October 9, 2025

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 10:12 a.m. for a Special Called Meeting and Workshop with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Wayne Griffith, Jiffy Dukes and Gloria Dooley. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Brad Vinson followed by the pledge to the American flag.

Under Public Comment Board Member Gloria Dooley informed the Board that she and Board Member Jiffy Dukes had completed training with HdL and had determined where the increase in sales tax was coming from and that the source would be short termed since it was due to construction in progress. The project is scheduled to go online in 2026 and the revenue would revert back with only a small increase in revenue from the source.

The Special Called meeting was opened at 10:28 a.m. with the only agenda item being to consider and possibly reimburse the Crims Chapel VFD for bunker gear under a grant received in 2023. The Board reviewed the documents and talked with the Assistant Chief Brad Vinson regarding the fact that the department Chief had not given the Board any quotes on the cost of the gear after receiving the grant or submitted the grant to the Board for approval with a quote. This was the second time in 45 days that the department Chief had chosen to not give the Board any notification regarding funds being expended in access of $20,000.00 which put the department at risk of not having enough funding to complete the year. After discussing the situation and the lack of oversight and checks and balances at the department, the Board advised the Assistant Chief that steps needed to be taken to correct the situation and lack of communication. A motion to pay the vendors a total of $24,071.00 with the department reimbursing the ESD all of the grant funds of $20,000.00 plus an additional amount of $2,071.00 was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board. The Assistant Chief agreed to the terms and understood this was only because the choice had been made to exclude the Board until the department could not pay the invoices for the gear and receive reimbursement from TFS.

A motion to adjourn the Special Called Meeting was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Board President David Burks called the workshop to order at 11:11 a.m. Mike Montgomery was then introduced and led a discussion on the Board's plans for a Strategic Plan for the District. Mike told the Board that he had reviewed the documents emailed to him and that we had a really good start on the basic plan and he would suggest doing community needs/perspectives, updated department profiles, statement of financial stewardship,

work process, compliance issues, professional development, and ISO ratings. He would furnish us with forms to fill out and complete and would also furnish us with job descriptions for a General Manager and Operations Manager where finance and daily management would fall under the General Manager and anything to do with departments, compliance with policies, formulation of policies and procedures would fall under the Operations Manager. He would also help us with staffing departments in critical areas during the day and the requirements to be able to do so. He would come up with a proposal for us and a proposed cost.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn the workshop was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the workshop was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

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Secretary President