

**SOUTHWEST LEON COUNTY ESD #2
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MINUTES**

July 25, 2023

1. Hank Dembosky called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.
2. Skip Smith led the Board in prayer.
3. Hank Dembosky led the Board in the pledges of allegiance.
4. Guest (3) in attendance is noted on the attached Sign-In Sheet.
5. Commissioners in attendance: President, Hank Dembosky; Vice President, Skip Smith; Treasurer, Tiffany McKinney; and Secretary, Claren Kotrla. Janey Shannon, Assistant Treasurer, was not in attendance.
6.
 - a. There was one invoice (9276) from the Carlton Law Firm for \$495.00 for legal services. It was paid with check #1428. The report presented by Tiffany McKinney was passed unanimously after a motion by Claren Kotrla and a second by Skip Smith.
 - b. The Financial reports (Balance Sheet & Statement of Financial Position) which are included in the meeting attachments, were presented by Tiffani McKinney. The Statement included \$3,519.96 in Sales Tax revenue received in July for the month of May. The Quarterly Investment Report (attached) was also presented. The reports were passed unanimously after a motion by Tiffani McKinney and a second by Claren Kotrla.
7. The HTLVFW/EMS February Activity Report (attached) presented by Sherri Guerra including information from Dennis Smith showed 15 HTLVFD hours response activity. The HTL VFD/ EMS monthly performance measures reported are noted in the activity report (attached to these minutes) were:
 - 25 Transports
 - Avg. Response Time: 6 min.45 sec.
 - Avg. Out-of-Chute Time: 00:02:11 min.
 - Fire Trainings: 12 hours
 - Volunteer Hours: 66 hours

Sheri Guerra presented the enclosed financial, and activity reports. She also provided updates regarding a contract with Leon County and the County's offer to pay for VFD workers compensation. Upon presentation and review of the May VFD/EMS Financial and Activity Reports, the Board unanimously voted to accept the HTL VFD/EMS Financial and Operational Activity Reports after a motion by Tiffani McKinney and a second by Claren Kotrla. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Received and accepted the Preliminary 2024 VFD operating budget. Motion made by Tiffani McKinney and seconded by Skip Smith. The motion passed unanimously.
9. The commissioners discussed and took action as needed on the following items.
 - (a.) Hank Dembosky has been in contact with Congressman Pete Sessions office regarding the need for a new ambulance.
 - (b.) CERT Training, held weekly on Monday night at 6:00PM, had an average of fourteen people attending at the first three meetings. Reported by Skip Smith.
 - (c.) The July HTL VFD/EMS/Security Board meeting was attended by Hank Dembosky. Worker compensation was discussed.
 - (d.)The Leon County Communications Committee has not been meeting.
 - (e.) ARPA funds-Some will be spent on horse stalls at the EXPO Center and retention raises for county employees.
10. Discussion and development of the 2023-2024 Budget to include Sales Tax. See attached draft worksheet. It was a preliminary budget review. No action taken. We are awaiting financial information from Carlton Law Firm regarding maximum tax rate to adopt without having to call an election. Budget and Rate will be set at the August regular meeting.
11. No additional recommendations by our Law Firm. No action taken.
12. The June Minutes were approved unanimously with a motion by Skip Smith and a second Tiffani McKinney.
13. Current industry news and other communication included that new property taxes passed in Austin. The Homestead increased exemptions would not affect the ESD, per communication with the County Appraisal District.
14. Hank Dembosky put an article about ESD Sales Tax information in the Normangee Star. There were no other comments for the Open Forum.
15. There were no Public Comments.
16. The next meeting will be August 15, 2023 at 600 PM.
17. Motion to adjourn was made by Tiffani McKinney and seconded by Claren Kotrla. Motion passed unanimously and adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Claren Kotrla, Board Secretary.