

November 16, 2023

The Rusk County Emergency Service District #1 met on this date at 7:12 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 Chaplain Stacie Horne 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, Henderson, Rusk County Rescue, Kilgore Rescue, Laneville, Mt. Enterprise, New London, New Salem, Overton and Tatum. Departments recorded as absent were Texas Forest Service, Garrison, Kilgore and Reklaw.

The minutes of the previous meeting 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 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 \$594,989.45, and after deposits and disbursements, an ending balance in the amount of \$200,218.55; the General Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$1,616,219.26, with interest earned in the amount of \$4,118.04, for an ending balance in the amount of \$1,620,337.30; the Reserve Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$33,389.94, with interest earned in the amount of \$85.05, for an ending balance in the amount of \$33,475.02; the Obligations Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$698,463.33, with interest earned in the amount of \$1,779.65, for an ending balance in the amount of \$700,242.98; and the Construction account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$338,549.60, and after deposits and disbursements, an ending balance in the amount of \$72,703.50. Also included with the report was budget versus actual; profit and loss versus actual; department breakdowns, reconciliations on all accounts and a 33 month run analysis report. On a motion made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, 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 discussions. On a motion made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith, 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. Board Member Gloria Dooley presented a change order to add sheetrock over the cinder block walls in the hallway in the amount of \$4,000; and informed the Board that a change order was in the process for adding carpet to all

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the walls in the command room; and she presented a maintenance contract on the generator with Stewart Stevenson. Board Member Brian Bathke reported that he had met with the asphalt contractor and he would have costs on repairs to the parking lot by the December meeting. A motion was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke, to approve the sheetrock change order, the change order for adding the carpet to the walls and the maintenance contract on the generator. On a unanimous vote of the Board all three items were approved.

The next item under Old Business was to consider and possibly approve an increase in the IT out-of-scope work for the purchase of an uninterruptable power supply for data and backup equipment at an additional cost of \$28,000.00. Michael Searcy explained that due to the building being 3 phase electrical, the cost for the backup had changed dramatically. After a brief discussion, a motion to approve the increase was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under Old Business was to consider and possibly approve purchase of two refurbished repeaters as backup/emergency equipment at a cost of approximately \$2,800.00. Board Member Dooley presented the request as a means to be proactive rather than reactive whenever we have a repeater go down as we had recently. As this would be a savings of over \$12,000.00 in comparison to buying a new repeater, she considered it an investment that needed to be made. After a brief discussion, a motion to purchase was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Brian Bathke voting against.

The next item under Old Business was to consider and possibly approve payment of invoices from Touchstone District Services for services rendered during the Sales and Use tax election. Both Board Member Jiffy Dukes and Board Member Gloria Dooley reported that while they were both very unhappy with the services received, that they did not feel disputing the invoices would result in any reduction. Neither of them would recommend the services of this company to any other ESD. Board Member Dooley reported she had received another invoice from the company that took the total amount of \$28,189.78 and she noted that the Board had preapprove an amount of up to \$45,000.00 in January of 2023 and that this total was under that preapproved amount. A motion to pay the three invoices 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.

At this point, the Board President went to the Supplemental Meeting Agenda, and the first item was to canvass the returns of the November 7, 2023 election and to Adopt an Order Canvassing the Returns and Declaring the Results of Rusk County Emergency Services District No. 1's November 7, 2023 Election. The Board reviewed the official results as provided by the Election

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Administrator of Rusk County. A motion to Adopt the Order was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the Order was Adopted.

Under other matters in connection with the District's November 7, 2023 Election, Board Member Gloria Dooley explained to the Board the process that would now take place with the State Comptroller's office and that she had been in contact with various people and companies on the steps to take in the coming months. She informed the Board that after everything was in place, they could expect to start seeing funds in June of 2024. Board Member Gloria Dooley made a motion to allow setting up a separate Money Market account for Sales and Use tax funds and to set up a steering committee after the first of the year to determine how the funds would be used. Board Member Jiffy Dukes seconded the motion, and it was approved with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The last item under Old Business was an Order Repealing Application of Exemption From Sales and Use Tax For Telecommunications Services. Board Secretary/Treasurer Dooley explained that once this order was approved and adopted, it would be presented to the State Comptroller's office and would allow the ESD to collect sales and use tax on cell phones, cell phone services and internet services within the county. She read aloud the Order and then a motion to adopt the Order Repealing 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 first item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve membership in the Henderson Area Chamber of Commerce. Board Member Gloria Dooley presented the request and pointed out that they had been very helpful during the election process and a valuable partner within the county. A motion to join the Chamber of Commerce was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Eastside VFD for the purchase of one set of bunker gear not to exceed a cost of \$4,000.00 to the ESD. Chief Bozeman presented the request for the department. A motion to approve 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 and possibly approve reimbursement to the Carlisle VFD for repairs that exceed the annual \$3,000.00 in the amount of \$1,195.05. After a brief review of the invoices, 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 of the Board.

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The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve a District standard that all further bunker/PPE gear have on it Rusk Co. ESD #1. Board Member Gloria Dooley presented the request and pointed out that every department in the county had gear paid for totally or in part by the ESD and that it was past time that the ESD was on that gear. Board Member Jiffy Dukes also pointed out that once the building was done, he would be requesting that all departments turn over cleaned gear that was not in use so that any department that needed gear for a new member would have gear available to use. After a discussion, it was decided that all gear would have RC ESD #1 in Velcro at the very bottom of the back of the jacket. Departments name could be placed in the shoulder area and the member's name of the tail flap – all in Velcro. A motion to labeling all gear 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 Church Hill VFD for ISO items purchase for new apparatus at a cost of \$904.00. Kerry Robinson with the Church Hill VFD responded that none of the items were ISO and had been purchased to replace old and lost items on their brush truck. A motion to table the request was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The department will be instructed to withdraw the request if it does not fall within the District's Guidelines.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve a Radio Agreement between UT Health TxWarn and The Rusk County ESD. Board Member Jiffy Dukes made a motion to table the item as the agreement was still in the legal department of UT Health. The motion was duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The last item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve roof repairs and adding a lean-to to the Reklaw VFD station at a cost to the ESD not to exceed \$25,000.00. Board Treasurer Dooley reported that this item was part of the Reklaw VFD 2023 budget requests and funds had been allowed in the ESD budget. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

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Under public comments the following was noted: Request from Chief Bozeman that Active 911 not be used to send out county wide emails; a request that department chiefs read their emails and pass along information to department members; Crims Chapel reported that they had received a grant for PPE; November 26<sup>th</sup> is the New London Christmas parade and all departments are invited to participate; November 30<sup>th</sup> is the Henderson Christmas parade; and December 13<sup>th</sup> is the Tatum Christmas parade.

There being no further business to come before the District at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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Secretary

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President