VAN ZANDT COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT #4

MINUTES July 15, 2025

**Present:** Commissioners: Scott Davenport, Ray Thomason, Jerry Hill, 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 and Ray Thomason led the invocation.
3. **Public Comment: Citizens to be heard;** No one was present to speak.
4. **Recognition of ESD/VFD Volunteers.** None this month but 6 firefighters will be attending Texas A&M fire school next week.
5. **Discussion of items for North Sub-station;** It looks good and final touches including paint and plumbing should be completed this week. Ed presented an invoice for the security cameras and keyless entry for $2,550.00. The keypad with the current key fobs should work. If you want to use a key, you must use the north door. Alan is working on the culvert. It must be approved before concrete is added. The old culvert must be removed. Scott will make sure Kevin knows to add ballards made from 6” pipe, 18” out from the building at each door. These need to be done before the concrete pads in front of the doors are poured. Asphalt will be put around the building and used to replace asphalt torn up in the church lot for the water line. At the completion of the building, Kevin will build a pipe fence. Scott hopes it is complete by the end of July.

This item will remain on the agenda.

1. **Discuss 3-5 year plan for the ESD with plan for replacing PAC/Bunker gear**: The current cascade system will need to be replaced within the next 3-5 years. A small (fills 2 bottles at a time) costs about $50,000.00.

This item will remain on the agenda.

1. **Discuss and consider taking action regarding 2025 tax rate, including:**
2. Establishing proposed tax rate; Teresa Byrd moved to propose the ESD keep the 2025 tax rate at $0.10 per $100. Jerry Hill seconded the motion.
3. Taking record vote and scheduling public hearing; Voting in favor of the proposed $0.10 per $100 tax rate for 2025 were Scott Davenport, Ray Thomason, Jerry Hill, Teresa Byrd and Robert Tisdale. Voting against: none. The public hearing will be scheduled for Tuesday, August 19, 2025 if the county has sent the information in time for the notice to be in the August 8, 2025 edition of the newspaper.
4. Authorizing expense and publication of “Notice About 2025 Tax Rates” in the Newspaper: Teresa Byrd moved to authorize the expense and publication of the “Notice About 2025 Tax Rates” in the Wills Point Chronicle. Robert Tisdale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Acknowledging and approving posting of “Notice About 2025 Tax Rates” and “Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase” to home page of District website. Robert Tisdale moved to acknowledge and approve the posting of “Notice About 2025 Tax Rates” and “Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase” to the home page of the District website. Ray Thomason seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Consider Appraisal Notice on Homestead, take action if necessary**: This item was listed to be on the agenda this month, but no one was sure why.
7. **Discuss and set dates for budget workshop**: Once the numbers from the County are received, Scott and Jerry will get together on the budget. Kristie provided financial reports for them to use while planning the 2025-26 budget. Ed said the new bunker gear and air packs will cost approximately $100,000.00. This will be included in the 2025-26 budget.

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

a). The Operating account balance is $282,805.12, the ESD Asset Allocation fund balance is $21,065.22 and the Emergency fund balance is $23,461.17 with 2 CD’s that each have about $165,500 each. Scott reported the ESD still owes Kevin Alexander $10,000.00 and the plumber about $5,000.00-6,000.00. The ESD has $718,000.00 left to pay on the Wills Point station.

b) Monthly Budget Report: Kristie provided the bank statements for June and reports with utilities, and collected funds. The ESD has collected $977,623.45 so far this year. There were no questions.

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

a) Current status of equipment: All the equipment is running and in service.

b) Monthly Run Report: Chief Leipply reported 87 calls for June. The calls included 13 Fires, 50 Rescues (Medical/EMS), 8 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 3 Hazmat (Gas Leak), and 13 Other type calls.

c) Monthly Budget Report; Chief Leipply provided a budget report as of June 30, 2025.

12. **Consent Agenda;** Ray Thomason moved to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2025 meeting. Teresa Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. **Agenda items for the next meeting on August 19, 2025;** The August meeting will include update for the North Sub-station, public hearing, and adoption of 2025 tax rate.

14. **Adjourn;** Robert Tisdale moved to adjourn at 6:48 PM. Ray Thomason seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

By: Kristie Jones

Clerk, Van Zandt Emergency Service District 4