

December 14, 2023

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 7:08 p.m. with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Gloria Dooley, Jiffy Dukes and Wayne Griffith. Board Members absent were Brian Bathke. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Chief Rayford Gibson 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 Rescue, Laneville, Mt. Enterprise, New Salem, Overton, Reklaw and Tatum. Departments recorded as absent were: Texas Forest Service, Kilgore and New London.

The minutes of the previous meeting were then presented to the Board for their consideration and approved 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 with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The financial report was then presented to the Board for the consideration and approval by Board Administrative Assistant Jeanine Rounsavall. She reported a beginning balance in the District's checking account in the amount of \$326,875.31, and after deposits and disbursements, an ending balance in the amount of \$54,922.27; the Construction account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$72,203.50, with one check written in that amount, for an ending balance in the amount of \$0.00; the General Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$1,620,337.30, with interest earned in the amount of \$3,995.35, for an ending balance in the amount of \$1,624,332.65; the Reserve Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$33,475.02, with interest earned in the amount of \$82.54, for an ending balance in the amount of \$33,557.56; and the Obligation Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$700,242.98, with interest earned in the amount of \$1,726.63, for an ending balance in the amount of \$701,969.61. Also included with the report was a budget versus actual; profit and loss versus actual; department breakdowns, and reconciliations on all accounts. On a motion made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith, the financial report was approved as presented by a unanimous vote of the Board.

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 discussions. On a motion made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, 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 approve any items pending with the remodel of the training facility. Board Member Dooley presented the final cost to add carpeting to the walls of the command room that the Board had approved at the previous meeting. She also presented the email from Board Member Brian Bathke requesting that the

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Board hold a Special Called Meeting prior to their regular January meeting to discuss and arrive at a finish date on the interior of the building. After a brief discussion it would agreed to call a meeting the week of January 8<sup>th</sup> and to invite Danny Berry, Mark Strong and Cody Fielder to the meeting for input on a finish date on the building. No action was taken on these items at this time.

The next item under Old Business was to consider and discuss asphalt work at the training facility based on a bid received. Board Member Dooley pointed out that the total amount far exceeded the \$50,000.00 amount and that the Board would have to seek out additional bids for this work and have it be out-of-scope to the main contract with Berry & Clay. Board Member Brian Bathke had worked on the bid received and would have to come up with specs for additional bids to be sought out. She suggested that this item be included in the Special Called Meeting for January. Everyone agreed and no action was taken at this time.

The last item under Old Business was to consider, discuss and possibly approve any action on the radio communications system. Board Member Jiffy Dukes explained to all departments present that with the new talk groups being set up that “tones” for the department pagers were going to change and all departments would receive a two-tone with the new pagers. He also pointed out that the two-tone system would drop within 4 seconds as compared with an 8 second delay on the single tone system. He asked if any department present had an issue with this change and no one present did. A motion to adopt a two-tone system on the pagers 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 first item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Rusk County Firefighters Association for items purchased as for the Syrup Festival at a cost of \$5,093.90. After a review of the expenditures, a motion to approve the reimbursement 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 reimbursement to the New Salem VFD for repair costs that exceed \$3,000.00 in the amount of \$ 3,798.64. A review of the repair invoices and check copies was made and a motion to approve the 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 sending up to 3 people to the TFT Service Seminar in March of 2024. After a brief discussion, a motion to approve was made by Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

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The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Carlisle VFD for a replacement trailer at a cost of \$3,623.30. Chief Denison explained that their old trailer had a defective axle and was too old to repair and be considered safe to drive. A motion to approve the reimbursement was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote with Board Member Wayne Griffith abstaining.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Kilgore Rescue unit for repairs to their 2005 F550 truck in the amount of \$6,516.48 (department had met required \$3,000 annual amount). After a discussion regarding repairs to a vehicle also being used within a city limits, a motion to approve the full amount was made by Board Member David Burks, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Jiffy Dukes voting against.

The last item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve direct payment to Siddons-Martin for repairs to the Crims Chapel engine in the amount of \$1,464.13 (approved); Crims Chapel 2016 attack truck in the amount of \$1,504.52 (approved with the Crims Chapel department reimbursing the ESD in the amount of \$645.72 for maintenance work on the vehicle); the Laneville engine in the amount of \$768.48 (approved); and to the Carlisle engine in the amount of \$966.68 (approved); and to reimburse the Crims Chapel VFD for repairs to their tender done at Lone Star Emergency Group in the amount of \$3,842.52. During review of the invoices it was noted that the Lone Star invoice had an excessive amount charged for drive time and that departments needed to ask before having a vehicle picked up what the charges would be and to not just assume that the ESD would pay for excessive costs when there was a choice being made by a department without prior approval from the Board. A motion to approve the payment to Siddons-Martin of \$4,703.81 and to Crims Chapel in the amount of \$3,842.52 was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

Under Public Comments Chief Jeremy Bozeman reminded everyone of the Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

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 Wayne Griffith. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Secretary

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President

