

KAUFMAN COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT #3 MINUTES FROM August 18, 2022

Present: Commissioners: David Wallace, Chuck Carpenter, Chuck Shepard, Eric Porter, and Earl Bourland
Fire Departments: ASVFD, CMVFD, EVFD and TVFD
Guests: Teresa and Kurt Wobig

1. **Call meeting to order.** David Wallace declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Discuss and take action to adopt budget for fiscal year October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023;** David Wallace began with the budget Ables Springs VFD submitted. He asked what was included in their line item for Equipment for \$82,980.00? Peter Esposito said it included \$50,000 for savings toward a new truck purchase and the truck payment they currently are making. Their budget last year was \$225,000.00. Eric Porter asked about the \$31,200.00 stipend. Peter explained how the stipend has increased the number of firefighters and brought their run times down.

Mr. Wallace asked College Mound VFD if they were putting money back for rolling stock and what their current staffing included. Josh Phillips said they are looking to replace a rescue vehicle, but there is a 2-3 year wait. Their current staffing includes 2 firefighters a day Monday through Friday. Currently, they do not have the station staffed on weekends. Their budget last year was \$135,000.00.

Elmo VFD was asked about future purchase of rolling stock and their current staffing. Brandon Porter stated they recently replaced Engine 1, but have discussed replacing Rescue 1. Mr. Porter said their budget includes adding a third staffing position to cover weekends and nights. They also need to replace air packs and bottles.

Terry Van Sickle explained that Terrell VFD has two projects they are working on. They are purchasing the land their station sits on from Union Pacific Railroad for \$80,000 plus closing costs. The land has been leased for \$4,500 per year since 2006. Terrell is also planning to remodel the station to get rid of the OSB walls and add sleeping quarters. They currently staff the station with 2 firefighters during the week and 1 firefighter on the weekend. Terrell has volunteers willing to stay at night once the station has sleeping quarters. Terrell was asked about their retirement contributions, and Mr. Van Sickle explained that they contribute \$50 per month per firefighter for a total of \$15,000 per year.

David Wallace explained that he and Chuck Carpenter had discussed reserving funds for each fire department to use for capital improvements. Amounts would be allocated to each department and held until requested. The funds could be used as down payments or to lessen interest paid on loans for equipment. After discussion, the departments were asked if they would like the District to hold the money for the departments or let the departments handle the funds for themselves. All four departments said they would like to manage their own reserve funds.

The board then discussed how to distribute the tax funds for fiscal year 2022-23. The budget amounts requested are Ables Springs VFD - \$289,090, College Mound VFD - \$152,000, Elmo VFD - \$374,250, and Terrell VFD - \$404,204. Eric Porter stated he wanted the department funding to be based on percentage/call volume rather than just increasing prior budget amounts because fuel and maintenance are the biggest costs with the biggest fluctuation. More runs equal more fuel and more maintenance. Mr. Porter went on to say that Elmo VFD had 30% more calls than Terrell VFD and therefore, should receive more funding. Chuck Carpenter suggested fiscal year 2022-23 budget amounts of: Ables Springs VFD - \$289,000, College Mound VFD - \$152,000, Elmo VFD - \$400,000, and Terrell VFD - \$400,000. Eric Porter's suggestion for disbursement was Elmo VFD - \$400,000, Terrell VFD - \$375,000, Ables Springs VFD - \$289,000, and College Mound VFD - \$152,000.

David Wallace asked for a motion. Chuck Carpenter moved to set the contract amounts for fiscal year 2022-23 at \$289,000 for ASVFD, \$152,000 for CMVFD, \$400,000 for EVFD, and \$400,000 for TVFD. This will total \$1,241,000 for VFD payments during this 2022-23 budget year. Chuck Shepard seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Chuck Carpenter, Earl Bourland, Chuck Shepard, and David Wallace. Eric Porter was opposed. The motion passed 4 to 1.

David Wallace called for a motion to adopt the FY 2022-23 ESD budget. Earl Bourland moved to adopt the ESD budget as presented by Chuck Carpenter, Treasurer. Chuck Shepard seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Chuck Carpenter, Earl Bourland, Chuck Shepard, and David Wallace. Eric Porter was opposed. The motion passed 4 to 1.

3. **Conduct a public hearing on the proposal to increase property taxes;** Elmo resident, Teresa Wobig, asked about the increase in taxes. David Wallace explained the ESD Commissioners take the distribution of taxpayer dollars to the Volunteer Fire Departments very seriously. He went on to explain the increase in funding is necessary to replace or refurbish aging equipment, cost of fuel, cost of maintenance, and staffing fire stations so response times can be quicker. Mrs. Wobig asked if the District's adopted budget included all the funds the District expects to receive? Chuck Carpenter explained that a portion is kept in reserve for emergencies and to allow the District to distribute funds in December before the majority of tax money is collected in January. Mrs. Wobig said she was an accountant and understood how that worked.

4. **Take a record vote on the District's 2022 tax rate, adopt an Order Levying Taxes, authorize filing the Order with Kaufman County Tax Assessor/Collector; and** Chuck Carpenter stated, "I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.10/\$100 valuation, which is effectively a 36.54 percent increase in the tax rate." Eric Porter seconded the motion. Voting in favor were David Wallace, Chuck Carpenter, Earl Bourland, Eric Porter, and Chuck Shepard. No one was opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

The Order Levying Taxes was adopted and will be submitted to the Kaufman County Tax Assessor/Collector by Kristie Jones.

5. **Acknowledge and approve posting of statement regarding adopted tax rate to home page of District's website;** Chuck Carpenter moved to have Kristie Jones post the following statement on the home page of the District website, "Kaufman County ESD No. 3 adopted a tax rate that will raise more taxes for Maintenance and Operations than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 32.59 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$24.58." Earl Bourland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Adjournment.** Chuck Shepard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Eric Porter seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

By: Kristie Jones

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