

**WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT #1
NOTICE OF MEETING OF DIRECTORS TO BE HELD:
MONDAY APRIL 15, 2024
AT 9:00 AM
LOCATION:
HOLLY LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
126 PR 7869
HOLLY LAKE RANCH, TEXAS 75765**

Meeting Minutes - FINAL

Call the Meeting to Order

President Horn called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Commissioners Robin Edwards, Chuck Bahr, Keith Mullinax and Cindy Treece were present.

Certification by the President that the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Section 551.001 Et. Seq. of the Texas Government Code have been complied with in connection with public notice of this meeting and that a quorum is present.

President Horn confirmed that all the provisions of the Open Meetings Act were met.

Invocation

Commissioner Mullinax gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

All stood and recited the Pledge.

Recognition of guests

President Horn recognized and welcome guest John E. Wolcott

Public comment by Mr. John Wolcott for up to 10 minutes pursuant to his request to address the Wood County ESD #1 Board on the topic of "The Future of Volunteer Fire Departments".

Mr. Wolcott briefly summarized his background as a paid and volunteer firefighter in east Texas and elsewhere. He proposed an idea that other rural east Texas ESDs are pursuing—the hiring of part- or full-time firefighters. Specifically, Mr. Wolcott proposed that ESD #1 would benefit from hiring two part-time firefighters to serve five weekdays for a cost of approximately \$80,000 a year.

ESD Commissioners and Mr. Wolcott and Chief Joe Taylor discussed this idea as well as using "compensated volunteers" (paid for each response) and changing the age restriction for volunteers (currently 65 years) at HLVFD. They also discussed recruiting volunteers through social media, ideas for improving response time and the pager system, and several ways of generating additional revenue for HLVFD. In conclusion, Chief Taylor expressed his desire to gather citizens in a public forum and to write a strategic plan for ESD #1. President Horn thanked Mr. Wolcott for his time.

Receive any other public comment.

There were no other public comments.

Review and consider approval of prior minutes.

The March 18, 2024, minutes were presented. Commissioner Mullinax moved to accept them, and Commissioner Edward seconded the motion.

Present, review, and consider approval of Treasurer's Report

The April 15, 2024, Treasurer's Report showed a beginning balance of \$286,255.74, disbursements of \$79,307.29, interest of \$88.50 and deposits of \$21,152.88 with an ending balance of \$228,189.83. One outstanding deposit of \$5,794.93 made the final ending balance \$233,984.76. Commissioner Mullinax moved to accept the report, and Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion.

Present, review, and consider approval for Payment of Accounts due.

There were no accounts due.

ESD #1 Board to receive for review and consider approval for payment of sworn billing and any submitted requests of contractual amounts by Holly Lake Volunteer Fire Department (HLVFD)

Sworn billing for 14 invoices from February 25, 2024, to March 17, 2024, totaling \$14,815.62 will be considered for approval at the May board meeting.

Activity Report including any training time from HLVFD and Christus EMS.

HLVFD:

Vehicle fire – 0

Structure fire – 2

Grass fire – 3

Medical calls – 42

Motor vehicle collisions – 4

Public assists – 3

Total – 54

Training hours were 174.5 hours.

Christus:

34 calls

16 transports

Response time was 15.58 minutes.

Old Business:

1. Update on FY 2023 Audit report due to be filed with Wood County Commissioners Court by June 1, 2024.

Commissioner Mullinax reported that the report is in progress at McNeely & McNeely CPAs.

2. Any old business pending.

Commissioner Treece reported that she has posted the ESD #1 minutes from September, October, November, and December 2023 as well as minutes from February 2024 to the ESD #1 website. (The January 2024 meeting was cancelled due to weather.) President Horn offered to send her the scanned minutes from 2022 and the remaining ones from 2023 to be posted.

New Business:

1. Wood County ESD #1 to receive from HLVFD the following items for review and discussion: 1) an annual financial report including a profit and loss statement and balance sheet, and 2) an annual activity report for HLVFD.

Captain Cheryl Thomas provided a 2023 profit and loss statement and a balance sheet to the board. She stated that she has also provided this to McNeely & McNeely.

The 2023 annual Activity Report for HLVFD was submitted to the board by Captain Taylor. He stated that the 436 calls in 2023 were down from 492 in 2022. However, there have been 122 calls to date in 2024, which means HLVFD may be on track to have over 600 calls in 2024.

2. Discuss any planned public events involving Wood County ESD #1, HLVFD, or Christus EMS.

April 16th will be the annual golf tournament benefiting HLVFD, and the regular spring Hook and Ladder events will take place this spring. Chief Taylor stated that he would like to have a public unveiling of the new fire truck that was recently received.

3. Any other new business.

There was no other new business.

Close Meeting

President Horn moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bahr moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Mullinax seconded the motion.

By _____

Prepared by Cynthia Treece, Board Secretary, May 6, 2024