

Hays County ESD #4—Wimberley Fire Rescue  
Meeting Minutes  
Board of Commissioners Meeting Held on April 25, 2023

Original

1. President Ron Spangenberg called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
2. Commissioners present: President Ron Spangenberg, Mr. Joe Pendleton, Mr. Chuck Ware, Mr. Larry Coker, and Mr. Travis Brown. Also present, Fire Chief Carroll Czichos, Assistant Fire Chief Christopher Robbins, Executive Assistant Angel Robinson, and Administrative Assistants Sydney Johnson and Deena Gardow. A quorum was present.
3. Public comment: No Public sign-in.
4. Public comment on agenda items: No Public comments.
5. Receive final March 2023, monthly report from the Treasurer and consider;
  - a) Approval of payment of monthly bills, invoices, and payroll:
    - EFT/ACH payments: 4 to Pedernales Electric Co-op
    - 1 to TCDRS
    - 3 to US Treasury
    - 6 for March 2023 payroll
    - Checks 6047 -- 6090 were written
    - Checks 6049, 6063, 6066, 6067, and 6080 were voided.
  - b) Review Statement of Financial Position, Income Statement of Budget Performance, and reconciliation summaries of ESD #4's Ozona Bank accounts:

Treasurer's Summary Report for March 2023:

Income for March 2023	287,723.85
Year-to-Date Income	2,433,043.92
Expenses for March 2023	225,648.63
Year-to-Date Expenses	1,120,560.31
Budget Balance	1,312,483.61
Current Cash Assets	4,522,139.33
A/R 60 Day Sales and Use Process	111,056.00
Liabilities	1,139,104.04

Gross Special Purpose District S & U	\$ 52,244.65
Net Sales and Use Tax Received:	\$ 51,793.01
Ad Valorem Collected:	\$ 229,066.65

A Motion to approve the Treasurer's report for March 2023, including the financial reports, and revenue, was made by Mr. Pendleton, and seconded by Mr. Coker. The Motion was unanimously approved.

6. Receive monthly report from Fire Chief regarding emergency operations, response times, call volume, training, management activities, career, and volunteer personnel: Fire Chief Czichos reported that WFR ran 69 calls in April. Thirty were Rescue/EMS incidents and 7 were fire incidents. CAFs 40 is utilized most often, going out on 35 of the 69 calls. District 40 still has the

highest call volume, followed by District 43. Average response time this month is 9.12 minutes. YTD calls total 375. The need for service continues to grow. No action taken at this time.

7. Receive Fire Chief's report on apparatus, equipment, repairs, and item purchases. Fire Chief Czichos reported T-45 had leaking valves replaced. New tires are needed for E-41 to follow NFPA recommendations. Chief Czichos, Asst. Chief Robbins, and other staff went to Houston to finalize the make-ready on the new Rescue Pumper. Delivery is expected by the end of June.
8. Receive report from Third Tuesday initiative. Assistant Chief Robbins reported he went to the Texas State Capitol along with other SAFE-D members regarding House Bill 1775. Robbins will continue to attend the Third Tuesday sessions with SAFE-D until the legislative session closes and will monitor the progression of bills impacting the District.
9. Receive monthly report from District's attorney regarding pending litigation matters, contract issues, and legislative efforts and consider taking related action. No pending litigation. No action taken at this time.
10. Discuss and consider Central Station addition, change orders, final payment, construction update, material delays and increase amount of the GC contract to reflect approved change orders, and review Additional Service Fees beyond the Architect's contract to reflect work performed beyond contract; take any related action; President Spangenberg reported the District has received all outstanding documents from G. Creek. A retainage of \$15,000 from Pay App 10 and an outstanding Change Order for \$14,597.69 total the final payment of \$29,597.69. Mr. Ware made a Motion to authorize the payment of \$29,597.69 to G. Creek. Mr. Pendleton seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.
11. Discuss and consider long range, strategic plan development for apparatus, property acquisition, fire station construction, personnel and associated pro forma financial statements; take any related action. The long-range strategic plan is still being worked on. No action taken at this time.
12. Discuss and consider ARPA funds, take any related action; Angel Robinson reported that on April 12, 2023, Ardurra informed the District that they completed their review and determined that ESD 4 can show up to \$349,250 in pandemic related costs escalation. Commissioner Shell agreed to award the District \$250,000 in ARPA funds. Hays County Commissioners Court will be presented with Ardurra's proposal to fund ESD 4 \$250,000 from ARPA funds, today. If tentatively approved to move forward, Commissioners Court is scheduled to meet May 9<sup>th</sup> for the Judge to sign if it is approved in its final form. No action taken at this time.
13. Discuss and consider replacement of Station ice machine, take any related action. Chief Czichos reported the 12-year-old ice machine has had multiple failures. It provides ice for firefighters on fire scenes as well as CERT. Accurate Appliances has quoted \$5,500 for a new machine and installation. Mr. Ware made a Motion to replace the ice machine. Seconded by Mr. Coker. The Motion passed unanimously.
14. Discuss and consider purchase of additional Apparatus, take any related action. Chief Czichos reported that Metro Fire has five units in stock that are not committed to a fire department. The price has increased by \$72,000 in the last year. He recommended the Board consider purchasing one of the five pumpers for \$820,000. The price for pumpers when these five are depleted is estimated at \$903,000. WFR's current apparatus are all aged or aging and it is getting harder to find parts. Metro Fire has agreed to let the District order a pumper without having to make a down payment or have financing until we receive the truck. President Spangenberg reported that

Angel Robinson reached out to Mr. Lerner of Government Capital Corporation, the lender who financed the Addition, and he advised they are currently running 10-year apparatus financing at 4.5% or 4.7%, with that information, we will need to see how we can work this into our budget for FY 2023-2024. President Spangenberg tabled discussion of Item #14 for the time being and continue during further FY 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget discussion.

15. Discuss and consider 2023-24 Preliminary Budget, take any related action. President Spangenberg presented the Preliminary Budget. He has been working with Mr. Ware, the Chiefs, and the administrative staff to restructure the budget, making it more concise and functional. Wages are increased to add a firefighter in October. Asst. Chief Robbins stated he is exploring adding mandatory Employee Health Screenings to the District's benefits package. Having these annual screenings would document the employees' health should a hearing, vision, or cardiovascular event occur, in which case State or government benefits may be viable. He would like to implement this as part of our hiring process to mitigate risk. President Spangenberg reported the Line Of Duty Death insurance is due this year. Main budget increases are in wages, benefits, and insurance. The apparatus tire budget will increase. This preliminary budget is based on 2022's Certified District Evaluation from Hays County Appraisal District, which was \$3.8 Billion, but have since received a Preliminary Evaluation for 2023 from Hays CAD of \$4.59 Billion. This is tentative until the protests are approved/denied. The District's current tax rate is set at \$0.053/\$100 property value. Mr. Ware reminded the Board that he previously presented stats demonstrating higher expenditures last year compared to income. He noted the draft budget presented is slightly over anticipated earnings. Mr. Ware revisited the long-range plan and the need to build up and retain staff, as well as apparatus and a new station. He questioned -- where is our focus most needed? Asst. Chief Robbins stated that he feels if we were to purchase a new apparatus, we could operate out of our current station for the next 5 years and still provide the same level of care, or better. Mr. Ware suggested tabling this discussion while looking into options. He requested a written statement from Metro Fire confirming the pumper will be received without cash up front. Mr. Ware made a Motion to approve the purchase of a new Rescue Pumper, pending the acquisition of written certification from Metro Fire that payment is not due until the pumper is received. Mr. Pendleton seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously. A Special called meeting will be held Monday, May 1, 2023 to follow up on this discussion.

16. Enter into Executive Session discussion of personal matters pursuant of Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.

**Entered into Executive Session at 10:13am**

**Reconvene at 10:48am;** all Board Members previously present reconvened. No action taken.

17. Discuss and consider notification of the subdivision of property; take any related action. Notice to join 2 lots in River Oaks subdivision - Unit 1, Section 1, Lots 14 and 15 are to be joined into 1 lot totaling 1.59 acres - 401 Ridge Oak Dr. Wimberley, TX. Mr. Ware made a Motion to recognize this notification. Seconded by Mr. Coker. All in favor. The Motion passed unanimously.

18. Discuss and consider approval of reimbursement requests; take any related action. No reimbursement requests submitted at this time. No action taken.

19. Discuss and consider approval of minutes from March 28, 2023. All minutes were prepared and presented. Mr. Coker made a motion to approve as presented. Mr. Pendleton seconded the motion. All in favor. The Motion passed unanimously.

20. Discuss and consider future agenda items, time, date, and place for the next meeting. Two Special Called meetings are scheduled for May 1, 2023, at 5:00pm and May 15, 2023 at 5:00pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled on May 30, 2023 at 8:30am. All meetings are scheduled at 111 Green Acres Drive in Wimberley, TX.

21. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53am

Respectfully,



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Joe Pendleton, Secretary