

Hays County ESD No. 4—Wimberley Fire Rescue  
Meeting Minutes

Original

For the Special Called Meeting to Conduct a Public Hearing on Tax Increase and Meeting to Adopt Tax Rate, on August 16, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

1. President Ron Spangenberg called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.
2. Commissioners present were Mr. Ron Spangenberg, Mr. Chuck Ware, Mr. Joe Pendleton, Mr. John White and Mr. Larry Coker. A quorum was present. Executive Assistant Angel Robinson, Office Assistant Deena Gardow and Gene Green Volunteer firefighter were present. Fire Chief Czichos multiple fire fighters arrived after the meeting had begun.
3. Public comment: No public were in attendance, no public signed in and no public comments were made.
4. Public comment on agenda items: No public were in attendance, no public signed in and no public comments were made. See Attachment A.
5. Report on construction project contract; President Spangenberg stated the District will complete the Addition's final punch list items with the General Contractor and proceed to end the contract with the architect. The District has received the Certificate of Occupancy. No action necessary.
6. Consider taking action regarding budget for fiscal year October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023; President Spangenberg stated he and Mr. Chuck Ware revised the previous draft budget for FY 2022 -2023 after the Board set the proposed tax rate of \$0.053, resulting in a budget increase of approximately \$360,000, compared to the previous draft. Estimated income is \$2,552,533 based on the District's certification. He presented adjustments made possible by the increase, including adjusting the District's TCDRS retirement contribution from 1.5% match to 2.50% match, to bring the Wimberley firefighters closer to surrounding department retirement benefits. Communications, IT support and hose and nozzle line items were increased after further review of expenses this year. Funds were adjusted in the land and building and apparatus line-items. Mr. John White recused himself from salary discussion. President Spangenberg discussed the administrative personnel salaries and wages, with consideration for adjustments, to bring administrative staff closer to market standards, as the Board acted on previously for firefighters. President Spangenberg added there is a 90-day period for a challenge by the public and to call an election. Mr. Chuck Ware made a motion to adopt the FY 2022-2023 budget in the amount of \$2,552,533. The motion was seconded by Mr. Larry Coker. The motion passed unanimously. 2.50%
7. Conduct a public hearing on the proposal to increase property taxes; President Spangenberg opened the floor for a Public Hearing at 9:05am. He explained that at the August 2, 2022, meeting, the Board scheduled a public hearing for September 13, 2022. Upon review of the Tax Planning Calendar, the public hearing date was rescheduled to August 16, 2022, and was posted as such in the Wimberley View and the District's website's homepage. President Spangenberg stated the fact that no public were present; he adjourned the Public Hearing at 9:06am.

8. Take a record vote on the District's 2022 tax rate, adopt an Order Levying Taxes, authorize filing the Order with Hays County Tax Assessor/Collector; President Spangenberg stated the Board previously identified and published a proposed tax rate of \$0.053 per \$100 property value. He opened the floor for a motion to adopt the tax rate. Mr. Chuck Ware presented a motion as follows, "I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.053/\$100 valuation, which is effectively a 29.174 percent increase in the tax rate." The motion was seconded by Mr. John White. President Spangenberg took a Record vote:
  - Mr. Chuck Ware voted yea
  - Mr. John White voted yea
  - Mr. Joe Pendleton voted yea
  - Mr. Larry Coker voted yea
  - President Spangenberg abstained.
9. Acknowledge and approve posting of statement regarding adopted tax to home page of District's website; Mr. Joe Pendleton made a motion to approve posting of a statement regarding adopted tax rate to the home page of the District's website. Mr. Larry Coker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Discuss and consider placing Board members on Active 911, if desired; take any related action; Fire Chief Czichos stated in order to provide timely information on fires or other emergencies to the Commissioners, they are invited for inclusion on Active 911 notifications. Discussion on Board members assisting in various ways during emergencies occurred. Mr. Chuck Ware asked that the Board members have future discussion on the types of service and support they can provide during emergencies. A motion to authorize Fire Chief Czichos to add Commissioners, upon request, to Active 911 was made by Mr. Chuck Ware and seconded by Mr. John White. Motion pass unanimously.
11. Discuss and consider staffing, per Chief Czichos recommendations, take any related action; Chief Czichos discussed a plan to hire 1.5 FTE additional firefighters in FY 2022-2023 and one in FY 2023-2024. Mr. Chuck Ware made a motion to hire additional firefighters at a rate of 1.5 FTE in FY 2022-2023 and one FTE in FY 2023-2024. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Pendleton. The motion passed unanimously.
12. Discuss and consider next regular business meeting, date, time, place and future agenda items; the next meeting is on August 30, 2022 at 8:30am. An item for the next meeting is Wimberley Valley Radio partnering with the District to place their antennae in the same location as the District.
13. Adjourn; President Spangenberg adjourned the meeting 9:29a.m.

Respectfully,



John White, Vice President