

ESD 8 Minutes September 16, 2013 6:30pm at PFD Station One, 801 Bee Creek Road, Briarcliff, Tx. 78669

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

Staff Present: Chief Gerry Deming, Battalion Chief Bruce Perkins, ESD Manager Mike Claypool, Explorer sponsor and Volunteer Steve Rudkin, Penny Poalson, Sharon Rudkin, and Page Graves of the Auxiliary. Also in attendance, Audrey Worrell, representing the Boy Scouts of America Explorer program.

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

- 1) Secretary's Report: Mike Claypool had sent the minutes 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 passed out balance sheet.
- 3) Fire Chief Report
 - a) Unified fire reporting – HIPPA agreement with Travis County due Monday, must be signed by board president. The Fire RMS Project, County wants all departments to switch over to new system to tracks reports. It will allow sharing of data but will provide privacy for necessary information. Current database costs \$3500 a year. If the new software is approved by the Board, the new system will not cost more for the same current reporting. Travis County agreed to pick up the difference in price for any department switching over. All departments from Dallas to San Antonio will be using new system. APPROVED 5-0
 - b) Burn Permits – County is trying to move to burn permits for all ESDs. County Fire Marshall will come and do a presentation about burn permits and charging fees. Currently we cannot control burns in our area if there is no County burn prevention on any given day. The Board COMMITTED TO LOOKING AT IT, WITH NO COMMITMENT TO ADOPT BURN PERMIT AT THIS TIME.
 - c) Water Accessibility – Chief Deming spoke to the County about the lack of water in our area. ESD 8 was the first the discuss water issues. 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. Danny Hobby approved the retrofitting of county tanker trucks and auditing of water tanks. 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.

Old Business

- a) Report from the ESD8 representative on the County ESDCC group and associated action. No new action, our problems are still flat tax and no water.

- b) Report from PFD representative on latest CAFCA issues and action if needed. No new action.
- c) Report from PFD Firefighter's Union, Local 4820, and action if needed. No Union members present, no new action.

Public Comment

Russ from Burnet County discussed sitting in on several board meetings. Spicewood Volunteer Fire Department is thinking about starting an emergency services district.

Page Graves discussed the Auxiliary fundraiser on the 28th from 6-10. There will be barbecue, music and dancing, a raffle of a cruise, and more.

New Business

- 1) Adoption of the personnel manual, and vacation buy back: Tobacco use is limited to crew quarters. Health insurance will not increase premiums to cover tobacco users until we have at least 50 employees. Board voted on PTO buy back of 24 hours in December, 2013 and a review in 6 months to see how budget is doing to fund an additional 24 hours in June of 2014. Funding of 48 hours total PTO buyback for the fiscal year 2013-2014 will be considered. The estimated cost for 48 hours is \$14,544 if every employee does the full 48 hour buy back. It is also anticipated to continue with PTO buy back in December, 2014 if economically feasible. APPROVED 5-0
- 2) Adoption of effective tax rate of \$0.0998 per \$100 evaluation - APPROVED 5-0
- 3) Travis County ESD8 budget for 2013-2014 – subject to vacation buy back APPROVED 5-0
- 4) Consolidation of Pedernales Fire Department and TC ESD 8. Discussion and Possible Action: Transition of Pedernales Fire Department's employees to the status of employees of Travis County ESD 8. Motion for consideration: "[Discussion and possible action on reorganization of operations of the District, including but not limited to moving paid and volunteer personnel into the District, insurance, unemployment, workers' compensation insurance, transferring assets and bank accounts and personnel of Pedernales Emergency Services to the District, and other issues related to moving all operations into the District and authorizing the appropriate officials of the District, including the officer, employees, contractors, and attorneys to take any necessary action in relation to same.](#)" APPROVED 5-0
- 5) Add Commissioner Gail Zahara as signer on ESD 8 checking accounts in addition to Karen Fromel and David Streilein. Gail will be available to sign more often. APPROVED 5-0
- 6) Explorer Program – Steve Rudkin and guests discussed the changes that were suggested in the last meeting. No ride along for under 16 years of age. The program is in compliance with child labor laws. Gail, Penny, Sharon and Steve Rudkin are

working on an Explorer Manual. The Manual is a working document and it's development will be shared with the Board at next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday October 28th at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm