

SMITH COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT TWO

7:00 P.M. * Monday * September 28, 2020

11029 CR 140 * Flint, Texas 75762

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Randy Melton called the Smith County ESD #2 meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Roll was called; five commissioners were present: Randy Melton, Charles Wilson, Leroy Biggers, Matthew McKeethan, and Paul Perryman. He certified that a quorum was present.

2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE

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

3. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

President Melton welcomed all guests.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brent Dominy signed up for public comments. He stated that he filed to run for Paul Perryman's Commissioner's seat. Stated who he was, and why he decided to run. He is a long term resident of ESD 2. He also stated that upon looking into the ESD he had taken an interest, mainly because of the growth of ESD 2.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Paul Perryman made the motion to approve with correction of adding the grace period to volunteer staff that was decided of August 15th. (a) the minutes of the July 27, 2020 regular meeting as amended; and August 24, 2020 regular meeting.(b) financial reports August 2020; 2nd by Leroy Biggers Motion carried 5-0.

6. PAYMENTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS

- a. Matthew Mckeethan made motion to approve current bills/quotes/checks over \$2,000: Current bills/quotes/checks over \$2,000: Gollob Morgan Peddy - \$3050; Preferred On-Site - \$2034.72; Brad's Transmissions - \$4500; Chastang Ford - \$71996 – New Command; Chastang Ford - \$71996 – New Command; Chastang Ford - \$37475 – New Chassis; Chastang Ford - \$37475 – New Chassis Card Service Center \$8,828.31 – District Credit Cards; Keiser \$2,895.39 – Dixie Grant; Amazon Business \$3,855.92 – Dixie Training Grant; Motorola Solutions \$14,902.44 – New Truck Radios; Preferred On-Site Fleet Services of Texas \$14,696.81; KnowBe4 \$8,662.50 – IT Security Training; FR Girls \$3440 – District Shirts; Preferred On-Site Fleet Services of Texas \$5,184.72; Adams & Coker \$2,193.80; Mobile Communications \$21,010.25 – New Radio Equipment and all disbursement checks over \$2,000 in this month's check register; 2nd by Charles Wilson; motion carried 5-0
- b. Contract payments made – no action necessary: Verizon - \$2956.48 – District Wireless Acct; Mobile communication - \$2738.25 – District Paging Services; Suddenlink -\$2501- District Fiber Acct; Nextiva - \$2064.20 – District Phones & Fax; Nextiva - \$2064.20 – District Phones & Fax; Verizon - \$3013.55 – District Wireless Acct; Reliant - \$7692.62 – District Electric Bill; Suddenlink - \$2501 District Fiber Acct; Suddenlink - \$1019.14 – District Internet Acct; Smith County Appraisal District - \$20636 – 4th Quarter Fees
- c. New Construction bills/quotes/checks over \$2,000.00: Burkett Sod - \$2825 – New Arp Station; Harris Craig – 12254.27; Office Barn – \$11968.20 – New Stations Furniture 50/50; Damron A/C

Heating - \$7800 – New Stations Ice Machines 50/50; Fire Station Furniture - \$11632.52 – New Stations Furniture 50/50; WRL - \$286986.44 – New Arp WRL Payment #11; WRL - \$36364.78 – New Flint WRL Payment #1; Kirby \$2509 – New Arp Station Stove

7. VFD STIPEND PACKAGE

Chief Rozell and Administration staff presented a proposal for Volunteer Stipends. Included in the proposal was an updated pay per call schedule, Chief's Stipend updates, Training Coordinator stipends, and a volunteer shift stipend program. These proposals were meant to provide an incentive to volunteers, along with recruitment, and retention. Matthew Mckeethan made the motion to approve the volunteer stipend package; 2nd by Paul Perryman; motion carried 5-0.

8. ADOPTING THE PROPOSED 2020-2021 BUDGET

Chief Rozell presented the proposed budget of \$13,205,088.00, he stated that he felt it was pretty conservative figures from sales tax. He stated he used \$630,00.00 as the income from sales tax, which is less than the lowest payment received. He stated that he has proposed in payroll enough funding to staff 7 stations 24/7. Paul Perryman stated he was concerned due to the fact that last year's budget was approx. \$6,000,00.00, and this year's budget was over \$13,000,000.00. He would like to see the board approve the hiring of 18 personnel now, and let the new board in January hire additional personnel. Randy Melton stated that just because there is enough money to hire individuals does not mean you have to hire all the individuals in the first quarter. Chief Rozell stated that at any time the board can stop spending on any part of the budget. This is regardless of how much money is allocated in that part of the budget. **Randy Melton made the motion to adopt the 2020-2021 budget without ammendment in the amount of \$13,205,088.00; 2nd by Leroy Biggers; motion carried 5-0.**

9. ADOPTING PROPERTY TAX RATE OF \$0.0700

Chief Rozell stated that in order to support the budget that was adopted in the previous agenda item a property tax rate of \$0.0700 would need to be adopted. **Charles Wilson made the motion to adopt the property tax rate of \$0.0700; 2nd by Paul Perryman; motion carried 5-0.**

10. SMITH COUNTY PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Rodney Bates presented as the President of the newly formed Smith County Professional Firefighters Association. He stated that employees had formed a local IAFF. He further stated he looked forward to a good working relationship with the ESD. No action was taken on this item.

11. WRL PRESENTATION OF FIRE STATION COMPLETION

Ricky Bell stated that both stations are now complete. He further stated by using the same sub-contractors it was easier to complete on time. He also stated that the stations were under budget and that over \$180,000.00 was being returned to SCESD2. No action was taken on this item.

12. PRESENTATIONS BY EMS PROVIDERS IN ATTENDANCE

President Melton opened the floor for EMS providers in attendance to give an overview of their services to the board with a time limit of Ten Minutes. UT Health EMS made presentation. Christus EMS made presentation. AMR made presentation. Acadian EMS made presentation. No action was taken on this item.

13. EMS PROVIDER RFQ

Matthew Mckeethan stated he would like for SCESD 2 to get to know the various EMS companies. He stated in an effort to serve the citizens, he would like to make sure everyone is getting the best bang for their buck. He stated he thinks this is the first step in the process. Paul Perryman stated he thinks these things take time. He stated he would like to see UT Health come back next month, and show us some concrete numbers. Randy Melton stated that first off UT EMS who has the current contract is not answerable to us. They are responsible to Smith County who has the current contract. I am very much against going out for an RFQ. Our charter may say that we may provide ambulance service, it does not say we have to. I also would like to remind the other members of the board, and those in attendance. The EMS, they are under contract by the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners, would argue they have concurrent jurisdiction as far as providing EMS. Matthew Mckeethan stated my last wish is not to offend the County Commissioners, we've had discussion that way. The goal is to go after an Attorney General's position on who's responsibility, and jurisdiction this is. I don't think we are obligating our selves by doing an RFQ. **Matthew Mckeethan made the motion that we start the RFQ process from any provider to who would like to provide services in Smith County; 2nd by Paul Perryman; motion carried 4-1. With Randy Melton voting against the motion.**

14. FIRE PROTECTION IN THE NORTHWEST PORTION OF THE DISTRICT

Lisa Hamman a resident of the Jamestown area stated that the Northwest portion of SCESD 2 is becoming more populated. She stated there are several subdivisions being built in the area. She further stated that Sky Ranch is very interested in the fire protection for the area. She stated she has met with various community members who are all interested in the fire protection of the area. Charles Wilson stated that the area has never had its own fire station. He stated he would like permission from the board to meet with the area residents to discuss the future of their fire protection. Chief Rozell stated they needed a station up there. Administration staff have been discussing this problem. The move has been made to put Dixie on the Box alarm assignments for the area. Dixie Station 2 is a station that is looking to be possibly manned 24/7. This station is closest to that area. **Matthew Mckeethan made the motion to have Charles Wilson begin meeting with citizens in the area to discuss fire protection; 2nd by Leroy Biggers; motion carried 5-0.**

15. BUILDING OF AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Matt Mckeethan stated he would much rather see the ESD move forward with purchasing something, rather than a modular building. Chief Rozell stated that by lumping the three remodels with the admin building, the ESD can save money. He stated the board would need to approve a construction manager at risk for all the projects, and then begin the process of building working drawings for all. **Charles Wilson made the motion to go out for proposals for a construction manager at risk and to start working drawings for the three remodels, and an administration building; 2nd by Matthew Mckeethan; motion carried 5-0.**

Point of order

Chief Rozell stated the board would need to rescind the motion from last meeting regarding going out for RFQ/RFP for a construction manager at risk for the three remodels.

Charles Wilson made an amendment to the motion to rescind the motion from last meeting regarding the RFQ/RFP for the three remodels, and to instead to go out for proposals for a construction manager at risk and to start working drawings for the three remodels, and an administration building; 2nd by Leroy Biggers; motion carried 5-0.

16. PURCHASE OF STRUCTURAL PPE

Chief Smith presented a proposal to purchase helmets, hoods, and gloves from NAFECO. He stated some of the items would go towards new personnel, and also some would go to the stock room. He stated that hoods, and gloves are something that is used frequently by personnel, so usually there are some kept in supply. **Leroy Biggers made the motion to purchase the structural PPE from NAFECO in the amount of \$23,581.00; 2nd by Paul Perryman; motion carried 5-0**

17. PURCHASE OF CLASS B UNIFORMS

Chief Rozell presented a proposal to purchase Class B Uniforms from FR Girls Of Texas in the Amount of \$50,000.00. He stated these would be NOMEX uniforms, which are better for personnel. He stated that although the initial investment is higher, they last longer than the previous uniforms purchased. Therefore costing less in the long run. He further stated that for now these would be for paid members who are required to wear their uniforms daily. NOMEX also provides protection for wildland fire. **Charles Wilson made the motion to purchase the Class B uniforms from FR Girls Of Texas in the amount of \$50,000.00; 2nd by Matthew Mckeethan; motion carried 5-0.**

18. BED LINER FOR RED SPRINGS 5-TON TRUCK

Chief Rozell presented a proposal from LINE X to put the bed liner on the Red Springs 5 ton truck. The truck was received from a Texas Forest Service Grant. He stated it is the same thing that was done to the Jackson Heights 5 Ton truck. **Charles Wilson made the motion to approve the bed liner from LINE X in the amount of \$4,356.00; 2nd by Paul Perryman; motion carried 5-0.**

19. KNOW B4 CONTRACT

Chief Smith presented a proposal on behalf of IT Director Larry Locke who was absent. He stated that it was time to renew the contract with KNOW B4 on the state mandated IT training. He stated that by doing so now, it would allow it to be renewed going forward with all other IT contracts. The cost to renew the contract was in the amount of \$8,662.50. **Leroy Biggers made the motion to approve the contract renewal in the amount of \$8,662.50; 2nd by Matthew Mckeethan; motion carried 5-0.**

20. 800MHZ RADIO CONTRACT

Chief Rozell stated that he was presented the final contract, but earlier in the day, there were questions by other agencies. He requested the board table the item until the questions are answered. **Leroy Biggers made the motion to table the 800MHZ radio contract; 2nd by Matthew Mckeethan; motion carried 5-0.**

21. TAX ABATEMENT REVIEW

President Melton stated in the board books was a document from the Tyler EDC of a tax abatement review. He advised all commissioners to study these documents for their knowledge. No action necessary on this item.

22. SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACTS

The board convened in closed session regarding this item. Upon return to open session **Matthew Mckeethan made the motion to appoint Terry Rozell, Matthew Mckeethan, Randy Melton, and attorney Ken Campbell to a committee regarding service provider contracts, and to proceed as deliberated 2nd by Charles Wilson; motion carried 5-0.**

23. FIRE CHIEF'S PRESENTING IDEAS, ISSUES, OR CONCERNS.

Arp stated they were moving into new station, and that they would like the future of the old station on the agenda. Bullard stated there had been two productive Chief's meetings, and that the new safety house had been used at several events in town. Chapel Hill stated things were going good. Flint-Gresham stated that things were going good. Jackson Heights stated the department was still

searching for a Chief. They were also needed more volunteers. Red Springs stated things were good. Troup stated they had spoken with Captain Trotty about recliners, and was working to get that going. Stated they felt things were headed in the right direction. Whitehouse stated things were good, they had received Command 1 back after being loaned to the Battalion Chief's. They also stated that the word was their new Brush 1 would be in service soon. Winona stated things were good.

24. TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Chief Clanton stated that there were good things going on. The training division has been involved in the hiring process. The division was building out an orientation process for new employees. They have also attended VFD training nights.

25. DIRECTOR OF IT REPORT

IT Technician stated there had been 56 trouble tickets resolved, and the new stations were near completion.

26. CHIEF OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Chief Rozell stated he was excited to see the stipend packages passed. He would like to remind everyone to be professionals. He stated it does not matter whether are paid or volunteer as long as we are professionals.

27. CLOSED SESSION

The board did convene in closed session at 09:29pm on agenda item #22

28. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The board returned to open session at 10:12pm

29. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

President Melton stated the next board meeting will be at Flint Gresham Station 1, 11029 CR 140, Flint, TX 75762; Monday, November 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.; he declared the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: _____

Paul Perryman, Secretary/Treasurer