

February 16, 2023

The Rusk County Emergency Service District No. 1 met on this date at 6:46 p.m. with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Brian Bathke, Gloria Dooley, Jiffy Dukes and Wayne Griffith. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Jeremy Bozeman followed by the pledge to the American flag.

A roll call of departments present was recorded as follows: Carlisle, Church Hill, Crims Chapel, Eastside, Elderville, Garrison, Henderson, Rusk County Rescue, Kilgore, Kilgore Rescue, Laneville, Mt. Enterprise, New London, New Salem, Overton, Reklaw and Tatum. Departments recorded as absent were: Texas Forest Service.

The minutes of the previous meetings were then presented to the Board for their consideration and approval as emailed. On a motion made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke, the minutes were approved as emailed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The financial report was then presented to the Board for their consideration and approval by Board Administrative Assistant Jeanine Rounsavall. She reported a beginning balance in the District's checking account in the amount of \$558,730.71, and after deposits and disbursements, an ending balance in the amount of \$421,223.86; the General Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$1,567,910.81 with interest earned in the amount of \$3,067.17, and one transfer into Obligations in the amount of \$485,105.07, for an ending balance in the amount of \$1,085,872.91; the Reserve Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$32,710.19, with interest earned in the amount of \$68.06, for an ending balance in the amount of \$32,778.25; and the Obligations Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$55,555.26, with one deposit in the amount of \$485,416.04, and interest earned in the amount of \$310.97, for an ending balance in the amount of \$540,971.30. Also included with the report was a budget versus actual, department breakdown, profit and loss versus actual and reconciliations on all accounts. On a motion made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke, the Board approved the financial reported as presented with a unanimous vote.

The payment of bills was then presented to the Board for their consideration and approval by Board Administrative Assistant Jeanine Rounsavall. She read aloud all checks written during the month and there were no questions or discussion. On a motion made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith, the Board approved the payment of bills with a unanimous vote.

Under Old Business the only item was to consider, discuss and possibly approve any pending items regarding the remodel of the training facility. Board Members Jiffy Dukes and Brian Bathke reported that they had met with Commissioner Gaunt and that while he was more than willing to help clear the fence line, he didn't really have the correct equipment and wasn't sure

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if it could be completed before the 3rd week in March. They then got a bid from Brush Wacker to clear the fence line on the property in an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00. A motion to accept this amount was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Board Member Gloria Dooley reported that the loan paperwork had been completed and that temporary permits were being issued for roofing and floor work as well as for the perimeter lighting. We are still waiting on final drawing approval from the City of Henderson permit department.

Under New Business the first item was to consider and possibly approve the purchase of additional ARM CCS devices for departments that indicated a “not interested” at the January meeting. Once again the departments were given a chance to cost share on this item and two departments indicated that they would be interested in doing so. A motion to purchase 2 additional devices was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve repairs to the Crims Chapel VFD pumper/engine in the amount of \$5,681.22 (final invoice received day of meeting- prior invoice was an estimated cost), with a cost share from the ESD in the amount of \$2,681.22. A motion to approve the cost share on the repair was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve donating the Fire Marshal’s WatchGuard camera system to the Panola Co. Fire Marshal Bryan Murff. After a brief discussion, a motion to make the donation was made by Board Member David Burks, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve Guidelines for departments on when to notify the Rusk County Fire Marshal’s office. Fire Marshal Patrick Dooley made the recommendation to have Guidelines put in place to help department in determining when to call him during an incident. After a review of the proposed Guidelines and brief discussion a motion was made to send these to the Rusk County Firefighters Association for their input and guidance before Board approval. The motion was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve the purchase of 2 Dodge Ram chassis at a cost of \$55,508.00 each with the first one to be delivered by the end of February. A motion to purchase both of these was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve additional reimbursement to VFDs still over on budgeted fuel cost in 2022 after the October stipend. After a review of the documents presented by two departments, a motion to reimburse the Carlisle VFD in the amount of \$1,171.86 and the Eastside VFD in the amount of \$3,358.87 was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve computers, monitors, cabling system for the county command truck at a cost of \$6,202.36 (including labor and freight). A motion not to exceed this amount and to complete the project by March 31, 2023 was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve replacement of department antennas and coax at the Sheriff's department at a cost not to exceed \$10,500.00. Michael Searcy presented the request and explained that the antennas currently in use had not been replaced in many years and with the new dispatch system were only barely working. He also assured the Board that the replacement antennas would work with the VHF system or the 700/800 system. A motion to replace the antennas and coax at a cost not to exceed \$10,500.00 was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider, discuss and possibly approve any action regarding the purchase of 4x4s for use by volunteer departments in the county. While it was agreed that a very limited number of these units could prove to be helpful in the county, it was also felt that departments could come to the Board with a request for the Board to consider a cost share with a department of no more than \$10,000.00. A motion to limit the cost to no more than \$10,000.00 to the ESD was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The last item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve any action regarding replacement of the Fire Marshal's vehicle within the budgeted amount of \$45,000.00. A discussion was held by the Board and Fire Marshal Patrick Dooley regarding replacing the truck he was currently using with a smaller 1/2T pursuit rated vehicle. After the discussion it was agreed that a search could begin for a vehicle not to exceed \$50,000.00 and that the vehicle now in use would be reassigned to a county department as a First Responder unit. A motion to find a vehicle within the above perimeters was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Gloria Dooley abstaining.

Under public comments Jeremy Bozeman reminded everyone about the upcoming Northeast Texas Firefighters spring meeting on April 22nd; Patrick Dooley reminded everyone that departments needed to remember to “close” out all calls in Response Master and that meant using the Close button on each incident report. Chief Vinson told the Board that he had reconsidered the Lifeline CPR device for their department and did not feel they could afford the cost share at this time. The Board did not go back and rescind the purchase of 2 devices.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Secretary

President