LIMESTONE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 19, 2025

A quorum was present, and Commissioner Potts called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Commissioners present: Dwayne Ready, Mindy Warren, Chuck Radney, Doug Potts, and John Beall

Commissioners absent: None

Public Attendance: Adam Collett, Earnie Solis, Sherry Solis, Kelly Witten, and J. Griffin.

Invocation: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and prayer offered by Commissioner Ready.

Citizen Comments: None.

Presentation and approval of minutes – Commissioner Ready moved to accept and approve the minutes from the prior regular meeting held July 15, 2025. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion. There being no discussion of same, it Passed unanimously.

Presentation of ESD Treasurer's Report – Commissioner Beall stated there are two months left in the fiscal year and that the only significant change was a decrease in cash due to the purchase of the new Engine at a cost of approximately $460,000.00. Commissioner Beall also informed those present that ESD2 has the recommended 3-6 months of operating cost in reserve and will continue to add to the savings account. He stated that July witnessed some late property tax payments were received and approximately $5,100 in sales tax. Commissioner Beall then informed the Board that July was essentially a low income and low expense month for ESD2. He ended his presentation with general information surrounding sales tax, revenues, and expenses, and believes everyone is watching the expenditures and generally doing well. Commissioner Ready motioned to accept and approve the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

WLLVFD Chief's Presentation and Reports – Mr. Adam Collett filled in for Chief Moore and informed those present of the number and types of calls that WLLVFD responded to including the average response time and personnel on scene. He also stated they held two training session in July related to hydraulic rescue and round table discussions. He advised attendees that inspection and testing of the apparatus was completed. Commissioner Warren inquired about the coping of the first responders that made the fatality scene where two motorists died. Mr. Collett stated they are monitoring that situation and ready to provide assistance if needed or requested. No action taken.

- Update on WiFi / internet service installation – Mr. Collett stated this issue is complete with no further action required. No action taken.

- Update on foaming agent bulk container disposal – Mr. J. Griffin spoke on this issue and stated one of the two containers was handled, but the other container is still pending and waiting on better weather. No action taken.

- Update on delivery schedule for new Engine apparatus – As stated above, Mr. Collett stated the new Engine arrived and was already inspected. No action taken.

Presentation of the WLLVFD Monthly Reports:

To include Incident, Training, Apparatus-Use, and Mobile Equipment Reports – See Mr. Collett's remarks above. No action taken

Report on external funding efforts and grant opportunities (Forest Service backlog funding) – Ms. Kelly Witten presented on this issue and said WLLVFD applied for a safety grant of $1,500 and received approval and funding. She stated that WLLVFD purchased 12 first aid kits for vehicles and personnel who regularly make medical calls. No action taken.

Presentation of the WLLVFD Treasurer's

To include funding (reimbursement) requests and other VFD funding issues – Ms. Sherry Solis presented and stated WLLVFD submitted a funding request for $5,141.32 for a laptop, QuickBooks renewal, emergency care handbooks, and other items. She also informed the group of an order for fire hoses that will be paid with WLLVFD funds. John asked about Fidelity charitable fund and Sherry provided a brief history on that issue. No action taken.

ESD Agenda Items:

A. Update/discuss status of VFD-ESD workgroup for EMS strategic planning – Commissioner Potts said there has been no meeting due to vacation and other conflicts, but another meeting will be scheduled. No action taken.

B. Discuss/take action on proposed 2025-2026 tax rate – Commissioner Beall stated he corresponded with Stacey Hall who is responsible for making tax rate calculations. He stated the deadline to adopt a tax rate is around 9-29-25 and that ESD2 needs to schedule a public hearing just before the next regular board meeting. He also indicated that the notice regarding the public hearing might indicate a tax increase even if the Board decides to lower the tax rate based on total funds received and budget requirements. Commissioner Beall said Stacey ran some scenarios to help the board establish a rate and he provided that information to the Board. Lastly, he said ESD2 could go all the way back up to our 4-cent levy without an election. Commissioner Potts indicated that a flat rate going forward seemed reasonable based on the reduced sales tax projections. Commissioner Warren indicated that improvements also need to be considered. Commissioner Beall then stated he believes the rate should possibly be reduced and provided a few reasons for that position. He then motioned to publish 3.65 cents per 100 dollars. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Potts. There being no further discussion, it passed unanimously.

C. Update/Discuss status of joint ESD-VFD contract review team – Commissioner Warren reported that here was no meeting since her last report and that the committee is awaiting feedback from Commissioner Beall who took some time off and spent a lot of time on tax issues. Commissioner Beall asked a few questions about the process going forward, which was answered by both Commissioners Warren and Ready. No action taken.

D. Update/discuss status of VFD-ESD Facilities workgroup strategic planning – Commissioner Potts stated there has been not meeting since last reported, but another meeting will be schedule. No action taken.

E. Discuss/take action on funding request for Emergency Vehicle Tech training – Commissioner Potts stated there was some discussion a month or so back for this particular training. However, we are still waiting for more information before the board considers it. No action taken.

F. Discuss communication acknowledgment & participation practices – Commissioner Potts briefly talked about the need to respond to emails and other communications even when no response is required so we can establish a better understanding of Board awareness.

G. Discuss/take action on HDL question concerning additional deallocated payments – Commissioner Beall informed those present that the state clawed back some funds that were sent to us in error while we were working to reconcile prior improper payments. He then motioned to accept the comptrollers offer to pay back overpayments of erroneous transmitted sales taxes over a 74-month period. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

H. Acknowledge/accept 2025 WLLVFD inventory submitted June 17, 2025 – Commissioner Potts stated WLLVFD provided and we received their annual inventory for 2025.

I. Discuss/take action on VFD request to consider tanker purchase proposal from Siddons-Martin – Commissioner Potts stated a new pumper was available by Siddons-Martin and that financing was available for up to 10 years and wanted the Board to know so it can start thinking about possibly financing future apparatuses instead of outright purchase through savings. He then stated he is not advocating for the Pumper or the financing and believe WLLVFD needs to conduct an inspection to determine what the stability issues are with the current tanker being used by WLLVFD. Commissioner Beall indicated that a Tanker was once the next vehicle to be purchased, but that changed to a brush truck at some point. Commissioner Potts stated it reverted back to a Tanker based on the suspected condition of the current Tanker. He said he wanted to know what other options might be out there with regard to used vehicles, and said he received information from Deep South Fire Trucks. Lastly, he stated there are no action items on this issue; he was simply presented the information to keep the Board apprised of the option to fiancé such apparatuses in the future. Commissioner Warren wanted to know when the current Tanker was suspected of being in disrepair. Commissioner Potts stated no determination has been made declaring the current Tanker unsafe. Instead, he said it was more of a possible age or disrepair issue that needs to be evaluated. Commissioner Radney stated we need to determine if the current Tanker is simply a latent defect or a blatant defect and roll-over hazard. Commissioner Potts agreed and stated the purpose of this item on the agenda was to simply start the discussion of what the Board might consider and do next with regard to the current Tanker and any future apparatus purchase. Commissioner Beall stated we really need to know what the bigger picture looks like in the future with the type and number of apparatuses, because it takes one to two years of revenues to purchase one. Commissioner Potts said he agrees and would like the Board to weigh the pros and cons of financing such purchases rather than saving and buying outright.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, Commissioner Ready moved to adjourn. Commissioner Radney seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Next <u>Regular</u> meeting September 16, 2025 at 7PM

Possible Public Hearing September 16, 2025 at 6:00 or 6:30 PM