

Limestone County Emergency Services District #2 Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2023

Quorum and attendees: A quorum was present and Paul Loeffler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present included John Beall and Charles Eastburn. Randy Behringer was absent. (There is one current Board member vacancy that is awaiting appointment by the County Commissioners Court.) WLLVFD Members present included: Sherry Solis, Doug Potts, Ernie Solis, Ray Marsh, Warren Miller Jr., John Griffin, Robert Moore, Cathy Rayburn, Sheryl Davis and Kelly Whitten.

Reading and approval of minutes: John motioned to approve the June meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. John motioned to approve the July meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's report: At the end of July the checking account balance was \$153,586.58. The Apparatus Savings Account and Other Savings Account each had a balance of \$20,012.79. Tax levies for the month were \$760.93. The Sales Tax revenue was \$12,183.71. Due primarily to a refund from the insurance company (VFIS) of \$2,084, the net expenses for the month resulted in a negative \$42.27 (-\$42.27). Approximately \$133,000.00 should be available to transfer from the checking account into the Apparatus Savings Account before the end of the current fiscal year.

Service Provider's Report: There were a total of five calls for response during the month. There was one fire call for response and four medical response calls. Although a 29-acre brush fire involving Mutual Aid occurred in August, the Fire Chief commended the response and work performed by the seven WLLVFD volunteers that assisted in fighting the brush fire in the Big Hill area until midnight this week. The WLLVFD Rehab unit was the only Rehab unit at the incident and it was well utilized by responders from other fire departments and members of the Texas Forest Service's team. The Fire Chief further expressed concern that the current high temperatures, drought conditions and winds increase the potential for brush fires in our area.

WLLVFD Training: During the month nine WLLVFD responders completed a four-hour Joint Training session at the Shiloh VFD.

Strategic Plan: The new Fire Chief is leading a group to set the priorities for apparatus replacement, which is one component of the Strategic Plan that is anticipated to be completed and presented to the ESD Board at the December meeting.

Grants: There are no pending grants at this time.

Apparatus report: Vehicle 2507 (Brush truck) is currently in the maintenance shop and will be ready for service on August 16. Vehicle 2508 has been declared as surplus and will temporarily be housed at Station 1. The Fire Chief (Robert Moore) and Warren Miller will take responsibility for the sale of surplus vehicles. The ESD Board will verify

with our attorney the requirements for selling the vehicles as well as ascertaining if a reserve (minimum acceptable bid) can be established.

WLLVFD funding request: The request for reimbursable expenses was \$1,585.42.

Inventory of equipment: WLLVFD presented the comprehensive annual inventory list to the ESD Board.

Recognition for responders: The previously used recognition system for WLLVFD members (known as the Two Bucket System) will be discontinued. The monies allotted will be used to recognize only those members that respond to calls.

Up-coming activities: October 21 has been set for the annual Fish Fry. The recruitment tent will be staffed during the event and a blood drive will also be held. WLLVFD members will be available to highlight what the fire department has accomplished and recruit new responders.

Property Tax Rate Proposal: John made the following motion: “I, John Beall, move that ESD#2 Board designate a proposed tax rate of \$0.0375/\$100.00, which effectively represents a 12.28% increase in property tax revenue. “ (Last year’s rate was \$0.0385/\$100.00.)

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Special meeting for Public Hearing: Paul made the following motion: I, Paul Loeffler, move that the Limestone County Emergency District #2 (ESD #2) hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at West Lake Limestone Fire Department’s Main Station at 6614 FM 937 in Thornton, Texas. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to:

- 1.) consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2023, and
- 2.) provide an opportunity for citizens’ input in a Public Hearing.

The proposed tax rate to be discussed is \$0.0375 per \$100.00 of valuation.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Tower project: Ray Marsh reported about his conversations with Huffman Communications regarding installing a modern repeater/duplexer at 140 feet on the tower to be constructed by Steve Dabney at Station 1. The Frequency Coordinator has been contacted to ensure the system is in compliance with FCC regulations. It was noted that the contract with Steve Dabney has not been received. Ray will ensure that the contract specifies that the air conditioning cabinet and fiber optic cable is included in the contract. The County has not delivered the final contract for the use of the land on which the tower will be constructed.

Sales Tax Revenue/Recovery reports: Paul and John have not received the Sales Tax revenue reports from HdL Associates.

Adjournment: John moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Approved: Charles Eastburn