

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

**September 19, 2023**

1. Hank Dembosky called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
2. Hank Dembosky led the Board in prayer.
3. Hank Dembosky led the Board in the pledges of allegiance.
4. Guest (6) in attendance is noted on the attached Sign-In Sheet.
5. Commissioners in attendance: President, Hank Dembosky; Vice President, Skip Smith; Assistant Treasurer, Janey Shannon and Secretary, Claren Kotrla. Absent: Tiffani Mckinney, Treasurer.
6.
  - a. There were four checks written. Check 1477 to the Hilltop Volunteer Fire Department for \$63,750.00 (4<sup>th</sup> quarter payment). Check 1478 to the Hilltop Volunteer Fire Department for \$23.10 (background check). Check 1479 to Carlton Law Firm (invoice 9558) for \$829.00 for legal services. Check 1429 to Carlton Law Firm (invoice 9365) for \$808.50 for legal services. A motion to pay the charges was made by Skip Smith and seconded by Claren Kotrla. The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. The Financial report, which is included in the meeting attachments, was presented by Janey Shannon. ESD2 has received \$14,546.00 in new sales tax revenue thru FY 22/23. The September income was \$3,899.23 and will be reflected in the September deposit. The report was passed unanimously after a motion by Janey Shannon and a second by Skip Smith.
7. The HTLVFW/EMS August Activity Report (attached) was presented by Sherri Guerra and Dennis Smith. It showed HTLVFD 68 hours response activity. The HTL VFD/ EMS monthly performance measures reported are noted in the activity report (attached to these minutes) were:
  - 20 Transports
  - Avg. Response Time: 6 min.59 sec.
  - Avg. Out-of-Chute Time: 00:01:54 min.
  - Fire Trainings: 19 hours
  - Volunteer Hours: 68 hours

Sheri Guerra presented the enclosed activity reports. The fire department was fitted with 13 sets of Bunker Gear and will receive 5 new Scott air packs plus one spare air tank. A washer/extractor will also be included as part of the FEMA \$93,325 grant. She restated that the worker compensation package offered by the county was determined to not meet the needs of the VFD volunteers and EMS staff. They will stay with the current worker comp. Dennis Smith presented the EMS report and Jim Hawthorne presented the financial report. Upon presentation and review of the August VFD/EMS Financial and Activity Reports, the Board

unanimously voted to accept the reports with a motion by Janey Shannon and second by Skip Smith.

8.
  - a. The differences between the Forms 50-856 prepared by Leon County TAC and Carlton Law were explained via a memo from Carlton Law. The report is enclosed. No impact on the amount previously adopted. Hank Dembosky reported that the rates for property tax were lowered from previous year, and the upcoming school tax election (Prop 4) will not impact the ESD tax.
  - b. ESD 2 is awaiting response from Representative Sessions' office regarding the ambulance request.
  - c. Hank Dembosky stated that there was an article in the Normangee Star about the CERT training offered at Hilltop Lakes. Skip Smith reported there is need for a second CERT training series.
  - d. The September HRL VFD/EMS/Security Board Meeting is included in Sheri Guerra's enclosed report.
  - e. ESD 2 anticipates receiving some training materials from VFIS.
9. After discussion of the proposal for Breedlove & C0, PC to perform the audit for the FY ending September 30 for a gross fee between \$4,500-&5,000, a motion was made by Claren Kotrla to accept their proposal. The motion was seconded by Janey Shannon and passed unanimously.
10. Ty White with ConnectGEN plans to attend the ESD2 October meeting regarding the local solar energy project. It was noted that no activity has been observed.
11. Additional support for the HTL VFD/EMS FEMA Grant was discussed. Jim Hawthorne stated that no operational items were needed at this time.
12. There were no items from Carlton Law Firm.
13. The August minutes were approved unanimously with a motion by Janey Shannon and seconded by Skip Smith.
14. Skip Smith's background review was approved. The 2024 Safe-D training conference will be held on February 22-24 at the Irving Texas Convention Center. There is concern that the new VA air med rule limiting air and ambulance reimbursement will reduce benefits for Veterans.
15. Don Sony (Ph.# 979-229-3283) presented concern that about 11 residences require ESD 2 go into ESD 3 to receive VFD & EMS. This results in a 24 mile circuit for services. Dennis Smith confirmed the travel fact. However it was noted that travel through adjoining ESD jurisdictions is not unusual. Mr. Sony provided a map of the ESD's. ESD 2 will work with ESD 3 regarding next steps.
16. The next meeting will be held October 17, at 6:00 PM at the Fire Station.
17. Motion to adjourn was made by Janey Shannon and seconded by Claren Kotrla. Motion passed unanimously and adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Claren Kotrla, Board Secretary.