

State of Louisiana

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

DECEMBER 10, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Firemens' Supplemental Pay Board of Review

December 10, 2020

10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Brien Ruiz, Chairman

Dwayne Thevis

Richard Parker

Ronald Schillace

Charles Williams

Kay DeBenedetto

Candace Oby

Mark Campbell

Conner Junkin, Esq.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jerry Tarleton, Chief St. George FD

Courtney Edwards, Ville Platte FD

Chris Soileau, Chief Ville Platte FD

Gary Blocker, Chief Covington Fire Department

Ali Mutz, East Bank Consolidated

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Firemens' Supplemental Pay Board of Review Meeting
December 10, 2020

MR. RUIZ:

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

ROLL CALL

MR. CAMPBELL:

Mr. Ruiz.

MR. RUIZ:

Here.

MR. CAMPBELL:

Mr. Parker.

MR. PARKER:

Here.

MR. CAMPBELL:

Mr. Schillace.

MR. SCHILLACE:

Here.

MR. CAMPBELL:

Mr. Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Here.

MR. CAMPBELL:

Mr. Thevis.

1 **MR. THEVIS:**

2 Here.

3 **MR. RUIZ:**

4 We have a quorum.

5 **APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 MEETING**

6 **MR. RUIZ:**

7 Review and approval of the minutes of the September 16, 2020, meeting. I
8 read through them yesterday. I didn't see anything --

9 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

10 Okay. I was able to go over them, and everything appears to be in order
11 from what I see that was presented to me; therefore, I make a motion to accept
12 the minutes of the previous meeting of September 16th, 2020.

13 **MR. PARKER:**

14 Richie seconds.

15 **MR. RUIZ:**

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

17 (All aye.)

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 The motion passes.

20 **OLD BUSINESS**

21 **St. George Fire Department - Justin Arnone**

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 All right, Candace, Old Business.

24 **MS. OBY:**

25 Okay. So the first item on the agenda is the St. George Fire Department

1 regarding the application for Justin Arnone, Chief of Medical Services. I think
2 this was on the agenda at the last Board meeting.

3 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

4 Yeah. I think, if I remember correctly, there was an issue pertaining to the
5 Civil Service in which the Chief of St. George was going to go and appear
6 before Civil Service to make a correction to this applicant, and it is to my
7 understanding he has done so.

8 **MS. OBY:**

9 Mark, am I correct, they were supposed -- they were going to be applying
10 for the position to be a Civil Service position; is that correct?

11 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

12 That is correct. And they have submitted a personnel action for the
13 municipal fire -- St. George Fire Protection District, and it says provisionally
14 appointed to a newly-created position. Once the position is classified, Mr.
15 Arnone will be allocated through that newly-classified role, dated 3 -- effective
16 date of action 3/4/19.

17 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

18 Okay. If I remember correctly, I think that's -- we, as the Board, that's what
19 we specifically asked for the Chief to do, and he has done so, correct?

20 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

21 That is correct. Does St. George want to speak on that?

22 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

23 Well, being said that everything was done, I make a motion to approve the
24 applicant.

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 Is there a second; is there a second?

2 **MS. OBY:**

3 Can we have an effective -- is the effective date --

4 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

5 Can I -- can I say something? Excuse me. This is Kay.

6 **MR. RUIZ:**

7 Yes, ma'am. Let -- let me get a second first, and then we'll discuss it. Okay.

8 Can I have a second?

9 **MR. PARKER:**

10 I'll second it.

11 **MR. RUIZ:**

12 Okay. Now we're open for discussion. Ms. Kay, you got something you
13 want to say?

14 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

15 Yeah. I just wanted to -- to remind everyone that we -- the first problem
16 with this application was that we didn't have a Personnel Action Form to verify
17 the hire date. Now they have provided that, and we do have some
18 documentation on that. But that still -- the second issue that we had with the
19 application was the job title and description of duties. So I just want to throw
20 that out there.

21 **MR. RUIZ:**

22 Does he -- did the Chief submit the -- the description of duties?

23 **MR. TARLETON:**

24 We did.

25 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

1 The job description is contained in your packet.

2 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

3 Well, he -- according to the job description, he responds to fire -- emergency
4 calls.

5 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

6 For emergency medical services.

7 **MR. TARLETON:**

8 We can -- we can speak to this, as well, if need be.

9 **MR. RUIZ:**

10 Yes, Chief. Is -- is Conner there?

11 **MR. TARLETON:**

12 I'm sorry. Go ahead.

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 Is Conner there?

15 **MR. JUNKIN:**

16 Yeah, I'm here.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 Conner, can you swear in the Chief?

19 **MR. JUNKIN:**

20 Can do.

21 (Witness sworn.)

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 Thank you. Chief, I guess the biggest question to you is, does this
24 gentleman respond to fire calls?

25 **MR. TARLETON:**

1 He does. He responds to all emergency calls dispatched.

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 So what you -- what you define as emergency calls is fire, medical, all that,
4 correct?

5 **MR. TARLETON:**

6 Yes, sir; yes, sir.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 Okay. Ron, if you want to make your motion?

9 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

10 I -- I've already made my motion. It's been seconded.

11 **MR. RUIZ:**

12 That's right. You're correct. I'm sorry.

13 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

14 If anyone else has any questions, then I call for the questions so we can
15 vote.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 You're right. And Thevis seconded it.

18 Is there any more questions; is there any more questions?

19 (No response.)

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 Hearing none, let's call for the vote for St. George Fire Department.

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

23 (All aye.)

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 The motion passes.

1 **MR. TARLETON:**

2 Thank you for all your help, Mark and Candance, and thank you, Board.

3 VILLE PLATTE FIRE DEPARTMENT - COURTNEY DANEA EDWARDS

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 Ville Platte.

6 **MS. OBY:**

7 We have -- you said Ville Platte? I'm sorry.

8 **MR. RUIZ:**

9 Yes.

10 **MS. OBY:**

11 Okay. Yes. Courtney Danae Edwards, it looks like secretary to firefighter
12 operator. Mark or -- does anybody want to say what's going on with this one?

13 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

14 Okay. Ms. Edwards has Firefighter I and Firefighter II. Part of the question
15 on the last Board was the classification. A Personnel Action Form was
16 submitted, and the Personnel Action Form states that her classification has
17 moved from secretary to the fire chief to firefighter operation (sic), effective date
18 of action 10/17/20.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 Say those dates again. I'm sorry.

21 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

22 The PAF was submitted on October 16th of '20, and it -- the PAF moves her
23 from a classification of secretary to the fire chief to firefighter/operator, and then
24 the effective date of the action is stated as 10/17/20.

25 **MS. OBY:**

1 So her title -- she -- she's qualified with her new title the --

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 It's firefighter/operator. I need a motion --

4 **MR. THEVIS:**

5 I'll make a motion to accept her.

6 **MS. OBY:**

7 Can you -- can you specify the effective date of your approval for her
8 application?

9 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

10 Yeah. I had a question about that, Candace, because her employment date
11 was 10/2/06, but -- but the Firefighters were in February of '20. And then on the
12 PAF, it says effective date of 10/17/20, so is that the date that we're going with?

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 I think we go with 10/17/20.

15 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

16 Yes, sir.

17 **MR. PARKER:**

18 I agree.

19 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

20 Would that be 10/17/20 or 10/17/21?

21 **MS. OBY:**

22 Would you like for her to work for a year as a firefighter before her
23 effective date?

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 Yes.

1 **MR. PARKER:**

2 I think she should.

3 **MR. THEVIS:**

4 She's been working as a firefighter though.

5 **MS. OBY:**

6 On paper?

7 **MR. THEVIS:**

8 Well, no, not on paper, but she -- I mean, she has been. Yeah. I see what
9 you're saying, Candace.

10 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

11 Wasn't classified for a year, correct?

12 **MR. THEVIS:**

13 Right. She wasn't classified.

14 **MR. PARKER:**

15 Well, what -- what would be her one-year date, 10/21?

16 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

17 10/17/21.

18 **MR. PARKER:**

19 That's what I'll make -- I'll make my motion to make it effective on that
20 date.

21 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

22 This is Mark. May I come in? We do have a letter from Chief Harrison
23 dated March 11, '20, that gives a brief description of her duties, so I don't know
24 if that comes into play.

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 When was she -- how long ago was she employed?

2 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

3 She's been with them since October of '06, but the Firefighter I is dated
4 February 26, '20. And then on March 11, '20, Chief Harrison wrote in, this letter
5 is to give a brief description of the duties and recent accomplishments of
6 Courtney Edwards as a full-time secretary due to pursue of certificates. She
7 recently graduated from the Rapides Fire District No. 2 academy and has
8 obtained Firefighter I and II.

9 **MS. OBY:**

10 So it looks like she's been a secretary for quite some time --

11 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

12 Right.

13 **MS. OBY:**

14 -- since 2008, and she got her Firefighter I certificate in February of 2020,
15 and then she got officially job title change to a firefighter in October of '20.

16 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

17 Correct.

18 **MS. OBY:**

19 And her Firefighter certificate since February?

20 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

21 Yes.

22 **MS. OBY:**

23 And she became an official firefighter in October?

24 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

25 Exactly.

1 **MR. PARKER:**

2 I'll stick -- I'll stick with my date on my motion, if everybody will go with
3 that. That's the date it becomes official on the documentation here.

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 All right. We got a second on Richie's motion?

6 **MR. THEVIS:**

7 I'll second Richie's motion. Dwayne Thevis.

8 **MR. RUIZ:**

9 Okay. Do we have any more discussions?

10 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

11 What was that date again?

12 **MR. RUIZ:**

13 10/17/21 is going to be her --

14 **MS. OBY:**

15 Effective date.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 Is when she becomes eligible to receive it, correct, Candace?

18 **MS. OBY:**

19 That is -- that is what the motion said.

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 Okay. Because all the paperwork that we have on her states that that's when
22 started was 10/17/20, as a firefighter. We don't have no paperwork that backlogs
23 to February 26, '20, correct?

24 **MR. PARKER:**

25 There's only a letter from the Chief stating that she -- she was performing

1 firefighter duties as of March of this year. I'm looking at that. That's the only
2 other -- only --

3 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

4 Okay. So -- so, from what I understand, back in March of 2020, she was
5 firefighting fire, correct?

6 **MR. PARKER:**

7 According to Chief Harrison, yes.

8 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

9 Okay. So you got a letter to that effect, so I think that -- the issue from
10 March to now was simply her title. However, since March, she's been a
11 firefighter, and she has her Firefighter I and she has worked a minimum of 35
12 hours a week, correct?

13 **MR. PARKER:**

14 Yeah.

15 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

16 Okay. So this is no different than the one that we previously approved by
17 simply changing the title. So now, in October, her title was changed, correct?

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 Well, make a substitute motion to go back to the 11th and see where we can
20 go with it, from March 11, 2020. If we get a second, we'll discuss it.

21 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

22 I'll make a substitute motion that this applicant would be approved from
23 March of 2020, to start receiving supplemental pay based off the letter that's in
24 the file where the Chief stated that she is fighting fire now.

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 Can I have a second?

2 **MR. PARKER:**

3 Yeah. I'm good with -- I'll withdraw my original motion, and I'm good with
4 that. I'll second.

5 **MR. RUIZ:**

6 All right. Richie seconds. We're open for discussion.

7 So now her date is going to be March 11, 2020, but she starts receiving
8 supplemental pay March 11, 2021; am I correct in stating that?

9 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

10 I would think so.

11 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

12 Yes, sir. Yes.

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 If we vote to give it to her; is that right, Candace?

15 **MS. OBY:**

16 That's what -- yeah, that's what the motions were, yes.

17 **MR. JUNKIN:**

18 I just wanted to kind of step in here real quick. It's -- as far as the one-year
19 service, the March 11, 2020, letter states that we will begin to train her to drive
20 and operate. So I'm not sure whether or not that actually establishes that she
21 began responding to fires and acting in a firefighter capacity on March 11th. It
22 may have been sometime between March 11th and October. I -- I don't read that
23 in this letter that it says that on March 11th she was actively doing that. I --

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 Is -- is the Chief available?

1 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

2 She is. I see her online.

3 **MR. RUIZ:**

4 She's not the Chief.

5 **MS. EDWARDS:**

6 Hello. Y'all can hear me?

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 Yes, ma'am.

9 **MS. EDWARDS:**

10 Good morning. How y'all doing? Chief Harrison did retire in the end of
11 March, but I do have, well, I guess, our Chief Chris Soileau who was the training
12 officer at the time, so if y'all want to speak to him.

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 We'll ask him, Chief, was -- on March 11, 2020, was she in training to
15 become a firefighter/operator or --

16 **MR. JUNKIN:**

17 Let me -- let me swear him in.

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 Okay. I'm sorry, Conner.

20 **MR. SOILEAU:**

21 Let me pull over. I'm driving. All right. You got me.

22 **MR. JUNKIN:**

23 (Witness sworn.)

24 **MR. SOILEAU:**

25 This is Chief Chris Soileau. I am the newly-appointed fire chief as of

1 November 10th, I believe.

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 Okay. Chief, my question to you again now that you're sworn in, March 11,
4 2020, what was her -- what was her duties; was she a firefighter and y'all were
5 training her to be an operator? Was she fighting fire on that date forward?

6 **MR. SOILEAU:**

7 Yeah. She -- once she obtained her Firefighter I and II through the Rapides
8 academy, we classified her with her duties as available to respond during her
9 regular Monday through Friday schedule. She was on duty to fire emergencies
10 in our service area as a firefighter.

11 **MR. RUIZ:**

12 Right.

13 **MR. SOILEAU:**

14 She was certified. At that point, the academy did not teach her to drive and
15 operate apparatus as an engineer. She was a firefighter. She rode in with me or
16 another firefighter or whoever was on duty. At that point --

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 I -- I understand, and I think the March 11th date is good, because a lot of
19 places have this what they call a firefighter/operator and a lot of places don't
20 have the firefighter/operator. Some places have firefighters, then they've got
21 operators, then they've got lieutenants, then they've got captains, on and on, so
22 she can be fighting fires to -- while she was not operating the pumper. The --

23 **MR. SOILEAU:**

24 Correct.

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 The title -- the title is -- is misleading.

2 **MR. SOILEAU:**

3 Right. We started the training on operator, engineer, or apparatus driver,
4 whatever -- however it's worded, immediately, at that time she began that
5 training, but she was a certified firefighter and she was responding to incidents
6 in that capacity as soon as she left the academy.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 Thank you very much, Chief.

9 Do y'all understand this now?

10 **MR. PARKER:**

11 Mr. President (sic), this is Richie. Can I comment too?

12 **MR. RUIZ:**

13 Go ahead.

14 **MR. PARKER:**

15 This is Richie. Just to add to that too, in reference to being in training and
16 actually fighting fire, a lot of departments, we do with JP Fire where we have
17 rookies in class, once they get their Firefighter I, they may be in rookie class for
18 another month or possibly two months after they get their Firefighter I doing
19 some live burns and stuff like that, but the clock starts ticking from the date they
20 get their Firefighter I. So whether she's still training or on the street fighting a
21 fire, I don't think that makes a difference. It's the date that she effectively got the
22 Firefighter I.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 Yeah. But she wasn't training to be a firefighter. She was training to be an
25 operator.

1 **MR. SOILEAU:**

2 An operator.

3 **MR. RUIZ:**

4 She was already a firefighter. She was fighting fires.

5 **MR. PARKER:**

6 Correct.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 Correct, Chief?

9 **MR. SOILEAU:**

10 Correct.

11 **MR. RUIZ:**

12 Right. So -- so March 11th is a good date.

13 **MR. PARKER:**

14 I agree.

15 **MR. JUNKIN:**

16 Yeah. That -- that did clear it up. I just -- I did not find that clear from that
17 March 11th letter, but that does clear it up.

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 That's no problem, Conner. We'll -- we'll explain things as they go. A lot of
20 places have this, and a lot of places don't. We're learning as we go.

21 Okay. So we have a motion. We have a second for the March 11th, '20.

22 The date of March 11, 2021, is when she's can start receiving her pay.

23 Is there any more questions?

24 (No response.)

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

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

2 (All aye.)

3 **MR. RUIZ:**

4 The motion passes.

5 **MS. EDWARDS:**

6 Thank y'all so much.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 So you understand you're going to start getting your check on March of
9 2021.

10 **MS. EDWARDS:**

11 Yes, sir.

12 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

13 Which will actually be the end of March or, say, April 1st before you get the
14 check.

15 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

16 Right.

17 **MS. EDWARDS:**

18 I appreciate it. Thank y'all so much.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 Thank you.

21 **MR. SOILEAU:**

22 Appreciate it.

23 **NEW BUSINESS**

24 COVINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT- KIMBERELY ANN DUNCAN

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 All right. Candace, new business.

2 **MS. OBY:**

3 Okay. So now we have the City of Covington, Kimberely Ann Duncan.
4 Mark, do you know what's going on with this application?

5 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

6 A similar situation, job title, Chief Administrative Assistant. She does have
7 a Firefighter I effective 12 -- I mean, February 12th of '20. She was hired in
8 March of '18. At that time, her job title was Chief Administrative Assistant.
9 Since then -- well, her job duties are attached into the application where it says
10 she is a certified firefighter. I think that's all I have on that. I don't -- unless I'm
11 wrong, I don't have a -- another PAF that states a different job title.

12 **MR. RUIZ:**

13 So her job title, Mark, is Chief Administrative Assistant?

14 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

15 Yes, sir.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 Is his chief is -- is available?

18 **MR. BLOCKER:**

19 Yes, sir. This is Gary Blocker.

20 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

21 Yes. Chief Blocker is there.

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 Conner, could you swear him in? Can you swear the Chief in?

24 **MR. JUNKIN:**

25 Yes, sir. Please raise your right hand. Have you done so? I can't see you.

1 **MR. RUIZ:**

2 I can't see the Chief neither.

3 **MR. BLOCKER:**

4 Okay. For some reason my camera is not coming on.

5 **MR. RUIZ:**

6 Okay. That's fine. Repeat after Conner.

7 **MR. BLOCKER:**

8 Yes. If you give me a minute, I'll try to get someone to fix it up real quick.

9 **MR. RUIZ:**

10 While he's working, do y'all want to go to East Bank Consolidated?

11 **MS. OBY:**

12 Do y'all want to amend the agenda to -- to -- to go to that next?

13 **MR. RUIZ:**

14 Yes. That way, he can go ahead and fix this camera and then we can put
15 him back in.

16 Can I have a motion to -- to move --

17 **MR. PARKER:**

18 This is Richie. I make a motion we amend the agenda.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 Can I have a second, please?

21 **MR. THEVIS:**

22 I'll second. Dwayne.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 Okay. Just tell the Chief of Covington that we're going to come back to him
25 while he's working on his camera.

1 EAST BANK CONSOLIDATED FIRE DEPARTMENT

2 ALEXANDER GORMAN

3 **MS. OBY:**

4 Okay. So we have Jefferson -- East Bank Consolidated or Jeff -- well, it
5 used to be Jefferson Parish, Alexander Gorman. It looks like his job title -- I
6 think the question was -- we had a few things with him, the job title and -- Kay,
7 did you have something?

8 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

9 Well, his -- we have to verify with the town -- of course, we can do this
10 offline -- the Personnel Action Form has one date and the application has a
11 different date. We can verify that offline. We also want to get a decision
12 officially on record of -- he submitted a prior service form from the Jefferson
13 Parish Sheriff's Office, and we typically have not crossed systems in the past.

14 **MR. RUIZ:**

15 I seen that.

16 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

17 So we need an official on that.

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 Yeah, I seen that.

20 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

21 And then, of course, his job title which is --

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 His -- his time with the Sheriff's Office doesn't count, not in my opinion
24 anyway.

25 **MR. PARKER:**

1 I agree with that.

2 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

3 Is he -- is he still classified as a deputy sheriff or a firefighter?

4 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

5 He's actually classified as a -- let me get the exact thing for you --

6 **MR. PARKER:**

7 Mr. President (sic), if I can, I can try to explain a little bit on it. He is the
8 Assistant Haz Mat Officer for the parish.

9 **MR. RUIZ:**

10 I understand all that.

11 **MR. PARKER:**

12 He's under East Bank Consolidated. His supervisor is actually already
13 receiving supplemental pay for the same position, basically. He's just the
14 assistant.

15 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

16 Okay. Is his supervisor --

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 And I ain't got no problem with him getting supplemental pay. My problem
19 is that he's not -- he hasn't worked a year at the -- for the fire department. He
20 was classified as a sheriff's deputy.

21 **MR. PARKER:**

22 I agree with that. I agree with that. But I -- I think he's qualified to get the
23 pay, like you said, but I don't -- I don't agree with using the Sheriff's Office time.

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 Right. I ain't got no problem giving him supplemental pay once his time

1 comes up.

2 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

3 I have a question, if I may.

4 **MR. RUIZ:**

5 Go ahead.

6 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

7 Is he is a deputy sheriff or a firefighter?

8 **MR. PARKER:**

9 He's a -- he's a Haz Mat Officer for the fire department.

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 He works for the fire department now.

12 **MR. PARKER:**

13 Correct. He -- he -- he's no longer affiliated with the Sheriff's Office as a
14 paying job.

15 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

16 Okay.

17 **MR. PARKER:**

18 I don't know if he's a reservist or not, but -- but his primary job is Haz Mat
19 Officer for the fire department.

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 Candace, what was his -- his hire date for the -- for the Haz Mat job?

22 **MS. OBY:**

23 It says July 30 -- 13th, 2019, is what is on the letter.

24 **MR. PARKER:**

25 But he didn't get his Firefighter I until recently.

1 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

2 Correct.

3 **MS. OBY:**

4 He got his Firefighter I in September of '20.

5 **MR. RUIZ:**

6 Do we have a PAF on him?

7 **MS. OBY:**

8 I don't see a PAF attached. Does that mean something?

9 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

10 No. They don't -- they're not -- they're not Civil Service. He marked no
11 Civil Service.

12 **MR. RUIZ:**

13 Oh, okay.

14 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

15 Just the letter.

16 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

17 Just the letter.

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 Richie, is all the Haz Mat people in Jefferson Parish not Civil Service?

20 **MR. PARKER:**

21 To my knowledge, they are.

22 **MS. MUTZ:**

23 They are not.

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 That was you, Kay?

1 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

2 No, that was not me.

3 **MS. MUTZ:**

4 My name is Ali Mutz. I'm with the East Bank Consolidated Fire
5 Department. Those two are parochial. They are not fire Civil Service.

6 **MR. PARKER:**

7 Thank you, Ali. It just dawned on me. I was about to say that they're under
8 the --

9 **MS. MUTZ:**

10 Yeah.

11 **MS. OBY:**

12 Ali, could you --

13 **MS. MUTZ:**

14 The first name is Ali, A-L-I, last name is Mutz, M-U-T-Z.

15 **MR. RUIZ:**

16 Conner, swear her in.

17 **MR. JUNKIN:**

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 Okay. Thank you. So what you're telling me is that no -- none of the
21 coordinators at Haz Mat underneath the fire department, they all work for the
22 parish themselves?

23 **MS. MUTZ:**

24 Correct.

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 Okay. Candace, his Firefighter I is September 20th?

2 **MS. OBY:**

3 September 16th.

4 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

5 16th.

6 **MR. RUIZ:**

7 September 16th of '20?

8 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

9 Yes, yes.

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 So I would -- I would entertain a --

12 **MS. OBY:**

13 At that time, it looks like he --

14 **MR. RUIZ:**

15 -- motion that he would be qualified to get supplemental pay September 16,
16 2021.

17 **MR. PARKER:**

18 I'll make that motion. This is Richie.

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

20 Do I have a second?

21 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

22 I'll second.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 Charles seconded it.

25 Any more discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

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

4 (All aye.)

5 **MR. RUIZ:**

6 The motion passes.

7 So they understand he's going to get supplemental pay starting September
8 16, 2021.

9 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

10 Candace, on the application, we're going to put his hire date as July 13 of
11 '19, and then the effective date for supplemental pay is 9/16/21?

12 **MS. OBY:**

13 Correct.

14 **MR. RUIZ:**

15 Correct.

16 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

17 Okay.

18 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

19 Is this one of those positions that come under the category of Office of Fire
20 Services?

21 **MS. MUTZ:**

22 Yes.

23 **MR. RUIZ:**

24 She -- she would have to answer that.

25 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

1 Well, the lady here just said yes, so...

2 **MR. RUIZ:**

3 So she works -- she works underneath the Superintendent of Fire?

4 **MS. MUTZ:**

5 Yes.

6 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

7 Okay. All right. That's all I have. Okay.

8 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

9 So, Ali, he'll be on the East Bank Consolidated warrant?

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 No. He's going to be on Brian (phonetic) Adams' warrant.

12 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

13 Oh, okay.

14 **MR. RUIZ:**

15 That's what I would think.

16 **MS. MUTZ:**

17 That's what I was told, that he was going to be --

18 **MR. PARKER:**

19 Mr. President (sic), if I could, I spoke with Chief Adams yesterday in
20 reference to that. If you remember, this is one of three guys that they were
21 trying to get under fire.

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 Yes.

24 **MR. PARKER:**

25 And we allowed them to stay under Chief Tibbett's warrant temporarily.

1 **MR. RUIZ:**

2 Yes.

3 **MR. PARKER:**

4 My understanding is that, come the first of the year, they're going to
5 officially move these two guys to Fire Services is what they're working on,
6 because it don't look like they're going to be able to get them under Fire under
7 Chief Tibbetts.

8 **MR. RUIZ:**

9 Right. And I think that's where this gentleman belongs because he's not
10 underneath Civil Service and neither is Chief Adams -- or Superintendent
11 Adams.

12 **MR. PARKER:**

13 Correct, correct.

14 **MR. RUIZ:**

15 And -- and I'm sorry. I -- the lady from Jefferson Parish, you're still there?

16 **MS. MUTZ:**

17 Yes, sir.

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 And -- and your name again? I'm sorry.

20 **MS. MUTZ:**

21 Ali Mutz.

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 Ali?

24 **MS. MUTZ:**

25 Uh-huh.

1 **MR. RUIZ:**

2 So you understand what we're saying is that he's going to be able to
3 supplemental pay starting September 16, 2021, and that you agree with us that he
4 should be underneath Chief Adams' warrant?

5 **MS. MUTZ:**

6 Yes, sir.

7 **MR. RUIZ:**

8 Okay. As long we get all the -- as long as we're all on the same page with
9 that.

10 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

11 Thank you, Brien.

12 **MR. PARKER:**

13 Ali -- Ali, this is Richie. A question, is that --is that kind of correct what I
14 was saying from what I got from Brian yesterday that they -- it's not working out
15 to get them under Fire, so they plan on moving them both under Brian Adams'
16 warrant?

17 **MS. MUTZ:**

18 That's -- yes, sir, that's what I've heard so far.

19 **MR. PARKER:**

20 Okay.

21 COVINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT- KIMBERELY ANN DUNCAN

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 All right. Can we go back to Covington Fire Department?

24 **MR. BLOCKER:**

25 Yes, sir.

1 **MR. RUIZ:**

2 There he is. Conner, can we swear in the Chief again?

3 **MR. JUNKIN:**

4 (Witness sworn.)

5 **MR. RUIZ:**

6 Okay. Now, what's the questions we got for the Chief?

7 It's Kimberely Ann Duncan -- go ahead.

8 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

9 Well, it's to my understanding that this was something simple -- simply just
10 changing the title from secretary to the chief assistant; is that correct, Gary?

11 **MR. BLOCKER:**

12 No.

13 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

14 Her job title is Chief Administrative Assistant.

15 **MR. BLOCKER:**

16 Correct.

17 **MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

18 And that's why we're bringing her forward.

19 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

20 Okay. So she --

21 **MR. RUIZ:**

22 Does she -- does she respond to fires, Chief?

23 **MR. BLOCKER:**

24 Yes. She -- she has Firefighter I, she has gear, and she has a radio assigned.

25 In 2018, she was hired. At that point, she started working towards her

1 Firefighter I. February 12, 2020, she received her Firefighter I, and meeting with
2 the mayor and city administration, they allowed her to respond to all fires to be
3 the additional manpower. She can drive the service equipment currently, and
4 she does work fire details currently. She's eligible to work overtime shifts as a
5 firefighter. After meeting with the city Civil Service attorney, they -- for her
6 protection and the city's protection, they wanted to add that into her current job
7 description and not reclassify her only as a firefighter because she does have
8 additional duties beyond that.

9 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

10 And she works there at least 35 hours a week?

11 **MR. BLOCKER:**

12 Yes, sir.

13 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

14 Okay. From what I can see -- and I see where y'all have made the change in
15 her job description.

16 Okay. Based on what I see, I -- I make a motion to approve.

17 **MR. RUIZ:**

18 There's a motion on the floor to approve that she start receiving
19 supplemental pay --

20 **MS. OBY:**

21 But --

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 -- on 2/12/21; am I correct?

24 **MR. THEVIS:**

25 I believe so, Brien. That's --

1 **MR. RUIZ:**

2 Could we have a second?

3 **MR. THEVIS:**

4 I'll second it. Dwayne.

5 **MR. RUIZ:**

6 Okay. We're open for discussion.

7 Ms. Kay, do you have something? Candace, Mark, anything?

8 **MS. OBY:**

9 No. Her effective date would be a year after her certification, correct?

10 **MR. RUIZ:**

11 Right.

12 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

13 2/12/21.

14 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

15 February 12th of 2021.

16 **MR. RUIZ:**

17 All right. Any more discussion?

18 (No response.)

19 **MR. RUIZ:**

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

21 (All aye.)

22 **MR. RUIZ:**

23 Motion passes.

24 **NEW APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL - 96**

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 All right. We've got approval of new applications. We've got 96 of them.

2 Are all of them in order?

3 **MR. CAMPBELL:**

4 Yes, sir.

5 **MR. RUIZ:**

6 Except for No. 65. No. 65 works for St. Bernard Parish. When I hang up
7 the phone with y'all, I'm going to call her and have her submit that date that we
8 talked about so we can correct that gentleman's pay.

9 Is there any more questions about the applications?

10 **MS. OBY:**

11 No questions, but I just want to let the Board know that these applicants --
12 because of a time crunch with the holidays coming up and with Act 110 getting
13 put in this month as well, these applicants will start receiving in January.

14 **MR. RUIZ:**

15 January 31st?

16 **MS. OBY:**

17 Yes, yes.

18 **MR. RUIZ:**

19 Okay.

20 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

21 I make a motion to approve these 96 applicants, with the one correction of
22 No. 65.

23 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

24 I second.

25 **MR. RUIZ:**

1 Open for discussion.

2 (No response.)

3 **MR. RUIZ:**

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

5 (All aye.)

6 **MR. RUIZ:**

7 The motion passes.

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

9 **MR. RUIZ:**

10 All right. They've got the set time and dates of our next meetings. The next
11 meeting will be February 23rd, 2021. Can y'all check y'all calendars? And the
12 following meeting, the second quarter, will be Wednesday, May 19th, 2021; the
13 third quarter will be August 18, 2021; and the fourth quarter will be Thursday --
14 I mean, Wednesday, November 17th, 2021. If something comes up during --
15 when we're having these quarterly meetings and we need to change them, we can
16 do so at that time.

17 **ADJOURN**

18 **MR. SCHILLACE:**

19 I think that's it for our agenda. I make a motion to adjourn.

20 **MR. RUIZ:**

21 Motion. Can I get a second, please?

22 **MR. PARKER:**

23 Second. Richie.

24 **MR. RUIZ:**

25 Richie moves to second.

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

2 (All aye.)

3 **MR. RUIZ:**

4 Thank y'all, gentlemen. Thank you.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

I, MICHELLE S. ABADIE, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this hearing was reported, certify that on December 10, 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 38, 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

BRIEN RUIZ, CHAIRMAN

DWAYNE THEVIS, VICE-CHAIRMAN

MICHELLE S. ABADIE, CCR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER