

KAUFMAN COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT #3  
MINUTES FROM August 4, 2020  
Called Meeting

**Present:** Commissioners: Harvey Chitty, Mark Smith, Chuck Carpenter, and David Wallace  
Teleconference: John Carlton  
Fire Departments: ASVFD, CMVFD, EVFD and TVFD

1. **Call meeting to order.** President Harvey Chitty declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Public comment on items not on the Agenda.** Harvey Chitty read the statement about public speaking in our meeting. No one was present that wanted to address the Board.
3. **Public comment on Agenda items.** Harvey Chitty read the statement about public comments on Agenda items.

**Discussion/Action Items**

4. **Discuss and consider proposal of 2020 tax rate.** The District's attorney, John Carlton, was called. Harvey Chitty explained that the District did not want to increase taxes this year. John provided several scenarios for the tax rate.

a. The rate can be set at the No-New-Revenue rate (NNR) of .09410/\$100 and the District should receive approximately \$868,000.00. The average home (new build) will increase by \$17.00 per year, but in general, homeowners will pay the same as last year. If the District adopts the NNR rate it should gain \$45,000-50,000 more than 2019-20.

b. The rate could be set at the Voter-Approval Rate (VAR) of .09848/\$100 and the District would receive approximately \$908,000.00. However, this would increase the amount homeowners would pay.

c. With the De minimis rate, the District could set the tax rate at .10/\$100 and receive \$922,000.00. Due to the \$26,000 increase in the average home value, a .10/\$100 tax rate would increase the homeowners tax by \$26.00 (20% increase).

At this time, Harvey Chitty told John Carlton the board would discuss the options and then call him back.

After a short discussion, the board agreed to call John Carlton and notify him of the decision to use the NNR rate of .09410/\$100.

John Carlton was called and notified of the Board's decision. John Carlton said he would get with Kristie about the notices and website posting.

5. **Discuss VFD 2020-21 Budgets.** The departments have submitted proposed budgets in the following amounts. Ables Springs: \$179,000 plus \$35,000 for Firefighter Recruitment and Retention, for a total of \$214,000; College Mound: \$112,200 (includes paid staffing); Elmo: \$215,100 that includes \$31,200 for paid staffing; and Terrell: \$200,000 (includes paid staffing).

David Wallace asked some questions about how College Mound reports their calls and the funds they receive from ESD 1. Terry Van Sickle said it really is about 50/50. College Mound receives \$17,000 each quarter

from ESD 3 and \$20,000 from ESD 1. He said in the future he could just report the calls in the ESD 3 area if that is what the commissioners prefer.

There was discussion about the number of calls each department had responded to this year. All the departments are on target to reach or exceed the number of calls from 2018-19. However, some of the departments have twice as many for the year. The question was asked about hiring an additional person to be at the station.

David Wallace asked each of the departments how many volunteers they currently have. Ables Springs has 14, College Mound has 23, Elmo has 18, and Terrell has 24.

Peter Esposito stated that the stipend for Ables Springs would not increase next year.

Harvey suggested decreasing the budget requests to \$200,000 for 3 departments and \$100,000 for College Mound. An additional \$30,000 could be given to the 3 departments that have paid contractors so they could add an additional person.

Mark Smith moved to set the contract amounts at \$175,000 for Ables Springs, \$130,000 for College Mound, and 230,000 for Elmo and Terrell. Chuck Carpenter seconded the motion. During discussion, Peter Esposito stated that they would be cutting Ables Springs stipend completely if they only give them \$175,000. Ables Springs regular budget amount is \$179,000 with an additional \$35,000 to fund the stipend. Harvey Chitty called for a vote on the motion. The motion failed.

Mark Smith moved to set the contract amounts at \$200,000 for Ables Springs, \$130,000 for College Mound, and 230,000 for Elmo and Terrell. Chuck Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Harvey stated the departments are being given these additional funds for paid contractors but the ESD will not be monitoring how they spend their funds. He said the ESD expects them to be accountable to the taxpayers for how the funds are spent.

8. **Discuss and consider additional funding for training.** Mark Smith moved to increase the training budget for each department from \$4,500 to \$5,000. David Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Discuss ESD 2020-21 Budget.** Chuck Carpenter will work with the figures discussed tonight and prepare the ESD budget so it can be adopted at the September meeting.

8. **Discuss agenda items, time and date for the next meeting.** Agenda items for the meeting on August 11 include review of ESD 2020-21 budget, establishing proposed 2020 tax rate, authorizing publication of "Notice of Meeting on Tax Rate" in the *Terrell Tribune*, and acknowledging and approving posting of tax rate notice and "Notice of Meeting on Tax Rate" to home page of District website.

8. **Adjournment.** Mark Smith moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Chuck Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

By: Kristie Jones

**Kristie Jones**, Clerk  
Kaufman County Emergency Service Dist. #3