

**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 NOVEMBER 13, 2024

The Fire Commissioners of the Nueces County Emergency Services District Number Four held a regular meeting on **November 13, 2024 Wednesday at 8:00 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, Geoff Atwood, Barbara Jones and Paul Swetish. Absent - Donald Hermann and Paul Swetish.- Quorum established. Meeting opened at 8:00 a.m.

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

2. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:** A). To approve the October 10, 2024 regular board meeting minutes.

The commissioners reviewed the October 10, 2024 regular board meeting minutes, after the review, a motion to approve the October 10, 2024 regular board meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Grupe, motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, motion passed 3-0.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: B). To approve the November 6, 2024 special board meeting minutes.

The commissioners reviewed the November 6, 2024 special board meeting minutes, after the review, a motion to approve the November 6, 2024 special board meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Jones, motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe, motion passed 3-0.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: C). Distributions and/or prepaids October 10, 2024 to November 13, 2024.

Accountant Garza stated the fire expenditures were \$7,374.93, the EMS expenditures were \$40,587.77 and the General expenditures were \$17,330.29 for the October 10, 2024 to November 13, 2024 period. Chief Clack mentioned that he would be talking to Glenn Mayo for a retirement 401 and/or 457 plan. Mr. Clack was also visiting with VFIS on the insurance, as well as TML, costs have gone high. After a review of the expenditures, a motion to approve the Fire, EMS and General expenditures for the October 10, 2024 to November 13, 2024 was made by Commissioner Grupe, Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, motion passed 3-0.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: D). To approve the fiscal year October 31, 2024 Financial Statements.

Accountant Garza stated that our cash position at October 31, 2024 was \$3318,823 compared to \$1,647,189 for the prior year, this was \$1,671,634 higher in 2024 than 2023. Revenue for the 1 month period of October 31, 2024 were \$152,461 and expenditures were \$108,113 for a net revenue over expenditures of \$44,348. A motion to approve the October 31, 2024 financial statement was made by Commissioner Grupe, motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, motion passed 3-0. *Commissioner Atwood asked for a budget vs actual for the September 30, 2024 fiscal year, Mr. Garza will work on that.*

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. Mr. Garza is reviewing the number of people with disability and in the military as well as over 65. Based on that information we will determine the amount of exemptions based on \$10,000 increments up to \$50,000. This way the District can plan for this revenue adjustment. This is a work in progress and more information will be obtained in the next month.

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

Station Update

1. Oscar spread the crushed concrete at Station 2.
2. We are going to start getting supplies and running the electrical for the pump and tank at station 2.

Truck update

1. Brush 43 is back in service
2. The firefighters finished brush 42 lights
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 8b without a tanker. I have done some research and it is estimated to cost \$80 to \$100.00 per year for residential and \$1,000 per year for commercial

Membership

1. Membership has stayed the same, we are still about 14 on the roster.

EMS

1. Monitors were looked at by the service people, they will be sending them both off for some updated and repairs that cannot be made in the field, they will be leaving their loaner until ours come back.

New Business

1. We suggest making an offer on the 2-1/2 acres so that we can proceed with building plans.

Old Business

1. We moved the ice machine to station 2 and we will work with Oscar to make a list of supplies to hook it up.
2. We would like to give the aluminum bed behind station 1 to Nueces County ESD #5.

5. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Acceptance of large brush truck grant from Texas A&M Forest Service.

Chief Clack provided the bids on the large brush truck for the grant, we are asking to accept this grant from the Texas A&M Forest Service, we will get 3 bids and the amount of the grant is \$250,000. We expect to spend another \$100k for additional necessary equipment to make ready – ladders, other fire apparatus. Motion to accept this grant was made by Commissioner Grupe, motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, motion passed 3-0.

6. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Purchase of building for Station 3 (Banquete) to hold tanker and brush truck.

Fire chief Clack provided a sketch from Eagle Carports for a metal building to hold the brush truck and tanker. Crushed concrete has been laid and we estimate the cost to be about \$24k. After reviewing the design and location, a motion to approve the purchase of building for Station 3 (Banquete) to hold tanker and brush truck was made by Commissioner Grupe, motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones. Motion passed 3-0.

7. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: To purchase Tanker to be put at Banquete.

Chief Clack reported we need to get a tanker truck for the Banquete area, the ISO rating will go up and the cost of insurance will be higher if we don't address this growing area issue. 4 bids have been received:

1 – Metro - \$496,246, (2 - Safe - \$482,000, (this bid was excluded for not meeting specifications)) 3 – Fire \$706,839 and HGDC (US Fire) \$491,000. After the discussion, a motion to approve HGDC for \$491,000 was made by Commissioner Grupe, motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, motion passed 3-0.

8. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: To purchase building for behind Station 1 to put extra tires, lawn equipment including the tractor.

Tabled.

9. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: To purchase two custom built poly tanks for brush 41 and brush 43.

Chief Clack reported that the District needed 2 trucks with poly tanks that have baffles, need to hold 1,250-1,300 gallons of water or foam. Each truck is estimated to be about 15k, so a total of about \$30k. Manufacturer is Wildfire who has supported their 5 year warranty with other entities. A motion to approve the purchase of two custom built poly tanks for brush 41 and brush 43 was made by Commissioner Jones, motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe. Motion passes 3-0.

10. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Sale of surplus property at public auction. This will include items the District no longer has or serves a purpose including hummer.

Commissioner Jones stated she received an emergency call and had to leave. The meeting was adjourned, with motion by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Grupe, Motion passed 3-0. Meeting ends at 9:13 a.m.

No action on this item.

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

No action on this item

12. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Removing of territory from Nueces County Emergency Service District No. 4 boundaries known as Collins circle in San Patricio County from the coverage area.

No action on this item

13. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Public Comment.

No action on this item

14. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Training.

No action on this item

15. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Adjournment.

Adjournment was done in item 10 above.

Commissioner

Signature

Date