

August 15, 2024

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 7:11 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 Chief Francisco Hernandez followed by the pledge to the American flag.

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

The minutes of the previous meetings were 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 Board approved the minutes as emailed with a unanimous vote.

The monthly Financial report and Payment of bills was tabled on a motion from Board Member David Burks, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed 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. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley reviewed the ADA inspection report with the Board and noted that most of the items would be addressed with Berry & Clay but that the parking lot grade at the handicap parking area would be addressed at the first part of next week with a meeting with ProLots to determine what would be needed to be done to comply with the report. All the other items on the report would be corrected with the possible exception of the coffee bar counter which was still under discussion. She also noted that it had been discovered that all of the electrical receptacles were 15 amp on 20 amp circuits and that the electrical sub-contractor would have to replace them all. The cost of adding conditioned air to the kitchen area to work with the forced air hood had still not been determined but when she had those numbers the Board would meet and decide how to proceed. She requested that the Board, at that time, consider making this an out-of-scope project so that it wasn't tied to Berry & Clay and that local resources could be brought in to do the work. She then presented the Board with estimated costs for painting the mechanical room walls and floor and painting the red iron on the parking pad and kitchen patio. The cost for the mechanical room was \$2,918.31 and the red iron was \$845.83. The Board asked that the red iron on the storage building also be painted and billed separately when the other work was done. A motion to accept the bid and add the red iron on the storage building 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. She then requested the Board's approval to purchase a washing machine and dryer to be installed in the janitorial room of the building. A motion to approve was made by

Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The cost will not exceed \$2,000.00. She then gave the Board an update on the financial side of the project reporting that the initial loan amount on the remodel was \$2,570,762.00 and that funds paid to date were \$1,953,576.33 and this number included all change orders to date. This leaves a fund balance of \$617,185.67 and the project has only retainage left to draw on as it is 95.30% complete. She then updated the Board on the August Sales and Use tax deposit of \$381,682.81 and this brings that account to a 3 month total of \$990,235.82. This 3 month total would be used to estimate the 2025 annual revenue from Sales and Use tax.

The last item under Old Business was to consider, discuss and possibly approve anything pertaining to radio communications in the District. Michael Searcy requested permission from the Board to have a survey done of the Laneville VFD property to determine if it was suitable as a TexWarn tower site for the south end of the county. He had contacted a survey company and the cost would be approximately \$2,400.00 Once this had been determined, then an estimated cost for a tower at the location could be arrived at for the 2025 budget. A motion to approve the survey was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Michael then requested permission from the Board to install a HF vertical antenna on top of the roof of the parking pad for the Rusk County Amateur Radio Club. He assured the Board that this would not penetrate the roof and a pad would be installed under the antenna so that no damage would be done. A motion to grant the request 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 first item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Eastside VFD in the amount of \$2,191.06 and the Laneville VFD in the amount of \$2,773.53 for items not covered under grant funds for members attending and completing the fire academy classes. A motion to approve both reimbursements was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Jiffy Dukes abstaining.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Laneville VFD for handout materials for National Fire Prevention week in the amount of \$354.20. A motion to approve the reimbursement was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Jiffy Dukes abstaining.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve repairs to the Laneville VFD parking lot. Two options were reviewed and discussed by the Board: redo the entire parking lot at a cost of approximately \$148,000.00 or do a single repair at a cost of

\$39,500.00. The Board felt, after discussion with department members, that the repair would not actually resolve the issue and that more repairs would be necessary at regular intervals. A motion to advertise for bids to redo the entire lot in concrete was made by Board Member David Burks, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Jiffy Dukes abstaining.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve blocking in Response Master a department's ability to create an incident report. Board Member Jiffy Dukes explained that especially during severe weather incidents in the county, departments are going out to county roads to do tree removal and not always reporting into dispatch before doing so but rather going into the system and creating their own report with an assigned number. And that at times, multiple reports are being created if they are on the same county road and have to walk from one tree to another and remove a second tree and that this is really not considered a separate incident. If there is a case where an incident report needs to be created, then the department has only to contact Patrick Dooley and he can unlock the feature and create the incident report for the department. A motion to approve locking this out of Response Master 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.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve dismantling and removing the radio tower at the Crims Chapel VFD site. A motion to table until the next meeting 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 putting the 3.06 and 3.07 signage on the front doors of the building. A motion to strike and rescind the agenda item 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 Panasonic Toughbook Computer for the Fire Marshal's truck at a cost of \$620.00 (not including freight charges). A motion to approve the purchase 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 date for a special called meeting to approve the 2025 budget and 2024 tax rate. After a brief discussion, a motion to set the date for August 27th, at 6 p.m. 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.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve a request from the Rusk County Amateur Radio Club to use the meeting room every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. The Board discussed the request and a motion to approve the request on the condition that it is not guaranteed (if there is a conflict with a fire department event or need that need will come first) was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, 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 defective speakers on the Crims Chapel VFD 2020 Rescue truck at a cost not to exceed \$850.00. Chief Vinson explained that both speakers had gone suddenly dead and needed to be replaced. While the replacement quote presented was \$666.26, Jacob Dooley with Pinnacle Fleet was pricing out speakers that are compatible with the siren that will be lower in cost. A motion to approve the request not to exceed \$850.00 was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The last item under New Business was a review of the annexation of the new Industrial Park on the loop in Henderson and Bradshaw State Jail by the City of Henderson. Informational only. No action needed or taken.

The Board then move to Public Comments: Tina Dukes reminded everyone of the 911 Memorial Walk on September 7th and the Association Fund Raiser on September 13th. She asked for volunteers on September 12th to help with prep at 6 p.m. at the ESD building and then on the 13th for volunteers to help during the fund raiser. Everyone will meet at 8 a.m. at the ESD building to load up food and other items and then proceed to Texas Bank to set up and start cooking hamburgers. Bill Ruby with the New Salem VFD reported that they will be requesting reimbursement for EMT ; Jeremy Bozeman reported that 21 people had signed up for the new fire academy class and Patrick Dooley reminded everyone the ESD building will now be the East Texas testing site for SFFMA.

A motion to adjourn the open meeting for an Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.074 (Personnel Matters) was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The open session meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Board President David Burks reopened the regular meeting at 9:35 p.m. The result of the Executive Session was a motion made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke, that no action would be taken at this time regarding the personnel discussion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

A motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Secretary

President