

**NUECES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR
5781 FM 666, ROBSTOWN, TEXAS 78380
AGENDA NOTICE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT
FIRE STATION NUMBER ONE
5781 FM 666, ROBSTOWN, TX 78380**

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 10, 2024

The Fire Commissioners of the Nueces County Emergency Services District Number Four held a special meeting on **October 10, 2024 Thursday at 8:30 AM**, in the conference room, 5781 FM 666, Fire Station No. 1, Robstown, Texas:

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Ernest R. Garza at 361-241-2452 at least 48 hours in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

PUBLIC NOTICE is given that the Commission may go into executive session at any time during the meeting in order to discuss matters listed on the agenda, when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. In the event the Commission elects to go into executive session regarding any agenda item, the section or sections of the Open Meetings Act authorizing the executive session will be publicly announced by the presiding officer. The Commission may also address items in no particular order.

The minutes are as follows:

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.**

Chairperson will call the meeting of the Nueces County Emergency Services District Number Four to order and let the record show that a quorum of the Board Members is present; that the meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Commissioners present –Otis Grupe, Donald Hermann, Geoff Atwood, Barbara Jones and Paul Swetish. Absent - None - Quorum established. Meeting opened at 8:30 a.m.

Others present – Ernest R, Garza, CPA, Michael Clack – NCESD#4 Fire Chief and NCESD#4 EMS Director Stephanie Simmons.

2. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:** A). To approve the September 11, 2024 regular board meeting minutes.

The commissioners reviewed the September 11, 2024 special board meeting minutes, after the review, a motion to approve the September 11, 2024 regular board meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Hermann, motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe, motion passed 5-0.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: B). Distributions and/or prepaids September 11, 2024 to October 10, 2024.

Accountant Garza stated the fire expenditures were \$1,819.22, the EMS expenditures were \$91,300.41 and the General expenditures were \$14,026.63 for the September 11, 2024 to October 10, 2024 period. After a review of the expenditures, a motion to approve the Fire and EMS expenditures was made by Commissioner Swetish, Motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe, motioned passed 5-0.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: C). To approve the fiscal year September 30, 2024 Financial Statements.

Accountant Garza stated that our cash position at September 30, 2024 was \$3,274,476 compared to \$1,669,970 for the prior year, this was \$1,604,506 higher in 2024 than 2023. Revenue for the 12 months period of September 30, 2024 were \$2,552,586 and expenditures were \$981,436 for a net revenue over expenditures of \$1,571,150. Mr. Garza explained for the fiscal year, the District did well for the year, revenue was up with the sales tax coming in strong at \$1,220,457, interest income was \$119,195 and EMS was strong also for the year. Expenditures stayed consistent for the year as well. A motion to approve the September 30, 2024 financial statement was made by Commissioner Grupe, motion was seconded by Commissioner Swetish, motion passed 5-0.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Exemptions for Over 65 and Disabled.

Mr. Garza discussed that he had talked to the Tax office staff about the District providing exemptions for Over 65, Disabled and military. The District needs to know the number of people that fall in that category and get a range by like \$10,000 to \$40,000 to obtain an amount of dollar exemptions in taxes this would result. This way the District can plan for this revenue adjustment. Mr. Garza said some ordinances may be in existence already and would like the District to allow Mr. Garza to talk to the District's attorney – Hal George to obtain that information and wording for a possible ordinance for the exemption. Commissioner Swetish authorized Mr. Garza to discuss needed information from Hal George for the exemption existing and establishing an ordinance. Motino was seconded by Commissioner Grupe. Motion passed 5-0.

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Fire Chiefs Report. A). Public relations B). Training C). Station/equipment status D). Fire Calls.

Station Update

1. Had another load of crushed concrete delivered to Station 2, it will probably be next week before I get to spread it.

2. Rudy changed one outside light out on Monday and Stephanie and I replaced two more on Tuesday.
3. I am going to get bids for a full covered awnings for Station 3 in Banquete to put the brush truck in, and one for the back of station 1 to put the tractor and lawn mower.

Truck update

1. Brush 43 is still out of service for upgrades.
2. The guys added some emergency lights to Brush 42 this week.
3. We need to seriously consider buying a tanker for Banquete, I have been advised that if we do not get something and soon our ISO grade will go from a 5 to a 6.

Membership

1. Calls are being handled and the call volume is steady.

EMS

1. Monitors are scheduled for service, Stephanie is going to order a loaner and send one in that is having issues.

New Business

1. Need to discuss buying a Tanker, I will be in Louisiana in two weeks and am will to go spend a day at Ferrara Fire apparatus and US Fire Pumps.

Old Business

1. The new Ice machine is installed and Rudy cleaned the old one and it is ready to move to station 2 to set it up.
2. The forcible entry prop was delivered and the crews put it together Monday night and practiced a little on it. I met with Texas A&M Forest Service Monday and they inspected it and confirmed it was here and submitted for reimbursement.

5. Executive Session: a. 771.072 Real Estate

None

6. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Real Estate – Banquete, Texas.

Mr. Garza explained that we have not received a response from the attorney for the 5 acres. Commissioner Jones has reached out to make some calls and see if the attorney will be back next week and give us an update. A discussion was made on the 2.625 acres as an alternative consideration. The Commissioners will see if Commissioner Jones gets a response next week.

7. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Resolution regarding the Nueces County Emergency Services District No. 4 and area of San Patricio County.

Chief Clack discussed staff had gone to see when the properties on Collins street in San Patricio County had been included with the NCESD#4. No paperwork showing an election to reflect this ever happening. Clack and staff went back to 1984, no records show this election ever happening. A resolution notifying the District wants to take these properties out of the District's tax pool. A notice with a public hearing needs to be done. The Commissioners discussed setting this up for October 30, 2024. A motion to set the date for the public hearing along with the resolution for 7:00 p.m. October 30, 2024 by Commissioner Swetish, motion seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion passed 5-0.

8. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Approval of hiring Special Council for removal of territory.

Tabled.

9. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Public Comment.

No comment.

10. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Training.

EMS Chief Stephanie Simmons explained the Part 2 of Incident Command System (ICS) which is used nationwide to manage incidents regardless of size or types and the 14 NIMS management characteristics. Terminology was explained and the necessary Chain of Command was explained.

11. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Grupe, motion was seconded by Commissioner Swetish. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting ended at 9:37 a.m.

Commissioner

Signature

Date