

August 27, 2024

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 6:11 p.m. for a Special Called meeting 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 Jeremy Bozeman followed by the pledge to the American flag.

The first item under Old Business was to consider, discuss and possibly approve any pending items regarding the training facility. The first item was a bid to spray foam the storage building. After reviewing the bid received, Fire Marshal Patrick Dooley said he had received an email from another bidder that would have a price by the next morning and asked that we consider postponing a decision. At that point, it was brought up that we really should have electrical plugs and new lighting installed before the foam was sprayed. The Board then discussed the need to verify a drain in the building for an extractor to clean bunker gear and electrical for a mini-split system for that building. After discussion, Board Member Gloria Dooley made a motion to do all work on the storage building (electrical, plumbing, a/c, spray foam insulation, etc.) not to exceed a total amount of \$35,000.00. The motion was duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke and passed with a unanimous vote of the Board. Board Member Jiffy Dukes will head up this project, report on the progress of the project and bring any additional items to the Board if need be. The next item was to commission a Rusk County Firefighters Association sign for display in the meeting room at a cost of \$950.00. 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 was a bid from KC Plumbing to install auto flushers on the urinals in the men's bathroom and all toilets in both bathrooms. Board President David Burks suggested that he purchased these and install them as he does this on a regular basis at West Rusk Schools. After a brief discussion, it was also decided that only auto flushers on the men's urinals were actually needed. A motion to purchase 2 auto flushers and have David Burks install them not to exceed \$1,000.00(parts only) 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 for approval were the repairs needed to meet ADA requirements on the handicap area of the parking lot. Board Member Jiffy Dukes presented a bid from ProLots for a cost of \$3,500.00. He had met with them and they acknowledged that they had not met the specs on the grade for this area. They had requested that the Board help with the cost as they were only going to ask for the actual cost without any profit or markup in the quote. The Board discussed their request and agreed that while they were responsible, they had gone out of the way to do the job and allow us to open the building for use. It was therefore suggested that we pay for the entire repair but payment would be made in two equal payments; one at completion and one after reinspection for ADA compliance. A motion to pay the full cost was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board. The next item was the purchase of two flag poles for the grounds of the

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facility. As the bids had not been received a motion to table 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 was a change order from Berry & Clay to add conditioned air to the kitchen at a cost of \$21,586.70. After a very brief discussion, it was decided that this was far more than anticipated and that the Board would seek to have the intake airflow on the hood adjusted by an outside source. A motion to deny the change order was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. Next, Board Member Gloria Dooley reported that after many discussions with Danny Berry of Berry & Clay, the coffee bar issue could be resolved at no cost to the ESD by lowering just the right side of the bar and the sink to the required 34" as per ADA requirements. The Board agreed that this compromise would work. The Board then discussed the ongoing issues with the French drain on the west and north sides of the building and that it really needed to be fixed as another sink hole was appearing. Board Member Brian Bathke volunteered to have someone else look at the issue and come up with a solution to the problem.

The last item under Old Business was to consider and possibly approve financials for May and June of 2024. After a review of the financials a motion to approve 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. Board Member Gloria Dooley introduced Dawn Taylor who had produced the statements for the ESD and who would be taking over for Jeanine Rounsavall who had resigned due to health issues.

Under New Business the first item was to consider and approve the No New Revenue tax rate, the Voter Approval tax rate, the certified appraisal tax rolls, and tax calculations for the District from Neshia Partin, Rusk County Tax Assessor/Collector's office. Board Treasurer Dooley presented all of the above and after review by the Board 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.

The next item under New Business was to call for a public hearing on the adoption of the 2025 proposed budget. Board President David Burks opened the public hearing at 6:56 p.m. and called for public comments. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley presented the Board with the proposed 2025 budget and went over each line item noting changes to increase department funding, increased run funding, moving equipment purchases, radio equipment purchased under a lease/purchase contract and building cost payments to Capital Expenditures; as well as adding a category for training and increases to accounts due to inflation in other areas. She also ran the budget using the No New Revenue rate of \$0.080373 which would be a gain of \$84,039.85 but recommended that the ESD stay at

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their current lower rate of \$0.0775. The total budget amount for revenue received from property tax collections would be \$2,267,012.55 and for estimated sales and use tax revenue would be \$3,750,000.00 for a total budget amount in 2025 of \$6,017,012.55 based on the current tax rate. Questions and comments were then asked for and there were none. A motion to close the public hearing 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. The hearing was closed at 7:08 p.m.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve the adoption of the proposed 2025 budget. A motion to approve the budget as presented was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, 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 call for a public hearing on the proposed tax rate for 2024. Board President David Burks opened the hearing at 7:09 p.m. and called for public comments. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley again recommended staying at the current lower tax rate to the Board. As there were no comments or questions, a motion to close the public hearing 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. The hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

The last item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve adoption of a tax rate for 2024. A motion to keep the tax rate at \$0.0775 was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the motion was approved.

Under Public Comments Patrick Dooley requested that on the September agenda an item be placed to discuss possibly engaging the services of Streamline Website Management due to the demands of keeping websites ADA compliant. He gave a brief description of the services offered and the possible costs. Board Member Gloria Dooley reported that the chassis for the Crims Chapel truck was scheduled to be delivered next week and then would go to Westex for the build out of the unit for the department.

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 Brian Bathke. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Secretary

President

