VAN ZANDT COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT #4

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

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

Guest: Ken Byrd

WPVFD: Ed Leipply

1. **Call meeting to order;** President Scott Davenport declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation;** Scott Davenport led the Pledge of Allegiance and Greg Preston led the Invocation.
3. **Discuss and take action to adopt budget for fiscal year October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024;** Scott Davenport reported on the increases in budget amounts for the 2023-24 budget. He then called for a motion to adopt the FY 2023-24 ESD budget. Teresa Byrd moved to adopt the ESD budget based on collections of $873,751.68. Greg Preston seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Greg Preston, Teresa Byrd, Ray Thomason, Jerry Hill and Scott Davenport. No one was opposed. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Conduct a public hearing on the proposal to increase property taxes;** Ken Byrd attended the meeting but did not have any questions about the budget or proposal to increase property taxes.
5. **Take a record vote on the District’s 2023 tax rate, adopt an Order Levying Taxes, and authorize filing the Order with the Van Zandt County Tax Assessor/Collector;** Greg Preston stated, “I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of $0. 094000/$100 valuation, which is effectively a 18.22 percent increase in the tax rate.” Teresa Byrd seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Scott Davenport, Ray Thomason, Jerry Hill, Greg Preston, and Teresa Byrd. No one was opposed. The motion passed unanimously. Kristie Jones will file the vote with the Van Zandt County Tax Assessor/Collector.

Jerry Hill moved to adopt an Order Levying Taxes and authorizing Kristie Jones to file the Order with the Van Zandt County Tax Assessor/Collector. Ray Thomason seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Acknowledge and approve posting statement regarding adopted tax rate to home page of District’s website;** Jerry Hill moved to have Kristie Jones submit the following statement to be posted on the website, “Van Zandt County ESD No. 4 adopted a tax rate that will raise more taxes for Maintenance and Operations than last year’s tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 23.95 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a $100,000 home by approximately $33.53.” Greg Preston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Recognition of ESD/VFD Volunteers;** There were no recognitions.
3. **Status of new Brush Truck;** Chief Ed Leipply reported the truck should be ready in 2-3 weeks.
4. **Status of new Fire Engine and report about cost of purchasing PM’s;** The engine may be ready to be looked at by the end of October. It may not be used as a demo. If not, it may be ready to put into service by the end of December. The list of items for the PM’s has been narrowed down to 3. The 500 hours annual inspection will cost $2995, annual pump test $495, and tack 4/new suspension $795. For a total cost of $4285 per year if pre-purchased. Ed said these costs will probably increase 10-12% per year if not pre-purchased. He will check with the service department about the tack 4/new suspension to see if that $795 per year is really necessary. Ed has not been told if there is a limit on the number of years that can be pre-purchased. A question was asked about the electronics and Ed responded they are not covered by any of the PM’s. Scott asked that the purchase amount/number of years be added to the October agenda.

10. **Report from Treasurer Jerry Hill;**

a) The Operating account balance is $341,327.83, the ESD Asset Allocation fund balance is $587,959.21, and the Emergency fund balance is $23,370.34 with $300,000 of the Emergency fund being in CD’s.

b) Monthly Budget Report: Kristie provided a current Balance Sheet dated October 1, 2022 through September 19, 2023 and copies of the bank statements. There were no questions.

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

a) Current status of equipment: All the equipment that is at the station is currently working. There is an oil leak in Engine 1, but it will not be repaired at this time. There is a garage/bay door that is being repaired.

b) Monthly Run Report: Chief Leipply reported 87 calls for August. The calls included 1 Structure Fire, 14 Grass/Brush Fires,3 Vehicle Fires, 13 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 41 EMS, and 15 Other type calls.

c) Monthly Budget Report including 2022/2023 Budget: Chief Leipply submitted his financial report and annual budget report for October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. He reported the VFD has adjusted their budget this year but will have some left over to return to the ESD.

12. **Consent agenda;**

a) Reading (if requested) and approval of the August 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes; Jerry Hill moved to approve the minutes from August 15, 2023. The motion was seconded by Teresa Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

11. **Agenda items for the next meeting on October 17, 2023;** The agenda will include how many years of PM’s to purchase, how much excess money from FY 2022-23 to use towards paying on loans (new engine and station) and which to pay first.

12. **Adjourn;** Jerry Hill moved to adjourn at 6:29 PM. The motion was seconded by Ray Thomason. The motion passed unanimously.

By: Kristie Jones

Clerk, Van Zandt Emergency Service District 4