March 20, 2025

The Rusk County Emergency Services District #1 met on this date at 7:07 p.m. with Board Vice President Brian Bathke presiding. Board Members present were Jiffy Dukes, Wayne Griffith and Gloria Dooley. Board Members absent were David Burks. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Fire Marshal Patrick Dooley followed by the pledge to the American flag.

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

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 with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The financial report was then presented to the Board for their consideration and approval by Board Administrative Assistant Dawn Taylor. She reported the following account information: Sales Use Money Market account beginning balance in the amount of $2,020,586.71, with one deposit of $468,457.87 and interest earned in the amount of $3,974.36, for an ending balance in the amount of $2,493,018.94; Construction Account no activity zero balance; General Money Market account beginning balance in the amount of $359,844.84, one deposit of $916,245.92 and interest earned in the amount of $1,297.61, for an ending balance in the amount of $1,277,388.37; Reserve account beginning balance in the amount of $34,696.06 with interest earned in the amount of $62.55, for an ending balance in the amount of $34,758.61; Obligations account beginning balance in the amount of $509,486.43 with interest earned in the amount of $918.47, for an ending balance in the amount of $510,404.90; and the District's checking account beginning balance in the amount of $692,197.66 and after disbursements and deposits, an ending balance in the amount of $575,008.95. Also emailed to the Board was a department breakdown, profit and loss versus actual and current budget. On a motion made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, the financial report was approved as presented with a unanimous vote.

The payment of bills was then presented to the Board for their consideration and approval by Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley. The check detail report had been emailed to all Board Members and there were no questions or discussion. A motion to approve paying our bills 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 approve any revenue transfers among District accounts for the month of February. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley presented the February report showing all account fund transfers. A motion to approve 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 was to consider, discuss and approve any pending items regarding the training facility. Board Member Jiffy Dukes reported that equipment had been moved in to do the dirt work on the north and west sides of the property; he also presented a quote from 3D Security to add three 360 degree cameras to our security system (kitchen area, mechanical room and storage building) at a cost of $3,693.00 and a motion to approve the addition was made by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. He also reported that he had Simply Electric look at the lights in the meeting room that were still staying on 24/7 and the contractor contacted Elliott Electric and a representative from the manufacturer and it was determined that the system was not wired correctly. As the Board has already had the original contractor out twice, and on both times, the system boards had been blown and had to be replaced, it was agreed that since we could get the new boards at no cost we would have a different contractor redo the wiring to finally get the issue resolved. A motion to engage Simply Electric to do the rewiring at a cost not to exceed $3,500.00 was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The next agenda item was to consider, discuss and possibly approve anything pertaining to radio communications in the District, including upgrading P25 mobile radios for the District. The Board discussed that during the workshop held on March 4th , while everyone present agreed that building a redundant system was needed, it was also agreed that this should be addressed after the completion of building out at least the Laneville tower site and the current, more pressing issues of communications should come first. This brought the Board back to the issue of purchasing P25 digital mobile radios for the District trucks that needed them. The Board reviewed the options presented by Michael Searcy, IT Consultant, and a motion was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley, and duly seconded by Board Member Jiffy Dukes, to approve the purchase of radios at a cost of $35,325.00. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of the Board.

The next agenda item was to consider and possibly approve payment for core samples for

the New Salem VFD station stie. After a brief discussion it was agreed that core samples were necessary before any building or bids could be started. A motion to approve with any Board Member authorized to sign the agreement with the core sample contractor 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 on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve accepting the transfer of real and personal property from the Laneville VFD. Secretary Tina Dukes with the Laneville VFD presented the request and explained that the department had discussed and approve the action based on all the financial help the department had received from the ESD and the building of a radio tower at their station. A motion to accept the properties was made by Board Member Wayne Griffith, and duly seconded by Board Member Gloria Dooley. Board Member Jiffy Dukes abstained as he is Assistant Chief at the department. The motion passed with a majority vote of the Board. Board Member Gloria Dooley thanked the department for their foresight and commitment to the ESD.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve a quote on perimeter lighting controls. No action was taken on this item as a meeting with the contractor was needed before an accurate quote could be attained.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve action on unreturned Agreements for Protection Services from District Fire Departments. Board Member Gloria Dooley explained that 3 attempts to send these out via Docusign had been made and only 3 departments had received the necessary document. She had determined that reprinting the Agreements was the best solution forward and had new Agreements with her for departments to sign at the end of the meeting. She also told all departments that they were still bound by their old Agreement unless they chose not to sign the new one and stay with the old Agreement and return to the ESD $10,000.00. All departments present indicated that they would sign the new Agreement at the end of the meeting. No action taken.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve accepting an extractor from a grant received by the Rusk County Rescue unit and paying for any differences in cost. They presented 3 quotes to the Board and the Board chose the middle quote of $6,495.00. A motion to pay the difference of $1,495.00 plus any shipping costs 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 hiring temporary help

with the organization of District flies. Board Member Gloria Dooley made the request as the third, and last, batch of file boxes had been delivered and she was now back to 20 boxes of old files to go through. She requested being allowed to rehire Carli Self since Ms. Self was familiar with the files and how to cross reference them. After a brief discussion, a motion to rehire Ms. Self for up to 15 hours a week at $15.00 per hour was made by Board Member Brian Bathke, and duly seconded by Board Member Wayne Griffith. The motion passed with a majority vote with Board Member Gloria Dooley abstaining as Ms. Self is engaged to her grandson.

The next item on the agenda was to consider, discuss and possibly approve the purchase of iPads/tablets for Board Members. Board Member Brian Bathke made the request as his old iPad was no longer functioning and he wanted to have one that was only for ESD use. Prices and sizes were then discussed and a motion to approve a device of choice not to exceed $500.00 per device 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 on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve the Crims Chapel VFD truck signage at $950.00 and wiring at $600.00 for the new rescue/brush truck. 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 agenda item was to consider and possibly approve a cost of $675.00 per District student in Fire Academy 3 that is not covered under grant reimbursement. The Board discussed the request and came to the conclusion that first it would be closer to $900.00 per student, second there were not enough students presently enrolled for the class to be held, and thirdly if the class did occur each individual department could submit a request for reimbursement of costs not covered by the grant if and when that student completed the academy and passed the state certification test. No action taken.

The next agenda item was to consider, discuss and possibly approve formation of a Radio Communications Protocols Committee for the finalization of a policy on Protocols. After discussion it was determined that the committee would consist of one ESD Board Member, Board Member Jiffy Dukes, one law enforcement/dispatch person, the county Fire Marshal, one fire department member and IT Consultant Michael Searcy. A motion to form said committee 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 allowing fire

Departments to store training props in the ESD storage building. Board Member Jiffy Dukes presented the request and explained that with these training props in a central location, all departments would have access to them and the facility for training. 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. This option will remain open to departments as long as there is room available and it is feasible to offer the space.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve the purchase of a 3" hydrant for the City of New London. A motion to table the request was made by Board Member Gloria Dooley as the city was still in the process of determining exactly which parts would be needed since fire hydrants are broken down and sold by pieces. The motion was seconded by Board Member Brian Bathke and passed with a unanimous vote.

The next item on the agenda was to consider and possibly approve a cost share with the Overton VFD for 10 complete SCBAs with a cost share to the ESD of $25,410.00. Department member Dennis Roach presented the request and Board Member Jiffy Dukes went over the request and pointed out that the department stated that they needed 12 SCBAs to be in compliance with NFPA standards and then noted that they had a total of 5 certified working SCBAs and that 4 of these were already bought and paid for by the ESD. After discussion it was determined that they only needed 8 SCBAs to be in compliance and that the ESD cost share should be reduced since we had already bought the department their 4 newer ones. A motion to approve a cost share of $9,840.00 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 next item on the agenda was to consider, discuss and possibly approve opening of bids for concrete work a the Tatum VFD and possibly awarding a bid for the project. Board Secretary/Treasurer Gloria Dooley opened the only bid received from 4S Enterprises. The bid was for $56,000.00. Department Chief Rayford Gibson said that they had made a visit to the site and met all the requirements. A motion to accept the bid from 4S Enterprises at a cost of $56,000.00 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. Board Treasurer Gloria Dooley will sign the paperwork and execute the terms of payment with the concrete contractor as well as notifying them of the Board's approval.

Under Public Comments/Announcements: Board Member Gloria Dooley reminded everyone of the Carlisle Fire/Rescue Chili Cookoff on Saturday the 22nd of March and for

everyone to come out and enjoy the chili, music, cake walk, etc. that day in support of the department. Board Member Jiffy Dukes reminded everyone of the importance of wearing the proper PPE when on any fire call and that this is a mandatory requirement for all active fire fighters in the District.

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 8:39 p.m.

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Secretary President