VAN ZANDT COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT #4

MINUTES August 20, 2024

**Present:** Commissioners: Scott Davenport, Jerry Hill, Ray Thomason, Robert Tisdale, 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 6:01 PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.** Scott Davenport led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ray Thomason led the invocation.
3. **Public Comment: Citizens to be heard.** No one was present to speak.
4. **Recognition of ESD/VFD Volunteers.** Chief Leipply did not present any recognitions.
5. **Any information on land for a North Sub-station, take action if necessary;** Ed Leipply reported Bright Star Baptist Church is willing to lease a portion of their property to the ESD to build a North Sub-station. The minister, Fred Cooper, will start reading the lease after Kristie emails it to Chief Leipply. Scott Davenport asked if they wanted to use Kevin Alexander for the construction. Ray Thomason and Chief Leipply need to do measuring and a boundary survey needs to be completed if the church doesn’t already have one. The building will need to be large enough (possibly 40x60) for two bays and include a ½ bath inside. Scott reported he built some that are 50x60 and have concrete foundations 6-8 inches deep with 3 ½ foot piers for $200,000. The possibility of putting in a septic system or tying into the church will need to be discussed. Kristie will email the lease used for the South Sub-station to Ed.
6. **Consider taking action regarding 2024-25 budget;** The projected amount to receive from the County is $970,623.66. The ESD projects it will receive $16,000.00 in interest giving them a total of $986,623.66. The budget includes a larger Asset Fund Annual Allocation that will be used towards the purchase of the water tinder and construction of the North Sub-station. Jerry Hill moved to approve the budget of $986,623.66. Teresa Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **Discuss and consider taking action regarding 2024 tax rate, including:**
8. **Establishing proposed tax rate;** Teresa Byrd moved to propose the tax rate be set at $0.10 per $100 of value. Robert Tisdale seconded the motion.
9. **Taking record vote and scheduling public hearing;** Voting for the proposed tax rate of $0.10 per $100 was Scott Davenport, Ray Thomason, Jerry Hill, Teresa Byrd and Robert Tisdale. No one voted against the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The public hearing will be scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM.
10. **Authorizing publication of “Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase” in the *Wills Point Chronicle;*** Jerry Hill moved to have Kristie submit the “Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase” in the *Wills Point Chronicle* for the September 6, 2024 edition. The motion was seconded by Ray Thomason. The motion passed unanimously.
11. **Acknowledging and approving posting of “Notice About 2024 Tax Rates” and “Notice of Hearing on Tax Increase” to home page of District website**. Teresa Byrd moved to have Kristie post the “Notice About 2024 Tax Rates” and “Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase” to the home page of the District website. Jerry Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

a) The Operating account balance is $267,698.84, the ESD Asset Allocation fund balance is $71,006.17, and the Emergency fund balance is $23,418.27 with 2 CD’s that each have about $157,000. The total of the Emergency fund is enough to cover the budget year should there be an emergency.

b) Monthly Budget Report: Kristie provided a current Balance Sheet dated October 1, 2023 through August 20, 2024, report for deposited tax funds YTD, deposited interest for FY2023-24, utilities paid for fiscal year, and copies of the bank statements. There were no questions.

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

a) Current status of equipment: Everything is working except Booster 1 which will be discussed in item 10.

b) Monthly Run Report: Chief Leipply reported 95 calls for July. The calls included 3 Structure Fires, 17 Grass Fires, 3 Vehicle Fires, 10 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 57 EMS, and 5 Other type calls.

c) Monthly Budget Report including 2023/2024 Budget: Chief Leipply submitted his financial report and annual budget report for October 1, 2023 through July 2024. He presented the VFD 2024-25 budget with an increase of $3,000.00 over the 2023-24 budget.

Ed will be talking with the fire chiefs for College Mound VFD, Canton VFD, Whitton VFD, and South Van Zandt VFD to make sure they are aware the 47 bridge will be taken down and not accessible until a new bridge is constructed. Ed also shared that the gentleman who is building the RV Park on HWY 751 came in to discuss the project. The man is an engineer for TXDOT.

10. **Disposition of Booster 1, take action as necessary**; The Booster is ready to be stripped down and sold. The bed will stay with the truck. This is the third truck that bed has been used on. The truck is a 1988 model and there is a hole in the water tank. It would cost too much to repair it. Brush 3 will replace this booster. Teresa Byrd moved to strip the truck of usable equipment and advertise it for sale. Jerry Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. **Consent agenda;**

**a) Reading (if requested) and approval of the July 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes;** Jerry Hill moved to approve the minutes from July 16, 2024. The motion was seconded by Teresa Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

12. **Agenda items for the next meeting on September 17, 2024;** Public hearing on proposed 2024 tax rate, adoption of 2024 tax rate, and North sub-station,

13. **Adjourn;** Ray Thomason moved to adjourn at 6:43 PM. The motion was seconded by Teresa Byrd. The motion passed unanimously.

By: Kristie Jones

Clerk, Van Zandt Emergency Service District 4