



## Hardin County Emergency Services District 7

### Minutes of Special Meeting on April 17, 2025

Special 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, Daneen Oswald and Tommy Shelton. Curtis Davis called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.
3. Discussion and development regarding the Mission / Vision / Core Values and Beliefs portion of the for 2025 and Beyond Goals and Strategy.
  - a. Mrs. Oswald made a motion to approve. Mrs. Kelley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried all voting for the motion.
  - b.
4. District Goals/Achievements
  - (1) Additional Funding
    - Developed the documentation needed to place on the ballot for the district voters to vote on and adopt the sales and use tax for the Emergency Services District
      - Need Zip Code for Rye, Votaw and Thicket.
      - Mr. Davis will carry out gathering the information needed to inform the community of this vote by developing a pamphlet to share with the voters within the district
    - Present to the district voters the positives as well as the districts goals and plans for the added funding at no expense to the voters (new station, equipment and fire truck or trucks)
    - Pass the sales and use tax within the district
  - a. Mrs. Oswald made a motion to approve. Mr. Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried all voting for the motion.

## 5. Acquiring Property for New Station and Sub Station

- Discussed the map and the service area for ESD #7
- Discussed the possibilities of getting a road into the northwestern area for the service area. This would potentially prevent residents from being trapped in from flooding in the Big Thicket Retreat / Outlaw bend area
- Develop a plan to select site locations, determine station building size and functionality.
- Investigate FEMA grants that may be available for funding support.
- Acquire property for substation (Mr. Bob stated he could help with this.) Mr. Davis to reach out to him and gain his help in this area.
- Radio equipment tower at stations, Possible needs are being addressed with the County Emergency Management Coordinator.

- a. Mr. Shelton made a motion to Table until more information is gathered on this topic. Mrs. Kelley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried all voting for the motion.

## 6. Equipment

- Acquire PPE for service providers and develop PPE replacement plan
  - Extraction coveralls
  - Turnout gear (Mr. Randy with Segno fire will be getting gear donated to him for Devers and is willing to donate the surplus to the ESD for service providers to use.)
  - Wildland fire coveralls
  - Wildland fire gloves
  - Wildland fire boots
- Acquire AED's
  - Develop a training matrix for trained personnel
  - Document training completed for personnel
  - Determine inspection protocol
  - Determine placement of AEDs within the communities (Mr. Davis to discuss with the Thicket Church and Votaw Church to see if there is enough support to place them there. Need for trained folks within the congregation to support the placement in the building.)
  - Purchase 2 or 3 AEDs
- Mr. Shelton to ask if anyone within the Sabine Neches Chief's Association is replacing any:
  - Bunker Gear
  - Hoses and nozzles
  - Other gear
  - Acquire wildland fire backpack sprayer (Mr. Shelton to follow-up with Sabine Neches Chiefs this coming week ( 4/25) on any getting gear donated to the ESD

- a. Mrs. Oswalt made a motion to Table at this time. Mr. Shelton is waiting to

hear back from his contact, in hopes of having this equipment donated. Mr. Shelton 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried all voting for the motion.

- Equip the First Medial Responder vehicle
- Discussed purchasing Medical/Rescue vehicle from the county or other entity to place medical equipment and AED. Acquire new First Medial Responder vehicle
  - Mr Davis to speak with the county judge and sheriff about the vehicle
  - Research other entities that may have a vehicle to donate or purchase. Mr. Davis to investigate this.
  
- b. Mrs. Oswalt made a motion to Table at this time. Mr. Davis is waiting to hear back from the county. Mrs. Kelley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried all voting for motion.
  
- Acquire a new generator for Votaw & Thicket building
  - Select location for pads
  - Pour pad for generator
  - Pour pad for propane tank
  - Run conduit
  - Install transfer switch and generator
  
- c. Mr. Love approved the placement of the generator at the Votaw Thicket Fire Hall. Mr. Love is aware that the generator is the property of Hardin County ESD #7. And, it will be relocated when new building is established.
  
- d. Mr. Shelton made a motion to purchase a generator and make sure it is properly sized by a professional. Mrs. Kelley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried all voting for the motion.
  
- Acquire chainsaws in preparation for hurricane season
  - Determine the number needed.
  
- e. Mrs. Oswalt made a motion to Table at this time until the ESD has a proper place to house the equipment. Mrs. Kelley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried all voting for the motion.

## 7. Apparatus

- Acquire a high-water truck
  - Mr. Davis to investigate vehicle availability.
- Acquire a new brush truck
  - Mr. Davis spoke with judge McDaniel and Aaron Tupper. The county will continue to pursue grants as well as the ESD. Mrs. Kelley will assist.
- Retrofit an existing brush truck with a new tank, pump and compartments

for storage of equipment

- Purchase a boat/raft for water crossings/rescues.
  - Mrs. Kelley to investigate this. Upon discussions with Texas Parks and Wildlife as well as Crosby water rescue, TP&W does no longer donate their used boats, they are sold at state surplus auction.
- Developed 15-year apparatus replacement plan for service providers.
- Developed an equipment replacement plan.

a. Mr. Shelton made a motion to Table at this time. Mrs. Kelley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried all voting for the motion.

#### 8. Fire Prevention/Education/Pre-Fire Plans

- Smoke detection program (from Red Cross)
- Complete several pre-fire plans with service providers.
- Community information and involvement in fire education programs (burn ban signs from he county and pamphlet distribution to district constitutes)
- Fire prevention day at WHCCISD ( Align with ESD 3 & ESD 4)

a. Mr. Shelton made a motion to Table until we have signed contract with Service Providers. Mrs. Oswalt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried all voting for the motion.

#### 9. Communications

- ESD commissioner meetings are held on a regular basis
- ESD board members added to 911 call software, ask the FD to add members to the system/program.

a. Mrs. Oswalt made a motion to Table at this time. Mr. Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried all voting for the motion.

#### 10. ESD #7 Mission Statement

(1) The Mission of Hardin County ESD # 7 is to provide the best emergency response possible to our citizens, to our communities and our neighboring EDS's & fire departments and those that pass through our jurisdiction by preparing and supporting our service providers to the best of our ability to respond to all emergency call types to which we are summoned.

a. Mrs. Oswalt Motion to approve. Mrs. Kelley 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried all voting for the motion.

#### 11. ESD #7 Vision Statement

(1) Hardin County Emergency Services District #7 (the district) recognizes the responsibility placed upon our board of commissioners to provide essential emergency services to our citizens and to our communities. The district also recognizes the value of human life and

dignity. Our philosophy, which embodies our board of commissioners' values and beliefs, provides funding for service provider members in the performance of daily activities.

- a. Mrs. Oswalt Motion to approve. Mrs. Kelley 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried all voting for the motion

## 12. Core Values

- INTEGRITY
- DISCIPLINE
- HONOR
- COURAGE
- RESPONSIBILITY
- HONESTY
- COMPASSION
- FAMILY
- PROFESSIONALISM
- DUTY

- a. Mrs. Oswalt Motion to approve. Mrs. Kelley 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried all voting for the motion.

## 13. Beliefs

- People are our most important asset
- We must respect and support each other as individual human beings with differing values and needs
- We must be loyal to our community and our profession
- We are responsible and accountable for our own successes or failures
- Individual performance and team performance will be recognized
- We must encourage and support others
- Each of us should strive to grow and develop
- Teamwork is essential
- Communication will be the cultural norm
- Innovation is critical to the organization
- We must provide services to the highest level attainable

- a. Mrs. Oswalt Motion to approve. Mrs. Kelley 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried all voting for the motion.

## 14. Adjourn

- a. Mr. Shelton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm and was 2nd by Mrs. Kelley. Motion carried all voting for the motion.

Respectfully Submitted April 18, 2025.

Daneen Oswalt, Secretary