

ESD 12 Henderson County, Texas

Minutes

February 21, 2023

Henderson County Courthouse Annex

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President David Monk. Present: Kari Bersano, Nancy Bertholf, Danny Bristow, Cody Seale. Visitor: Chief Robert York, CVFD.
- Mrs. Bertholf read the minutes. She asked that members review the minutes in their email in the future and recommend corrections at the next meeting. There were no corrections to the minutes.
- The President reviewed his discussions with county officials (auditors, attorney). The ESD 12 is composed of approximately 20,000 acres with an estimated taxable income to be \$484 million in 2022-23 fiscal year (Oct 1-Sept 30). Chief York reported that the VFD operates as a 501 C3 entity with a Jan 1-Dec 31 fiscal year. Funding from collected county taxes should begin in the late fall but probably the largest amounts will come in December or January, 2023. Mr. Monk asked members to review the tax rate for a future vote. It is his opinion that the maximum (10 cents) should be levied. He suggested that this amount would cover future growth and eliminate the need for consideration of increases at a later date.
- Discussion about posting in the Athens Review: Mrs. Bersano voted to post as necessary and the motion was seconded by Cody Seale. The motion passed. Mrs. Bertholf will make the necessary posting.
- Each member reviewed the 2022 budget presented at the last meeting. Mrs. Bertholf asked for a long range needs projection for equipment, etc. Chief York said that this year's budget was higher due to increased donations for equipment (radios, personal gear). Mrs. Bersano requested that a future "needs" list be prioritized. Mr. York said that personal equipment providing optimum safety for firefighters would be a priority. A commercial extraction washer/dryer is also needed as soon as possible. There will also be future needs for vehicles.

- President Monk discussed the need for a contract with the VFD. The group agreed that a lawyer would need to be contacted to make sure the best interests of all emergency services are served. Mr. Monk stated that Ken Campbell has been recommended as an expert on ESD contracts. The contract must be completed before funding can begin. The treasurer needs to be bonded and liability insurance should be considered.
- Mr. Monk urged members to go to the SafeD site or Texas A & M for their 6 hour required training. All members have completed the OMA training except Mr. Bristow. Certificates of completion of both should be sent to Mrs. Bertholf.
- In closing, Mr. Monk reiterated the ESD 12 was set up by the voters as a taxing unit that would support the Chandler Volunteer Fire Department's future needs and relieve the department of the financial responsibility they have shouldered since its inception. The board is aware of concerns about 'ownership' issues and Mr. Monk has plans to consult an attorney to clarify the ESD's position. Chief York thanked the members for their support.
- Nancy Bertholf moved to adjourn the meeting and Cody Seale seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Bertholf