VAN ZANDT COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT #4

MINUTES March 18, 2025

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

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 and Ray Thomason led the invocation.
3. **Public Comment: Citizens to be heard;** No one from the public was present.
4. **Recognition of ESD/VFD Volunteers.** Chief Leipply recognized 9 firefighters who attended 6 different classes while at Texas A&M recently. The firefighters included Ray Thomason - Live Fire Instructor, Cutter Leipply – Incident Safety Officer, William Schoenfeld and Hunter Cockrum – Fire Officer 1, Jeffery Caldwell – SFF ii Skills Completer, Joshua Crain and Dylan Dearing – Structural FF1 Completer, and Austen Dearing and Cory Roberts – Structural FF1 Live Fire. William Schoenfeld has also completed his Driver Operator at Collin County.
5. **Discussion of items for North Sub-station;** Kevin Alexander has called to schedule a time to meet (maybe Wednesday) at the property to finalize plans and lay out the plumbing. After staking the lay-out of the building, the ESD will show the church to keep them in the loop of what is being planned.
6. **Discuss 3-5 year plan for the ESD with plan for replacing PAC/Bunker gear**: Ed Leipply shared the needs for the department for the next several years. New bunker gear (helmet, nomex, mask, jacket, pants, boots, gloves, and shield) will cost $6,260.00 per firefighter and he would like to purchase 10 sets this next year. This next year, they also need 5 new air packs and bottles at a cost of $10,900.00 per set and 10 sets of Wildland gear at $750.00 per set. During year one, he wants Station 3 completed and wants to extend paid coverage to 7 days a week. If the tanker truck and older brush truck are housed at Station 3, then he would move his Tahoe to be 1st out on medical calls from Station 1 and purchase a pickup truck to replace it.

During year two, he would like a new engine to be ordered because they are currently running on a 36 month waitlist. Ordering then would also lock in that year’s price rather than the price 3 years later. This would have it delivered by year five.

During year three, he would like the capability to complete reports to be available at Station 2 and 3.

By year five, he would like to have designated staffing to run Station 2 and 3. He does not want to get rid of Engine 2 when it is replaced, but keep it in reserve or use it for extra blocking when working accidents.

He also presented the ESD with a check for $5,280.00 that was an insurance grant the department received. They were paid $220.00 per firefighter with 24 firefighters at the time.

In other future planning, the ESD owes approximately $725,000.00 on the Station 1. Scott Davenport stated he would like to see the ESD continue to pay any extra funds at the end of the fiscal year towards the principal of the loan.

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

a) The Operating account balance is $453,898.96, the ESD Asset Allocation fund balance is $21,051.15, and the Emergency fund balance is $23,445.49 with 2 CD’s that each have about $161,000.

b) Monthly Budget Report: Kristie provided the bank statements for February and reports with utilities, and collected funds. The ESD has collected $902,554.85 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: All the equipment is running and in service. They are having problems with the door at Bay 7. The belt needs to be adjusted. Ed will contact someone about this and the remote that needs to be added to the door at station 2. He will ask if paying for an annual maintenance program is the best route, or paying for individual service calls. Chief Leipply also gave the ESD a check for $125.00 that is part of the restitution for damage caused to one of the bay doors by Bobby Shaw.

b) Monthly Run Report: Chief Leipply reported 85 calls for February. The calls included 10 Fires, 58 Rescues, 7 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 1 Hazmat, and 9 Other type calls.

c) Monthly February 28, 2025. He said the budget is working, but will need to be adjusted for next year. The cost for the heaters for Station 2 and 3 are $1,199.00 each plus $150.00 shipping for both. Ed will provide Kristie with a PO soon and she will mail a check.

9. **Consent Agenda;** Jerry Hill moved to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2025 meeting. Teresa Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Agenda items for the next meeting on April 15, 2025;** The April meeting will include update for the North Sub-station and continued planning towards 3-5 year plan for the ESD.

11. **Adjourn;** Teresa Byrd moved to adjourn at 6:50 PM. Robert Tisdale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

By: Kristie Jones

Clerk, Van Zandt Emergency Service District 4