



ECCA Volunteer Fire Department Meeting Minutes

(Amended)

February 19, 2019 at 7 p.m. (349 CR 278, Tuscola, Texas)

1. Call to Order.

Meeting called to order at 7:24 p.m. with President Philip King presiding. A quorum of members was present.

2. Pledge and Prayer.

The meeting began with the pledge and prayer led by Janel Young.

3. Minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting.

Copies of the minutes were presented to the members by Elisa Smetana. A suggestion was made to add the ECCA website address to the letterhead. Question was asked if the minutes were available on the website. Response was not at this time. Question was asked about who got notices of the meeting. Elisa Smetana said that if you filled out an email on your dues letter then notices were sent to you about the meeting. *A motion to approve the minutes was made by James King II and seconded by Bob Huestis. Motion carried.*

4. Treasurer's Report for January 2019.

Margie Hughes read the totals into record. As of January 2019 total ECCA funds were \$479,585.51. *A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Julie Lawther and seconded by Stephanie Tervooren. Motion carried.* Question was asked if the treasurer's report was available on the website. Response was not at this time.

5. Medical Report.

Janel Young gave the medical report. She talked about an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training opportunity that could be reimbursed by HB 2604. Part of the course would be on-line and part would be at site for skills testing. Members who expressed interest in participating include Julie Lawther, Kent Weyrauch, and Guido Liberati. Janel said that members will probably need to pay for the course and then once they complete the course they can be reimbursed. More details will be discussed at a future meeting. Bob Huestis asked about the AED placed at Coronado's Camp and she said she would see about getting it placed there again. Julie Lawther asked about a CPR class. Janel stated that since they are good for two years we don't currently have one scheduled since we just had one. Janel said if there is interest she will see about getting one scheduled again.

6. Chief's Report.

Chief Young stressed watch burning piles during high fire season.

7. Old Business.

- Cub Scouts Pack 218 – Waiting on warmer weather to set the date.
- Update on billing for non-member emergency runs - Was approved at the December meeting but no bills sent out yet.
- First Responder ID cards – James Gilbreath discussed the First Responder ID cards. He read to the group what a first responder was as defined by the "U.S. Homeland

Presidential Directive HSPD-8". Discussion was held on the need for two signatures, an expiration date, and maybe a picture. He stated they would have to be made in-house due to the expense. He said he could print them and laminate them if it gets approved. Janel Young said there needs to be some training attached to these cards. Robert Crowley said we need a familiarization day. Janel Young said we used to have that every Saturday morning. **Chief Young made a motion to table till a Committee can get together and work out the details for the next meeting and it was seconded by Crystal Balcerzak.** Discussion continued on what minimum requirements would be needed. **Philip King called for the vote. Motion carried with some dissention.** Bob Huestis asked about making sure it would not die in committee. **Janel Young made a motion to appoint Bob Huestis as chair of the committee and it was seconded by Robert Crowley. No call was made.** Julie Lawther called a point of order and asked to be part of that committee. Philip King stated that the item was tabled and would be brought up at the next meeting.

8. New Business.

- 2019 ECCA Dues – Janel Young said that information from the County Tax Assessor would be around March 31st. Philip King stated that we will need to get the letters in the mail soon after that. Bob Huestis said that since we have most of the emails can we send them out that way instead of mailing it and then mail the others to save money? Chief Young said we don't have enough emails probably only 10% of the property owners.
- Medical training opportunity (HB 2604) and any other training – Medical training provided under the Medical Report above.

Chief Young brought up a fire training opportunity occurring on April 12 & 13 at the Abilene Convention Center. It is the 65th Abilene Area Fire Control Conference. If interested in attending he needs to know ASAP in order to get reimbursement from HB 2604. There are pre-requisites to some of the classes. He stressed that the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) ensemble must meet their requirements of Level 3 and Interior Level 4 and he stated that our bunker gear is so outdated that he is not sure we have any Level 4. Kyle Haspel asked if the classes were listed on the ECCA website. Janel Young stated they just received the notice today so no they were not.

Dale Durham brought up the Big Country Emergency Preparedness Conference occurring tomorrow on February 20th from 9 am to 4 pm. He also talked about the First Responder ID Cards and asked how many people have had any of the Incident Command System (ICS) courses? Around 6 people raised their hands.

- Stephanie Tervooren stated she needed an external hard drive for the Bonanza cooks to load the pictures of the event. This is something that would be kept at Ray's Metal Works shop and brought back every year for her to add the pictures to. This would also serve as a backup for our hard drive. She stated they are around \$60 for 1 TB. **Motion to approve the purchase of a 1 TB external hard drive was made by Julie Lawther and seconded by Bob Huestis. Motion carried.**

- James Gilbreath brought up that an amendment is needed to the ECCA bylaws. He said there is some confusion on the ECCA Citizens Association and the ECCA VFD pertaining to are they one entity or two? He said that the Secretary of State does not have any record of the ECCA Citizens Association but that is the bylaws that we currently operate under and everything in them pertains to the VFD not the Citizens Association. According to Janel Young the Secretary of State does have the information; however, she agreed that ECCA does need to be consolidated into one entity. She said we were chartered in 1978, another certification was secured in 1980, and the Financial Institution Number (FIN) was done in 1991. Chief Young stated that the CPA will look in our files and see what he has on record from the 501(3c) application. It was pointed out that according to the bylaws it takes two meetings to amend them. ***James Gilbreath made a motion to amend the bylaws to read “ECCA Volunteer Fire Department Bylaws” at the next meeting and it was seconded by Julie Lawther.*** Chief Young stated that he will need to get into the ECCA lockbox and get the information for the Secretary of State. James Gilbreath read into record the information that the warranty deed lists the Elm Creek Citizens Association as the Grantee but the Elm Creek Citizens Association is not properly supported by documentation in the Articles of Incorporation or been filed with the Secretary of State. Carolyn Street volunteered to help look thru the information.

Philip King stated we needed to go with the one easiest to amend pertaining to our 501(3c) status and would James amend his motion. It was also noted that the Secretary of State reports have not been updated in the last five years and still have old information on officers and business address. ***James Gilbreath amended his motion to state we use the organization easiest to move everything to and Julie Lawther amended her second to agree. Motion carried.*** The bylaws would be brought up at the next meeting for the amendment.

9. Bonanza Update.

- Final numbers and suggestions for next year – Margie Hughes gave the report for the Bonanza. Overall income was \$64,190 with expenses of \$11,021.12 for a net income of \$53,168.88. Julie Lawther asked if all the bills were paid and Margie responded yes.

Question was asked about what is the Bonanza? Chief Young said we started an annual fund raiser in 2002 and have bought a communication tower, communications equipment, rescue unit, put together four trucks (last in 2013 - Brush 3), and then years 2014-2019 years money has been for the new station. Chief Young said it is always held 8 days before the Superbowl on the last Saturday in January.

Julie Lawther asked about getting a welcome letter together to give to the realtors and others on what ECCA is and what we do for the community and what a Bonanza is. Janel Young stated we used to do this but have not done anything in 4 or 5 years. Julie said she would put it together in time for the next meeting.

- Discussion was held on improvements to the Bonanza for next year. These included no drinking for the volunteers, put more people as spotters, change up the dead time between the food and the auction (play canned music to allow the band to pack up their gear), take the cooks picture at the start 1:30 pm and get the live auction going,

don't put small items in the auction, silent auction tent needs better panels (items got wet on one panel portion), need room for VIP in the parking area at the bottom (some had to park at the top of the hill), may run a shuttle across the creek for parking, may need spotters for parking due to the way people parked, needs flags for both the auction spotters and the parking spotters, credit card scanner worked good, bigger covered stage for band and something that we don't have to put boards on every year (Chief Young stated any permanent improvements that you make cannot be taken out but he said he has an old cotton trailer that could be used that would not be permanent), no cushy jobs for workers (Janel Young stated that everyone would be signed up to work an area and nobody would be able to come the day of and sign up to work and the first meeting would occur in September).

- Chief Young stated that the auctioneer Doug Johnson had asked for a vest to wear for the event. He has a jacket with the logo but it gets too hot sometimes to wear that. *Philip King made the motion to buy Doug Johnson a vest and it was seconded by Janel Young. Motion carried.*
- Chief Young asked what are we going to do about the road for next year? He stated it had got tore up again and needs to be repaired. Jackie Maxwell said that maybe Chief Young could build it. Janel Young stated that they had done that in the past and could not do it again. Margie Hughes stated it was about three years ago that it had been repaired. James Gilbreath stated that the District Attorney needed to be consulted before using ECCA funds on private property. Janel Young stated that they had never received ECCA Funds for the use of the pasture land for the Bonanza. Traci King asked how much it would cost to have an event venue. James King II asked if that was your property and ECCA funds were being used to fund repairs would you have the same concerns and James Gilbreath stated yes he would. Chief Young said that he got paid \$2,500 for a three year period and he fixed the road and since that point he never got a penny since 2002 for anything that ever happened down there. Julie Lawther asked if we could rent the facility. Robert Crowley said that would be a conflict of interest and a legal issue. They talked about the legal ramifications that could happen if somebody gripes about the expense. Michael Savers made a suggestion that a committee be put together and they make a recommendation to the full membership and have it voted on. No conclusion nor action was taken on this item.

10. Building Status Report.

- Building Committee Update. None at this time.

11. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn was made by Carolyn Street and seconded by Stephanie Tervooren. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

E'Lisa Smetana, ECCA Secretary