

UPSHUR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1

JUNE 24, 2024

5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Upshur County Emergency Services District No. 1 Board of Commissioners was held on June 24, 2024, in the Upshur County Courtroom, Upshur County Courthouse, 150 E. Jefferson Street, Gilmer, Texas.

The District considered and acted upon the following matters:

- 1) **Call to order and establish quorum.** The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by President Kenny Southwell and a quorum was established with Scott Mischnick, Ray Cook, and Anthony Depaepe being present. Brian Jones was absent.
- 2) **PUBLIC COMMENT** No public comment.
- 3) **Discuss and take action to pay Harmony VFD in the amount of \$35.52 for the ETEX bill dated April 1, 2024.** Motion by Scott Mischnick with a second by Ray Cook to pay Harmony VFD in the amount of \$35.52 for the ETEX bill dated April 1, 2024. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.
- 4) **Discuss and take action regarding the list of active members submitted by the Fire Chiefs.** Kenny Southwell announced the departments that had submitted their list which were Bettie VFD, Harmony VFD, Pleasant Grove VFD, Pritchett VFD, and Simpsonville VFD.
- 5) **Appoint a Retention/Recruitment Committee.** There was discussion as to who would make up the members of the committee. Ray Cook commented that he would like to see at least 3-4 representatives from the fire departments, 1-2 members from the Board, and members of the community. Ray Cook volunteered to be on the committee. Kenny Southwell announced that Michael Simmons had a video that he was willing to share with the committee. Kenny Southwell, as President of the Board, appointed Ray Cook, Nicole Stanley, and Jeff Sorentino to the committee. No further action.
- 6) **Discuss and take action on any budget amendments.** There was discussion regarding the budget line items that would have funds left from the current budget i.e. Harmony Fire Station would have a remainder of approximately \$200,000.00. The Board discussed using these funds for budget amendments to balance the budget. No action at this time. Budget amendments will be considered at the August meeting.
- 7) **Discuss Strategic Planning for both short term and long term goals and final budget planning and take action if necessary.** Scott Mischnick discussed the minimum requirements regarding the tax calendar and the deadlines for having public hearings.

Kenny Southwell suggested moving the regular scheduled meeting from August 12th to August 8th. After discussion, it was proposed to have the meeting to adopt the budget and set the proposed tax rate on August 8th and the public meeting on August 20th.


Ray Hubbard with VFIS was present to answer questions of the Board regarding coverage and to discuss insurance quotes for the new fiscal year.

Kenny Southwell announced that he had obtained an address for the new Harmony station which is 1189 Jaguar Road, Gilmer, Texas. There was discussion regarding the utilities for the new station. It was decided that the utilities be set up under Harmony VFD name instead of the ESD. It was further decided that the road bore would be part of the construction costs. Kenny Southwell announced that construction should start August 1st. Kenny Southwell also announced that the Deeds are being prepared by Dwight Brannon and Harmony VFD will hold a meeting and vote to determine who will be authorized to sign the deeds.

Kenny Southwell read the rundown of the budgeted line items and proposed amounts for discussion. Line items were discussed as needed. Future goals were also discussed regarding purchase of air packs, hose testing, engines and equipment.

There was also brief discussion regarding retirement and/or supplemental pay for response. This matter will be discussed further at the July meeting.

8) **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



Presiding Officer Signature
Title: Vice-President

Date: July 15, 2024