

August 24, 2023

The Rusk County Emergency Service District #1 met on this date at 6:42 p.m. with Board Vice President Brian Bathke presiding. Board Members present were Gloria Dooley, Jiffy Dukes and Wayne Griffith. Board Members absent were David Burks. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Scott McCoy followed by the pledge to the American flag.

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

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 Wayne Griffith, the minutes were approved as emailed by a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve the financial report as presented by Board Administrative Assistant Jeanine Rounsavall. She reported a beginning balance in the District's checking account in the amount of \$671,913.68 and after deposits and disbursements, an ending balance in the amount of \$577,754.83; the General Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$1,801,514.79, with interest earned in the amount of \$4,360.66, for an ending balance in the amount of \$1,805,875.45; the Reserve Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$33,143.21, with interest earned in the amount of \$80.22, for an ending balance in the amount of \$33,223.43; and the Obligations Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$598,727.57 with one transfer in the amount of \$105,321.96 and interest earned in the amount of \$3,858.79, for an ending balance in the amount of \$497,264.40. Also included with the report was a budget versus actual; profit and loss versus actual; department breakdowns, run analysis report and reconciliations on all accounts. On a motion made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley, the financial report was approved 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 Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, the payment of bills was approved with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The first item under Old Business was to consider, discuss and possibly approve any pending items regarding the remodel of the training facility. The following items were presented: Change order on tiling both showers in the amount of \$10,795.25-motion to approve made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes and passed with unanimous vote; change order on adding two wall plugs under serving counter in kitchen in

August 24, 2023

the amount of \$1,501.13-motion to approve made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith and passed with unanimous vote; review of estimated cost of sign at road from Sign Express-need changed made to lighting and to metal-motion of table made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith-motion passed with unanimous vote; GLS plaque for exterior of building upon dedication-motion to include all Board Members names made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes-motion passed with unanimous vote; donation of free conference table from Dallas Love Field federal surplus-motion to accept donation made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith-motion passed with unanimous vote; FYI only – fencing tentative date is week of Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup>.

The last item under Old Business was to consider and possibly approve hiring a grant writer. Board Member Jiffy Dukes reported that the grant writer had informed him that there were no grants that would cover any part of a communications infrastructure so there was no need to hire a grant writer. No action taken or needed on this item.

Under New Business the first item was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Carlisle VFD for the purchase of 3 sets of wildland gear in the amount of \$2,481.15. Chief Denison presented the request and there was no discussion or objections. A motion to approve the request for reimbursement was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve a cost share with the Mt. Enterprise VFD on a PPE grant in the amount of \$32,194.00 with a cost share to the ESD of \$9,554.00 and to the department of \$2,640.00 with freight charges to be paid by the ESD. A motion to approve the cost share was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. To be billed to the ESD.

The next item under New Business was to consider, discuss and possibly approve an ILA with the City of Kilgore regarding the Imposition and Collection of Sales and Use Tax. After a brief discussion of the need to clarify the areas of ETJ and responsibilities associated with the ETJ, a motion to table was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley so that the matter could be further discussed in depth. Board Member Jiffy Dukes seconded the motion and it passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Laneville VFD for repairs to their engine, pump on Rescue 505, brush truck and tender at a total cost of \$3,957.32. After review of the invoices and check copies a motion to approve the reimbursement was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board

Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a majority vote of the Board with Board Member Jiffy Dukes abstaining.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve getting new maps to dispatch to replace out dated ones currently in use. Michael Searcy presented the request and asked that we change these out as soon as new 911 maps were available and then have each department verify and determine their respond territory so the maps could be properly refined. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve the purchase of a Ford chassis for the Crims Chapel VFD for their new skid unit at a cost of \$60,992.00. Chief Marvin Vinson presented the request and asked that the Board place the order as orders for Ford would soon be closing. The Board reviewed two bids for a ford chassis and agreed that the Buy Board bid from Caldwell Country Ford was the lesser of the two and would work. At this point, Board Vice President Brian Bathke asked that the Board consider the next agenda item before processing with any approval of this purchase. The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve retaining a brush truck for emergency county use at the expense of the ESD. Currently both the Eastside VFD and Laneville VFD departments have old 1993 standard shift brush trucks that could be retained. However, Board Member Brian Bathke pointed out that the Crims Chapel VFD was seeking to replace their 2001 brush truck that was an automatic and had low mileage and would make a better truck to retain. All of the Board Members agreed and a motion to retain the 2001 Crims Chapel brush truck 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 and it was noted that if at any time the ESD decided to get rid of the truck it would be returned and titled back to the Crims Chapel VFD so they could sale the vehicle and retain the funds from the sale. At this point Chief Vinson with the Crims Chapel VFD was asked if he would agreed to turn over the 2001 brush truck in exchange for the Board agreeing to the purchase of a new Ford chassis for the department; and it was made plain that a refusal to turn the brush over to the ESD would result in a refusal of the purchase of the chassis. Given the terms and conditions of the request, Chief Vinson agreed that upon completion of a new brush truck for his department, the 2001 brush truck would be turned over and titled over to the ESD. A motion to approve the purchase of the chassis was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Chief Vinson was instructed to bring to the September meeting a complete list and cost to build the truck out at Westex that complied with the District's current brush truck specifications.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve assigning the 5500 Ram chassis currently stored to the Henderson Fire department to be built out as a county brush truck. Deputy Chief Ybarra explained that the city would pay the cost to have the truck

Page -4-

August 24, 2023

built out if the chassis was assigned to the city. A motion to move the truck to the City of Henderson was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item under New Business was to consider and accept the No-New Revenue tax rate, the Voter Approval tax rate, the certified appraisal rolls and tax calculations for the District from Nesha Partin, Rusk County Tax Assessor/Collector office. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley went over the forms provided by the Rusk County Tax Assessor/Collector office and the need to approve accepting their calculations to proceed to setting a budget and tax rate for 2023. A motion to accept was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

At this time, Board Vice President Brian Bathke called for a public hearing on the adoption of the 2024 budget at 7:54 p.m. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley presented the 2024 budget to the Board based on their current tax rate of \$0.0775/\$100 and on the No-New-Revenue rate of \$0.067336/\$100. Based on our current budget for 2023, the 2024 budget would only be raised by \$41,245.59 or 1.82% using our current tax rate; and it would decrease by \$261,839.82 if we changed to a lower rate using the No-New-Revenue rate. The public hearing was then closed at 8:01 p.m. by Board Vice President Brian Bathke as there was no discussion or comments.

Next on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve adoption of the 2024 budget. A motion to set the budget based on the current tax rate of \$0.0775 in the amount of \$2,311,011.31 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.

At this time, Board Vice President Brian Bathke called for a public hearing on the proposed tax rate for 2023 of \$0.0775/\$100 at 8:02 p.m. He called for any questions or discussion regarding remaining at our current tax rate. The public hearing was then closed at 8:03 p.m.

The last item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve adoption of a tax rate for 2023. A motion to adopt a tax rate of \$0.0775/\$100 was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

Under Public Comments, Board Member Dooley asked for shirt sizes from the Board Members, Board Member Bathke announced a First Responder luncheon on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Jude's Catholic Church in Henderson, Paul Patterson announced the next round of TFS grants would be on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to update their fleets in Fire Connect to receive a second vehicle through TFS. At this point the floor was given over to Michael and Jeff from Touchstone for a presentation regarding the upcoming Sales and Use Tax election and the Do's and Don'ts attached to the election. They presented a slide show and answered questions from the

Page -5-

August 24, 2023

departments. They also announced that handouts were going to be made available and that signs could be used as long as they were paid for by either the departments or the county firefighters association.

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 Gloria Dooley. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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Secretary

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President