 That's done. But what I'm talking -- referring to him, you know,
9 with relationship to that, the -- the reason why these people are getting
10 more and more coming for State supplemental pay is because of this
11 State constitutional amendment that was passed back in 2007 by a vote
12 of the people.

13 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

14 I understand that.

15 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

16 Let me ask you a question, Claude.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 Go ahead, Frank.

19 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

20 Let me ask you a question. So -- so clear me up with this, so if it's a
21 State agency, then it is in -- conflicting with the statute, but when these
22 bills come out and this is going through all the process, nobody up here
23 knows that it does that? I mean, this -- y'all are not aware that --

24 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

25 Not necessarily.

1 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

2 -- when they go through the legislature, they're scrutinized and --

3 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

4 The Department of Public Safety is typically notified if it's going to
5 be a fiscal impact, and we have -- we're very limited when it comes to
6 legislation as to what comments we might make. Because we can't
7 comment on whether or not we think it's good or we think it's bad, that's
8 not our arena. It is only a fiscal impact we have to report to the legislator
9 -- legislature what fiscal impact that bill may have. And we're limited, as
10 I was taught very early on, we have to look at the four corners of the bill,
11 okay, and not go any at all beyond that. So if we're looking at adding on
12 30 firefighters, the fiscal impact may be low. We're not allowed to give
13 information that, hey, this may cause another 300 to come on or that in
14 the past we have denied. So that's -- that's our only -- and, frankly, you
15 know --

16 **MR. KLEIN:**

17 Excuse me.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 Hold up. With all due respect, Ms. Kay, I just find it hard to
20 understand that if we have Acts in place for all these individuals and
21 these gentlemen go and get this Act and it conflicts with State law and
22 nobody knows about it until now. I just find that kind of confusing.

23 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

24 Did y'all know about any of this before?

25 **MS. OBY:**

1 About it --

2 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

3 No, no, no, about the bill being presented?

4 **MS. OBY:**

5 Before it came through?

6 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

7 Uh-huh.

8 **MS. OBY:**

9 Uh-uh.

10 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

11 I mean, no.

12 **MS. OBY:**

13 I mean, until -- until they -- somebody notified us that this Act was
14 at --

15 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

16 Right. I think the first notice we got was -- now, that may be a -- a
17 legislative issue. It may be a department issue.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 I don't know. It's an issue, because I wouldn't like to vote against a
20 State law from this one in conflict with that one, but, man, this thing
21 shouldn't have came to light now.

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 No. Your name, ma'am.

24 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

25 Your name?

1 **MS. MARUSAK:**

2 Jennifer Marusak, I'm Executive Director for the Ports Association,
3 and we were very specific when we addressed the committees, especially
4 the Appropriations Committee, that this legislation follows the model
5 that Port of New Orleans set in place, that again follows the State
6 constitution that allows simply the Plaquemines Port Harbor and
7 Terminal District firefighters to receive the supplemental pay -- pay. It
8 does not in any way open that door for Bridge Police or -- or Levee
9 Police or anything else. This was as tight as it possibly could have been
10 crafted where it only applies to these guys. Now, if there is other
11 legislation that applies that wants to go and add everybody else and their
12 mama, that's their problem. But we did this specifically so that these
13 guys could get treated the same as the other ones who are doing the same
14 jobs.

15 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

16 Yeah. I just -- I just don't -- I don't feel like it's -- the information we
17 have here under this Act that authorizes it, as far as I can see -- that
18 authorizes it, but then we have a caveat saying, you can't, because this --

19 **MS. OBY:**

20 Well, we're not saying that you can't. We're just -- we just wanted
21 the Board to under -- to acknowledge -- you know, to acknowledge and
22 understand that there's conflicting verbiage in the statute between one
23 section -- section A and section B and section C, they all address -- it's
24 very --

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 I've got --

2 **MS. OBY:**

3 It's very --

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 I've got a question for Paul. Whose responsibility is it to clean up
6 that language in that bill? Is it theirs --

7 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

8 The legislature.

9 **MR. RUIZ:**

10 -- the people who submitted the bill?

11 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

12 Well, the legislature --

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 The legislature ain't never going to hear it unless people over here
15 say, okay, we see what's wrong, you know, we need their help to -- to get
16 this done, is what -- the point that I'm making. Y'all don't see it, but we
17 see it as -- as a problem because if they've got -- we're going to probably
18 vote to give y'all the money in a few minutes.

19 But what I'm getting at is that, if there's a problem with the language
20 saying one thing in one section of it and saying something else, we can't
21 -- we can't go up there and -- and fix that.

22 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

23 No, no.

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 What I'm asking is that maybe y'all can go out there and -- and --

1 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

2 I think -- I think it wouldn't be them that will be fix it. I think it
3 would be the associations, the firefighters' associations, that should
4 probably be the ones to look at some cleanup. These -- these statutes, as
5 you know, are extremely old, and there is a lot of language that could be
6 cleaned up to make it a little easier to interpret.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 Okay.

9 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

10 You know, so it's not them. They did what they --

11 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

12 They did their homework.

13 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

14 They did their homework. They did it. But perhaps the -- you
15 know, perhaps we could try to all get together at some later point in
16 time to consider that.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 That lady back there has a question.

19 **MS. ST. PIERRE:**

20 Yes. This is -- I'm Erin St. Pierre with State Fire Marshal's Office.

21 Would we agree that that Act is the most recent expression of the
22 legislature?

23 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

24 Yeah. There's no problem with this Act. They -- they tailored it
25 very strictly. The issue that's being brought up here though, on the police

1 side, it was not done so well, you know. On the -- on the fire side, what
2 we're seeing is that more entities are following the correct procedure, and
3 maybe the legislature needs to be reminded of what this was originally
4 intended for. Now, that's -- that's a philosophical argument.

5 **MS. ST. PIERRE:**

6 And that's philosophical and not so much specific to --

7 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

8 No, not specific.

9 **MS. ST. PIERRE:**

10 No.

11 **MR. RUIZ:**

12 Okay. Frank?

13 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

14 I'm going to make a motion to approve the Plaquemines Port Harbor
15 and Terminal District for supplemental pay -- as an entity for
16 supplemental pay.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 We need a second.

19 **MR. THEVIS:**

20 I'll second.

21 **MR. RUIZ:**

22 We have a second.

23 Any more questions?

24 (No response.)

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

1 (All aye.)

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 Motion passes.

4 (Off-the record discussion.)

5 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

6 Go back on the record.

7 **MR. THEVIS:**

8 I have a question for the Port.

9 **MR. DURR:**

10 Yes, sir.

11 **MR. THEVIS:**

12 Are all the 33 full-time?

13 **MR. DURR:**

14 Yes, sir. I'll explain the structure to you if you'd like, briefly.

15 **MR. RUIZ:**

16 Go ahead. Say your name one more time.

17 **MR. DURR:**

18 Donald Durr, Director of Port Security and Vessels for Plaquemines
19 Port Harbor and Terminal District.

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 Thank you, sir.

22 **MR. DURR:**

23 We have a total of 35 when we're full staffed. They work 7:00 to
24 7:00, 12-hour shifts, on three separate vessels over 100 miles in the
25 river. There are no part-time employees, and there's no extra staffing. So

1 we fill the holes and the gaps. Like I said, we're three short now. We've
2 got some out with extended sick leave. We've got two vacancies. We're
3 trying to fill those, which is very hard.

4 I just want to let the Board know I really appreciate your vote today.
5 Entry-level pay for a rescue engineer that's you're expected to fight fire,
6 foam systems, pick up dead bodies, cadavers, just in this last month, two
7 chemical spills, a plume, DOTD's house -- bunkhouse burning down at
8 Ostrica Locks, this Port put all those out and took care of those problems,
9 okay, and the starting pay for a rescue engineer, our job is \$11.78 an
10 hour, \$11.78.

11 **MR. RUIZ:**

12 That's more than most firefighters make.

13 **MR. DURR:**

14 I don't know about that.

15 **MR. RUIZ:**

16 I do. I've been in this business a long time.

17 **MR. DURR:**

18 Got you. So, yes, it's 6,000-and-something.

19 We've been doing this for many, many years, a lot of guy -- I've got
20 guys that's 25-year employees. So I really appreciate y'all's time and
21 efforts today.

22 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

23 I appreciate your service.

24 **MR. DURR:**

25 If you have any other questions, please, please, reach out to me. If

1 you'd like, I'll give you cards. I've got additional job descriptions,
2 because there's numerous job descriptions. There's a captain on the
3 vessel, an engineer on the vessel, there's maintenance personnel. You
4 may look at that and say, what does a maintenance personnel doing
5 looking for supplemental pay? That maintenance personnel that's in
6 place has been -- has 20-plus years of landside firefighting and also has
7 maritime firefighting, and he's always on one of the vessels working on
8 the vessel. Myself, fire chief 15 years, in the service since 1996, the
9 landside and maritime side. So we've got both -- on both sides.

10 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

11 Well, that -- that would be where the applications come in.

12 **MR. DURR:**

13 Right. Again, I appreciate everybody's time here today. Thank you.

14 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

15 Okay. Thank y'all for coming.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 Thank y'all.

18 (Off-the-record discussion.)

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 Okay. Let's get back to our meeting.

21 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

22 All right. Let's go. What's next, Brien?

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 We've got military leave.

25 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

1 Again, like -- like Kay was saying, we're -- we're at a point now
2 where we're digging into everything and asking more questions and all,
3 and military leave keeps coming up. We have meetings three days a
4 week, and -- and -- with problems or issues or questions, and military
5 leave keeps coming up because the verbiage keeps changing and active
6 duty versus training, weekends, annual. So, anyhow, we brought this up
7 for discussion.

8 This was a gentleman that -- you have a copy of it, and it says
9 "active duty," but it also says "training," and it also says, "if this order is
10 a period of active duty." So we're just bringing it to the Board.

11 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

12 Right. What happened, we're seeing a lot of changes, you know.
13 Historically, military leave, both State Civil Service and most of the
14 municipalities, have always granted 15 days per year for training
15 purposes, military training purposes, paid leave for training, and then
16 anything over and above that, of course, was unpaid leave. And the
17 supplemental pay has always gone on, well, if the town or municipality
18 is paying the recipient, then, of course, he gets his supplemental pay.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 Correct.

21 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

22 If the town is not paying him, then he does not get his supplemental
23 pay, unless certain things come up. And, you know, back -- and this
24 goes all the way back to Desert Storm, the very first, and Billy Sanchez
25 is the first person in the world to stand up and say, we're going to pay

1 every person that goes off to fight the war supplemental pay. So it
2 became then, if you were on active duty, whether or not the town was
3 paying you, we would continue to pay the supplemental pay.

4 But now we're seeing the military department -- and I'm not sure
5 how this all -- but now they're calling it active duty training, and so we're
6 having a hard time deciphering is this truly active duty or is it really
7 training. And so that's why some of these -- and it's your application?

8 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

9 No.

10 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

11 Oh, I'm sorry.

12 **MR. RUIZ:**

13 No, no. He's --

14 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

15 I'm a future Board member.

16 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

17 Oh, oh, okay. I'm sorry.

18 So, yeah, so that's why this is getting brought up is that we wanted
19 y'all mainly to be aware and to understand we're trying to do a little more
20 research and trying to honor y'all's input also into how -- how should we
21 move forward on these things. Because some of these orders that we're
22 getting are like for year of active duty training.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 Sure.

25 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

1 Yeah.

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 I understand that. I've got one of my guys who was deployed over
4 there three different times, and he stayed --

5 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

6 But he's actually deployed.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 Yeah.

9 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

10 And so we don't have any way of knowing -- yes, if he's been
11 deployed. But what we're hearing from some other -- some -- getting
12 some other input from some military people that, well, that's not -- he's
13 not really being deployed. They just kind of have them in a holding
14 pattern.

15 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

16 But I think -- Kay, what I think -- what you're saying, your point is
17 -- is pretty accurate. But I think when they take any of the reservists and
18 bring them into a military base, it's active duty. They -- they might not
19 call it active duty training, but they bring them from wherever they're at
20 working say you're going on active for two weeks or a month or a year,
21 it's active, so that -- that --

22 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

23 But what we're hearing is that some of these are not actually going to
24 a base or going to a whatever, but they're doing extended weekend
25 training.

1 **MR. PARKER:**

2 In other words, it's not just a two-day, 48-hour training.

3 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

4 Right.

5 **MR. PARKER:**

6 They may be on a three-month training exercise.

7 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

8 No. They may actually only be doing their regular weekend things,
9 but they're calling it this whatever, and the people aren't -- aren't at their
10 jobs.

11 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

12 I mean, I -- I wasn't in any active reserves duty, but if you -- does
13 the military have any other language besides you're not on duty or you're
14 active duty? I mean --

15 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

16 Well, they're saying now that it's all active.

17 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

18 Okay.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 Who?

21 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

22 The military.

23 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

24 The military.

25 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

1 We're talking about someone from the Coast Guard.

2 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

3 Okay.

4 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

5 And I understand that's a --

6 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

7 So you're mentioning that they -- they will go on a weekend active
8 duty training or whatever, but Monday through Friday, they're not at their
9 -- their job at the fire station?

10 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

11 And that's what we're getting -- you know, we're getting -- people
12 are reporting it on the warrants, and we're trying to be able to advise
13 them, you know -- and I guess our old verbiage of, if you're paying them,
14 we're going to pay them, and, you know, we just want to make sure we're
15 all on the same page here. Because I know that y'all would get a lot of
16 phone calls if --

17 **MR. PARKER:**

18 Well, we need a better clarification on what the military is calling it.

19 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

20 Right. And what are we going to call --

21 **MS. OBY:**

22 And how do we know?

23 **MR. PARKER:**

24 Maybe --

25 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

1 Yes.

2 **MS. OBY:**

3 Like, this -- this is an example of the military orders that we receive,
4 and nowhere on here does it specifically say that this person is on active
5 duty, and this is one of probably 20 to 25 different orders that we receive.
6 They're all different, and they all look different, and we don't -- it's --

7 **MR. PARKER:**

8 Let me just say, they -- they have -- they call it, I think, Judge
9 Advocate General, which is basically like the head legal guy for the
10 military or something, and I could be a little wrong, but -- I've never
11 served, but there is one local in the area for the State or something like
12 that, a head guy, maybe you could try to reach out to them and say, look,
13 this is the deal. We're trying to get clarification on this. We're getting
14 terminology, and what does this terminology mean, and see if what
15 they're putting meets the criteria so you know a better definition.

16 **MS. OBY:**

17 So what is the Board's view on this military leave? It's our
18 understanding that, if they are on active duty, they can continue to
19 receive supplemental pay, but if they're --

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 Well, if they're on their two weeks training --

22 **MS. OBY:**

23 If they're on their two weeks training --

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 -- they should get it.

1 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

2 Wait a minute. Let me ask you --

3 **MS. OBY:**

4 -- and they're -- and they're using their --

5 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

6 They're getting paid by the --

7 **MS. OBY:**

8 So they're getting paid for their -- they get their two weeks training,
9 paid training, every year, 15 days is what it is. If they're on their two-
10 week training and they're still being paid by the department, we continue
11 to pay them. But it's once they've used up their 15 days and now they're
12 on a separate training, they're not being paid by the department anymore,
13 in the --

14 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

15 Question.

16 **MS. OBY:**

17 -- past, we have suspended their pay.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 Okay. Here's my question on this individual right here, Mr.
20 Mahaney; is that right?

21 **MS. OBY:**

22 Jordan, uh-huh.

23 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

24 Yeah. It looks like he is not being paid by the city from October 1st
25 to --

1 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

2 That's right, six months, uh-huh.

3 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

4 -- to March.

5 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

6 Yeah.

7 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

8 It means he's got a six-month tour of duty to Barksdale Air Force
9 Base.

10 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

11 Right.

12 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

13 That's got to be active duty.

14 **MS. OBY:**

15 And that's the question. It sounds like it's active duty, but I don't --
16 we don't have anything that's saying, this is active duty, and that's the
17 problem we run into.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 He -- they say military leave, but they don't say active duty? Why
20 would he be on a base?

21 **MS. OBY:**

22 This --

23 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

24 Why would he be on a base for six months if he wasn't on duty --
25 wasn't on active duty?

1 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

2 Well, that -- that one has a little more clarification than some of the
3 other ones that we're getting, okay. Because some of the other ones are --
4 they may have this same kind of order that says "active duty training,"
5 "active duty tour," but what they're really doing is reporting every
6 weekend, okay. So they're not at the fire station, and it may be their
7 scheduled days, but they're having to do their training so they're going to
8 do their training. Once they have reached that 15-day limit, then the
9 town quits paying them.

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 That's -- that's my -- my problem. Because there's places that quit
12 paying them, and then there's places that doesn't quit paying them.

13 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

14 You're exactly right.

15 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

16 Right.

17 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

18 And we don't --

19 **MR. PARKER:**

20 Sometimes, you don't (unintelligible) at all.

21 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

22 Yeah, yeah.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 I mean, so how -- you know, I kind of agree with him, with -- with
25 Richie. We need to get in touch with somebody in the military to -- to

1 define some of these things that we don't know what they're really doing.

2 I mean, I don't know how to do it. I really don't.

3 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

4 Well, honestly, we --

5 **MR. RUIZ:**

6 I mean, I'm asking a question here.

7 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

8 What about -- Kay, when you get these applications, what does the
9 city tell you these guys are on?

10 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

11 That's the problem. The city doesn't --

12 **MS. OBY:**

13 They don't know.

14 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

15 Yeah. They don't know themselves a lot of times.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 They don't know.

18 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

19 And understand --

20 **MR. PARKER:**

21 That don't surprise me.

22 **MS. OBY:**

23 They just know that they have --

24 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

25 I understand that -- I'm sorry. Our -- you know, we have to -- we

1 take the -- the fire chiefs and the police chiefs and the mayors, what they
2 say to us on a wing and a prayer, because we don't know what's actually
3 going on in that department. Our only notification is the warrant. If they
4 write on the warrant that this person is on unpaid leave, then we're going
5 to suspend that supplemental pay for that period of time. Then they send
6 in a military order that says, well, they're on active duty. And so there's
7 our dilemma. What do we do?

8 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

9 Right.

10 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

11 A lot of these towns don't even have the orders at the time the person
12 leaves, okay. So we just need to -- to do this, and I -- you know, I'm
13 saying -- and, Mark, you feel to come in -- if -- you know, I say we need
14 to put this totally on the towns. They have to tell us whether they're
15 paying the person or not paying the person.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 Okay. Charles had a question.

18 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

19 Well, we've got a couple guys on military leave, and we're fighting
20 that battle -- I'm sorry, Charles Williams, Lafayette Fire -- and the city
21 doesn't want to touch it. They -- we've been in touch with JAG. We're
22 trying to -- we've got a guy who's been on military leave -- I've served for
23 14 years in my department, I've seen him once in 14 years, and he's on
24 active duty, but he's never oversees, not in combat, but he's still holding
25 his position. He's not receiving State pay.

1 But we have another guy who is a recruiter, still employed by the
2 department, not receiving pay, but is receiving State pay. Now, that's not
3 active duty in my mind. He's got a whole other job as a recruiter, but he's
4 still receiving State pay.

5 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

6 And that's exactly the problem.

7 **MS. OBY:**

8 He's a military --

9 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

10 Is the city --

11 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

12 He's a military recruiter.

13 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

14 Excuse me, Brien. Ronnie Schillace speaking.

15 Is the city still paying him?

16 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

17 No. He does not receive a paycheck.

18 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

19 No. The one that you made reference to that is getting State pay.

20 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

21 No. He doesn't not -- no, because he's -- he's -- he's been gone for
22 five years, not -- I haven't seen him in --

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 Why the chief hasn't taken his name off the warrant?

25 **MS. OBY:**

1 But he's still employed.

2 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

3 He's still employed.

4 **MS. OBY:**

5 They're holding his spot.

6 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

7 Yeah, yeah.

8 **MS. OBY:**

9 Because he's on military leave, they can't fire him.

10 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

11 Yeah. We can't let him go, but he's holding up a position, a
12 promotion.

13 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

14 Right. But is the city still paying his salary?

15 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

16 No.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 No.

19 **MS. OBY:**

20 He's on leave.

21 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

22 He's on leave.

23 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

24 So all he's getting is State pay?

25 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

1 On the roster, everything, it says military leave.

2 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

3 Okay. I've --

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 Okay.

6 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

7 Everything on him is military leave.

8 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

9 I still have the floor, I believe.

10 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

11 Oh, I'm sorry.

12 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

13 All right. Let me get this straight. So he's getting State pay?

14 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

15 That's what I was informed, right.

16 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

17 He's -- he's considered a city employee, but the city is not paying his
18 salary, but he's getting State pay, but he's working full time for the
19 military, basically?

20 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

21 Basically.

22 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

23 Are you sure he is receiving?

24 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

25 How can the city -- how can he still be a city employee if the city is

1 not paying him?

2 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

3 -- or is he in suspended status? Do you have the warrant?

4 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

5 No.

6 **MR. RUIZ:**

7 This is what the problem is. He's -- he's on extended --

8 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

9 She said -- the secretary -- I'm sorry. The secretary said it was -- it
10 had something to do with they're on active duty assignment for reserve
11 detail.

12 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

13 That's correct.

14 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

15 And so he is --

16 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

17 So he is on active duty.

18 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

19 He has not been on the department for at least four years.

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 And that's what the problem is.

22 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

23 Reporting for duty.

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 He is on a -- he's right. They can't fire him because they gave him --

1 he's working.

2 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

3 And he's under the active duty when we said if they go to active duty
4 they get -- continue to get supplemental pay.

5 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

6 His active duty is not what I consider active duty, if you're sitting
7 there in an office --

8 **MS. OBY:**

9 He's recruiting --

10 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

11 He's not in wartime?

12 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

13 No, no.

14 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

15 I'm seeing Michelle's face is cringing.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 Her face is cringing. One at a time.

18 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

19 Well, as you can see, we almost need to do this on a case-by-case
20 basis. What we would like is a bright line, and where do you draw the
21 line, but it doesn't look like we're going to be able to get that.

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 Go ahead, Richie.

24 **MR. PARKER:**

25 I -- I understood what you're saying, exactly what you're describing.

1 We had one that retired a few years ago from the military. When he
2 finished his first tour over there in the Gulf, he come back home, and he
3 was a -- in the Army Reserves at the time before he went back full time
4 then. In lieu of taking a local job, he took a job at Jackson Barracks, and
5 he reported to work every day there, that was his every day job, and he
6 wasn't in the fire service or anything, you know. And that was his every
7 day job, and he was considered active duty because he reported every
8 single day. He wasn't overseas. He reported right in New Orleans. He
9 would leave Mandeville and go to New Orleans every day for an eight-
10 hour day and go back home, and that's considered active duty because he
11 reported every single day.

12 **MR. RUIZ:**

13 But they've got numerous jobs at the Jackson Barracks that are like
14 that. I mean, I live in St. Bernard. The Barracks is right there on my
15 border, so a lot of the people in St. Bernard, they work at the Barracks.

16 So what he's saying, this gentleman is saying over here, Mr. Charles
17 is saying, is this guy is getting \$500. He's on active -- permanent active
18 duty.

19 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

20 Not wartime, just active in the military. That's --

21 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

22 We're fighting that like --

23 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

24 Kay would like the floor.

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 Yes, ma'am.

2 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

3 Would y'all have a problem with us sending out a notification to all
4 of the towns to say, please, tell us if you have any employees on military
5 leave -- or military duty from your departments and whether you are
6 paying them or not paying them and let us do research to see -- like in
7 this case, to see if it is a -- but we need to have some place to start.

8 **MR. RUIZ:**

9 You want a motion?

10 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

11 You need -- you need a motion to that?

12 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

13 And also to include that we -- until we make any further progress on
14 this that, if -- that we continue with, if the town pays them, we pay them.
15 If the town has them on leave without pay, they're on leave, they're not
16 getting their supplemental pay, unless they can fully document to us that
17 they have been deployed.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 Military duty.

20 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

21 Right.

22 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

23 Military duty or --

24 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

25 I mean, are you okay with that?

1 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

2 Yeah.

3 **MR. RUIZ:**

4 Y'all good?

5 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

6 That's it. I think that's an in-house thing. Y'all could --

7 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

8 That gives us a place to start.

9 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

10 Yeah.

11 **MR. RUIZ:**

12 I say make a motion.

13 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

14 I make a motion that you -- you send that letter out to all the
15 jurisdictions specifying military status on their employees when they're
16 not in the department, specific military status.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 Second?

19 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

20 I'll second.

21 **MR. RUIZ:**

22 We have a second.

23 All in favor, signify by saying "aye."

24 (All aye.)

25 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

1 And then we will report back to y'all what we find.

2 **MS. OBY:**

3 So we still don't know whether to pay him or not?

4 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

5 You're going to pay him for -- if the city is paying him for sure.

6 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

7 But the city is not paying him.

8 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

9 The city is not paying him.

10 **MS. OBY:**

11 The city is not paying him. He's out -- out for six months.

12 **MR. PARKER:**

13 Then we stick to what we just dealt that if the city is not paying him,
14 then --

15 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

16 We need to make a determination --

17 **MS. OBY:**

18 And we don't have anything that specifically says he's on active
19 deployment.

20 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

21 Well, he's at Barksdale Air Force Base. He's not deployed
22 anywhere.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 But if he's not at his house, he's deployed.

25 **MS. OBY:**

1 But --

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 That's my opinion. I'm sorry, but that's my opinion.

4 **MR. THEVIS:**

5 As long as he's at a military base.

6 **MR. RUIZ:**

7 He's at a military base. He's deployed.

8 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

9 I would think he's --

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 If he's working at a drugstore -- like this -- the other person who
12 reports to an office that they can rent downstairs is not military duty.

13 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

14 And if we were to take this person off, he would have every right to
15 get some clarification from the military to his status and come back and
16 we could put him back on and back pay him, but we have to start
17 somewhere.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 I can only think --

20 **MR. THEVIS:**

21 But the city is not paying him?

22 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

23 The city is not paying him.

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 Go ahead, Frank.

1 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

2 I can only -- I can only say that, from my opinion of this gentleman
3 being six months at Barksdale Air Force Base, he's on duty.

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 I agree with that.

6 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

7 He's on military duty.

8 **MR. RUIZ:**

9 Go ahead.

10 **MR. THEVIS:**

11 But the city is not paying him.

12 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

13 No.

14 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

15 No.

16 **MR. THEVIS:**

17 So --

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 That's besides the point though.

20 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

21 No, that is the point.

22 **MR. THEVIS:**

23 That is the whole point, because --

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 There's a lot of cities that don't pay people that are on active duty.

1 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

2 So they can't use that as a bright line.

3 **MS. OBY:**

4 But what she's -- what she's saying is, if they don't -- what she said
5 was, if they don't pay them, we're not going to pay them, unless we have
6 something very specific that says they are on active duty.

7 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

8 Exactly.

9 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

10 That's the question. You want specifically --

11 **MS. OBY:**

12 So we need some -- a piece of paper that says he is on active duty,
13 and then we will pay him.

14 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

15 The military don't do that.

16 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

17 Okay. Well, you -- you need an answer to say that --

18 **MS. OBY:**

19 Some paper to -- some order to specifically say "active duty."

20 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

21 I'm trying to clear this up here, Candace.

22 **MS. OBY:**

23 Okay.

24 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

25 You need something to say that -- whenever they leave to go on

1 active duty, you need to know determination whether it's deployment or
2 on duty, and -- and this Board will have to make a decision on whether
3 they want to pay them on duty or deployed. We already know if they are
4 deployed, we're going to keep paying them. We already know that.

5 **MS. OBY:**

6 I just want to know if they're on active duty.

7 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

8 Well, active duty is --

9 **MS. OBY:**

10 I don't need to know if they're deployed or not.

11 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

12 Well, active duty -- I can tell you, this guy at Barksdale, that's active
13 duty.

14 **MS. OBY:**

15 I know but, I mean, the -- there's no reason why somebody can't
16 provide us something written that says that.

17 **MR. PARKER:**

18 Originally, the documentation doesn't say that.

19 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

20 Yes.

21 **MR. RUIZ:**

22 I agree --

23 **MS. OBY:**

24 We have to be investigators every time, like, well, how long is he
25 gone, he's gone for a month, is that active duty? I don't know. It's two

1 months, is that active duty?

2 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

3 No. We're going to go by what the town says, and then the
4 employee would have -- it would be on his shoulders to get something.

5 **MS. OBY:**

6 And a lot of the towns say they don't know whether it's active duty
7 or not.

8 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

9 And the Board -- the Board at that point, way back in Desert Storm,
10 did not vote on active duty. They voted on the deployment.

11 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

12 Deployment.

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 Yeah.

15 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

16 Okay. That's the whole key. Anybody who was going -- stepping
17 foot in the sand, was going to continue to receive their supplemental pay,
18 not people that are just going to work at an air base for six months.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 Dwayne has a question.

21 **MR. THEVIS:**

22 This guy -- this guy here, I guarantee if you stop paying him because
23 it does not say active deployment, he's going to find a way to get his
24 money.

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 Oh, yeah.

2 **MR. THEVIS:**

3 So he's going to go to the city or whatever, so it puts the burden on
4 him and not y'all to provide the documentation that we need --

5 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

6 Exactly.

7 **MR. THEVIS:**

8 -- to say that he's on active, he's going -- or on active duty.

9 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

10 That's exactly right.

11 **MR. PARKER:**

12 He's going to go to his CO and ask him to give him paperwork that
13 says he's on active duty and bring it back.

14 **MR. THEVIS:**

15 Correct. So, I mean, I'll recommend -- or I make a motion that --

16 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

17 And it shouldn't -- it's not active duty, let's remember. It's deployed.
18 Are you deployed in the military?

19 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

20 It says up top "active duty training/active duty tour." So are they
21 saying, and are we to assume, that active duty training is the same thing
22 as active duty tour?

23 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

24 Well, understand, that's on their form, that's not what --

25 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

1 Yeah.

2 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

3 Yeah. That's just their form.

4 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

5 Yeah.

6 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

7 You know, I've just got to be honest, again, you know, when a guy
8 has to go spend six months at an Air Force base under the military, he's
9 on active duty. He could be deployed from that point. He could be sent
10 someplace -- someplace else from that day. He's on duty. He's active
11 duty.

12 **MR. RUIZ:**

13 I know but I think what they're trying to do is, they're just trying to
14 get -- say, we -- if we denied this gentleman today, it's not that they don't
15 want to pay him, they just want him to get the valid paperwork.

16 **MS. OBY:**

17 Exactly.

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 Valid paperwork, that way, he's going to continue to get it.

20 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

21 I'm good with that.

22 **MS. OBY:**

23 We know what to do.

24 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

25 Yes. Thank y'all.

1 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

2 I'm good with that.

3 **MR. RUIZ:**

4 All right. Let's see here. Applications review.

5 **MS. OBY:**

6 All right. I'll talk about that one in a second.

7 So Justin Arnone, we -- we reviewed his application. Everything is
8 in order. It's just his position is Chief of Medical Services, not
9 firefighter. Like we normally see firefighter or chief firefighter or -- he's
10 -- his position is Chief of Medical Services, so he mainly performs
11 EMS-type work, so we wanted this to be a specific item that the Board
12 reviewed and approved based on his title.

13 **MR. PARKER:**

14 Did he have prior service?

15 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

16 Not -- not -- no.

17 **MS. OBY:**

18 No.

19 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

20 No. That's what I'm talking about. My question --

21 **MR. RUIZ:**

22 So do we need to ask this gentleman to come in front of the Board to
23 see if he responds to fires?

24 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

25 It looks me -- gentlemen, it looks to me like this is a new hire right

1 off the street that has no prior fire service in any department.

2 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

3 Not in the state of Louisiana.

4 **MS. OBY:**

5 No. He has no prior --

6 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

7 Notice he has a reciprocity certificate.

8 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

9 Yeah, I see that.

10 **MS. OBY:**

11 Wait, that's his -- oh.

12 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

13 Yeah, but it still says --

14 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

15 He was in Texas. He came from Texas.

16 **MS. OBY:**

17 Oh, okay, yeah.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 Yeah. Okay. Well, he may have some service from Texas.

20 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

21 Of course, we're not going to count that as prior service.

22 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

23 No. You can't. You know, we have individuals in departments that
24 have come up through the ranks that obtain chief of wellness, chief of
25 other things, and we -- we continue to pay them, but they started at

1 firefighter and came all the way up. This gentleman seems to have come
2 from outside Louisiana who has no municipal -- no municipal service,
3 and he's starting as a chief of a -- Chief of -- what is it -- Medical
4 Services?

5 **MR. RUIZ:**

6 Right.

7 **MS. OBY:**

8 Chief of Medical Services.

9 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

10 Is that a Civil Service kind of a thing?

11 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

12 Yeah, yeah.

13 **MR. THEVIS:**

14 Responds to fire -- calls to the wrecks and most medical operations.
15 He does not fight fires.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 Right.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 That's right.

20 **MR. THEVIS:**

21 He was specified to the wreck -- to Emergency Medical Services.

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 Yeah.

24 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

25 And it's already been determined way back when that EMS did not

1 qualify.

2 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

3 I -- I may not be here, but I -- I would make a motion to bring this
4 gentleman before the Board for testimony as to specific on his duties and
5 experience.

6 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

7 Why don't you deny it and he has the chance to appeal?

8 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

9 Ms. Kay, I'm not going to deny it. I'm going -- I'm going to have
10 him here to -- to ask -- to answer the questions of the Board and to the
11 newest Board member if I'm not -- no longer here. I can't -- can't vote to
12 approve it today, is what I'm saying.

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 I need a second.

15 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

16 I'll second that motion.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 Is there any more questions to request this gentleman to appear in
19 front of the Board?

20 (No response.)

21 Hearing none, we'll vote.

22 All in favor, signify by saying "aye."

23 (All aye.)

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 Motion passes.

1 Zachary Fire Department, Gregory Noel.

2 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

3 This is another one of these that we've talked -- the Board has talked
4 to -- we've brought to the Board before where prior service is -- is not
5 given. The prior fire department, I think it was Hammond, won't
6 respond, and so they're sending a letter from the State Retirement Board
7 saying he was depositing money during that time. Will you accept that?

8 **MR. RUIZ:**

9 Can we go back and look in our records and see if this gentleman
10 was getting prior supplemental pay?

11 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

12 We did, and he was not.

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 He was not?

15 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

16 No, sir.

17 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

18 You said he was employed -- previously employed by Hammond?

19 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

20 By Hammond, District 6.

21 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

22 Yeah.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 What's that, Ronnie?

25 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

1 District 6.

2 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

3 There is no District 6 in Hammond.

4 **MR. THEVIS:**

5 I'm thinking, is it -- wasn't Gregory with Hammond Rural, Ronnie?

6 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

7 There's only two fire districts in Tangipahoa Parish, and that's
8 District 1 which is Amite, and the rest of the entire parish is Fire
9 District 2.

10 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

11 So District 6 doesn't exist?

12 **MR. THEVIS:**

13 No, they don't exist.

14 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

15 He says he was with Hammond. Now, maybe -- maybe it's --

16 **MR. THEVIS:**

17 Wasn't he with Hammond Rural?

18 **MS. OBY:**

19 What is District 6? There's no District 6 somewhere else?

20 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

21 There's a District 6 in Baton Rouge.

22 **MS. OBY:**

23 Well, that's probably --

24 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

25 Yeah, because he is Zachary.

1 **MS. OBY:**

2 Because he's with Zachary now.

3 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

4 Because this is Danny Kimball.

5 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

6 District 6, that's the fire department that Butch Browning was chief
7 of before he went to Zachary -- I mean, not Zachary, Gonzales.

8 **MR. THEVIS:**

9 Gonzales.

10 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

11 Baton Rouge, Fire District 6.

12 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

13 I can't believe they --

14 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

15 As far as Hammond, they --

16 **MS. OBY:**

17 District 6, we don't have -- they're not receiving supplemental pay.

18 **MR. SCHILLACE:-**

19 As far as Hammond --

20 **MS. OBY:**

21 Are they, Mark? I wonder if all of those people are being reported
22 under the Baton Rouge warrant.

23 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

24 I mean, there is a District 6 fire department somewhere?

25 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

1 Yes.

2 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

3 And this gentleman worked there for eight months, and we can't get
4 proof of that, other than from the Firefighter Retirement System?

5 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

6 And it's recent.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 Dwayne has a question for you, Ronnie.

9 **MR. THEVIS:**

10 Gregory Noel, wasn't he part of Hammond Rural?

11 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

12 Gregory Noel?

13 **MR. THEVIS:**

14 Yes, Gregory Noel, wasn't he part of Hammond Rural?

15 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

16 I don't know. I -- I can call Rural.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 No, that's all right.

19 **MR. THEVIS:**

20 I think he was -- I think he was a member of Hammond Rural, if I'm
21 not mistaken.

22 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

23 I'll find out. I'll give the Chief a call real quick.

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 Let's take a time out.

1 (Off-the-record discussion.)

2 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

3 You ready to go back on the record?

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 Yeah.

6 **MS. OBY:**

7 Okay.

8 **MR. RUIZ:**

9 Frank checked with the pension -- go ahead, Frank.

10 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

11 Yeah. He was a -- he was a firefighter in East Baton Rouge Parish.
12 District 6 is part of that entity in East Baton Rouge. Now, it could be that
13 department that Butch Browning was in. I don't know the name of it, but
14 it's -- it's classified as District 6, that's the District 6 -- that's how they --
15 that's how Jason told me. It's District 6. So he definitely had time, and
16 why we didn't get anything else besides that, I -- I don't know.

17 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

18 Well, we can't take the retirement system's word.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 No.

21 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

22 Because they don't know if he was eligible for supplemental pay
23 during that period.

24 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

25 No, no. Well, he was getting it though.

1 **MS. OBY:**

2 No.

3 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

4 He wasn't?

5 **MS. OBY:**

6 No.

7 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

8 No. He was never paid supplemental pay.

9 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

10 Okay. Yeah, he -- he hadn't made a -- well, he hadn't made a year
11 yet.

12 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

13 It has to come from the district.

14 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

15 Okay. He hadn't made a year yet.

16 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

17 It has to come from District 6.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 Now he's almost two years. He hadn't made a year yet. He was
20 employed from --

21 **MR. RUIZ:**

22 Who's the fire chief at District 6?

23 **COURT REPORTER:**

24 I don't know now, but Joel Hancock was the chief just until recently.

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 Maybe that's why they're having difficulty. Okay.

2 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

3 Well, maybe if there is a transition going on, but, I mean, certainly
4 there's somebody in that district.

5 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

6 No. This is -- was back in August that he worked --

7 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

8 That's true. Have they tried lately?

9 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

10 I don't know.

11 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

12 Well, you definitely -- definitely need more information before we
13 authorize this gentleman's supplemental pay.

14 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

15 Yeah.

16 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

17 I mean, if you want to make it pending -- a motion pending that
18 additional information from the District 6 fire department, I'll make that
19 motion.

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 Do you understand what the motion is? He's -- we're going to --
22 we're going to approve it --

23 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

24 Pending the information.

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 -- pending that y'all get the information.

2 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

3 Don't say approved.

4 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

5 Hold on. Hold on. I'll make the motion that we authorize to receive
6 additional information for Mr. Noel's application for pending approval.

7 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

8 To defer, defer pending approval?

9 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

10 Kay, my motion is what it is.

11 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

12 Okay.

13 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

14 You send the letters out, get the additional information for pending
15 approval.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 Second?

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 I'm not deferring anything.

20 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

21 I second that motion.

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 Any more discussion?

24 (No response.)

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

1 (All aye.)

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 Motion passes.

4 Okay. Applications.

5 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

6 I had a bunch of them.

7 **MR. PARKER:**

8 I have one --

9 **MR. RUIZ:**

10 We need to make -- we need to amend the agenda. Motion to
11 amend?

12 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

13 Sure. What do you want to amend?

14 **MR. PARKER:**

15 I have an application that I talked to you yesterday.

16 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

17 Oh, yeah.

18 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

19 Are we making a motion?

20 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

21 Yeah. You've got a motion to amend. Second?

22 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

23 To add to the agenda.

24 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

25 Second.

1 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

2 Motion from Dwayne Thevis, Ronnie seconded.

3 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

4 Yeah.

5 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

6 All in favor, Brien?

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 All in favor, signify by saying "aye."

9 (All aye.)

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 Motion passes.

12 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

13 Okay. All --

14 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

15 You have him?

16 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

17 Yes.

18 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

19 All the paperwork in order for approval?

20 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

21 Give us a moment to review it, please.

22 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

23 There's one mistake on it.

24 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

25 What you got, Paul?

1 **MR. SCHEXNAYDER:**

2 It's not a mistake (unintelligible).

3 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

4 All the paperwork in order?

5 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

6 I've got a -- I do have a question. No. 104, Ponchatoula Fire, Joshua
7 White. I know we did a bunch of -- but, quite naturally, you tell him to
8 list it as full time, apparently. I mean, I know this guy is a full-time
9 Tangi -- Hammond Rural firefighter, which they are not eligible for -- I
10 don't think they're eligible for this. He may have left and gone to
11 Ponchatoula I'm not aware of, but...

12 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

13 Well, his application came in and came in under a Ponchatoula fire
14 department.

15 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

16 Let me make -- can I make a quick call?

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 Sure.

19 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

20 I mean, y'all would put it under the party that it made application for,
21 Ponchatoula.

22 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

23 Right.

24 (Off-the-record discussion.)

25 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

1 I've got -- I've got the answer to --

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 Go back on the record.

4 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

5 Okay. In reference to No. 104, Ponchatoula Fire, Joshua Aaron
6 White, he is a full-time firefighter for Ponchatoula. He is part time for
7 Hammond Rural. He just changed his status from full-time Hammond to
8 full-time at Ponchatoula.

9 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

10 I'll make a motion to approve the new applications in globo.

11 **MR. RUIZ:**

12 Second?

13 **MR. THEVIS:**

14 I'll second.

15 **MR. RUIZ:**

16 All in favor of the motion, signify by saying "aye."

17 (All aye.)

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 Motion passes.

20 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

21 All right, guys. This will probably be my last meeting. I've enjoyed
22 working with you guys. Good luck to the new Board member.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 Thank you for your service, Frank.

25 **MR. CUSIMANO:**

1 That's why I'm still here.

2 **MS. OBY:**

3 Are we ending our meeting?

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 We need a motion to adjourn.

6 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

7 I'll make a motion to adjourn.

8 **MR. RUIZ:**

9 Second.

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MEETING ADJOURNED

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CERTIFICATE

I, MICHELLE S. ABADIE, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this hearing was reported, and during which, testimony was taken after duly being sworn by me, that on March 12, 2020, 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 102, 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

MICHELLE S. ABADIE, CCR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER