

**WOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT #1
NOTICE OF MEETING OF DIRECTORS TO BE HELD:
MONDAY AUGUST 19, 2024
AT 9:00 AM
LOCATION:
HOLLY LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
126 PR 7869
HOLLY LAKE RANCH, TEXAS 75765**

Meeting Minutes - FINAL

Call the meeting to Order

Board President Kristina Horn called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM

Commissioners in attendance were Kristina Horn, Keith Mullinax, Chuck Bahr and Robin Edwards. Commissioner Cynthia Treece was out of town.

Certification by the President or Vice-President that the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Section 551.001 Et. Seq. of the Texas Government Code have been complied with in connection with the public notice of this meeting and that a quorum is present.

President Horn confirmed that all the provisions of the Open Meetings Act were met, and that a quorum was present.

Invocation

Commissioner Edwards recited the 'Prayer for Firefighters' provided by Commissioner Treece.

Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance participated.

Recognition of guests

No guests were present from the general public.

Curtis Wright, Donnie Reynolds, and Michael O'Connor from Christus; and Chief Joe Taylor and Captain Cheryl Thomas from HLVFD were in attendance.

Receive public comment

None

Review and consider approval of prior minutes

The July 15, 2024, minutes were missing the statistic that HLVFD completed 29 training hours in June. Commissioner Bahr moved to approve the July minutes as amended. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Present, review and consider approval of Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Mullinax moved to table presentation of the report due to technical difficulties in creating it. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Present, review and consider approval for Payment of Accounts Due

Commissioner Mullinax presented two invoices: Wood County Appraisal District in the amount of \$275.00 and Safe-D in the amount of \$1843.25. Commissioner Mullinax moved to pay both invoices as presented, Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, and it was approved.

ESD #1 Board to receive for review and consider approval for payment of sworn billing and any submitted requests of contracted amounts by HLVFD

Captain Cheryl Thomas had presented \$21,215.41 in July for review and payment in August. Commissioner Mullinax moved to pay invoices as presented and Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Captain Thomas also provided bills/receipts in the amount of \$13,945.02 for review and consideration for payment. These will be considered at the September ESD #1 meeting.

Activity Report from HLVFD and Christus:

HLVFD:

Structure fire – 0

Vehicle fire – 0

Grass fire - 0

Medical calls – 39

Landing zone - 0

Motor vehicle collisions - 2

Public assists – 9 (Non-pager assists – 9)

Total – 50

July training hours - 100

Christus:

41 calls; all non-life threatening. Average response time was 13 minutes.

HLVFD responded to 39 of the 41 Christus medical related calls.

Old Business:

1. Acknowledge receipt of the Wood County Appraisal District 2024 Certified Appraisal Roll which was made available to Wood County ESD #1.

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the document as provided by President Horn.

2. Acknowledged receipt of the 2024 Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet (Form 50-856) commonly known as the "Truth in Taxation Worksheet" prepared by Wood County Tax Collector Carol Taylor.

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the document as provided by President Horn.

The Commissioners discussed:

- WCESD estimated taxable value: \$646,596,271
- Current tax rate: .0447/\$100 valuation
- 2024-25 'No new rate' (NNR) is .0424/\$100 valuation
- Max of .0463/\$100 has been approved by voters

Other old business

None

New Business

1. Discuss and consider the proposed FY 2025 Budget for Wood County ESD #1.

Commissioner Mullinax provided the ESD Budget worksheet and approximately \$35,219 were identified as ESD Board related expenses for the upcoming 2025 Fiscal Year.

The Commissioners discussed the overall FY2025 Budget:

Estimated average HLFVD expenses per month were: \$15,000.

\$15,000 x 12 months = \$180,000.

Chief Joe Taylor requested \$73,007.87 in July to replace/update safety equipment.

The Board recommended 'considering' a total of \$100,000 (an additional \$27,000) in order to replace other outdated safety and support equipment.

At the current rate of .0447/\$100, total estimated tax revenue generated by the approved Ad Valorem Tax would be \$289,028.53. Tax Assessor charges are \$7,280.

Identified and estimated FY 2025 expenses are:

\$35,219 ESD#1 Board. expenses

\$180,000 HLFVD expenses

\$100,000 Requested/estimated replacement of HLFVD equipment

\$7,280 Tax Assessor

Total: identified/estimated FY2025 expenses: \$322,499

The Commissioners then took a break from the budget discussion and new business to discuss any planned events and to allow HLFVD and Christus personnel to complete their reports and take the opportunity for dismissal.

HLFVD events: Weekly Bingo

8/31 Waffle breakfast

9/7 HL Club Fair

9/21 Wood County Fire School

9/28 TEEKS on-site Haz-Mat Awareness

Oct-Nov tentative Haz-Mat class

October 8 - 12 Fire Prevention Week

October - tentative smoke detectors - looking for donations

October 12 - Holly Lake Festival

Jan. 2025 tentative Haz-Mat

Feb. 2025 Decontamination - Haz-Mat

Other community/church related activities/requests

HLFVD has requested a grant from Texas A&M Forest Service to provide a Humvee Brush Truck including a slide-in pump/tank. Other grants are being investigated.

Christus did not identify additional public events and/or activities and left the meeting for the Board to complete the FY2025 budget process.

2. Continued FY2025 budget discussion.

Commissioner Mullinax provided a worksheet that identified approximately \$35,219 in ESD Board-related expenses. After review and discussion, Commissioner Bahr made a motion to adopt the proposed budget, Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion, and it was approved.

3. Discuss and consider proposed 2024 Ad Valorem tax rate for Wood Count ESD #1.

Using financial estimates (identified expenses and potential Ad Valorem tax revenues) above, the Board calculated and identified the need to adopt the maximum taxpayer approved Ad Valorem tax rate of .0463/\$100 valuation rate for FY2025.

- \$646,596,271 x .0463/\$100 valuation = \$299,374.041
- \$299,374.041 represents an approximate increase in Ad Valorem tax revenue of \$10,000.
- \$299,374.041 is also \$23,125 less than the total estimated expenses identified for FY2025.
- At .0463/\$100, the approximate impact to the taxpayer is \$1.60 per \$100,000 in property valuation.

Commissioner Edwards moved to adopt .0463/\$100 valuation rate for FY2025, Commissioner Bahr seconded the motion, and it was approved.

4. Discuss and consider cybersecurity coverage available through Texas Association of Counties.

Commissioner Edwards moved to purchase coverage with \$1,500 maximum. President Horn will review price of policy prior to purchase. Commissioner Mullinax seconded the motion, and it was approved.

5. Any other new business
None

Chief Taylor announced an ISO rating improvement from a 5 to a 4 with 3 being a future goal. ISO ratings impact homeowners' insurance rates.

Close Meeting

Commissioner Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mullinax seconded the motion, and it was approved. President Horn adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.

By Robin Edwards and Cynthia Treece