

ESD 8 Minutes, October 28, 2013 6:30pm at PFD Station One, 801 Bee Creek Road, Briarcliff, Tx. 78669

ESD 8 Board Members Present: Russ Munsch, Gail Zahara, Kristy Quigley and David Streilein. Absent: Karen Fromel

Staff Present: Chief Gerry Deming, Battalion Chief Bruce Perkins, ESD Manager Mike Claypool, firefighters Wade Schmidtinsky, Jared Mikeska, and Adam Power.

Citizens present: Travis County Fire Marshal Hershell Lee, Page Graves, Auxiliary, and Bob Dilley, volunteer financial consultant.

Call to Order by Board President Russ Munsch at 6:33 P.M.

- 1) Secretary's Report: Mike Claypool had sent the minutes prepared by Karen Fromel to Commissioners prior to the meeting. Motion by Ms. Quigley, second by Mrs. Zahara to approve the minutes. Approval of minutes 5-0.
- 2) Treasurer's/Manager's Financial Report – Mike Claypool did the monthly review of ESD 8 finances. Included were distribution and discussion of the 2012-2013 Profit and Loss statement, and the ESD Balance Sheet as of 10/28/2013. Chief Deming presented a review of the budget for fiscal year 2013-14. The Board and staff discussed the process for financial reports to the Board in the coming year. It was decided that staff would email financial reports and budget reports to Board members monthly, effective the final day of the previous month. These reports would arrive to Board members within the first two weeks of a month, so they may review financials prior to presentation and discussion in the open meeting.
- 3) Fire Chief Report
 - a) The Chief presented to the Board the Auxiliary plan to fund raise and install rain water collection systems at stations 3, 2 and 1 – in that priority. This plan was formulated in response to high concern on the department's part about the lack of access to water for fire fighting in most of ESD 8. David Ham, volunteer water resources consultant, is developing plans for these collection systems, and the Auxiliary began fund raising with the Fall Barbecue in September. Page Graves stated the Auxiliary has sufficient funds to begin the process for installing the collection system at station 3, in part due to the involvement of Willie Nelson and his family in fund raising efforts.
 - b) Chief Deming updated the Board on the status of the two engines new to our fleet. He stated that both engines will need to be out of service for installation of radio equipment and other electronics. He reported that engine 801 was throwing a low engine oil pressure reading, which the Austin shop for the manufacturer has diagnosed as a crimped wire to the sensing unit. It has been determined that a defective engine mount caused the crimped wire. This process kept the engine out of service for approximately two weeks, but it has been determined that there were no serious structural defects and reimbursed costs associated with these warranty repairs.
 - c) Chief Deming updated the status ESD 8 in Travis County Auto-Aid. The Chief that the fire department has met all necessary standards for admission to auto-aid, and all applications

have been submitted. Until the final admission is made, all ESD's are responding to incidents in ESD 8 as if we are formally members of the auto-aid group. Likewise, PFD is responding to incidents in other county jurisdictions on an as needed basis.

- d) Burn Permits – County Fire Marshal Herschell Lee stated that ESD's 3 (Oak Hill), 6 (Lake Travis Fire and Rescue), 9 (Westlake), 14 (Volente) and 2 (Pflugerville) require citizens to have burn permits. Currently ESD 8 cannot prevent control burns in our area if there is no County burn prevention on any given day. It was pointed out, however, that the department can advise citizens not to burn if we consider conditions to be hazardous. Mr. Lee stated the county is not currently committed to enacting county wide permitting for burns, mainly due to political opposition from certain ESD's. The Board stated its willingness TO CONSIDER THE PERMITTING PROCESS, WITH NO COMMITMENT TO ADOPT BURN PERMITS AT THIS TIME.
- e) Water Accessibility – Chief Deming spoke to the County about the lack of water in our area. ESD 8 was the first to discuss water issues in the county with Fire Chiefs and county officials. The concern is that if a fire cannot be stopped by onboard water, then the fire may not be able to be stopped at all. Currently the only available water TO FILL TENDERS is in Briarcliff. WCH is no longer reliable for water supply. When this issue was raised by Chief Deming at CAFCA, Danny Hobby approved the retrofitting of county tanker trucks and auditing of water tanks to draft them as resources in the case of an emergency. The county is looking to amending fire code to have connections on all trucks and fire storage tanks on all trucks. We are investigating tanks at all of our stations for filling tenders. We have four commercial water haulers on standby in an emergency. If these haulers are used, there will be costs incurred for the ESD.
- f) It had been proposed to move the PFD fire boat to Hunter's Point Condominiums to have lake access. This item is currently tabled due to the facts that a) the boat needs repairs, and b) attorneys for the condos and PFD could reach an agreement regarding potential liabilities.
- g) Manager Claypool and Chief Deming stated that effective October 1, 2013 Travis County ESD 8 has become the employer of all workers for the Pedernales Fire Department. As well, all assets of Pedernales Emergency Services have been titled to Travis County ESD 8. All these assets had been purchased by the ESD, or were donated by the Auxiliary. The Volunteers will continue to report to the Chief in regards to firefighter certifications and fire scene responses. Effective 10/1/2013 Travis County Emergency Services District 8 has acquired the Pedernales Fire Department as a component of its operations.

Old Business

- a) Report from the ESD8 representative on the County ESDCC group and associated action. No new action: our problems county wide for ESD's are still flat tax revenue and no water. Also, annexation of territory by the city of Austin is seriously reducing revenue in a number of ESD's adjacent to the cities of Austin and Cedar Park.
- b) Report from PFD representative on latest CAFCA issues and action if needed. This item was covered in the discussion of water resources and auto-aid by the Chief above.

- c) Report from PFD Firefighter's Union, Local 4820, and action if needed. Union President Jared Mikeska expressed the union's support for Chief Deming and Manager Claypool in their management capacities.

Public Comment

Page Graves discussed the Auxiliaries fund raising efforts to establish water tanks and rain water collection systems at each fire station, with Station 3 being the first priority.

New Business

- 1) It was repeated that the Holiday Banquet is at J5 Steakhouse December 9th at 6:00 PM.
- 2) The Board decided, and directed staff, to hold an Open House at Station 3 in January, 2014.
- 3) The Board formally recognized Burnet County ESD 9, and congratulated the community on their electoral support of this new governmental entity.
- 4) The next Board meeting will be the Holiday Banquet. As such, it will be posted as an open meeting.