September 19, 2024

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 7:03 p.m. with Board President David Burks presiding. Board Members present were Brian Bathke, Gloria Dooley, Jiffy Dukes and Wayne Griffith. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Chief Rayford Gibson followed by the pledge to the American flag.

Fire departments records as present were: Carlisle, Church Hill, Crims Chapel, Eastside, Elderville, Garrison, Henderson, Rusk County Rescue, Laneville, Mt. Enterprise, New London, New Salem, Overton, Reklaw and Tatum. Departments recorded as absent were: Texas Forest Service, Kilgore, and Kilgore Rescue.

The minutes from the previous meetings in August 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 of the meetings were approved with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The financial reports for July and August and the payment of bills for those months were then presented to the Board for their consideration and approval by Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley. For the month of July she reported a beginning balance in the checking account in the amount of $607,168.88 and after deposits and disbursements, an ending balance in the amount of $237,713.67; the Sales and Use Tax Money market showed a beginning balance in the amount of $262,598.31, with interest earned in the amount of $742.57, for an ending balance in the amount of $608,553.01; the Construction account showed no activity for the month of July and a zero balance; the General Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of $2,530,111.33 with interest earned in the amount of $4,722.08 and two transfers out of the account in the amount of $999,116.00, for an ending balance in the amount of $1,535,717.41; the Reserve Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of $34,149.47, with interest earned in the amount of $87.01, for an ending balance in the amount of $34,236.48; and the Obligations Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of $304,724.23, with interest earned in the amount of $1,983.11 and a transfer in of $699,119.00, for an ending balance in the amount of $1,005,823.34. Also emailed reports to the Board included reconciliations on all accounts; budget versus actual, department breakdowns, profit and loss versus actual and detailed check payment report. For the month of August she reported a beginning balance in the checking account in the amount of $547,984.09 and after deposits and disbursements, an ending balance in the amount of $67,038.55; the Sales and Use Tax Money Market showed a beginning balance in the amount of $608,553.01, with interest earned in the amount of $2,115.24, and one deposit in the amount of $#83,798.05, for an ending balance in the amount of $1,275,401.27; the Construction account showed no activity and a zero balance; the General Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of $1,535,717.41, with interest earned in the amount of $3,617.03 and one transfer out in the amount of $200,000.00, for an

ending balance in the amount of $1,339,334.44;the Reserve Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of $34,236.48, with interest earned in the amount of $87.23, for an ending balance in the amount of $34,323.71;and the Obligations Money Market account showed a beginning balance in the amount of $1,005,823.34, with interest earned in the amount of $2,562.79, for an ending balance in the amount of $1,008,386.13. The same monthly reports were also included with the August reports emailed to the Board. A motion to approve the financial reports and payment of bills for the months of July and August was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The first item under Old Business was to consider, discuss and possibly approve any pending items regarding the remodel of the training facility. Board Member Gloria Dooley presented a cost for flag poles of $11.804.90 (includes installation of poles). The quote was for 3 poles and she asked the Board if they wanted 3 or just 2 poles. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to go ahead with the 3 poles. A motion to accept the quoted cost was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Board Member Jiffy Dukes then gave the Board an update on the storage building and reported that he had gotten prices on the insulation, electrical, a/c mini split, framing and walls, laying an asphalt pad with cover on the outside of the building for parking trailers, plumbing and painting the red iron and could be over the allotted $35,000 estimated cost by 2-3 thousand dollars. He will have final prices by the next meeting. He also asked the Board's permission to get a large pine tree cut and removed that was outside the fence on the north side but would be on the fence and damage it, as well as removal of any additional trees on the property and the Board agreed that this needed to be done before the fence was damaged and for him to go ahead and take care of the trees on the property. The Board also asked that he contact someone to remove and cut back all the brush from around the outside perimeter of the fence in a 10 foot wide path so that it could be mowed and where the weeds and brush were eliminated up against the fence line. He agreed to also take care of this project.

The next item under Old Business was to consider, discuss and possibly approve anything pertaining to radio communications in the District. Flire Marshal Patrick Dooley reported that pager work at the dispatch center would begin next week and that while much of this would be done at night, there would be disruptions while this process took place. The estimated time frame on this switch over was 3 weeks and everyone would have to be patient while the work was being done.

The last item under Old Business was to consider and possibly approve dismantling and removing the radio tower at the Crims Chapel VFD. The quote received at a cost of $6,000

from WinnTex Tower. After a brief discussion the Board agreed that the liability of leaving the tower up made it necessary to get it down and removed from the site. 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 first item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve hiring Dawn Taylor as a replacement for Jeanine Rounsavall as a contract employee at $1,300 per month. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley made the request and explained that Dawn had already caught up the financials for the past 3 months and was willing to continue as a contract employee. 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.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve a request for 5 new mobile radios for the Crims Chapel VFD. These radios would bring the department in compliance with new regulations and allow them to communicate with other departments. As the District has the extra radios in stock and could replace these spares as needed, it was agreed that they could be put in use by this department. A motion to approve the request 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 under New Business was to consider and possibly approve the ESD paying for all the Active911 accounts for the volunteer departments. The Board asked those departments present if this would be something they would want the ESD to do and it was determined that this was not a cost that the ESD needed to assume at this time. A motion to deny the request was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve amending the current truck specifications to include upgraded dual band radios, brake drums on all engines and tenders to be heavy duty, going to option of pumper/engines, etc. Board Member Gloria Dooley requested that this item be sent to the Rusk County Firefighters Association for them to decide on what amendments to the specs needed to be made and then brought back to the ESD Board for final approval. A motion to table and send to the Association 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 under New Business was to consider and possibly approve a set of tires for the New London VFD engine at a cost of $3,354.51. Department Chief Sammy Nichols made the request as the tires on the engine are 24 years old. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith.

The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Brian Bathke abstaining.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve a cost share with the New London VFD for nozzles at a cost of $3,037.50 to the ESD. The Board reviewed the quote on the nozzles and agreed that they needed to be replaced. A motion to approve the cost share was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Brian Bathke abstaining.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve fire investigation software on an annual basis at a savings of $570.00 over monthly charges. Fire Marshal Patrick Dooley made the request as it would save money to pay it annually over monthly. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve extra batteries for handhelds at a cost of $19,853.60. The Board asked those departments present if they all needed extra batteries and it was determined that they did not. It was determined that we might need approximately 30 batteries. A motion to purchase 30 batteries was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve a Gas Detection Meter program that would provide each department with a gas meter and calibration every 90 days at an annual cost of $13,887.63.00. The Board reviewed two quotes and it was decided that an email would be sent out to all volunteer departments to determine how many actually needed a meter. A motion to table was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve engaging the services of Streamline Website Services for maintaining our website and ADA compliance at an annual cost of $12,600.00. Due to ever changing federal and state ADA regulations and laws, it has become evident that website compliance was a detailed and time consuming job and needed to be handed off to an off site company to handle. 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 of the Board.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve purchasing Thermal Imaging Cameras for departments that needed one. After a brief discussion it was decided that all departments should be contacted by email to determine who needed TICs.

A motion to table the item 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 under New Business was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the RCFFA for syrup festival handouts at a cost of $3,888.55. The Board reviewed the items invoiced and a motion to approve the reimbursement was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next item under New Business was to consider and possibly approve reimbursement to the Carlisle VFD for 3 sections of 1-3/4" hose and 3 sections of 3" hose at a cost of $1,260.00 not including shipping. A motion to approve the request 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 under New Business was to consider and possibly approve replacement of the a/c system at the Reklaw VFD at a cost of $5,368.16. Paul Patterson made the request for a mini-split system for the department. A motion to approve was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The last item under New Business was discussion on problems with Response Master on getting reports to enter and save in the system. Patrick Dooley reported that he had spoken with them and that they could see that there was a problem but had not yet found a solution, and that this was only happening with Rusk County. As this may become another ongoing issue with their software, looking for alternative RMS systems seemed to be in order. The county will look at the Alpine RMS system in the future to determine if a change should be made from Emergency Solutions Response Master system.

Under Public Comments the following was noted: Reminder to all departments that the third quarter would end on September 30 and run reports would be due by October 10th; TEEX Regional Training Coordinator introduced himself and let departments know about available training at their departments (15 member participation needed for each class); Siddons-Martin apologized for the delayed billing issues that their payables department was experiencing; ICS 300 class would start on Friday October 11th at 6 p.m. and would run through Sunday October 13th around noon at the ESD building. Participants needed to pre-register for the class; October 12th Eastside VFD annual fish fry starting at 11 a.m. and October 19th Laneville VFD will hold their annual barbeque, auction and street dance with food ready to serve at 11 a.m. that day.

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 Brian Bathke. On a unanimous vote of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Secretary President