RUSK COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Quorum

Meeting record. The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on September 17, 2026 at 6:33 p.m. with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Gloria Dooley, Jiffy Dukes, Curt Collins and Wayne Griffith. A quorum was present.

2. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Chief Scott McCoy followed by the pledge to the American flag.

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

4. Public Comments / Announcements: Chief Jeremy Bozeman reminded everyone about the Paint the Town Pink basket fund raiser that benefits families in the county with cancer patients; and that sign up sheets were up front for the annual Syrup Festival. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley then asked that the Board President, Board Member Jiffy Dukes, Rusk Co. Firefighters Association President Jeremy Bozeman, and Association Treasurer Tina Dukes to please come up to the podium. At that time she presented to the Board President and Association President plaques of appreciation to present to Board Member Dukes and Association Treasurer Tina Dukes after thanking them both for their service to the county fire District not only as officers of both groups but as members of a volunteer department. She expressed her personal appreciation for their willingness to step up and help whenever called upon. Board Member Dukes was presented with a plaque for 10 years of service on the Board by David Burks and Association Treasurer Tina Dukes was presented a plaque of appreciation and roses from Association President Jeremy Bozeman. They both received a standing ovation by the members present for their service and dedication to the fire District.

5. Approve August 20 and August 31 Minutes

Discussion. Commissioners identified an instance in which Michael Searcy's surname was misspelled in the previous minutes and requested correction throughout the affected document(s).

ACTION — James "Jiffy" Dukes moved to approve the August 20 and August 31 minutes with the spelling corrected. Wayne Griffith seconded. Motion carried by voice vote; no opposition was heard.

6. Monthly Financial Reports

Report. Gloria Dooley presented the monthly financial report. Reported ending balances were: checking account, approximately $404,107 (cents not clear in transcript); sales/use-tax money market, $9,898,696.43; general money market, $1,548,796.89; and obligations money market, $313,081.32. The sales/use-tax account included a $554,615.81 deposit and $15,249.35 interest. T

ACTION — Wayne Griffith moved to approve the financial reports as presented. Curt Collins seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

7. Monthly Payment of Bills

Discussion. Commissioners received and reviewed the detailed check report. It was noted that the District makes the financial summaries, budget information, check detail, and department financial reports available on its website before meetings.

ACTION — James "Jiffy" Dukes moved to approve payment of bills. Curt Collins seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

8. Revenue Transfers Among District Accounts

Report. Treasurer Gloria Dooley reported one August transfer from District checking to the sales/use-tax money-market account to place collected sales tax in an interest-bearing account. The amount was reported in the monthly financial materials.

ACTION — James “Jiffy” Dukes moved to approve the transfer as presented. Wayne Griffith seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

9. Department Monthly Financial Reports

Discussion. Commissioners received the summary and individual VFD financial reports in advance and raised no substantive concerns during the recorded discussion.

ACTION — Curt Collins moved to approve the departmental financial reports. Wayne Griffith seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

10. New Salem VFD Station Project

Erosion control. One landscape/erosion-control bid had been received. A second bid was still awaited, and consideration of that work was deferred pending additional pricing and coordination with New Salem representatives.

Change-order authority. The Board discussed transferring limited change-order authority for the station project to President David Burks, who had assumed responsibility for project coordination, to prevent delays on minor changes. The proposed cap was $5,000 per change order, with Board notification discussed.

ACTION — Curt Collins moved to authorize President David Burks to approve change orders up to $5,000 for the New Salem project. Wayne Griffith seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

Exterior lights. The Board discussed replacing proposed motion-sensor floodlights with LED wall-pack lighting, at an estimated additional cost of approximately $1,550. Timer versus dusk-to-dawn control was discussed. The Board emphasized consulting New Salem representatives before finalizing the change; no separate Board vote on the specific lighting change is evident in the supplied transcript.

11. Communications and Technology

Texas interoperability conference

Discussion. Michael Searcy requested to attend the November 3 TxICC conference in Boerne to obtain information about statewide communications interoperability and cybersecurity. Registration was described as free; travel, lodging, fuel, and meals would be subject to District reimbursement rules.

ACTION — James “Jiffy” Dukes moved to approve Searcy’s attendance and reimbursement under the same travel-expense guidelines used for Board attendance at the SAFE-D conference. Wayne Griffith seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Goodsprings water-tower repeater

Discussion. The proposed relocation of the idle Overton repeater to the Goodsprings water tower remained under development because complete installation costs had not yet been obtained. Goodsprings Water Supply offered the possibility of using its existing electrical service and generator instead of installing separate service. The District discussed paying a fixed amount to recognize electricity and incidental costs, rather than attempting monthly metering. Separate costs for removal, installation and antennas were still being gathered.

ACTION — James “Jiffy” Dukes moved to pay Goodsprings Water Supply $1,200 annually, equivalent to $100 per month, for electricity and incidentals once the site is operational. Curt Collins seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

Potential antenna recovery. The City of Overton indicated that the District could potentially acquire existing antennas and pole materials from the former City Hall site if the District assisted with removal. Staff were asked to obtain removal costs for consideration at a future meeting. No purchase or removal was approved under this discussion.

Motorola handheld-radio proposal

Discussion. The Board reviewed the proposed purchase of 125 Motorola portable radios, advertised at a not-to-exceed amount of $1,477,346.27. A revised lower quotation of approximately $1,438,347.52 was presented. Searcy described over-the-air programming, built-in Wi-Fi and FirstNet/LTE capability, mapping and GPS features, and potential improvement of radio coverage. Commissioners discussed remaining dead spots near Carlisle, battery size, spare-battery quantities, long-term subscription costs, radio accountability and use of existing radios for new members. The Board requested a corrected quotation prioritizing higher-capacity primary batteries and appropriate spares before committing the District.

ACTION — The purchase was tabled/deferred pending corrected pricing and battery specifications, for consideration at a later properly posted meeting. Board Member Gloria Dooley made a motion to table and the motion was seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Conditional disposition of Kenwood handhelds

Discussion. The Board discussed potential sale of approximately 161 Kenwood multiband handhelds to interested public-safety agencies only if replacement Motorola handhelds are acquired. Actual proceeds remain uncertain.

ACTION — James “Jiffy” Dukes moved to declare the Kenwood handhelds surplus upon their replacement by Motorola handhelds and approve the corresponding resolution for lawful sale or disposal. Curt Collins seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

District website project updates

Discussion. The Board discussed adding an “projects in progress” or similar page to show residents station construction, communications projects, apparatus acquisitions, training and response activity. Submitted photographs would be screened to avoid identifying patients, affected families or other inappropriate incident images.

ACTION — James “Jiffy” Dukes moved to expand the District website to include project updates. Wayne Griffith seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

12. Firefighters Association — Syrup Festival Handouts

Discussion. The Firefighters Association requested reimbursement of $6,054.19 for fire-prevention and public-education handouts for the annual Syrup Festival. Commissioners received the invoices.

ACTION — Wayne Griffith moved to approve reimbursement of $6,054.19. Curt Collins seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

13. Rescue Boat and Trailer

Discussion. The Board reviewed a $52,288.65 proposal for an SWR16 rescue boat with a double-stack trailer, already contemplated in the 2026 budget. Discussion addressed trailer cost, delivery charges, limited storage space, deployment of two boats, and whether a conventional single-boat trailer could meet the need at lower cost. Members requested a comparable single-trailer quotation before deciding.

ACTION — Gloria Dooley moved to table the purchase pending a single-trailer comparison. Curt Collins seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

14. Mount Enterprise VFD Engine Tires

Discussion. The department had replaced engine tires, a planned 2026 budget item, and requested reimbursement of $3,986.90 as stated on the agenda.

ACTION — James “Jiffy” Dukes moved to approve the reimbursement. Curt Collins seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

15. Electrolyte Drink Packets for VFDs

Discussion. The Board discussed single-serving Gatorade packets for addition to bottled water during firefighter rehabilitation, including regular and sugar-free varieties and departmental willingness to use them. Storage space and shelf life were considered.

ACTION — James "Jiffy" Dukes moved to purchase three cases of regular and three cases of sugar-free Gatorade single packs for distribution to departments. Curt Collins seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

16. Church Hill VFD Protective Gear

Discussion. Church Hill sought three sets of protective gear totaling $9,596.48, rather than the two sets anticipated in the 2026 budget, due to additional members and replacement needs.

ACTION — James "Jiffy" Dukes moved to approve purchase of the three sets of gear for $9,596.48. Wayne Griffith seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition. Reimbursement will include cost of freight that is not included in quote.

17. County Command Truck Repairs

Discussion. The Board considered reimbursement to Rusk County Rescue for work on the ESD-owned command truck initially suspected to involve the transmission. The repair ultimately addressed other vehicle issues rather than a transmission repair. Cost of reimbursement is $1,523.69..

ACTION — James "Jiffy" Dukes moved to approve reimbursement for the documented repair invoice. Gloria Dooley seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

18. Command Truck Replacement Awning

Discussion. The Board discussed replacing the command truck awning to improve shelter during extended incidents and agreed to a cost cap including installation.

ACTION — Wayne Griffith moved to approve an awning for the command truck at a cost not to exceed $1,500, including installation. Gloria Dooley seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

19. Church Hill VFD — Meals and Drinks During August Fires

Discussion. Church Hill requested reimbursement of $1,142.47 for food and beverages provided to firefighters and other responders during extended August fire operations over approximately two days. Commissioners discussed the value of supporting responder rehabilitation without placing the entire cost on one department.

ACTION — James "Jiffy" Dukes moved to reimburse Church Hill VFD $1,142.47. Wayne Griffith seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

20. Resignation of Commissioner James "Jiffy" Dukes

Discussion. The Board considered Dukes's resignation effective September 30, 2026.

ACTION — James "Jiffy" Dukes moved to approve the resignation effective September 30, 2026. David Burks seconded. Motion carried by voice vote without stated opposition.

21. Continued District Email Access

Discussion. The Board discussed retaining Dukes's District email access through December 31, 2026, to help close ongoing projects after his departure. Participants expressly clarified that continued email access would not confer Commissioner or Board authority.

ACTION — A motion was made by Curt Collins and seconded by Wayne Griffith to retain Dukes' District email access through December 31, 2026, without Board authority. The motion passed with Jiffy Dukes abstaining from the vote.

22. Adjournment

Action. A motion to adjourn was made by Jiffy Dukes and seconded by Curt Colling. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

_____
Gloria Dooley, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: _____

_____
David Burks, President