

# Recreation District #1 of St. Tammany Parish



Chairman: Nixon Adams  
Vice-Chairman: Shearn Lemoine  
Commissioner: Rick Danielson

Commissioner: John Neill  
Commissioner: deShea Richardson  
Commissioner: Barrett McGuire

Commissioner: Ed Bee  
Executive Director: Suzanne Reeder

## **Recreation District #1/Pelican Park Board of Commissioners Budget Hearing Meeting October 15, 2025**

### **Board present:**

- **Nixon Adams**
- **Shearn Lemoine**
- **Rick Danielson**
- **John Neill**
- **deShea Richardson**
- **Barrett McGuire**

### **Board absent:**

- **Ed Bee**

### **Staff present:**

- **Suzanne Reeder – Executive Director**
- **Doug McLemore – Assistant Director**
- **Scott Goodwill – Chief Financial Officer**
- **Niki Butler – Marketing Director/Board Secretary**
- **Louisette Scott – Dept. Planning & Environmental Ed.**
- **LyKinda Thibodeaux – People Operations Director**
- **Alex Landry – Naturalist & Environ. Ed. Coordinator**
- **Chad Groover – Recreation Supervisor**
- **Jesse Williams – Turf Supervisor**
- **Ron Johnson – Park Manager/Superintendent**

### **1. Call to Order:**

The Board of Commissioners Budget Hearing was called to order by Chairman N. Adams at 6:30pm. N. Butler, Board Secretary, called the roll. Five out of the Seven Board Members were present at roll call, with d. Richardson joining the meeting at 6:40pm, which represents a quorum.

### **2. Budget Presentation/Overview**

- S. Goodwill explained that the purpose of this budget hearing was to provide an introduction and overview of the proposed 2026 budget. The Finance Committee has reviewed and discussed the draft over the past several months as it has continued to develop.
- The current draft of the 2026 budget totals approximately \$7.26 million, representing about an 8% increase over the 2025 budget.

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- Over the past few years, there have been notable structural changes to the budget, including the elimination of the sports bond, adjustments to account allocations, and updates to the chart of accounts. For 2026, the structure remains largely consistent, as the District has now stabilized its financial organization for the upcoming term.
- On the revenue side, ad valorem taxes continue to make up roughly three-quarters of total revenue. These revenues are projected to increase by approximately 1% in 2026, based on estimates recently received from the Assessor's Office.
- Certified numbers from the Assessor's Office confirm 1% growth in ad valorem revenue for 2026. Overall revenue is projected to increase by about 8%, with additional growth from rentals and new programs, including estimated mid-year revenue from the upcoming sand volleyball complex.
- A few revenue items remain uncertain, including the pending renewal of the Gulf Coast Bank contract, which expires in May 2026. The District currently earns just under 4% interest, contributing positively to income.
- On the expenditure side, staffing remains the largest cost. The Blue Cross renewal came in at 5.5%, much lower than the expected 15%, creating a favorable adjustment. Professional fees and contract labor are slightly higher due to additional officials and security coverage.
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### 3. Public Comments

None

### 4. Next Steps

- The District plans to incorporate more capital outlay into the operating budget, aligning with a Capital Improvement Plan to be presented in November.
- The draft budget will be finalized in early November. Board members are asked to submit comments or suggested changes by the end of October.
- The Finance Committee has reviewed the budget in detail and will meet again before the final presentation in November.

### 5. Adjourn

Motion by R. Danielson to Adjourn the Budget Hearing with no votes taken. Second by J. Neill. Vote 6-0. Motion passes.

**Next Budget Hearing for the Board of Commissioners, Wednesday November 19, 2025**

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**\*\*All attachments, item lists and Reports in Brief documents are included in the official minutes.**