

ESD 8 Minutes May 5th, 2015 Meeting at PFD Station One, 801 Bee Creek Road, Briarcliff, TX., 78669
6:30 PM.

The meeting was called to order by President Munsch at 6:32 P.M. Commissioners in attendance were Russ Munsch, Karen Fromel, Kristy Quigley and Gail Zahara. David Streilein was absent. Staff attending: Mike Claypool, Bruce Perkins, and Bob Dilley.

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the meeting were sent to Commissioners prior to this meeting.

Checks for Approval: Lance's Fire Truck Repairs, \$4,566.72 for repairs to Engine 802.

The Consent Agenda was approved by a 5 – 0 vote.

Year to Date Budget Report:

ESD Manager Claypool and Financial Consultant Dilley presented the report. It was noted payroll and benefits are actually less than budgeted at this stage in the budget cycle. This status was not anticipated, since the department has been running a lot of overtime for employees. Staff turnover, unexpectedly, has resulted in moderately less expenditures in payroll and benefits.

Fire Chief's Report:

The Chief presented his year to date incident report. Activity has been steady, but not excessively busy. However, it is anticipated that the rains and the filling of the lake will lead to greatly increased activity all summer. In particular, Memorial Day weekend and the July 4th weekend most likely will necessitate extra staffing.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

ESDCC Update:

Mr. Claypool, as well as Kristy Quigley, have been attending meetings this spring as the alternate representative for ESD 8. The Board re-iterated their support for him to be the alternate representative at ESDCC meetings. A county wide meeting of ESD's and county officials is occurring in Pflugerville May 30th. Mr. Claypool urged all Commissioners to attend if possible. Mrs. Zahara and Mr. Munsch committed to attend the meeting.

Legislative Update:

Mr. Claypool announced that HB 2249 and the related Senate Bill did not make it out of committee in the Legislature. Both of these bills attempted to create an Emergency Response District as a new form of delivering emergency services in unincorporated areas of the state. The enabling language in the bills empowered an ERD to dissolve an ESD, which ESD 8 did not support. President Munsch complimented

Mr. Claypool for his efforts to block this legislation, and all Board Members expressed their support for his efforts.

Annexation:

Chief Deming and Mr. Claypool reported on a meeting they had with Thurman Bend residents at Angel Bay. The meeting was arranged to assess the attitude of people in that area regarding annexation, and to learn specifically of the legal possibilities for annexation in Thurman Bend. An estimated 20+ people attended, all of whom were clearly against any kind of incorporation in their area. They explained their efforts in 2008 to safeguard their community from incorporation by arranging with the small communities of Briarcliff and Lago Vista to bring Thurman Bend into their Extra Territorial Jurisdictions. Most people believed this goal had been accomplished and their research showed that maps of the ETJ's for those two communities showed the small cities' boundaries to include Thurman Bend. However, when resident Clint Jones researched the county maps, those maps did not show this expansion of the ETJ's of Briarcliff and Lago Vista into Thurman Bend. A committee was formed to investigate this discrepancy, and to try to finalize the expansion of small town ETJs into Thurman Bend with county officials and their map records. Surprisingly, research by Mr. Jones also showed the city of Austin ETJ to reach to the shore of Lake Travis directly across from Angel Bay. This fact was disturbing to community members attending the meeting.

Mr. Claypool thanked residents for supporting the sales tax increase. The response by at least one resident was a request to reduce property taxes. At the mention of property taxes, Mike brought up HB 2249, which proposed the option to double the property tax rate. This bill was sponsored by ESD 6, Lake Travis Fire & Rescue. The Thurman Bend group was not pleased with this information, and this bill furthered strengthened their desire to resist annexation. As well, the group expressed clearly their desire to stay with ESD 8/Pedernales Fire Department as their service provider, and to not have a larger fire department – especially one advocating an increase in property taxes. They stated their belief that larger departments increase costs of supplying services considerably.

Burnet County ESDs Meeting

Chief Deming discussed meeting with Board Members and Fire Chiefs from BC ESD9, Marble Falls, and North Blanco County, organized by Karen Bruett of BC ESD 9. The meeting was intended to introduce leadership of these departments and to begin the process of developing an organized and cooperative response for this region west of our service territory. The discussion brought greatest interest when Chief Deming and Field Training Officer Troy Wenzel discussed their plan to create a Regional Training Academy at ESD 8. There was great interest among the participants, since such a facility could greatly reduce the volunteer departments expenses for travel and housing for training events; plus, it would reduce the time volunteers would have to lose in travelling long distances for training activities. Another meeting is scheduled for late June for follow up and further development of communication channels and cooperation among these departments.

Surety Bond

Travis County government is requesting that each ESD post a surety bond to cover the Treasurer in each ESD. This state law has been on the books for years, but has been ignored. The Board was advised by Mr. Claypool that the bond will have to be established, but the County has yet to clarify conditions such as how much the bond should cover.

Hose Donation

Spicewood Volunteer Fire Department is anticipating the purchase of a fire truck in the near future. As a result, that department contacted Chief Deming to take advantage of his long standing offer of a donation of 4" hose to their department. Chief Deming said he will use a standard contract to cover this donation. President Munsch requested that he review the contract before releasing the hose to SVFD.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M. The next meeting of Travis County ESD 8 is scheduled for June 29th at 6:30 P.M.