VAN ZANDT COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT #4

MINUTES August 19, 2025

**Present:** Commissioners: Scott Davenport, Jerry Hill, Ray Thomason, Robert Tisdale, and Teresa Byrd

WPVFD: Ed Leipply

1. **Call meeting to order.** President Scott Davenport declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.** Scott Davenport led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ed Leipply led the invocation.
3. **Take action regarding budget for fiscal year October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026**; Teresa Byrd moved to approve the 2025-26 ESD Budget at $1,050,000.00. Jerry Hill seconded the motion, The motion passed unanimously. After the ESD receives more accurate numbers the budget may be amended.
4. **Conduct a public hearing on the proposal to increase property taxes;** No one was present to speak about the tax rate. Robert Tisdale moved to close the public hearing at 6:16 PM. Ray Thomason seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Take record vote on the District’s 2025 tax rate, adopt an Order Levying Taxes, authorize filing the Order with Van Zandt County Tax Assessor/Collector;** Robert Tisdale stated, “I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of $0.10000/$100 valuation, which is effectively a 6.63 percent increase in the tax rate.” Jerry Hill seconded the motion. Voting in favor were Scott Davenport, Ray Thomason, Jerry Hill, Teresa Byrd, and Robert Tisdale. No one was opposed. The motion passed unanimously. Kristie Jones will file the vote with the Van Zandt County Tax Assessor/Collector.

Jerry Hill moved to adopt an Order Levying Taxes and authorizing Kristie Jones to file the Order with the Van Zandt County Tax Assessor/Collector. Teresa Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Acknowledge and approve posting of statement regarding adopted tax rate to home page of District’s website;** Teresa Byrd moved to have Kristie Jones submit the following statement to be posted on the website, “Van Zandt County ESD No. 4 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 6.63 percent and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a $100,000 home by approximately $12.50.” Jerry Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Recognition of ESD/VFD Volunteers;** Six firefighters attended TEEX Municipal Training at Texas A&M. Those attending were Ryan Hill, Ed Leipply, William Schoenfeld, Austen Dearing, Ty Hardy, and Monica Shulze.
3. **Discussion of items for North Sub-station;** Chief Leipply will deliver a check to Bright Star Baptist Church for $5,000.00. This was the amount agreed upon to allow the new station to tie into their septic system saving the ESD about $3000-5000. The inside of the station needs to be cleaned and there is still some painting to complete. The asphalt was started today along with the repair to the Bright Star driveway that was cut through for the water line. The outside work still to be completed includes the culvert, asphalt, and fence. Ray still needs to purchase a shower door, cabinets for above the washer and dryer and the counter for the day room. Ed will contact First Net about a possible booster/tower to improve the cell service at the fire station. The front door will have a sign like the current station.
4. **Discuss 3-5 year plan for the ESD with plan for replacing PAC/Bunker gear;** Ray will have the quote at the September meeting.

10. **Report from Treasurer Jerry Hill;**

a) The Operating account balance is $179,534.98, the ESD Asset Allocation fund balance is $21,068.80, and the Emergency fund balance is $23,465.15 with 2 CD’s that total about $323,490.

b) Monthly Budget Report: Kristie provided a current Balance Sheet dated October 1, 2024 through August 19, 2025, report for deposited tax funds YTD ($987,826.79), deposited interest for FY2024-25, utilities paid for fiscal year, and copies of the bank statements. There were no questions.

11. **Report from VFD Chief Ed Leipply on current status of the VFD including:**

a) Current status of equipment: Everything is working.

b) Monthly Run Report: Chief Leipply reported 55 calls July. The calls included 7 Fires, 40 Rescue, 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents, and 4 Other type calls.

c) Monthly Budget Report including 2024/2025 Budget: Chief Leipply submitted his financial report and annual budget report for October 1, 2024 through July 2025. He feels the department will be giving the ESD a refund check within the next couple of months. He presented the VFD 2025-26 budget which includes an increase of $63,000.00 over the 2024-25 budget. This budget will be $61,000.00 per quarter. Ray Thomason moved to approve the VFD 2025-26 budget. Jerry Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

12. **Consent agenda;**

**a) Reading (if requested) and approval of the July 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes;** Ray Thomason moved to approve the minutes from July 15, 2025. The motion was seconded by Teresa Byrd The motion passed unanimously.

1. **Agenda items for the next meeting on September 16, 2025;** Status of North Sub-station and regular business.
2. **Adjourn;** Robert Tisdale moved to adjourn at 6:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Ray Thomason. The motion passed unanimously.

By: Kristie Jones

Clerk, Van Zandt Emergency Service District 4