

WALKER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2
411 FM 1375 E New Waverly, TX 77358

Special Meeting Minutes March 8th, 2024

The WCESD2 Board met in open session in the meeting room of NWVFD, at Station 71 with President James Gregory presiding. Present were Commissioners: Jane Ellisor and Logan Moore. All members were present with the exception of Commissioner Keith Fitzpatrick & Commissioner Thomas Malak, therefore constituting a quorum. Also, present was Fire Chief Jacob Slott, Assistant Fire Chief Shawn Byler, Deputy Chief Kevin Traylor, Office Manager Kayla Gibson and guest Judge Christian & Commissioner Brandon Decker.

Opening prayer was given by Deputy Kevin Traylor.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM. Gregory announced that a quorum was present, and that public notice was given in accordance with the Texas Government Code.

GENERAL ITEMS

On a motion by Commissioner Ellisor, seconded by Commissioner Moore the minutes of the February 2nd, 2024 meeting was approved.

SPECIAL ITEMS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Ellisor presented the WCESD2 Treasures report. Motion was made by Commissioner Gregory and second by Commissioner Moore, the board voted unanimously to accept the account balance as presented.

Commissioner Ellisor presented the WCESD2 expense report. Motion was made by Commissioner Gregory and second by Commissioner Moore, the board voted unanimously to accept the expense report as presented.

NWVFD CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Slott presented the NWVFD Expense report, Account Balance. Motion was made by Commissioner Moore and second by Commissioner Ellisor, the board voted unanimously to accept the Chiefs report as presented. Motion was made by Commissioner Gregory and seconded by Commissioner Moore; the board voted unanimously to accept the Chiefs expense report as presented.

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Fire Chief Slott presented the NWVFD deployment Summary. Motion was made by Commissioner Gregory and second by Commissioner Moore, the board voted unanimously to accept the deployment summary report as presented.

Fire Chief Slott wanted to get a census of what the board thinks about potentially finding quotes on a truck designed to be a freeway blocker that could withhold high speed impact for the purpose of protecting our crews when they are on calls for wrecks on the freeway. The board agrees that this is something we need to look into for the safety of our Firefighters and told the chief to present quotes during next meeting.

MATTERS OF THE PUBLIC

Public was present but had no matters to discuss.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Chief Slott updated the board regarding the new Station 79, the station building has been built and we are just waiting on electricity then we will hook up the water. We do need to maybe get quotes for a fence and a gate to be put around the building. The board agreed and stated to get some bids and present them next board meeting. Guest Precinct 4 Commissioner Brandon Decker informed the board that the road from the Hawthorne Station to SH150 will be finished sometime this summer. Motion was made by Commissioner Gregory and seconded by Commissioner Moore; the board voted unanimously to accept the update on Hawthorne Station 79.
- B. Engine 71 has been prepaid. Motion was made by Commissioner Gregory and seconded by Commissioner Ellisor; the board voted unanimously to accept the prepaid payment on new Engine 71.
- C. Commissioner Gregory presented the Order designation investment of District Funds Policy to the board on last board meeting. Commissioner Ellisor was waiting on the February 2nd Meeting Minutes to be approved and will get the process going to start the text pool process. Motion was made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Ellisor; the board voted unanimously to accept the process of getting the text pool started.
- D. Office Manager Kayla Gibson presented the board with the updated Compensation and Benefits policy. The key things that have been changed are how we divided out Sick and Vacation/Holiday pay, adding a maternity policy and including workers comp policy. Along with removing step raises since that does not apply to our district and adding more information to our FMLA to make sure we are within all guidelines. Motion was made by Commissioner Ellisor and seconded by Commissioner Moore; the board voted

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unanimously to accept updated Compensation and Benefits Policy and it is to go in effect immediately.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fire Assistant Chief Shawn Byler presented to the board the need to purchase handheld radios. The handheld radios are \$4,000.00 each and we are needing at least 5. Per Guest Precinct 4 Commissioner Brandon Decker the ESD2 still has COVID grant money of \$2,600.00 left over and is going to present it to Commissioners Court to see if the money can be converted over to use toward the handheld radios. Motion was made by Commissioner Gregory and seconded by Commissioner Moore; the board voted unanimously to allow Chief Byler to purchase the radios and to transfer the COVID Grant funds pending the Commissioners Court decision.
- B. Chief Byler presented the board with the need of a new thermal imaging camera. The thermal imaging camera that we have is over 10yrs old and it is time to be replaced. We are in the process of testing out a demo one and we would like to put one on 5 of our trucks. This will be a total of \$15,000.00. Motion was made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Ellisor; the board voted unanimously to allow Chief Byler a \$15,000.00 budget to purchase the thermal imaging cameras as needed.
- C. Chief Jacob Slott requested to leave the hiring process open for 1 more full-time position. Motion was made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Ellisor; the board voted unanimously to allow Chief Slott to leave the Full-Time position open to potentially hire one more full-time.
- D. Chief Byler presented to the board that there is a grant through Safer that will help with funding to hire 6 more full time positions up to 3 years. Chief Byler asked the board for permission to apply for this grant. Motion was made by Commissioner Gregory and seconded by Commissioner Moore; the board voted unanimously to allow Chief Byler to apply for the Safer Grant to hire up to 6 Full-Time positions upon awarded the grant.

ADJOURN

Next Special meeting will be held on April 12th, 2024, in meeting room at NWVFD.

With nothing further to discuss a motion was made by Commissioner Gregory and seconded by Commissioner Ellisor to adjourn at 10:06 am, the board voted unanimously to accept the next meeting date and motion passed.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Fitzpatrick', written over a horizontal line.

Keith Fitzpatrick, Assistant Secretary WCESD#2