**CANDY DIEZ:** Let me know when you're ready. Brien, you ready for me to call roll?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**  Yes, I'm ready to call the meeting to order. Roll call please.

**CANDY DIEZ:** OK. Brien Ruiz?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**  Here.

**CANDY DIEZ:** Dwayne Thevis?

**DWAYNE THEVIS:** Here.

**CANDY DIEZ:** Richard Parker?

**RICHARD PARKER:** Here.

**CANDY DIEZ:** Ronnie Schillace?

**RONALD SCHILLACE:** Here.

**CANDY DIEZ:** Charles Williams?

**CHARLES WILLIAMS:** Here.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**  We have a quorum. Before we get into the agenda, I’d like everybody to the welcome Chief Marty and Chief Yates. They are going to be our two new members added to the board once the Senate approves everybody. They’ve got to reapprove all of us, too, at the same time. But we are sitting members so that's why we can conduct business today, but all of us are all up for reappointment, too. So we all will hopefully all get our letters around the same time. If not, the board will continue to do business until we all get our reappointment letters and I will notify Candy when that will be in effect. So we are planning on trying to have a meeting in April at our legislative conference which is the 14th, 15th and 16th of April. I talked to Candy and I talked with Chad, and it's going to happen, but we just don't know what date yet that it’s going to be finalized.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

So the meeting we have already scheduled for May, that's scrapped? So the next meeting will be in April or something?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

That's going to be scrapped.

**CHARLES WILLIAMS:**

Where is that going to be at, sir?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Baton Rouge. I have no clue where we're going to meet at. It's going to be one of the hotels in downtown Baton Rouge.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

I was just asking the city.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

No, no. It's at the legislative conference.

**CHARLES WILLIAMS:** Thank you. That narrowed it down a lot, folks.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We meet in Baton Rouge all the time. All right, let's get back to the agenda. We need the approval of the Minutes.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

I make a motion to approve the minutes that we’ve seen.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

I second the motion.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We have a second. All in favor by saying aye.

SPEAKERS:

Aye.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Motion passes. We have no appeals.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Old business. Lafourche Parish Fire District #3. Juan Carlos Suarez. At the last meeting, we voted to give him back pay of $10,000.00. He has since then rejoined the fire department. That was back pay - that was Act 110 money that we owed him. I’m pretty sure it was the last meeting, but maybe it wasn't, but I know we discussed how much we were going to go back and pay people. The amount was $10,000.00 Ronnie found in the law that we can pay at one particular time. At a previous meeting, the board set policy that we would only go back two years even if we owe them three years or if we owe them five years, the board agreed that we would only go back for two years and that's when Ronnie found the law saying you can only pay $10,000 at a time. So what we need to discuss on Carlos is that he’s also owed another $4000.00 besides the $10,000.00. Are we going to pay him the other $4,000.00 or are we going to ….. because it might not be $4,000.00, but two years is how much back pay?

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

Fourteen, Fourteen four, I think.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Something like that. So do we want to go ahead and ask for the other four if he can't get it all at one time or do we just want to hold to the policy?

**CANDY DIEZ:**

I just wanted to make a correction to the amount that we would still owe him. It's $5,460.00. We owed him $15,460.00 initially so….

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

OK.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

So he got the 10 already?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

No.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

He hasn’t gotten it yet because it hasn't been approved on the ACT 110 by JLCB yet, but that's the set amount that we have on our spreadsheet to get approved.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

All right, well. I guess my suggestion would be – is to get advice from our legal and to see about that so-called one-time payment of up to $10,000.00 - if that's a finished deal or can that be a reoccurring or that may be something we may have to look into and advise the board or if you have an answer now.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Natalya had prepared me for the question so I had a little bit of a chance to look into it. Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Go ahead.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I found the statute that is in your sup-pay chapter - not the police, this is just fire. And it says if you determine that supplemental pay is due and eligible to a recipient for back periods of time, you certify the payment to the JLCB and upon certification the JLCB may, in its discretion, approve the payment, all or a portion thereof. So whatever - I don't see a $10,000.00 limit in here so I'm not saying that doesn't exist, Mr. Schillace as he pointed out earlier said he found that in the law. I'd have to know the citation of that law to see if it applies here and I can look at that. Ronnie and I can follow up on that to look and see if it applies here.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

From what Ronnie explained to the board the last time, the most you can pay him at one time is $10,000.00. It doesn't say that we can't come back and repay the extra $5,000.00. It's up to the board to decide whether we want to pay him the extra $5,000.00 after he gets the initial $10,000.00.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Yes, sir. And I agree with your being able to pay the whole amount. I just, I'm not aware of that law that says you can only pay it in $10,000.00 chunks or less than $10,000.00. I'd like to see that. But as far as I found in your law, there was no limitation on the amount as long as you certify it and you submit it to JLCB and they agree to pay.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Well, he can't get any of that money anyway until it goes in front of Act 110, the Legislature. So we’ve got time to figure it out.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yes, to the JLCB. Right.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

I just wanted to bring it up - I just wanted to bring it up for everybody else on the Board to understand what we can do and then you can look into it and see if you find that $10,000.00. If there ain't no $10,000.00 - maybe Ronnie misread that but I doubt it because he read the whole law to us that day. It's there somewhere.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I know Ronnie is half lawyer anyway.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

So that's why.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

They always have referred to him and his expertise, so I'm not saying that he's wrong. I'm just saying I need to look into that particular part.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

So maybe when we meet in April, we'll have more definition because I really don't believe they're going to meet between now and April.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

No.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

They’ve been meeting once a year and that's been in November.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Now I have a question for y’all. It's within your discretion to determine as an administrative body - to determine how much of the back pay that you would be amenable to certify. But my question is where did the two years come from?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We passed a policy here on the Board. The sheriff – well, the police have a one-year policy, and they only pay back one year. Some people here wanted one, some people wanted three. We compromised at two. It's a policy that the Board set itself.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Well, Brian, what kind of caught my attention there is if I'm a firefighter and I am eligible for back pay and you only go back two years, under the law for compensation purposes, I'm allowed to file a lawsuit against any source that owes me money, right?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

U huh.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

But if it's part of a compensation package, the maximum the prescriptive period on it goes back three years so if you are only awarding two years and I feel ripped off for that third year, I still have a cause of action against the Board for that third year because the prescription hadn't expired.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Well, you are more up to date - they've been changing lawyers on us pretty regularly.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yes.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

Yeah, yeah.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Hopefully, you will stay with us for a while and guide us through this. I wanted three years; he wanted one year so we compromised and went with two. But if you do research and come back at the next meeting and tell us that you recommend that we go back three years, I don't think we're going to have a problem passing that policy on the Board doing that, you know. We just compromised. That's all we did because I wanted three years; he wanted one. So we talked about it, said all right, let’s meet halfway. And that's what we did.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Yeah, I'll be glad to do that and I'll be prepared at your next meeting to give you the information that you need. I'll get with Candy first and she can distribute it and then, but it won't be in the form of a recommendation. I'll provide you with the law …

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Yeah, we'll make the decision.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

- and then what my point of saying to you is if you're not covering the amount that the law would allow someone to sue for, you may leave yourself exposed.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Thank you.

All right, New Departments: none. New Business: Is Mr. Gros here? If he’s not, then we're going to do him last because we know Mr. Campbell is here, and we'll move Mr. Campbell up on the agenda so he can leave. And I know that Mr. Atkins is here, too. We'll move him up and then we'll discuss the rest of the things. That way them gentlemen ain't got to sit around. And what’s this gentleman here?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

OK, OK. I just didn't want to pass him up. Is that alright with the Board that we do that so we can get them out of here? All right, first underneath New Business is Carroll M. Campbell, Chief of Brownsfield. Chief Campbell worked for the City of Baton Rouge from 1966 I believe to sometime in the ‘80s. Underneath the law is a grandfather clause that certain people do not have to have Firefighter 1.

And Mr. Campbell falls underneath that classification because he doesn't have a Firefighter 1. So I need the Board to entertain a motion to grant Mr. Campbell his supplemental pay and any back pay that's due to him at this time.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

I so make that motion to approve Mr. Carroll Campbell's application for supplemental pay.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

I’ll second that motion.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We have a second. Do we have any further discussion?

**CANDY DIEZ:**

I have - go ahead, Soonie. Well, I was thinking that this might be the person that had a break in service -

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

U huh.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

So does that count?

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

Okay.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

A break in service means that I was between jobs….

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

State your name, sir.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

I’m sorry. I'm Carroll Campbell. I started in ‘65 and I left Baton Rouge in ‘88, and I took the Fire Chief’s job in Central. I retired in ’96 and took the Fire Chief’s job in Brownsfield. So I got a continuance just to let you know.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Yeah, I knew that. That's why I said that.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

Yeah. So just to let you know.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

I have the application and I'm just going to point this out, I think this is what Candy's talking about. It looks like there is a break between the Central and the Brownsfield.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

It is. It is. You are very correct, very correct.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

Okay.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Well, listen, if we are going to speak any further, let’s put him under oath. That way we'll be legal.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Let me tell you I know this guy.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

So you got a good attorney, I guarantee it.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I know him. I know him, man.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

That's good. That's good. As long as you don’t put me under, you know I’m all right.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

I do.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Thank you very much.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

I did go to Brownsfield but without pay for that length of time, you know, I just wanted to tell you that.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

So Soonie, explain that to me again now. I’m sorry.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

It’s on the application. Do you all have any applications?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

No.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

I had it in the packets. It looks like he was at Central Fire Department until 1/1 of ‘96 and then he started at Brownsfield in 1/1 of ’97.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

’97. That's right.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Yeah, I’ve got that written in.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Yeah. I’m Brien Ruiz. I’m Chairman. I still don't see a - it'd be like if I went back to work, I don't have a Fire Fighter 1 and I’d be grandfathered in. That's the way I understood the law when we wrote it, that certain individuals, as long as they was willing to work in the fire service, that they were entitled to get supplemental pay without having a Fire Fighter 1 so is there any more questions? Go ahead.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Yeah, I do have a couple of questions, Mr. Chairman. First of all - again, nothing against you chief -

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

Oh, that’s okay.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I've helped him when everybody was telling him no, I helped him make it yes.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

He sure did.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

But I got a couple of questions about this just from reading the law. I want to make sure that you don't get caught in a trap.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

Sure. Sure.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Because you get paid and then you have to turn around and pay it back, it's a whole lot harder.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

I don't want to do that.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I think Candy's concern was where it says anyone who was hired after March 31st, they’re not grandfathered. Anyone who was hired before March 31st is grandfathered. So my question is this, Mr. Chairman, when there was a break in service between - what was it, Central and Baker -

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Brownsfield.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

Brownsfield.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Brownsfield, Baker ….. it’s all the same to me. That's all God's country. My question is did you have to go through a hiring process for your last one? Because if you did, then you were hired after ‘86.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

Well, I was, yeah, but –

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

Meaning a process of just the board –

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

It was recommended actually when the board - I was all of a sudden - the board is actually who was doing the hiring.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

And so that's what my concern is, is he had to go through a hiring process of approval by the Board.

**BREIN RUIZ:**

U-huh.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Since he was already not in service and then he had to go through a hiring process where the Board hired him, that means he was hired after March 31st, 1986. So that’s the way, that's the perspective I would look at it, and I hate more than anything else in the world to tell my friends I know if my house burns down, he's going to be the first one there. So I hate to tell him anything like that.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

Right, right.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Brian Ruiz, Chairman. I understand your concern. But I understand from the legislature, when we changed all them things, and it was our understanding that no matter how long my career was, when I broke and went somewhere else that we would - you would be allowed to maintain your supplemental pay. I can't tell you that's what the legislature today thinks. But I can tell you that's the way it was done in ‘86 when we rewrote the law to do this because I was always under the impression that if I retire from Saint Bernard and then I decided to go be the Fire Chief somewhere else, that I'd be entitled and they would have to rehire me. And I'm speaking about myself only - that I would still be entitled to receive supplemental pay. And that's the way I understood it. I think that's the way the professional firefighters understand the way it was written. But I mean, I could be wrong. But my question to you, counselor, is let’s say the Board goes ahead and gives this gentleman his back pay, who is -

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Who is going to challenge it?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

-who is going to challenge it?

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

That I don't know. But you know, people come out of the woodwork sometimes. And I've seen in many instances where someone's called to repay and they go, you know, this is unfair, totally unfair. So I'm just raising the point about being hired after on the front side so that way - and I pray no one would ever make a stink about it, but if they do, I said something.

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

I got a question. How much back pay are we talking about?

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

I don’t know.

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

Is your application submitted?

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yeah. He says that he was hired January 1st of ‘97.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Yeah, but that’s – he ain’t getting -

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Right. So that would be -

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

26 years

**CANDY DIEZ:**

-something that y’all

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We would have to decide how much we'd have to pay him as a Board.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Right.

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

I think that would be the determination for my legal counsel once he determines whether we could go with our policy of two years or we have to go with state law of three years. So today I feel all we can do is approve his application to get his monthly supplemental pay and then we have the other issue of back pay come up later.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Or we can do what we did with a previous chief that we did this to. He decides to forego his back pay and all we did was give him from this fiscal year. He was retired from Baton Rouge, too, and he said look, I ain't worried about all that back pay. All I want to do is start receiving my supplemental pay. And what we did was we gave him from July to the present. So that's something else that we can consider because we did that. I can't think of the gentlemen's name. Go ahead, Sir.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

Can I say something to y’all? If there’s going to be a problem or the possibility that somebody might sue me to pay it back, I'd rather not get it, you know. I have to be a real honest with you and tell you that. You know I don't want to put y'all in a box, and I don't want to be in one either. I know that years ago, I do remember Al Girod, you had to deal with him - . Do you all remember that? I was on the Board at the time and you know and Al Girod had to pay his back. And I've thought about that a lot. That's one reason I never even submitted, you know. And then this came up that, you know, and some of the guys was telling me, hey, look, we got it, we worked, and we did this and we did that, you know. And I mean, I'm a fair guy, you know -

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We understand.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

You know, if I'm eligible for it, I want it. If I'm not, I don’t. That's the best way to say it.

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

That's pretty much the way I see it. If you're entitled to it and you meet all the requirements, then here again, you are entitled.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

Thank you.

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

That's the way I see it.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

Appreciate that.

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

So that's why I feel that if we just approve his application for his monthly benefit, then we'll address back pay later, based on what we receive from legal whether there's two years or three years or if you want to forego any of it, that's a personal privilege of you.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

No problem. Let me ask you a question since you’re on the question anyway. Just don't pay me anything until we get it all straight, you know I mean as far as the money you know.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I hope they come back and say this claim’s safe. If they do, nobody can challenge you.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

That’s what I’m talking about.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Thank you for coming.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

Glad to see you guys. It’s been too many years. I'm not hard to please here. I just wanted to tell you I don't want no problems whatsoever. And I don't want to create problems for you all, you know. If you want to do it that way or maybe just

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

Maybe we just table this until until we get the the answer.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I'm sorry. One thing we could do that would give you SOP would be ask the Attorney General. All we got to do is lay the facts out and say would this person be eligible for pay and let them decide whether yay or nay and what? That way, if anybody challenges you, you got -

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

I have no problems with it, but would hate it -

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

All right. Well, I'll be glad to draft up the AG opinion and submit it. You'll need a motion and it needs to be recorded.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

You need a motion. Ronnie, can you withdraw yours?

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

Yeah, I'll withdraw my motion. Did it have a second?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Yeah, we had a second. Do you want to make the motion to go to the Attorney General?

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

At this time, we'll make a motion that our legal counsel gets an Attorney General opinion on Carroll Campbell's application.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

I'll second it.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All in favor say aye’.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Motion passes. Mr. Chairman, that needs to be memorialized in the minutes because you have to give that to the AG in order to get an opinion. And I'll draft the opinion for your signature as Chairman because you're the presiding officer, you'd be the one asking for it.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

No problem.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I hope they come back and say it's a clean slate. If they do, nobody can challenge you.

**CARROLL CAMPBELL:**

You do the research for us. Thank you all so much.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All right. Thank y'all.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All right, next we've got Mr. David Atkins. He is from Tangipahoa Rural Fire District #2. His title is administrator?

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

I think we skipped someone.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

No, these gentlemen were here.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

Oh, you are out of order. I’m sorry.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Maybe I didn't clarify myself, but I still was going to do the people that were here. Then we can go back. All right, Mr. Atkins, as administrator. Can you put him under oath?

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

**MR. DAVID ATKINS:**

I do.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All right, gentlemen, the previous administrator was Mr. Dennis Crocker who passed away a few months ago and he came before the Board and testified that he went to the fire scenes and assisted in fighting fires. And I know the question at hand is the title administrator. So do we have any questions for Mr. Atkins?

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

I was looking through your application, and I see where your duties, the list of duties within it, I see where you do respond to calls, whether it's any type of emergency calls within the parish and you've been on the job since -

**DAVID ATKINS:**

November 1.

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

So from November 1st to present, you have responded to calls?

**DAVID ATKINS:**

Yes.

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

And basically you are, in essence, over virtually every fire department in the parish for Fire District 2 which is over the fire chiefs. I don't see nothing has really changed from what I see from the previous administrator which was Dennis Crocker, and he passed away, so I don't - you know we approved his supplemental pay and he was a retired firefighter and I see where you retired from Hammond and you was receiving supplemental pay. So I don't really see -

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

So he's got all the qualifications? He's got the Firefighter 1, he's got all that - we ain't got the same problems as we have with Mr. Campbell.

**DAVID ATKINS:**

No. We’ve got all that stuff.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Just asking.

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

Yeah, no, everything appears to be in order. I don't see any reason to deny this applicant. So therefore, with that said, I'll make a motion to approve.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

I'll second.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We have a second. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all in favor assent by saying aye. Motion passes.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All right. Soonie, we're going to go back to the top of the list. We've got Gerald (sic) P. Gros, Junior. His problem is that his application, his job title has paramedic written on it.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

Yes, and I do have his job duties. I didn’t have it when I sent that out, but I do have it.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

I got it.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

You have it?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

You sent it to me, I know, because it says responds to fires, emergency calls, direct operations, emergency medical personnel, you medical equipment formed by suppression, rescue and pump operations, it’s all in there.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

Maybe it’s already in there. I'm sorry if you already have it. I did double.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Yeah, it’s all in his job title. I read it all. I looked through every one of them. I'm gonna let Vice Chair speak a little bit on the subject because him and I talked about it because I was going to request the Fire Chief come before the Board to talk.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

Chief Hymel had called me about the questions, and I told him the issue was that it said paramedic and not firefighter paramedic which is a classification they have. After speaking to him, he sent me a letter stating that they were going to change that classification to firefighter paramedic and any other ones that they hired in that same job description would be a firefighter paramedic. So I'll submit this letter from Chief Hymel today unless you want me to read it.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

No, no.

SPEAKER 9:

To change it?

**CANDY DIEZ:**

To change the job title.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

Yeah, to change the title from firefighter to firefighter paramedic.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

They got to go through Civil Service to do that.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Okay. I just wanted to make sure that y'all knew that and he knows that, correct?

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

Yeah, he knows that.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Okay. And so whenever he gets that, is he going to submit it to y’all and then y’all send it to us or is he going to submit it straight to us?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

No. He is going to submit it to you.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Okay, alright, good. So until we get that -

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

Until we get that, we can’t pay him?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

No, no. It’s up to the Board to decide what we want to do. If we want to go ahead and grant him supplemental pay instead of giving him back pay, we can do that. We've got other paramedics that have come before us.

**DUSTIN YATES:**

Can I speak?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Yes.

**DUSTIN YATES:**

Dustin Yates, just for clarification purposes, St. George Protection District also has a class of paramedic. I've been before this Board multiple times to discuss this. It looks like their class plan is almost a replica of our class plan. So not only are they paramedics, but they also are all qualified and certified to be firefighters. They all have Fire 1. They respond just like any other firefighter responds and capable of performing structural firefighter duties. I just wanted to add that.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

I know y'all came before us at the August meeting and you spoke about that. So I feel comfortable and if the Board wants to pass a motion to grant this gentleman supplemental pay because of what we read in his job classification today that he's entitled to supplemental pay, even though in the future, we want them to definitely change their job classification.

**CHARLES WILLIAMS:**

Was that the only hang up, the title?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

U-huh. Right.

**DUSTIN YATES:**

Because I mean it says performing fire suppression.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

I know. It's got it -it's all written in the job classification. It's just that the title just says paramedic. That's why we asked the chief to change the title.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

And is just that job title, paramedic, an approved job title for supplemental pay?

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

Yes.

**DUSTIN YATES:**

The firefighter paramedic?

**CANDY DIEZ:**

No, just paramedic.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

No, I wouldn't say that. But if they're going to come here and tell us that that's part of their job duties is fighting fires, we would have to grant them supplemental pay as in the past.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I think, Mr. Chairman, the law just requires you to have the certification of it. You got the Firefighter 1 certification like in St. George, I know you guys are - all the paramedics with Firefighter 1, you become a Firefighter before you come paramedic.

**DUSTIN YATES:**

That's correct. In regard to the law, too, I know there is an excluded list in the law, so switchboard operators I know is a big hot topic now with some things. But as far as the included list, there is quite a few positions that have been approved state pay through you, you know, through the years that are not necessarily included in that list, that is in the law, mainly because the fire service has expanded quite a bit over the last 40 years to include additional positions that have certain things that they do in addition to fire suppression.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

I understand totally, Chief.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I do have a question for you. And I'm sorry, I thought y'all probably already knew my supervisor here, Gail Holland.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

No.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

She’s actually my boss so Gail and I are co-counsel and so we were just talking about this. If you approve him for sup pay now and Civil Service doesn't take the action that you want them to –

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

He still gets it because of his job classification.

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

It’s in his job duties. Yeah, the job duties say he’s performing firefighting duties.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

And that's what you're hanging your hat on is that right there. I understand.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

OK, y'all ready. Will somebody make a motion?

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

I make a motion that we approve Gary Gros’ supplemental pay and that Bayou Cane changes the job classification.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

I second it.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We have a second. Any further discussion? Hearing all in favor by saying aye. Aye. Motion passes.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

So we can go ahead and start his payments without waiting on this? Okay.

**RONALD SCHILLACE:**

Yes, ma'am.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

Okay. Alright.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

East Bank -

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Consolidated.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Consolidated.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

So this one has been around for a while since before I was here. We are trying to get it settled.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

This is a complicated one.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

So basically his department is requesting payment that they paid his supplemental pay. He was terminated and then he was reinstated. And so we're waiting on a new application for him to start his payments again, but they've paid some of his back pay from 6/26/21 through 11/19/21. They paid him that.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Is that 2000 –

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

And they're requesting that we reimburse them.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

I printed out yesterday - it says on 12/22/2021 that they paid $2,000. All my question is, are they only asking for $2417.00 or are they asking for a whole lot more?

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

No, that's what the department is asking for. That we reimburse the department because they paid him that back pay. Now when we get his new application, I don't know, you know what he's going to be asking.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

I heard he's retired.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

Okay.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yeah, every time we have this situation where the municipality terminates someone wrongfully and it gets overturned by Civil Service or done, then the municipality’s responsible for paying that person their supplemental payment they missed out on. But in turn, in order to get their money back - and y'all can say yes or no, it's not a definite thing - they have to submit certain documents, one being an invoice, another being a letter from the chief, requesting reimbursement of the amount that they repaid that recipient.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

And we received all that because I made copies. I got the letter. I got the invoice.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

We have it.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

So we just need y’all to bless it or -

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Curse it.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yes. Exactly.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

I think part of the problem was when this guy came back to work, the chief told me because of the department I work for, he said when he came back, he sat on it a year, two years or whatever and didn't say he wasn't get state pay then all of a sudden he's getting ready to retire and says “oh, by the way, I'm not getting state pay. Y'all owe me state pay.”

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

So that may be on our next board meeting, if we get his application for that.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

Now I was told that he's retiring in May, so they may not even be sending one in for him. I'll have to check with the Chief.

**SOONIE:**

Okay.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Hopefully not.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

But this is not the first time this guy has been fired and rehired too.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

So we need to entertain a motion to pay East Bank Consolidated, if we choose $,2417.00. That's the question on hand. Do I have a motion?

**RICHARD PARKER:**

I'll make a motion.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

I'll second it.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We have a second.

**CHARLES WILLIAMS:**

Real quick.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Wait, hold on. Having a second; any further discussion? Go ahead.

**CHARLES WILLIAMS:**

The letter states 2147, and the invoice is for 2417.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

It looks like the letter is incorrect. I’ll get an update. But I do have - this is like his payroll

**CHARLES WILLIAMS:**

I’m just seeing that the letter from Brian Adams is 2417

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

OK, I think the letter is incorrect because we do have a copy of his -

**CHARLES WILLIAMS:**

Yes. My only concern is can we proceed with incorrect numbers like that?

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Everything needs to be correct. That’s not your fault.

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

I know it’s not my fault.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Everything needs to be the same. So we need to send a letter back to the East Bank Consolidated requesting that both forms to be exact so we can reimburse them?

**SUSANNE TESSIER:**

Yeah, I'll have them rewrite their letter.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

Can we approve it pending the letter?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Accent. Can we have we have a question? Council, can we approve pending the letter?

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Well, there's a couple of different options you might have here. Because are you saying that the $4,000.00 is too high?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

No, no, no, it's, it's.

**SOONIE:**

He wrote $2,147.00 and.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

It's $2,417.00, right?

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

And what is the actual amount?

**SOONIE:**

$2,417.00

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

And so the amount that's in the letter is what?

**CHARLES WILLIAMS:**

$2,147.00

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

If you wanted to, you could approve up to $2,417.00 If you approve that, or if you want to be even more specific. Approve whatever the corrected amount is in between $2,147.00 up to $2,417.00 and that way they can go ahead and cut the check based on your approval.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Okay

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Can be on the floor and the ceiling, so you know it's not going to be a runaway train. As soon as it gets its correct numbers, you have already authorized them to pay.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All right, thank you, Councilor

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

So we entertain a motion.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

Yeah, I'll make a motion to pay a minimum of the $2147.00 that’s in the letter and a maximum of $2417.00 that’s on the invoice pending getting the letter with the corrected amount.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

I’ll second

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Any further discussion? Hearing all in favor saying by saying aye.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Motion passes.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

I'll call them when I leave here too to let them know so they can start working on it.

**SOONIE:**

I can e-mail it to you.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

OK, all right. Plaquemine Port Harbor & Terminal District

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

We’ve had that issue with them before.

Yeah, I know, but.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Yeah, I know, but, I was reading through this and..

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Does he work on a ferry or does he work on the fire boat?

**SOONIE:**

I'm still waiting for his job description so we might want to just...

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Because I mean operating a ferry, that's a big difference between working on a ferry and working on a fire boat.

**SOONIE:**

He’s a ferry maintenance person.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

I know, but he could still be working on the fire boat. But does he..because in Plaquemines Parish they have ferry that cross the river.

**SOONIE:**

Right.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

That's that's operated by these people. I mean, so is he on the fire boat doing maintenance work or is he on the ferry doing maintenance work?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

That's the question I have.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

There’s no job description

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

She says she’s going to wait for it. So do we want to table this until next meeting?

**RICHARD PARKER:**

Yeah. So do they have a Fire Fighter 1?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Oh, they get to have a maritime certificate that's a little bit different. They get a maritime certificate, which Saint Bernard has both.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

So we have a motion to table it until next meeting?

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

I motion to table it.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

I’ll second.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All in favor, say by saying aye. Motion passed.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All right, budget projections.

**SOONIE:**

I have it, I don’t have it printed out.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Is it? Is it bad or good? That's all we need to know. Probably bad. It's always been a joke.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

They never give us enough money to pay everybody.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Look it up, Sherry sent it to us from budget yesterday.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

I ask this question all the time.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

So the projected remaining balance is $176,639.00

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

Do they project what we may be short?

**GAIL HOLLAND:**

Yes, they project, as of right now the actual expenditures, this is how much they have already paid out, that’s $24,053.00. And then the projected expenditure is $17,184.00 so what they’re saying is we’ve already paid the actuals, we believe in the future we have to pay this amount and then ACT 110 $104,452.00

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

That was paid already.

**GAIL HOLLAND:**

They have. They have, yeah $176,639.00

**GAIL HOLLAND:**

So you started with $1,165,800.00 and then they have already spent the actual expenditure, is $24,000,000.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

They always they always under project how much they're going to pay us that's, I mean Candy. I'm right saying that. And and I question the legislature about that.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yes, you run out of money every year.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

It was fine because they used to know with this take it from the sheriff's and the police because they was, they always had plenty of money, but now they they paying more than what we pay. So we can't take it no more.

**GAIL HOLLAND:**

You're gonna be minus $-176,000.00

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

After you all pay them this month?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Or at the end of the year?

**CANDY DIEZ:**

That's what I'm thinking because she she usually sends us an e-mail every month asking for the new, like, how many? How much money we're paying out and new app.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

So when we question for y'all is when we short and yeah, yeah, just I mean I know y'all send the checks how do y’all request more funds.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

We have to go through budget and they yeah, they have to do something on their end to request more money.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

A BA-7? Yeah, it’s a BA-7 to the JLCB.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

But the guys still get paid?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

But it's, you know, because I know you ain't never not paid them.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

No, we have never not paid them.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All right. Well, thank you ladies.

**SOONIE:**

I will send this out to everyone

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All right, new applicants.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

On the new applicant, we need to remove Mr. Campbell's name #15 and #76, the ferry person.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

and #76, the ferry person.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

And then the #76, yeah, I got them written. Yeah. Thank you.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Who is #76?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Is #76 Scott Diaz

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

Scott M. Thiel

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

OK.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

The ferry maintenance person that is listed there.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

Yes. The one for Plaquemines Port Harbor that we just tabled.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

So we need to entertain a motion to approve the rest of the application.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

I'll make a motion.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

I second.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Any further questions hearing none, all in favor say by saying aye.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All right.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Act 110 my approval, so far it's $14,840 up to date.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yes, that's current, right?

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

And that's that's and that can subject to grow as we go.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

But you still want to approve that amount for today's meeting.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yeah, that's just giving y'all an idea of each meeting where we're at, so that whenever we go to JLCB, you’ll have an idea of what we're going to ask for. And then for y'all to know that people are still submitting applications late or whatever. But I do feel like that number is getting much better.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

I’ve been complaining, I call them up and speak to the chiefs, and union officials. I’m trying not to have that problem. And hopefully after we have our meeting, legislative conference it will go down even further because we are going to have a meeting. They are going to give a class to everybody who attends who's there. Because they’ve changed it. They just bought a whole new computer system. They’re redoing everything in the computer system and everything is going to be done by computer and hopefully by doing this there’s going to be a date, if you have changes it will go all the way back to April 20th, and you won’t have problems of overpaying somebody if they were suspended, retired, etc. and you already submitted your warrant, the system will be able to assist in these problems. Municipalities are responsible for overpayments.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

So y'all putting on a class like you did back in August at the LSFA, yes.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

It's gonna be our legislative conference. It's not this one because our..we are shooting for April 15th or 16th.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

OK.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Yeah. And I already talked to Chad and talked to Candy about it.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

And we'll have our meeting in conjunction.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We're going to have our meeting 1st and then they're going to have their class.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

And we're already pushing for all municipalities to submit their warrants electronically through the portal, so the next phase in the next, I don't know four weeks or so will be applications. And so we'll stop getting we'll. We'll stop receiving them by e-mail and mail.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We just got to make sure that everybody knows how to use the portal.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yes, and we have sent instructions out and some of the issues that we are having is that people are still saying that they're not receiving the e-mail blast with the instructions, but everything's being updated per the certifying signature forms that we send out every January. If they're putting their correct e-mail address and I know Jordan has been checking it against some people saying that they didn't receive it, that e-mail blast, and it's the same e-mail that we have in the system. So I'm not sure, you know, then we do have some people that have multiple , like New Orleans PD and Fire, I'm sure it's the same way. They have multiple people that look at the warrant and we have suggested to them to set up a shared e-mail where we can put that e-mail address as the preparer. Multiple people will have access to it and that way, if the prepare is out or quits or whatever happens, there's other people in the office that can get to the warrant and submit applications there. They can see all the information that we're sending out, you know, so that's kind of been a challenge lately as people saying they're not receiving the instructions.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

We've just got to make sure that, before we stop accepting emails that everybody at least has a try run to make sure they can get into that portal because we don't need the volunteers, and the smaller municipalities calling us because someone didn’t get their state pay because they didn't submit their warrants in or they thought they did but they didn't because they didn't go through the portal.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

And that's going to be an issue because if we're not getting an undeliverable on their e-mail address, we don't know that they're not getting it, and if they don't know to expect it to come, then they don’t know.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

Can I make a suggestion? Can you send me the letter and I will send it to all of the fire departments that I have emails for because we go through membership now so all my stuff is getting updated now so I can check if there's a bunch of e-mail. There’s chiefs that have changed. Maybe those changes didn’t make it to y’all, but I can send it to the ones that I have.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

You can send me a copy and I'll make sure that the because we're going to have a new secretary treasure come next week. Stacy's not going to be there anymore.

**SOONIE:**

We have gotten a few emails from departments saying they have had issues getting into the portal and so we're trying to work with them, we've.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Right. We we talked about Crowley.

**SOONIE:**

It’s been e-mail by e-mail we're going through.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Because Crowley, the chief of Crowley, and he sent an email and he submitted the warrant through the portal, so we need to check the portal. He wanted to know if he did it correctly.

**SOONIE:**

Yeah. And we never stop anyones payment without calling the department 1st and saying where is your warrant?

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yes, we do check them.

**SOONIE:**

We don't ever cut anybody out.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

When they send it through the portal like that? Do they get any kind of confirmation back that it went through with no problem?

**CANDY DIEZ:**

They will get an e-mail.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

OK. Because that that's one thing. Harvey Secretary, said. She liked the idea of doing it. She don't like change, but she liked the idea of the ease of doing it in the portal. But she's just a nervous wreck that y'all didn't get it because there's no confirmation to come back on.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yeah, it sends them an automatic e-mail that we don't monitor, but it will send them an e-mail saying that it's been sent. It's been received. Programmers are working on this function and it will be available soon.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

That would definitely help with a lot of people that have the same concerns with sending it through the portal.

**SOONIE:**

Any warrants we don't have yet, we always reach out to the department.

**RICHARD PARKER:**

OK.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Thank you ladies, you all do way more than what y’all need.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

I can even print you the list of the departments and their e-mail addresses that I have and email that to y'all too if you want.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yeah, I mean, I don't know what else to do. You know, we're asking them to send in their correct information and all of a sudden, though, they're not getting the emails. And I don't know what to do. I can't fix that.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

But I think the three organizations.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

If you're giving me the information and I'm putting it in the system, you should be getting it.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

It's the three organizations got together and blast that e-mail out Then you saw a bunch of them will get it multiple times. You will cover the majority of the state that way.

**SOONIE:**

I can send all of y'all the instructions today I can send everybody. It’s about 4 pages long.

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Yeah, the portal instructions.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

OK.

**CHARLES WILLIAMS:**

When does it go into effect completely?

**CANDY DIEZ:**

Well, the warrants is in effect now. Applications is going to be in the next two to four weeks.

**SOONIE:**

Right now what I've been doing is starting this month is if I get a warrant by e-mail, I'll respond back to them that we require them to submit through the portal. I also attach the instructions.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All right. Well, ladies, y’all do a fine job and I appreciate every one of you.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All right, time and location, we'll be sending that out. Hopefully it's going to be the 15th of or 16th of April. I know it's going to be one of them two days because I already got put on the agenda we just have to decide which day and time.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

Mr. Chairman, Board members, this may be my last meeting. I am not seeking re-election. There will be an election next week for the PFA in which at that point they will elect 3 board members. We have our two Fire Chief members and then we have two LSF a member. So this may be my last meeting, depending on Senate confirmation. I do want to say that it it's been an honor. It's been a privilege. I've thoroughly enjoyed it. I'm looking around here, other than a couple of board members.

Board members. This may be my last meeting. I am not seeking reelection. There will be an election next week for the PFA in which at that point they will elect 3 board members. We have our two Fire Chief members and then we have two LSF a member.

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

First, y'all been elected already, so the last three would be the PFA and which I'm not seeking reelection. So this may be my last meeting, depending on Senate confirmation. I do want to say that it it's been an honor. It's been a privilege. I've thoroughly enjoyed it. I have to say, Candy, you’re probably the staff that has been here the longest. And I'll tell you, you know, it seems like every time we come to a meeting, there's always a new face, but still in awe. With that said, I enjoyed working with each of you.

**STEVEN STOCKSTILL:**

I just wanted to make sure to formally introduce my Co counsel here, who I told you is my boss, she's not just Co counsel. She's the deputy general counsel of the department. So she is a wealth of knowledge and if you ever, if I’m not around, she’s a wealth of knowledge.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

The first time I'm meeting her, I mean, Paul was here forever.

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

Do I have a Motion to adjourn.

**DWAYNE THEVIS:**

Motion to adjourn

**RONNIE SCHILLACE:**

I second

**BRIEN RUIZ:**

All in favor say by saying Aye, Aye. Motion passes