

March 19, 2026

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 7:09 p.m. with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Gloria Dooley, Jiffy Dukes, Curt Collins and Wayne Griffith. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Don Reynolds followed by the pledge to the American flag.

A roll call of departments present was recorded as follows: Carlisle, Church Hill, Crims Chapel, Eastside, Elderville, Garrison, Henderson, Kilgore, Kilgore Rescue, Laneville, Mt. Enterprise, New London, New Salem, Overton, Reklaw, Rusk Co. Rescue and Tatum. Departments recorded as absent were the Texas Forest Service.

The minutes of the previous meetings were then presented to the Board for their consideration and approval as emailed.. On a motion made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith, the minutes were approved as emailed by a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next two agenda items, Consider and Approve monthly Financial Reports and the monthly Payment of Bills, were postponed as the reports did not get emailed to the Board Members prior to the meeting. They will be considered at the next meeting of the Board.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve any revenue transfers among District accounts. Revenue transfers for the month of February were reviewed and as there were no questions or discussion, a motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Curt Curtis. On a unanimous vote of the Board the item was approved. At this point, individual Board Members signed the new signature cards for the 4 District bank accounts due to the appointment of a new Member to the Board last month, Curtis Collins. The Board agreed that new account signatures were put into effect as of March 17, 2026.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve amending the 2026 budget. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley explained that the budget changed due to approval of increasing funding to the Elderville VFD and Henderson FD; math error under contingencies; adding in projected Sales Tax revenue that had been left off previously, and reducing the Equipment Purchases amount as it was over due to cost share funds being added to it; and amending the final yearly total on the 2026 budget. A motion to approve the changes was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve monthly financial reports and RMS reporting from District VFDs. Board Members reviewed the summary report and a motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly

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seconded by Board Member Curt Collins. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve updates to the Records Management Policy, including updating the policy and required documents for filing with the Library & Archives Commission. Board Secretary/Treasurer Gloria Dooley explained that the Board had adopted, by Resolution, the Records Management Policy in May of 2024 but was not aware of the two required documents that needed to be signed and filed with the State of Texas and that is why the policy was being revisited and updated at this time by the executing of these two required documents. A motion to approve signing and submitting the documents was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve communications/technology improvements and repairs in the District to include but not limited to : adding ham radio antenna to Laneville tower in the future. Board Member Jiffy Dukes updated the Board on recent changes to the Laneville tower due to new requirements from Motorola on grounding of the site. These changes had resulted in the removal of the fencing that had just been installed, trenching work, additional grounding cost inside the fenced area, reinstalling the fencing, additional electrical work all under the demand of Motorola who would not guarantee the very expensive equipment already installed at the site. It all boiled down to having to comply or the project would not be completed on the Motorola side so the tower would not be operational. The Board agreed that while Motorola has an excellent product, the best in the market, their inability to communicate effectively and in a timely manner was dismal at best. The Board then briefly discussed the possible adding of an antenna for the ham radio club at the site and had no problems with doing so and suggested that they come back to the Board when they were ready to do so for approval. The Board then heard from Steve Woody with SCI Wireless on the South Tower and the erection of a new tower by Tillman. Ultimately, he suggested that the District pay \$1,350.00 per month or \$16,200.00 annually as compared with the \$1,597.20 we had paid in 2025 for the leasing of the property; demo and removal of our tower, demo and removal of all the fencing on the property; moving our building to their site on the property and the pouring of a slab; moving the generator and propane tank – all at a cost to the District. The Board responded with a hard “no” and suggested if they were serious about acquiring the site, then we would set up a workshop and meet with them to discuss all of these items since Mr. Woody indicated that he really didn’t have all of the

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necessary information and his assistant, who had been leading the project, was on vacation and not available. No action was taken on any of the items discussed.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve any change orders and/or changes to the New Salem VFD station project including but not limited to: school monument on the property and moving a light pole at a cost of \$1,315.66. Board Member Gloria Dooley explained that a few complaints had been received about the moving of the monument honoring the original school on the property and residents needed to be reassured that this monument would be put back in place and remain in place as long as the department occupied the property. Board Member Jiffy Dukes said the moving of the light pole was required by RCEC and that the department had originally paid to have it done and the ESD had reimbursed the department for it after his approval (Board Member Dukes has the authority by Board approval to approve change orders that do not exceed \$5,000.00). A motion to keep the school monument on the property for life and approving the change order was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve a quarterly workshop hosted by the ESD for Round Table Discussions with VFDs. Board Member Gloria Dooley started off the discussion by explaining that the Board had held this kind of workshop where no decisions were made but just conversation and discussion with our newest Board Member and had found it to be more relaxing and beneficial than a structured workshop. Both Board Members David Burks and Jiffy Dukes also weighed in on how this had worked out so well, we'd like to try this with the departments just to open up the lines of communication and get better feedback from departments. The Board asked for a show of hands from all the departments present on doing the workshop and all but one department voted for the workshop. A motion to set up a workshop for the second quarter was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Curt Collins. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve changes on the New Salem VFD Rapid Response engine currently on order. Chief Roquemore expressed his concerns about the engine not having a CAFS system on it and only a Husky system and how this did not comply with the current truck specifications. He also remarked that he had no idea that the Board even had engines on order or he would have objected to the replacement of the CAFS system earlier. It was explained by the Board that the decision to purchase these 3

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engines had been made in January of 2025 and a purchase order had been executed at that time. One of the engines was actually delivered in August of 2025 and assigned to the New London VFD. The other two had only been assigned at the February meeting and he had not been in attendance at either of these but minutes had been available and emailed to him on all the meetings held over the years. Going back to a smaller engine and replacing the CAFS with a smaller foam system had been discussed by the Board and approved so the Board needed to know if the department still wanted this new engine that would be ready by this summer or if it should be reassigned to a different department. Chief Roquemore's last question was if the department accepted the engine and later found they were not pleased with the Husky system and wanted to replace it with a CAFS system at their cost, along with all maintenance and repairs of a CAFS at their cost, would the ESD allow them to do so. The Board response was that would be decided at the time of the request by whatever ESD Board was sitting at that time but we felt that it would probably be allowed. He agreed to those terms and the department accepting the new engine. A motion to assign the engine to the New Salem VFD was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Carlisle VFD for repairs to Command 1 and Rescue 1 at a cost of \$1,680.20. As the department had met the requirements for vehicle repairs in 2026, a motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Curt Collins. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve a cost share with the Elderville/Lakeport VFD on a new brush truck. Chief Harding made the request and said it would primarily be used on calls to Rusk County – about 33-35% of the time. The cost of the new brush truck was \$340,000.00. A motion to approve a cost share of \$114,000.00 was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Curt Collins. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve disposal of old trucks when departments receive new trucks to reduce inventory and vehicle insurance costs, including resolution for same. Board Member Gloria Dooley explained that at the present time the District had 75 trucks they were insuring – many of which were 25 years old because departments hated to part with a truck. The goal of the equipment purchasing

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program was to eliminate our old inventory with the purchase of new trucks – and departments were not doing this. Board Member Jiffy Dukes suggested that in the future when a department received a replacement truck they must turn in a truck and title to the ESD for disposal; and that any truck that was a cost share with a city department, that the ESD would receive that percentage back upon the sale of the truck at the current market value. Departments were also told, that under State law, any vehicle disposed off must first be declared either to be surplus or salvage in a public statement. A motion to make this a requirement 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. Departments must request disposing of a vehicle to the Board and a resolution must be passed before the vehicle is disposed of.

The last item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve any request from the Rusk County Firefighters Association committees for funding assistance. Association President Jeremy Bozeman reported that there were no requests at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn 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 8:29 p.m.

Secretary

President