



Hardin County Emergency Services District No. 2

COMMUNITY | TEAMWORK | INTEGRITY | EXCELLENCE

Minutes of the Meeting of September 15, 2022

1. **Opening prayer, pledges and roll call-** The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. Present was Commissioners Evans, O'Blanc, Erbelding, Philp and Koch. Attorney Kate Leverett was also present. President Erbelding gave the invocation and pledges were said to the US and Texas flags.
2. **Public hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate -** Hardin County Tax Assessor Shirley Cook and her assistant were at the meeting for any questions anyone might have. There were no visitors from the public for discussion.
3. **Public Comments – limited to 3 minutes; no formal action, discussion, deliberation, or comment will be made by the Board of Commissioners-** None
4. **Reports:**
 - a. **Fire & EMS Auxiliary Report-** None
 - b. **Fire Chief's Report:** Chief McNeel (absent) gave his report via email and discusses a reorganizational plan regarding division of labor to free up supervisors; upgrading the field training officer position to enhance the QA/QI process, identify training needs and provide more incentives for those willing to invest in others; adding program management opportunities that provides for job enrichment at lower levels; building in more additional duty assignments that can allow for compensation for specialty projects or duties. McNeel praised all the hard work that was done on the 9/11 Stair Climb this year and looks forward to next year.
 - c. **ESD Comments or Reports-** None

5. Consent Agenda items:

- a. Treasurer's Report**
- b. Payment of Accounts Payable**
- c. Approval of last meeting minutes**

Commissioner Philp made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Commissioner Koch 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

- 6. Discussion and/or action in adopting the 2022-23 budget and the proposed tax rate that was adopted at the last Special Meeting. (Votes will be recorded for each Commissioner)** Commissioner O'Blanc made a motion to adopt the 2022-23 budget in the amount of \$1,781,700.00, and the proposed tax rate of .095280 per \$100 evaluation. Commissioner Erbelding 2nd the motion. The remaining votes were as follows: Commissioner Evans, yes; Commissioner Philp, yes; Commissioner Koch, yes. Motion carried by all.
- 7. Discussion and/or action to appoint a Commissioner for the Vice-President's position-** Commissioner Erbelding asked the Board for any volunteers to accept the nomination for the Vice Presidents position. Commissioner Philp was the only Commissioner to respond. Commissioner Erbelding made a motion to appoint Commissioner Philp to the Vice-Presidential position. Commissioner O'Blanc 2nd the motion. Motion carried.
- 8. Discussion and/or action to move from Wells Fargo Bank to First Financial Bank-** After some discussion, Commissioner O'Blanc made a motion to move all financial business from Wells Fargo bank to First Financial Bank (Lumberton). Commissioner Erbelding 2nd the motion. Motion carried.
- 9. Discussion and/or action to pay off Engine 21-** Commissioner O'Blanc stated that the payoff for Engine 21 is \$477,000 now or \$527,000 at the original payoff date and that funds are available at this time. O'Blanc made a motion to pay off Engine 21 next month. Commissioner Philp 2nd the motion. Motion carried.
- 10. Items for the next agenda of the meeting on October 20, 2022-** None at this time
- 11. Adjournment-** Commissioner Philp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner O'Blanc 2nd the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 AM.

Secretary, Ernie Koch

