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Hardin County Emergency Services District 7

Minutes Meeting on July 21, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

- 1 Establish a quorum was present. Mr. Davis gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2 A quorum was present: Present was Elena Kelley, Denise Marcontell and Curtis Davis, and Daneen Oswalt. Tommy Shelton was not present. Curtis Davis called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M.
- 3 Public Comment – limited to 3 minutes; no formal action, discussion, deliberation, or comment will be made by any of the board members.
 - a. Terrie Eason spoke about with the death of her husband July 14, 2025.
 - b. Rance Taylor, Sarah Taylor and Eddie Shoats spoke of the same incident as Mrs. Eason.
 - c. Sandra Shoats and Scott Shroff passed on their opportunity to speak.
 - d. Becky Linsey spoke about the importance of everyone being Certified in CPR
 - e. Linda Sims spoke of the importance of having a Fire Department
- 4 Consent Agenda items:
 - a. Approval of meeting minutes for June 30 regular meeting and July 7, 2025 special meeting. Mr. Shelton motioned to approve Minutes list above. Seconded by Mrs. Marcontell. Motion carried. All voting for the motion.
- 5 Treasurer report update by Mrs. Marcontell:
 - a. Treasurer's Report-Previous Bank Balance \$43,801.67 March debits - \$2,439.01 Deposits \$1,179.59 Bank Balance \$42,542.25.
 - b. Accounts Payable – none at this time.

- c. Mr. Shelton made a motion to approve treasurer report. Seconded by Mrs. Oswalt. Motion carried. All voting for the motion.

6 Update and possible taking action regarding Insurance requirements for Hardin County Emergency Services District 7

- a. Mr. Shelton motion to table until the ESD acquires assets to insure. Seconded by Mrs. Oswalt. Motion carried. All voting for the motion.

7 Update and possible taking action regarding the Strategy and Goals mission / Vision for 2025 and Beyond

A. Property

1) Mr. Davis and Mrs. Marcontell are currently getting quotes for interest rates and financing option from different lenders. Mrs. Marcontell gave update for First Financial: 20% down. 5-years 7% interest with note being \$960.00 per month. 10-years 7-7.5% interest note being \$570.00 per month. They also will offer the option to convert the land note with the building note when ready to build.

a. Mrs. Campbell asked the question, *Will the interest be fixed when the building is rolled over with the land?* This is a question that will be asked to the lender and followed up on.

B. Facility

1) Mr. Davis got quotes from Metal Depot:

- a. 40/60 \$40,380.56
- b. 50/60 \$48,454.16
- c. Still need quotes for slab

C. Equipment

1) 1991 Fire Truck donated by Silsbee

2) Vehicle for Emergency Medical Responder

a. Commitment from Sheriff Davis that HCESD #7 will be first in line when one becomes available. This will be a Chevy Tahoe from the sheriff's department, the same as ESD 1 received a few months ago.

3) Waiting to hear back from Silsbee FD on a brush truck they may have available.

4) Batson VFD will donate jump suits

5) Mr. Shelton sent training matrix

6) Fire Prevention training at the school

8 Discuss and possible taking action on requirements for survey

- a. Skinner Engineering Services-No longer in Surveying business
- b. B-Line-\$1500-\$2000 + tax
- c. Shine and Associates-\$2650 + tax
- d. Shine and Johnston-\$2500 + tax

9 Update and possible take action from Mr. Davis on Mutual aid/Statewide 411 contract discussions with Kountze ESD1, Saratoga VFD and ESD, Batson VFD and ESD, Segno, and North Liberty County.

- a. Mr. Davis is getting Direct Aid Contracts from Saratoga VFD and Segno FD for adequate coverage within the district.

10 Discussion and possible taking action regarding standing with Service Provider status on non-profit and 501(c) 3. And the reports that have been filed with the state and the federal government.

- a. Mrs. Diane Love states the Votaw and Thicket Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. is in good standing with the state. She is waiting to hear back from the IRS to know the federal standing.

11 Discuss the VTVFD administrative structure

- a. President: Shanna Laird
- b. Treasurer: Jackie Williams
- c. Secretary: Diane Nelson

12 Discussion and possible take action regarding Service Provider Contract needed for 2025.

- a. Contract date would be from date of signing until September 30, 2025. This will be the end of the fiscal year.

- b. July 21, 2025 is the deadline for signing the contract. There was no agreement reached at this time. Therefore, Votaw and Thicket Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. will not be the Service Provider for the Hardin County ESD #7.

13 Discussion and possible take action on establishing policies.

- a. Curtis will email policies to attorney for approval. Then, he will email to commissioners to look over.

14 Discussion and possible take action on Direct Aid with Saratoga Volunteer Fire Department

a. Mr. Davis is in the process of getting Automatic Aid contracts with Segno FD and Saratoga VFD

15 Discussion on any other non-agenda item without taking action, from any commissioner up to an including report from the Votaw & Thicket Vol. FD command structure; or announcements which may be of interest to the public.

a. Mr. Love did not have verbal report from the VTVFD but he had an announcement which may be of community interest. He sent condolences to the Eason family. He defended the 2 responders from the VTVFD on the scene for the medical call for Mr. Eason. He stated the call came in as a nonresponsive person. They were not dispatched that CPR was in progress when they got the call. He also stated that the 2 responders left the scene because Gary Flowers told them to leave. He stated that he has not had any support from the ESD except for last year when they worked through and budget workshop. He also stated that he was not happy with the post that went out on social media. He thought it was slanderous to the Fire Department. He said if anyone in this community needed anything to call him. He would help to the best of his ability. Then he stated, the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, the Captain, and 2 other members quit the Fire Department because of the ESD Board of Commissioner.

b. Jason Cooper with Acadian spoke about the services, training and Grants they can provide for our District.

16 Next Meeting Agenda Items:

- a. Will interest be fixed when building is rolled over to land note
- b. Earnest Money on land
- c. Update on Automatic Aid
- d. Legislative Changes
- e. Policies and Procedures

Went into Executive session at 7:52 pm for reasons of Section 551.071 completed session at 8:23pm

21) Mr. Shelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Marcontell

Motion carried. All voting for the motion.

Respectfully Submitted June 22, 2025

Daneen Oswalt, Secretary