

January 18, 2024

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 7:10 p.m. with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Brian Bathke, Jiffy Dukes, Gloria Dooley and Wayne Griffith. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Tommy Brock 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, Texas Forest Service, Garrison, Rusk County Rescue, Kilgore Rescue, Laneville, Mt. Enterprise, New London, New Salem, Overton, Reklaw and Tatum. Departments recorded as absent were: Kilgore FD.

The only item under Old Business was to consider, discuss, and possibly approve any pending items regarding the remodel of the training facility. Board Member Brian Bathke presented the Board with a change order to prep the concrete floors in the building in the amount of \$14,295.00 and went on to informing the Board that he did not believe the flooring chosen for the building was the correct choice. The Board discussed the change order and the fact that the floor had always been in need of prepping before any kind of flooring was installed and that this should have been included with the bid from the flooring sub-contractor to Berry & Clay. It was decided that no action would be taken on the change order until the Board could further investigate the flooring choice and alternative flooring that could be glued down rather than a peel and stick flooring. Board Member Brian Bathke then informed the Board that there was a major water leak that was under the ramp on the north side of the building and that it was an old water line that had broken. He believed it was from the extreme freezing temps of the week. He had called Jason's Plumbing to look at it and to do the repairs out-of-scope. A motion to repair the water line 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 Board then reviewed multiple options on chairs for the meeting room and agreed that, if possible, to purchase church chairs at a cost of around \$40 per chair.

The first item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve a letter of engagement from Morgan LaGrone, CPA for auditing services for the year 2023. The Board reviewed the standard letter and a motion to engage the services 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 direct payment of a December invoice from Siddons-Martin for repairs to the Crims Chapel water tender. After a brief review, a motion to pay the invoice of \$629.25 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 a request for a cost share with the Kilgore Rescue Unit for a new brush truck in the amount of \$25,088.00 as per their 2023 budget request. As this request had been submitted at the annual budget workshop, a motion to approve the cost share amount was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly

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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 reimbursement to the Eastside VFD for replacement of 16 pairs of failed bunker gear boots and 3 failed helmets at a cost of \$6,885.00 (not including freight). Chief Jeremy Bozeman presented the request and explained that they had not been checking their boots for expiration dates and had found that they had 16 pairs that were out of service. A motion to approve the request was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Payment will be made upon receipt of invoice and check copy.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve rescinding the \$3,000.00 cost share with the Carlisle VFD so that the department could use these funds toward their operating expenses. Chief Chris Denison presented the request and explained that due to increased costs of fuel and vehicle maintenance, they could really use the extra money to offset these costs. A motion to rescind and release the department from the cost share 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 assigning one of the multi-band 7/800 radios to Chaplain Stacie Horne. Board Member Gloria Dooley asked that this item be withdrawn as it had been discovered that a radio had been ordered for her in the count for the Rusk County Rescue Unit. No action taken.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve a cost share on an annual basis at a set amount or a one time cost share payment with the Garrison VFD on a new pumper/engine. Board Member Jiffy Dukes asked that this item be tabled as he had talked with Chief Ricky Colle and the department was going to explore cheaper financing options and then bring this back to the ESD. A motion to table was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Church Hill VFD for items purchased for their new brush truck and water tender and for a pair of replacement bunker pants in the amount of \$12,260.76. Board Member Gloria Dooley explained that she had gone through the invoices submitted and removed items that were either not on the ISO list or in quantities greater than on that list and reduce the amount to the stated reimbursement. After a review of the invoices, a motion to reimburse the department 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 last item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve replacement of failed

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bunker gear for the Overton VFD at a cost not to exceed \$28,000.00. Board Member Jiffy Dukes asked the department representative if the department had brought this request to the City of Overton City Council for any kind of cost share. The reply received was that they had talked with them and that the city didn't have any funds to be able to cost share with the ESD. A motion to table the request was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke, until this information could be verified. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board. Board Secretary/Treasurer Gloria Dooley will email the Overton City Manager for verification.

As there were no Public Comments or Announcements, 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 7:58 p.m.

Secretary

President