

# HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #28



17061 Rolling Creek  
Houston, TX 77090-2411  
281-444-8465  
FAX 281-444-8052  
www.hcesd28.com  
www.ponderosavfd.org



## HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #28 MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING February 20, 2017

### Members in Attendance:

Dan Langford, President  
Morris Bradley, Treasurer  
Shirley Jauma

Mike Jones, Vice President/Secretary  
Dan Dronberger, Asst. Treasurer

### Others in Attendance:

Fred Windisch, Fire Chief  
Dana Schmanski, Office Manager  
Ira Coveler, Attorney At Law

### CALL TO ORDER

Dan Langford called to order the February 20, 2017, ESD Board meeting starting at 5:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

Dan Langford asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the January 20, 2016, board meeting. Mike Jones: Excused at January 16, 2017 meeting. Page 4, Purchase of 3 Replacement Fire Engines, New Truck purchase should be \$645,000.00. Change under FEMA Grant should read; Once received. Dan Dronberger made a motion to accept the minutes with the above changes. Morris Bradley seconded the motion with unanimous approval of the board.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public in attendance.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Morris Bradley handed out the comparison of January 2017 Profit and Loss statement versus our 2017 Budget.

Tax receipts in January \$1,670,748.95. Not much spending this month, the PVFA January draw was \$450,000.00. Station 63 had two bills, communications and an interest payment to Trustmark Bank for Station 63.

Morris reported on the bank balances in our various accounts as of January 30, 2017.

Checking Account: We had a beginning balance of \$455,461.98 with deposits totaling \$1,430,913.64 (which includes an interest deposit of \$483.79); and checks and debits totaling \$550,797.98, for an ending balance of \$1,335,577.64.

Money Market Account: We started with a beginning balance of \$413,185.94 with an interest deposit of \$70.19, for an ending balance of \$413,256.13.

Sales Tax Money Market Account: Beginning balance of \$908,295.20 with deposits totaling \$83,191.71 (which includes an interest deposit of \$161.11), for an ending balance of \$991,486.91.

We have (6) bills to pay this month as follows:

Coveler & Katz P.C.	\$1,218.18	Prepare Tax Exempt Form
Delta T Corporation	\$2,245.00	Bay Fans Station 63
Harris County Appraisal District	\$5,487.00	Quarterly Assessment
Houston Chronicle	\$92.79	Annual Legal Notice of Location

Sales Tax Assurance	\$7,627.00	Sales Tax Quarterly & Consulting Commissions
Invonics	\$8,449.25	25% Station 63 Video Security Installation

FCW - Bank loan for Station 63 is due in April 2017.

Morris reported that we have total account bank balances as of today \$3,981,089.62

The interest paid this month on the bank loan to Trustmark National Bank was \$8,151.62.

**PVFA DRAW**

Draw – March 2017

**ESD 2016 BUDGET**

No Changes

Morris Bradley asked if there were any questions. No questions presented.

Dan Dronberger made a motion to approve the financials and pay the bills as presented. Shirley Jauma seconded the motion with unanimous approval of the board.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT**

**Fire Responses**

We had 157 responses in January.

Page 12 – we had a large apartment fire January 15<sup>th</sup> on Cypress Station Drive. Made all the news media. No civilian or FF injuries.

**Traffic Signals Update**

They were out to fix many items. We will see a small bill next month for services. Two new signals will be at the intersections of Cypresshill and Kuyendahl and Bammelwood and Kuyendahl.

After contractor acceptance and due to the series of lights located in the area, installation at Bammelwood may be in 2018.

The E Views contractors will be back in March for additional installations. No costs associated previously paid.

The annual apparatus maintenance expenditures report includes cost per mile to operate fire trucks. To run the engine \$2.00 per mile, ladder trucks \$3.50 per mile. Old rescue truck is a big number because it is an older truck. Better to repair versus the \$900,000.00 cost for a new engine. The second page of this report breaks out the funds spent on all apparatus.

E62 - One larger problem was an engine shut down. It turned out to be a relatively inexpensive item, but they had to go through all this other stuff to locate the problem. It is unfortunate, but the cost of doing business.

Attached is the final 2016 budget. We still have one outstanding purchase order for the washer dryer extractor. Should receive invoice soon.

### **Other Current and Long Range Information**

#### **Purchase of 3 Replacement Fire Engines**

FCW - The purchase is complete. Recently submitted the excise tax form. Delivery expected January 2018. Scheduling of prebuild planning dates should be available next month. Tentatively, late March or early April.

#### **Station 63 Construction**

Dan Dronberger – still awaiting windows. FCW - the subcontractor was late in ordering the windows, it has delayed finishing. LDF is confident they will finish by end of March. Next week; staining and polishing the floors, no one allowed inside station until complete.

FCW - We were looking at April 15, but that is Easter weekend. We will have to schedule another date. Thoughts on combining the Dedication with our Annual Crawfish Boil. Is anyone opposed to this? None opposed.

#### **Emergency Response Leadership Coalition**

FCW - Two items discussed:

- a. Electric Provider – this company does all the research required. Doug Mathes with Power Energy, working with Cerros Electrical

provider. If the departments join, they will gather all department aggregate usage. Then creates a lump sum cost, thus reducing electric expenses. Little York Fire Department, saved \$24,000.00 using this program.

We are currently with Hudson Electric and will go out for bid in April or May 2017, our current contract with Hudson ends in November 2017. We expect to see a reduction in electrical costs.

- b. Weather Stations – They are approaching all fire departments. Their goal is to place 150 weather stations in Harris County. Each weather station installed pays \$500.00 annually to Lessor. The information gathered by the weather station will be available to us via website if requested.  
SJ – who uses this information? FCW – primarily used by insurance companies to evaluate losses from weather damage. For instance, you could have a hailstorm on your street causing damage and two blocks away no hail or damage. The weather station accumulates weather data for use by insurers and others.

**Shirley Jauma - Safed D Conference Attendance & Reimbursement**

Everything thing was booked and realized we had a huge conflict with an overlapping a trip over spring break with our granddaughter. Unfortunately, unable to attend.

FCW asked Ira Covelor, (attorney) how much time does she have to complete? Ten hours required within two years from start date as an ESD commissioner. Next year, Safe D conference will be at Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas.

**TO REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO AMEND ENGAGEMENT  
FOR LEGAL SERVICES TO INCLUDE LEGISLATIVE  
ACTIVITIES**

Ira Covelor – I have spoken with chief a few times regarding current legislation, my office does not normally attend your meetings. Chief Windisch asked me to talk with you and review the consortium. There are a two things included in this bill to review.

One item in the bill requires an ESD organization with a lesser roll back rate will now require an election for adoption. (Example: If you adopted a rate

of \$.10, but your roll back rate is \$.097 you would have to hold an election to adopt the rate change).

FCW – bill concerning election equipment. In proposed legislation, is the proposal to get rid of our equipment?

Ira Coveler - They are trying to do in part is get rid of the May election date. They are not dealing with the equipment issue. It used to be you could have an election 6 times a year.

FCW Concerning the SB2; 4 to 8 % roll back rate.

Ira Coveler - Bettencourt is supporting the ESD's and the lobbyist have gone over this with him extensively. He has given a verbal to our team. The second we find out there is problem we will contact you.

FCW - If the ESD Tax goes up 4%, it could equate to \$4.00 a year. It does not necessarily agree with our daily business.

Changes to the New Form 1295 law, it was a poorly written bill and in need of review to tighten up the law going forward.

Additionally, any board members elected after 2018 or thereafter, may only serve for a maximum of a 12-year term.

In terms of the consortium, we have pooled with Locke Lord's representation efforts, with a total cost of \$450,000.00 to \$500,000.00. The portion contributed after calculations is \$10,100.00 from each participating ESD. We rounded the amount to \$10,000.00 per entity with sales tax and/or apportioned funding to cover costs.

FCW - as we discussed, our board does not use an attorney on a regular basis and that is the way we like. As for the board, this agency has always been involved with legislation and leaving us out in 2016 was a bad oversight. We rely on the attorneys to handle ongoing issues on our behalf.

Ira Coveler - concerning not contacting you in 2016. Because we do not attend your monthly meetings we did not want our first meeting to involve asking for an additional \$10,000.00, and rest assured your voice was not silent. Everyone knows FCW and I do apologize for not reaching out to you

in 2016. To date we have received \$460,000.00 toward the consortium and will continue to received additional funds.

FCW – we are opposed to term limits. Many of our board members have been here for more than 8 years.

FCW - Speaking for the board, is the firm name now Coveler and Peeler, LLC. IC - Yes, change effective March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

Mike Jones – Does the board wish to engage Locke Lord as a Lobbyist on ESD28's behalf?

Dan Dronberger made a motion to engage Locke Lord, LLP through Coveler and Peeler, P.C. concerning current legislation. Mike Jones seconded the motion with unanimous approval of the board.

#### **PNC Opinion Letter**

FCW – we are concerned about the billing amount for the PNC opinion letter from John Peeler, for lease/purchase of 3 new Fire Trucks from Pierce Manufacturing.

Being our third cycle of lease/purchase with PNC and Pierce, all information from past lease/purchases was forwarded to John Peeler.

An agency opinion letter is not a rubber stamp and we understand, but quite literally, the letter was the same as the past letter with a change of date only. Ira Coveler will consult with John Peeler and respond.

Discussion held by the board and Ira Coveler concerning election equipment, agriculture reporting, and health services.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn made by Dan Dronberger at 5:44 p.m. Morris Bradley seconded the motion with unanimous approval of the board.

  
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Mike Jones, Vice President, Secretary