

Hardin County Emergency Services District 2

Minutes of the Meeting of August 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Fritz Erbelding at 6:00 PM. Invocation was given by Chief Jeff Mc Neel. Pledges were said to the US and Texas flags. Roll call showed present, Commissioners Evans, O'Blanc, Erbelding, and Koch. Commissioner Joe Tumbleson was absent. Attorney Kate Leverett was present.

1. Meeting in closed or executive session pursuant to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code:

a. 551.071, Government Code – Consult with legal counsel

b. 551.074, Government Code – Personnel

None

2. Public Comments- None

3. Reports

a. Fire & EMS Auxiliary Report- None

b. Fire Chief's Report- Chief McNeel reported on the following:

- John Boleyn has accepted a full time position in Mt. Belvieu and will move to part time
- The hiring committee will look into hiring 2 full time positions and 4 part time positions; interviewing will begin the first week of September
- Kenny Hunt is off on medical leave for an extended period of time
- Hurricane season is here, the department is updating the SOG's, keeping the fuel tanks full and testing apparatus and equipment
- Robb Starr of LMUD stated regarding the North Station the hydrant will be in in 1 to 2 months
- There have been recent numerous back injuries due to extreme heavy patients and Chief Jones is looking into equipment to help with these type patients
- The Apparatus Committee met and has improved the processes of the flow of information
- Regarding the North Station construction, a 2nd contractor will bid soon on finishing the work started
- The Ladder truck was shown to one potential buyer this week
- Judge Wayne McDaniel gave his COVID-19 update on our area on his Facebook page

c. ESD Reports or comment

- i. Update of repairs at Station #3**
- ii. Update on the COVID-19 in our area**
- iii. Update on the sale of the Ladder Truck**

See comments from Chief McNeel's report

d. This month we will continue work on Setting the Tax Rate- see 5a

4. Consent Agenda items:

- a. Treasurer's Report**
- b. Payment of Accounts Payable**
- c. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner O'Blanc stated the General Fund and capitol accounts are in good shape; looking to pay off debts vs. investments at this time. Commissioner Koch made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Erbelding 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

5. Regular Agenda Items

a. Discuss and consider taking action regarding 2020 tax rate, including:

(1) Establishing proposed tax rate

The District has a Voter-Approval Tax Rate of \$0.10071 per \$100 of property value- which exceeds the maximum tax rate of \$0.10 per \$100 that the District is permitted to adopt. Establishing a proposed tax rate of \$0.10 per \$100 of taxable value is the highest rate the District can set. Proceeding with this tax rate does not require an election, and the District would not be subject to a rollback election because, while the proposed Tax Rate exceeds the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate, it does not exceed the Voter-Approved tax rate.

(2) Taking record vote and scheduling public hearing- Commissioner Erbelding made a motion to establish a proposed Tax Rate of \$0.10 per \$100 of property value, and called for a 2nd motion, Commissioner O'Blanc 2nd the motion. Commission Erbelding called for a show of hands in favor. The Commissioners votes were as follows:

Tommy Evans –	FOR
Lisa O'Blanc –	FOR
Fritz Erbelding –	FOR
Joe Tumbleson –	no vote/absent
Ernie Koch-	FOR

(3) Authorizing publication of “Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase” in the Silsbee Bee- Commissioner Erbelding stated that we need to submit a Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase to the Silsbee Bee by September 4th, for publication on September 9, 2020. Also, we will post the Notice of Public Hearing prominently on the home page of the District Website by September 9th. The Public Hearing date will be held on September 17, 2020 at 6:00 PM. A regular ESD meeting will follow at 6:30 PM. Commissioner Erbelding asked for any questions. There were none.

(4) Acknowledging and approving posting of tax rate notice and “Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase” to home page of District Website- Commissioner Erbelding made a motion authorizing publication of the Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase in the Silsbee Bee and acknowledging and approving the posting of the Notice about 2020 tax rates and the notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase to the homepage of the District Website. Commissioner O’Blanc 2nd the motion. A call to vote showed all Commissioner in affirmative agreement, voting FOR.

6. Items for the agenda of the next meeting- Excess equipment

7. Adjournment- Commissioner Koch made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner O’Blanc 2nd the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

President, Fritz Erbelding

Secretary, Ernie Koch