VAN ZANDT COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT #4

MINUTES FROM July 18, 2023

**Present:** Commissioners: Scott Davenport, Ray Thomason, Jerry Hill, Greg Preston, and Teresa Byrd

WPVFD: Ed Leipply

1. **Call meeting to order.** President Scott Davenport declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.** Scott Davenport led the Pledge of Allegiance and Greg Preston led the Invocation.
3. **Public Comment: Citizens to be heard.** No one was present.
4. **Recognition of ESD/VFD Volunteers.** Chief Leipply reported 4 firefighters would be attending Texas A&M next week for fire training.
5. **Status of new Brush Truck.** Chief Leipply said they are still hoping the new truck will be ready by August 1. Wildfire says it will take 2 weeks to complete but it may closer to a month. This item will stay on the agenda.
6. **Status of new Fire Engine and report about cost of purchasing PM’s.** Ed has sent an email about the cost of the PM’s but has not received an answer. Based on information received about the new engine, it will probably not be ready until the first of the year. The hose for the new engine has been ordered. Five SCBA units for the engine have also been ordered. They are trying to have everything they will need for the engine here before it is delivered. The cost of the SBCA’s will be $48,000 - $52,000. They will invoice once delivered to Wills Point. This item will stay on the agenda.

7. **Report from Treasurer Jerry Hill.**

a) Jerry Hill reported the Operating account balance is 398,826.76, the ESD Asset Allocation fund balance is $587,759.52 and the Emergency fund balance is $323, 329.53. Ray Thomason asked about the possibility of moving money from the Asset Allocation or Emergency fund into a CD so the ESD could earn more interest. Scott said he would speak to the bank. Ray moved to move money into a CD, if the bank agreed this would work. Jerry Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Monthly Budget Report: Kristie provided a current Balance Sheet dated October 1, 2022 through July 18, 2023. She also provided a utilities account report, collections report, 2022-23 budget and copies of the bank statements.

8. **Report from VFD Chief Ed Leipply on current status of the VFD including.**

a) Current status of equipment: Booster 1 is waiting on parts. Wills Point Auto will do the repairs as soon as they receive the parts. it. Brush 1 has a death wobble (front end suspension) that would cost $1500-2000 to repair. Since it is being replaced with the new brush truck, Ed recommends not repairing and selling it for $1000-1500 once the new truck is delivered. .

b) Monthly Run Report: WPVFD reported 82 calls for June. The calls included 3 Structure Fires, 7 Grass/Brush Fires, 2 Vehicle Fires, 6 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 49 EMS, and 15 Other type calls.

c) Monthly Budget Report including 2022/2023 Budget: The annual budget was presented showing expenditures through June 30, 2023. Ed said they are working on the 2023-24 budget. Due to a new radio system the county is installing, they may have to spend money on new radios. They have not been told how much the county will pay for radios and how much the Fire Department will be responsible for. There is a County Commissioner fighting for as much as he can get for each department. However, until they know the exact amount, the Fire Department budget for 2023-24 may be different from what they initially propose.

9. **Discussion of Proposed 2023 Tax Rate**. Scott stated once the numbers are received from the County we will have a better idea on the tax rate. He thinks it will need to be increased to 0.095 or 0.096 because of the new station, new engine, and new brush truck. This item will remain on the agenda.

10. **Discussion of Proposed 2023-2024 ESD Budget**. The board members were provided with last year’s budget and the amounts the ESD has spent on all the utilities. They will begin looking about what will be need for next year. This item will remain on the agenda.

11. **Consent agenda.**

a) Reading (if requested) and approval of the June 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Scott Davenport moved to approve the minutes from June 20, 2023. Jerry Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. **Agenda items for the next meeting on August 15, 2023.** Items to be discussed will include tax rate, budget, and prepaid PM’s.

13. **Adjourn.** Greg Preston moved to adjourn at 6:42 PM. The motion was seconded by Teresa Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

By: Kristie Jones

Clerk, Van Zandt Emergency Service District 4