

SMITH COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT TWO

7:00 P.M. * Monday * July 29, 2019

14128 SH 110 South * Whitehouse, Texas 75791

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Randy Melton called the Smith County ESD #2 meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll was called; five commissioners were present: Randy Melton, Leroy Biggers, Charles Wilson, Earl Drott and Paul Perryman. He certified that a quorum was present.

2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Paul Perryman led the meeting in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

3. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

President Melton welcomed all guests to the meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Melton opened the floor for public comments.

Arp – Mack commented about a structure fire they ran. He also said they are having issues with the tablets.

Bullard – Justin Walker reported call volumes going up, number of responders are going down. President Melton mentioned the constructive email about the big structure fire in Bullard. The fire was handled well.

Dixie – Matt York reported things have been quiet.

Flint/Gresham – Tim Stone reported everything was good.

Jackson Heights – Kelcey reported several of their volunteers went to TEEEX Summer Session at A&M. They were able to spend some time training with other departments. He also had good things to say about Red Springs coming to help them out on calls.

Noonday – Kevin Londoff reported everything was good. Remodel is going really well.

Red Springs – Mike Sammons reported everything was good.

Troup – Johnny Brown said things are good in Troup and people are coming back from vacations.

Whitehouse – Gene Champion reported everything was good. They are also getting new members.

Winona – Bruce Burnham reported they are having issues with the tablets.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Charles Wilson made motion to approve the (a) minutes of the June 27, 2019 regular meeting and budget workshop meeting, as written; (b) June 2019 financial report; 2nd by Leroy Biggers; motion carried 5-0.

6. PAYMENTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS

- a. Earl Drott made a motion to approve current bills/quotes/checks over \$2,000: Card Service Center \$12,949.44 District Credit Card; Eagle Fuel \$2,227.50 District Fuel; Metro Fire \$2,043.00 Gas Detector Repair; Metro Fire \$3,716.00 V Struts for New Engines; Price International \$5,729.86 Noonday Engine 1; Checks Over \$2,000 - Ck #18514 Eagle Fuel \$3,104.55 District Fuel; Ck #18578 Eagle Fuel \$5,779.38 District Fuel; Ck #18603 Eagle Fuel \$5,310.05 District Fuel; Ck #18528 Southern Tire Mart \$4,243.58; Ck #18586 Sierra Packaging Inc.; 2nd by Leroy Biggers; motion carried 5-0.
- b. Contract payments made -- no action necessary: Reliant \$5,518.89 District Electric Bills, Mobile Communications \$2,738.25 District Paging Services, Suddenlink \$2,153.79 District Internet Account, United Healthcare \$8,162.82 Employee Medical Insurance, Verizon \$3,657.89 July 2019, District Wireless Account, Harris-Craig Architects Inc. \$7,265.00 Arp & F/G Civil Engineering, Mineola fire Department \$3,750.00 4th Fiscal Quarterly Payment, Van Fire Department \$3,750.00 4th Fiscal Quarterly Payment, SCESD2 Payroll -- 07/08/2019 \$70,959.28.

7. RESOLUTION HONORING CONNIE MCCOY-WASSON

Resolution tabled due to Connie McCoy-Wasson not being able to attend. Motion to table item number 7 made by Charles Wilson; 2nd by Paul Perryman; motion carried 5-0.

8. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN SMITH COUNTY AND SMITH COUNTY ESD#2 FOR DISPATCH SERVICES

President Melton reviewed the Interlocal Agreement between Smith County and Smith County ESD #2. The agreement is for 4 years. The payment increases a bit each year. Chief Rozell has been meeting with Smith County dispatch officials to work on the efficiency of dispatch services. There will now be a dedicated dispatcher for all structure fires. Other entities, that have been paying less, will now have to step up and pay their share. They are working on the possibility of getting a couple more dispatchers to improve efficiency. Motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Smith County and SCESD2 made by Charles Wilson; 2nd by Paul Perryman; motion carried 5-0.

9. ADOPTION OF A SALES AND USE TAX AT A RATE NOT TO EXCEED 1.5%

Chief Rozell had a meeting a few weeks ago with the Fire Chiefs. They discussed issues we are having with responses and volunteers being worn out. The need for more staffing is crucial. All 11 departments voted to support the sales tax and have it dedicated to staffing. JD Smith gave examples where more staffing would be beneficial. After multiple calls, ran by the same 4-5 people, Winona ended up having to call for help from Jackson Heights and Red Springs. A major structure fire in Arp had to be ran with minimal personnel until more help arrived. SCESD2 paid personnel were sent to help respond to this structure fire. This was due to the time of day and many volunteers going to their jobs. With the addition of 24/7 manned stations we could cut down response times and give the volunteers a break. Properties are actually being saved with decreased response times. Smith County ESD #2 provides protection for around 107,000 properties. According to the Smith County Fire Marshall, we ran 7,000 calls year. We've been providing that protection for 12 years with a tax rate of \$0.846. Motion to move for a District election on the issue of the adoption of a sales and use tax at a rate not to exceed 1.5% in any location in the District to be held on November 5, 2019; authorize District officers and officials to take all actions and execute necessary documents for the same,

including Order No. 07-29-19-9; authorize the District to contract with appropriate authorities and entities to conduct said election made by Paul Perryman; 2nd by Charles Wilson; motion carried 5-0.

10. GCP ASSOCIATION SERVICES, LLC TO PERFORM INFORMATION SERVICES

President Melton and Chief Rozell discussed bringing on Cliff Avery, from GCP Association Services, LLC, as a consultant to perform information services relating to the sales tax election. Cliff can help put out information. He will assist the District in its obligation to inform residents about its plans and issues facing delivery of timely emergency services in the community. He has provided information services to 30 ESDs across the state for elections ranging from tax cap increase, to sales tax, to bond issues. 35 of the elections passed. Motion to approve GCP Association Services, LLC for election consulting services made by Charles Wilson; 2nd by Leroy Biggers; motion carried 5-0.

11. SET DATES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR 2019 TAX RATE FOR BUDGET YEAR 2019/2020

President Melton called for 2 Public Hearings on the 2019 proposed tax rate, Monday, August 12, 2019 at 6pm and Thursday, August 15, 2019 6pm. We will not adopt the budget and the tax rate until the August, 26, 2019 meeting. Motion to set the public hearings on August 12th and August 15th made by Paul Perryman; 2nd by Earl Drott; motion carried 5-0.

12. DIRECTOR OF IT REPORT

Larry Locke reported that we have been in the process, over the last 6 months, of working on a private network with Verizon Wireless. We have been moving some of the tablets over to the private network. It will allow us to increase some of the functionality that's available on our tablets as well as decrease our cost overall. House bill 3834 that passed will affect us as far as cyber security. Server Room 2 is now in load balance mode. 34 trouble tickets have been resolved since the last board meeting. IT has taken on gas detector repair and recertification. That will save us about \$450 per gas detector per year.

13. CHIEF OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Chief Rozell reported there is a new program coming up for a Swift Water Rescue Team. We will be moving forward with this and Captain Eric Rozell will be in charge of the program. Kevin Londoff will also be a team leader. Kevin said that he put together some SOP's. There will be several phases consisting of meetings, training and team assembly. Chief Rozell gave a mandate for this to be a premier team. Over 25 people are already interested. We will build it slowly to make sure the program has a solid foundation.

14. REMARKS BY PRESIDING OFFICE AND/OR BOARD MEMEBERS

Not necessary.

15. CLOSED SESSION

Not necessary.

16. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Not necessary.

17. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

President Melton stated the next board meeting is at Smith County ESD #2, 14128 SH 110 South, Whitehouse, TX 75791, Monday, August 26, 2019 at 7:00 pm; he declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Perryman", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Perryman, Secretary/Treasurer