

KAUFMAN COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #3
MINUTES FROM August 22, 2024
Public Hearing on Tax Increase and Adopt Tax Rate

Present: Commissioners: David Wallace, Jon Leigh, Ryan Hamilton, Chuck Carpenter, and Billy Bourland

1. **Call meeting to order.** David Wallace declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Consider taking action regarding budget for fiscal year October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025;** BR Bourland moved to adopt the FY2024-25 budget with total expenditures of \$1,528,882.00. Jon Leigh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Conduct a public hearing on the proposal to increase property taxes;** The agenda for the public hearing on tax increase and adopt tax rate was posted at the Elmo Volunteer Fire Station, the District website, and published in the *Terrell Tribune*. No one from the public was in attendance.
4. **Take a record vote on the District's 2024 tax rate, adopt an Order Levying Taxes, authorize filing the Order with the 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, which is effectively a 8.45 percent increase in the tax rate." BR Bourland seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was David Wallace, Jon Leigh, Chuck Carpenter, Ryan Hamilton, and BR Bourland. Voting against was none.

Jon Leigh moved to adopt the Order Levying Taxes. Chuck Carpenter seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was David Wallace, Jon Leigh, Chuck Carpenter, Ryan Hamilton, and BR Bourland. Voting against was none.

BR Bourland moved to authorize filing the Order with the County Tax Assessor/Collector. Ryan Hamilton seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was David Wallace, Jon Leigh, Chuck Carpenter, Ryan Hamilton, and BR Bourland. Voting against was none.

5. **Acknowledge and approve posting of statement regarding adopted tax rate to home page of District website;** Jon Leigh moved to have the following statement posted to the home page of the District website: "Kaufman County ESD 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 5.93 percent and will raise taxes for Maintenance and Operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$5.60." Br Bourland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Discuss 2024-25 Agreement to Provide Emergency Services and take action;** David Wallace told the board he discovered the ESD meetings have been secretly recorded and snippets of these recordings have been played to various individuals. The attorney has said the meetings can be recorded but the board must be made aware. Therefore, future agendas will include a statement about video and voice recordings. David also asked the attorney for suggestions to deal with the fire chief that has had multiple "breach of contract" issues. The attorney provided several options and stated the time of Agreement renewal is when it should be handled. The options included no contract to that VFD, no contract with that VFD until the fire chief is removed, reduction in contract amount until the fire chief has been removed, or re-write the contract to say the ESD Board names the fire chief. Chuck Carpenter, Jon Leigh and David Wallace spoke of conversations they have had with individuals who expressed a "lack of confidence" is growing because the ESD Board has not taken a firm stand with this fire chief. Chuck Carpenter said he would like to give the VFD Board the opportunity to correct the situation with their fire chief. After discussion, Chuck Carpenter moved to withhold the 2024-25 Agreement to Provide Emergency Services for Terrell VFD pending action by the TVFD Board to remove the current fire chief. Ryan Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Adjournment.** Ryan Hamilton moved to adjourn at 7:49 PM. Jon Leigh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

By: Kristie Jones

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