VAN ZANDT COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT #4

MINUTES January 21, 2025

**Present:** Commissioners: Scott Davenport, Ray Thomason, Jerry Hill, Teresa Byrd and Robert Tisdale

WPVFD: Ed Leipply

Absent:

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 and the invocation.
3. **Public Comment: Citizens to be heard;** No one from the public was present.
4. **Recognition of ESD/VFD Volunteers.** Chief Leipply told the board about Firefighters Dillon Dearing and Cutter Leipply receiving an award for saving the life of a gentlemen while enroute to the hospital on an EMS call.
5. **Goals for 2025;** This item was moved to discuss after the reports.
6. **Update on North Sub-station;** Ed Leipply is drawing the plans for the 40x60 building. The property needs to be measured to be certain of the placement of the building. Scott Davenport has used Kevin Alexander to build his buildings. He believes he has the best price on concrete and does a great job. Currently, most concrete is priced at $12.00 per square foot and Kevin charged Scott $9.00. The entry the fire department will use is already there with a culvert included. Scott said he also knows someone that could put in the septic system. Construction will begin as soon as the details are known.

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

a) The Operating account balance is $452,241.76, the ESD Asset Allocation fund balance is $21,044.34, and the Emergency fund balance is $23,437.91 with 2 CD’s that each have about $157,000.

b) Monthly Budget Report: Kristie provided the bank statements for November and December. The ESD has collected $527,288.53 so far this year. There were no questions.

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

a) Current status of equipment: Everything is working. He has submitted a grant request for a skid unit. If they receive it, the ESD will need to purchase a new aluminum bed to replace the one currently on the truck. He explained that the ESD must have a rural population less than 10,000 in order to qualify for Forest Service grants. The Forest Service uses census numbers to determine the population. Ed also reported he has found an industrial heater with a thermostat for the South Sub-station for $805.00. He also asked if they needed to consider purchasing a generator for the North Sub-station.

b) Monthly Run Report: Chief Leipply reported 80 calls for December. The calls included 5 Structure Fires, 3 Grass Fires, 2 Vehicle Fires, 7 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 44 EMS, and 19 Other type calls. He also provided a graph with the total runs for 2024. It totaled 940, about 100 more than 2023. Scott asked if the cost per run could be figured. Ed explained the difficulty of that because every item used during a call has a cost. He estimates each fire call to be between $200 and 300.

c) Monthly Budget Report including 2024/2025 Budget: Chief Leipply submitted his financial report through December 31, 2024.

**Item 5: Goals for 2025** Scott told the board the loan on the fire station has about $740,000 left and the water tinder truck has $340,000. He would like to pay off the truck during this fiscal year. Ray asked about the interest rate for the truck loan. Scott thinks it is 6.5. Ray asked if the ESD could make a payment of $170,000 now. This will be about ½ of what is left. It was decided to pay $170,000. Kristie will write a check and take it to the bank. The next fiscal year, the ESD will pay more towards the fire station.

The estimate cost for the North Sub-station is $100,000-150,000. It will be paid for with money in the operating account. The South station needs a garage door with remote and a heater.

Nine firefighters will attend training in March. Their bunker gear will be inspected before they are allowed onto the field for the training. In the near future, the fire department will need new SCBA equipment and bunker gear. Ed said he is also looking at adding weekend service.

The bridge at FM 47 was discussed and how to handle calls south of I-20 while the bridge is out of service. Ed said he planned to tell the dispatcher to call for mutual aid (Whitten Fire Department) if needed. Routes to get around the bridge were discussed.

9. **Consent Agenda;** Jerry Hill moved to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2024 meeting. Teresa Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Agenda items for the next meeting on February 18, 2025;** The February meeting will include discussion of items for the North Sub-station.

Ray Thomason was sworn in for another two year term as an ESD Commissioner.

11. **Adjourn;** Ray Thomason moved to adjourn at 7:00 PM. Teresa Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

By: Kristie Jones

Clerk, Van Zandt Emergency Service District 4