

November 21, 2024

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 7:03 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, Laneville, Mt. Enterprise, New London, New Salem, Overton, Reklaw and Tatum. Departments recorded as absent were: Texas Forest Service, Garrison, Kilgore, and Kilgore Rescue.

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 as emailed by Board Administrative Assistant Dawn Taylor. She reported a beginning balance in the District's checking account in the amount of \$214,693.14, and after deposits and disbursements, an ending balance in the amount of \$185,608.09; the Sales and Use Tax Money Market showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$1,278,037.59, with one transfer of funds into the account and interest earned in the amount of \$3,331.47, for an ending balance in the amount of \$1,600,040.17; the Construction account showed no activity and a zero account balance; the General Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$1,302,461.26 with one transfer to checking and interest earned in the amount of \$2,672.35, for an ending balance in the amount of \$1,055,133.61; the Reserve Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$34,404.68, with interest earned in the amount of \$78.89, for an ending balance in the amount of \$34,483.57; and the Obligations Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of \$989,676.53, with interest earned in the amount of \$2,269.47, for an ending balance in the amount of \$991,946.00. Included with the report was a budget versus actual, breakdown by department, reconciliations on all accounts and a profit and loss versus actual. On a motion made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, 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 Treasurer Gloria Dooley. All checks were listed since the previous month and there were no questions or comments. A motion to approve the payment of bills 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.

Under Old Business the first item was to consider, discuss and possibly approve any

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pending items regarding the remodel of the training facility. Board Member Gloria Dooley reported that the final draw payment had been received from Berry & Clay and had been forwarded to the bank for payment. Board Member Jiffy Dukes reported that the remodel of the storage building was completed and that it would be roughly \$2,000.00 over the approved amount and he would have a final number for approval at the December meeting. No action taken.

The next item under Old Business was to consider, discuss and possibly approve anything pertaining to radio communications in the District. Michael Searcy requested that the Board approve distribution of pagers to the Tatum VFD from the current stock on hand as they would need them for future use. A motion to approve the pager request 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 Old Business was an update on the Laneville VFD concrete project. Assistant Chief Jiffy Dukes reported that the project would be completed within 10 days as concrete would be poured in the next day or so, weather permitting.

The last item under Old Business was to consider and possibly approve the ESD purchasing dress uniforms for individual department members that consists of shirt, pants, belt, collar brass and 2 shoulder patches not to exceed \$300. After a lengthy discussion, the departments present were asked to indicate by a show of hands if they were interested in having a district wide standard uniform for formal occasions and all departments presented indicated that they were indeed interested (no department present voted against a standard uniform). A motion was then made to send this to the Rusk County Firefighters Association for clarification, guidelines and need by Board Member Brian Bathke, 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 Church Hill VFD for the cost of a failed ladder in the amount of \$1,525.00. A motion to approve the reimbursement was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, 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 repairs to the Carlise VFD engine 1. Two cost estimates were presented by the department and after review a motion to approve the repairs at an estimated cost of \$4,240.55 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 department will owe the ESD \$1,130.69 after this repair is paid for by the ESD to meet the District's repair guidelines.

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The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Laneville VFD for fire academy expenses in the amount of \$601.42. A motion to approve the reimbursement was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Jiffy Dukes abstaining.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve amending the bunker gear replacement guidelines to include repairs to gear. Board Member Jiffy Dukes presented the request after researching the costs of repairs and finding that it was very affordable to have gear repaired by a certified ISP. After review and discussion, a motion to amend the District's Guidelines 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. Amended Guidelines will be presented for Board approval at the December meeting.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve paying Siddons-Martin for the following department vehicle repairs: Crims Chapel \$4,647.41; Overton \$1,636.01 and Mt. Enterprise \$903.89. All departments had met the requirements for vehicle repairs during 2024. A motion to pay the bills was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, 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 reimbursement to the Eastside VFD for truck repairs in 2024 in the amount of \$6,900.69. After a review of invoices presented, a motion to approve the reimbursement was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, 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 2025 vehicle purchases for the Reklaw VFD and the Rusk County Rescue Unit based on the vehicle workshop held the previous month. A motion to approve these purchases 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. Both departments will present bids to the Board at the January 2025 meeting for possible approval.

The last item under New Business was to consider, discuss and take any action necessary on building plans for the New Salem VFD proposed station. After a review of the plans, the Board asked the department to seek out bids and bring these to the Board before seeking out and securing a loan so that the Board could determine if the amount could be handled inhouse by the ESD. No action taken.

Under public comments the Board requested that the Carlisle VFD get a pay off amount on the loan for their station to determine if that note could be paid off within the next couple of months. New London VFD – Christmas parade in New London on Dec. 1st starting at 2 p.m.; December 5th- city of Henderson Christmas parade; December 7th-Association pancake breakfast at 9 a.m.; December 14th – New Salem VFD annual Fish Fry from 11-2 p .m.

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

Secretary

President