August 21, 2025

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 7:16 p.m. with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Gloria Dooley, Jiffy Dukes and Wayne Griffith. The meeting was opened with a prayer from James Pike 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, Rusk Co. Rescue, Kilgore Rescue, Laneville, Mt. Enterprise, New London, New Salem, Overton and Tatum. Departments recorded as absent were: Texas Forest Service, Kilgore and Reklaw.

The minutes of the previous meeting 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 Board approved the minutes as emailed with a unanimous vote.

The financial report was then presented to the Board for their consideration and approval by Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley. She reported in the District's checking account a beginning balance in the amount of $321,800.15, and after deposits and disbursements, an ending balance in the amount of $379,265.29; the Obligations account showed a beginning balance in the amount of $305,610.72, with interest earned in the amount of $609.97, for an ending balance in the amount of $306,220.69; the General Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of $1,825,905.00, with interest earned in the amount of $3,351.36 and one disbursement in the amount of $182,000.00, for an ending balance in the amount of $1,647,256.36; the Sales Tax Money showed a beginning balance in the amount of $3,440,425.51, with interest earned in the amount of $6,395.60 and after transfers and deposits, an ending balance in the amount of $3,175,662.62. Also included with the report was a profit versus actual, updated budget, and department breakdowns. On a motion made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, the financial report was approved with a unanimous vote.

The payment of bills was then presented to the Board for their consideration and approval. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley presented a detailed check register report on all checks written and disbursements for the month of July. As there were no questions or discussion, a motion was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith, to approve the payment of bills as presented. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve any revenue transfers among District accounts. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley presented the July transfer report showing

showing all transfers of funds between accounts and the reason why. The report was read aloud. A motion to approve the report was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve monthly financial reports from the District VFDs. The Board acknowledged receipt of the reports and a motion to approve 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 any pending items regarding the training facility. As there were no items for approval, the Board passed on the agenda item.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve anything pertaining to communications/technology in the District. Board Member Gloria Dooley presented an invoice from Nalcom for an additional 3rd party interface license for the patch kit radio in the amount of $360.00. A motion to approve payment was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The next item was a request from Michael Searcy to purchase an antenna Analyzer to be used for the radio system in the District at a cost of $899.95. Michael explained the need and use for the device and a motion to approve was made by Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve a maintenance contract on hourly rates and parts with Siddons-Martin. Longview shop manager Kevin Sullivan talked to the Board about how this would lock in a lower labor rate and include a 15% discount on parts. The Board asked that he get the contract drawn up so it could be approved at the next meeting. A motion to table was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider, discuss and possibly act on any committee reports from the Rusk County Firefighters Association. As there were no reports or items presented, the Board passed on the agenda item.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve a contract with HdL for Sales and Use tax reports. After a review, a motion was made to contract for all reports with the

exception of the additional CCI Subarea Reports. A motion to sign and execute the contract 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 Board then considered their submittal for Strategic Planning Services and a motion to table this until further information could be obtained 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 agenda item was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Rusk County Rescue Unit for EMT class cost at $668.40; one set of bunker gear at $3,458.03; cost of replacement a/c at cost of $3,500.00; and room cost at $221.20 for Advanced System Key Training. All invoices and receipts were reviewed and a motion to approve all items was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve moving September meeting to September 11, 2025. This would allow the Board to meet the County's deadline on posting of 2026 budget and 2025 tax rate. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve setting a date for the 3rd Strategic Planning Meeting. On a motion made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley, the date of September 18th at 6 p.m. was approved with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve the purchase of 2 desk top scanners at a cost of $449.99. Board Member Gloria Dooley made the request due to the large volume of documents scanned and emailed every month prior to meetings, requests from departments, request from Board Members, requests from vendors. One scanner would be located at her home office and the other at the ESD building. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve paying off the lease/purchase of radios at a cost of approximately $420,000.00 which would save $73,348.35 in interest. After reviewing the attached amortization schedule and the savings in interest, a motion to approve was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Crims Chapel VFD for items purchased and installed on the new rescue/brush truck for a total amount of $20,440.30. After reviewing the invoices, it was agreed that better copies were needed as they were extremely hard to read and a copy of the original quote from Westex was also needed. A motion to table was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider taking action on the 2026 budget. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley presented to the Board the proposed 2026 budget calculated using both the current tax rate of $0.0775/$100 and no new revenue tax rate of $0.076280/$100. She then requested that the Board discuss and consider going to the No New Revenue rate for a reduction in the budget and taxes collected. After discussing, the Board agreed to have her prepare the 2026 budget using the lower No New Revenue rate. No action was taken.

The next agenda item was to establish a proposed tax rate – on a motion made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes a rate of $0.076280/$100 was approved by unanimous vote; A public hearing will be held at the September 11, 2025 meeting; authorized Board Member Gloria Dooley to place an ad for a Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase at a cost of approximately $470.00 made as a motion by Board Member David Burks, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith and approved by unanimous vote; and on a motion made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith, the Board approve with a unanimous vote to post the Notice About 2025 Tax Rates and Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase to the home page of the District's website.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve the Building Access Policy. The Board reviewed the corrected Policy and the current list of personnel who had access and the level of access each person had. A motion to approve 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 agenda item was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Carlisle VFD for one set of bunker gear not to exceed $4,000.00. Chief Bobby Davila made the request and informed the Board that the cost had gone up due to almost $4,800.00. A motion was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley, to reimburse the department at the cost of gear once it and an invoice is received for review by the Board. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve the purchase of a Fire Dog Suit

to be used by all departments for fund raising and educational events at a cost not to exceed $5,000.00. This suit has been rented every year for use at the annual Syrup Festival and it made better sense to buy one rather than pay increasing rental costs. A motion to approve 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 agenda item was to consider and possibly approve the purchase of 8 six foot light weight folding tables to be used at District events at a cost of $598.96. It was agreed that light weight portable tables would be of great use rather than using and transporting our heavier metal tables. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Under Public Comments/Announcements Mike O'Conner with Christus reminded everyone about the First Responder Class in October.

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 8:32 p.m.

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Secretary President