

HAYS COUNTY ESD #4—WIMBERLEY FIRE RESCUE

Meeting Minutes

For the Board of Commissioners Special Meeting Held on August 13, 2019

1. President Ron Spangenberg called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Commissioners present were Ron Spangenberg, Ken Downing, Eddie Gumbert, Joe Pendleton and Chuck Ware. Chief Carroll Czichos, John White, ESD Bookkeeper, Autumn Smith, WFR Executive Assistant/Bookkeeper and Angel Robinson, District Assistant were present to assist. President Spangenberg announced there was a quorum.
3. Public Comment: Chris Dibrell, Volunteer fire fighter.
4. Receive monthly report from District's attorney regarding pending litigation matters, contract issues, and legislative efforts and consider taking related action; No action at this time.
5. Receive report on possible acquisition of property on Winters Mill Parkway; Chief Czichos toured a 4 acre +/- property near Caliche Road on Winters Mill. He will meet with the owner to discuss possibly acquiring the property. A good well nearby may be accessible to this property. Chief Czichos provided an elevation map of the site. No action at this time.
6. Discuss and consider the water storage at Pump Station; Chief Czichos presented bids for water tanks. He recommends the Harvest Rain. President Spangenberg said the MOU with Hays County was for the use of a portion of the capacity of the 100,000 gallon water storage and stipulated a certain amount of gallons for the County's use. That MOU will be amended for the reduced tank size (38,000 gallon). Chief Czichos will verify Board Member questions on the 2" flange/ring, wind effect on an empty tank, specs, and usable capacity of the 38,368 gal, domed roof tank (\$21,238) at the next meeting. No action at this time.
7. Discuss and consider Health Care Benefits for District Employees participating in the Plan; President Spangenberg stated the WVFD Executive Board had previously put a Health Care Benefit package in place for WVFD. September is the open enrollment period. Mr. Ware recommended an open bid process next year to evaluate other Health Benefit Plan options and agencies. A Motion to continue with the Humana Health Plan through the Starr agency, and, to begin next year's Health Plan renewal period in June 2020 with an open bid process to include other insurance agencies and health plans, was made by Mr. Joe Pendleton. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Chuck Ware. Unanimously approved.
8. Discuss and consider action regarding the 2019 – 20 Budget; President Spangenberg reviewed a preliminary budget with the Board members, recognizing adjustments are still being made for the next few weeks. He stated line items were increased or adjusted to forecast the coming year's income and expenses. President Spangenberg added that he has a new appreciation for the excellent job the WVFD Executive Board did over the last two years. He needs to identify an amount for PPE maintenance and additional information on wildland PPE's. The water tank expense is in this year's budget. Mr. Dibrell advised the UAV program is cutting edge and encouraged continued support of the program. Wimberley Fire has been utilizing drones for over 14 years. Land and Building Funds will be required for land acquisition and station construction to occur. President Spangenberg said salaries should be adjusted for fire fighters in order to hire and keep quality personnel. And-24 hour coverage at the Central Station should be considered. Assistant Chief Van Ostrand joined the meeting to describe why 24-hour coverage with existing full-time, part-time and volunteers is not

working. He presented options to provide 24-hour coverage by manning the station with a 48/96 schedule. President Spangenberg presented the current tax rate of \$0.0398 per \$100 property value. No action at this time.

9. Discuss and consider taking action regarding 2019 tax rate, including:
 - a. Establishing proposed tax rate; President Spangenberg conferred with ESD #4's legal advisors and it is possible to re-adjust the tax rate up to the top rate of \$0.05 per \$100 property. ESD #4 is currently the lowest tax rate on residents' tax bill and would still be one of the lowest in the County at \$0.05. He said the hiring of 24-hour staff cannot be funded with the current role back rate. Mr. Dibrell said the public expects 24-hour coverage. Discussion occurred on ways to inform the public of the current departmental coverage and the need to expand to 24-hour coverage. Motion to adopt a proposed tax rate of \$0.05 of \$100 property value was made by Mr. Eddie Gumbert and seconded by Mr. Chuck Ware. Polling of votes to establish proposed tax rate of \$0.05 of \$100 property value: Mr. Gumbert voted "Yea"; Mr. Pendleton voted "Yea"; Mr. Downing voted "Yea"; Mr. Ware voted "Yea"; President Spangenberg "Abstained". Motion carried and passed.
 - b. Taking record vote and establishing date; Public Hearing dates are September 3, 2019 at 8:30 am and September 10, 2019 at 7:00 pm. at 111 Green Acres Drive, Wimberley, Texas. President Spangenberg called for a vote: All in Favor of holding the first Public Hearing on September 3, 2019 at 8:30 am and the second Public Hearing on September 10, 2019 at 7:00 pm. at 111 Green Acres Drive, Wimberley, Texas. Unanimous vote in Favor. None Opposed.
 - c. Authorizing publication of "Effective and Roll Back Tax Rate Notice" and "Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase" in the Wimberley View; A Motion to authorize publication of "Effective and Roll Back Tax Rate Notice" and "Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase" in the Wimberley View was made by Mr. Chuck Ware and Seconded by Mr. Pendleton. Vote passed unanimously.

President Spangenberg adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.



Ken Downing, Secretary