

May 18, 2023

The Rusk County Emergency Service District #1 met on this date at 6:34 p.m. with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Brian Bathke, Gloria Dooley, James Dukes and Wayne Griffith. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Jeremy Bozeman followed by the pledge to the American flag.

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

The minutes of the previous meetings 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 checking account in the amount of \$790,686.43 and after deposits and disbursements, an ending balance in the amount of \$647,820.88; the General Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$1,634,996.53 with two deposits and interest earned in the amount of \$3,804.47, for an ending balance in the amount of \$1,793,023.52; the Reserve Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$32,913.95, with interest earned in the amount of \$73.04, for an ending balance in the amount of \$32,986.99; and the Obligations Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$543,210.86, with interest earned in the amount of \$1,205.48, for an ending balance in the amount of \$544,416.34. Also included with the report was a budget versus actual; profit and loss versus actual; department breakdown and run analysis report as well as reconciliations on all accounts. On a motion made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, the financial report was approved as presented.

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 discussion. On a motion made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke, the payment of bills was approved with a unanimous vote of the Board.

Under Old Business the following items were discussed regarding the remodel of the training facility: Change orders on doors, grease trap and diesel generator noting that the generator would have a 510 gallon tank and the new submittal and specs needed to reflect that change; it was agreed to completely clear the north side of the property of all items (picnic tables, pavilion slab, monuments, poles, etc.) and start with a clean slate; contact Blazer electric for a change order cost of moving all the poles on the south side to be inline; change a/c pads to concrete

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rather than asphalt; doubling checking on ramp on north as to the width; getting final quotes on security system and access control system. A motion was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes to proceed with all items discussed. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The first item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve 2 historic or archeological property tax exemptions for the Kock Estate and Threadgill-Boles Partners Estate. As these are standard yearly exemptions there was no discussion and 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 next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve hiring a grant writer to apply for the AFG grant for Rusk County and the City of Henderson. Board Member Jiffy Dukes reported that he had spoken with a grant writer and the cost would be \$795.00 per department to apply for the grant but he would like to get further information from her before proceeding with the grant. The City of Henderson is declining participating as they no longer have a need for the radios. A motion to table the 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 payment to Sign Express for signage on the new Fire Marshal truck and the Church Hill VFD tender at a cost of \$3,725.00 A motion to pay the invoice 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 consider and possibly approve any action necessary in regards to the proposed November Sales Tax Election and/or services connected with said election. Mr. Michael Willett was present from Touchstone to update the Board on what they had been working on for Rusk County and informed the Board that we should proceed with contacting city officials within the county to inform them of the possible election but to wait on local events until the fall. No action was taken regarding the agenda item.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possible approve a cost share with the Carlisle VFD for a Texas Forest Service grant for Volunteer Recruitment Resources at a cost to the ESD of \$1,682.00. Chief Chris Denison explained that the funds would be used for a lighted sign and that the department would install it themselves. A motion to approve the cost share was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve a date for the 2024 budget workshop and a review of the estimated tax revenue for 2024. A date of June 27th at 5:30 p.m. was set for the workshop and all departments would need to have their budgets submitted prior to this date. Treasurer Gloria Dooley gave the Board as estimated budget amount of \$2,353,055 for 2024. A motion to set the workshop date of June 27th at 5:30 p.m. 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 entering into an Antenna Site Lease Agreement with the Goodsprings Water Supply Corporation. Board Member Gloria Dooley explained she needed an agreement to be able to have this site inspected for use and to have access to the property to see if it was a viable site for a repeater and antenna for the Carlisle VFD. A motion to approve the Lease Agreement was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Board Member Dooley will get the agreement to the water supply corporation and will also contact another company about a possible site half a mile from the Carlisle VFD station.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve replacement doors at the Rusk County Rescue unit at a cost of \$14,240.00 and an additional estimated cost of \$2,000.00 for electrical. As this was an item in their 2023 budget submitted by the department, there was no discussion or questions. A motion to approve the cost of replacement doors was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Any cost above the approved \$2,000.00 for electrical will be paid by the department.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve replacement hose for the Overton VFD that had failed certification at a total cost of \$1980.00 (not including freight) and with a final cost to the ESD of \$990.00 after a cost share with the City of Overton. 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 last item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve bids on a new brush truck for the Eastside VFD. The Board reviewed the bids received from Siddons-Martin and Wildfire Truck & Equipment Sales. Assistant Chief Jeremy Bozeman explained that the difference in the bids was due to the fact that Siddons-Martin had utilized all the available space on the truck chassis with storage where as Wildfire had chosen not to do so as they did not have an engineering department that could verify the weight. A discussion regarding the fact

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that this would be a hybrid truck used for both brush fires and first responding/rescue ensued. The department had requested that they be allowed to bid the truck out as a dual purpose truck rather than just a brush truck and the full Board had agreed to the request. However, Board Member Bathke objected to it being other than just a brush truck and the cost of the truck since the District was furnishing the chassis. After a lengthy discussion, a motion to accept the bid from Siddons-Martin was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a majority vote of 4 to 1 with Board Member Bathke voting against.

As there were no public comments, 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 8:17 p.m.

Secretary

President