

**MINUTES OF MEETING
SMITH COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NUMBER NO. 1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
LINDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, LINDALE, TEXAS
NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

Carolyn Todd, President, called the meeting to order.

Carolyn Todd gave the invocation.

Pledge by all in attendance to the American Flag was led by Charles Froebe.

Carolyn Todd certified that the Agenda was posted as dictated by law on the Board Website on November 13, 2025, and at the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department on November 13, 2025. Board Members present in addition to Carolyn Todd were Louie Brown, Cory Crowell, Charles Froebe and Owen Scott. Annie Baldwin, Volunteer Clerk, was present.

Cory Crowell made a motion to approve the Agenda with the understanding that the items may be acted upon in any order. Motion seconded by Charles Froebe. All in favor and motion carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2025, Board of Commissioners, were presented for approval. Cory Crowell made a request to amend the minutes of October 16, 2025, to include comments from Jay Brooks in which he asked why firemen are paid \$ 25 per hour regardless of position and no stipend is provided. Cory Crowell made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Motion seconded by Owen Scott. All in favor and motion carried.

Jeremy Larue, Fire Chief, Lindale Volunteer Fire Department, presented monthly activities report for October. The Department made 220 calls of which 69-70% were EMS. Because of all the construction, several calls were made to attend gas lines that had been hit. A lot of good intent calls were answered. There are new beds at Station 1 & 2. Station 2 has new recliner, couch and love seat. There are new table and chairs in the kitchen at station 1. Excavation is completed at Station 2 for moving fuel tanks. Troy Pritchett, Assistant Chief, stated there were multiple accidents and one where the Jaws of Life was used to remove a person from a vehicle.

Owen Scott, Treasurer, presented the bills for the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department. The total requested for District funds was \$ 188,473.04. Cory Crowell made a motion to approve the bills and pay the fire department the requested amount. Motion seconded by Louie Brown. All in favor and motion carried.

Since the workers' compensation audit has not been completed, Mrs. Todd tabled this item.

Annie Baldwin explained correspondence from Gary Barber, Smith County Tax Assessor-Collector, which gave the amount of the 2025 tax Roll for Smith County Emergency Services District No. 1. Total levy is \$ 2,250,545.08. Louie Brown made a motion for a Resolution to approve the 2025 Tax Roll. Motion seconded by Owen Scott. All in favor and motion carried.

Owen Scott presented the 2025 Annual Report of the City of Lindale Reinvestment Zone #2 pertaining to the Tax Increment Financing. No action necessary to be taken by the Board.

Louie Brown presented the 2025 Annual Report of the City of Lindale Reinvestment Zone #3 pertaining to the Tax Increment Financing. No action necessary to be taken by the Board.

Annie Baldwin explained that the District would need to name an individual to represent the Board on the City of Lindale Reinvestment Zone #2, Tax Increment Financing. A motion was made by Cory Crowell for a Resolution to name Owen Scott as the representative from the Board to the City of Lindale Reinvestment Zone #2 Tax Increment Financing, for a two year term beginning January 01, 2026, to December 31, 2027. Motion seconded by Louie Brown. All in favor and motion carried.

Annie Baldwin explained to the Board Members that SAFE-D will hold its annual conference in San Antonio, Texas, from January 29-31, 2026. She stated that registration is now open and she would be glad to register anyone who wished to attend. Each person would be responsible for making their own hotel reservations. Charles Froebe stated that the attendees should arrive in San Antonio the night of January 28th in order to be at the conference on the 29th. Mrs. Baldwin stated the Board should reimburse the Board Members for any expenses. Cory Crowell, Carolyn Todd and Louie Brown expressed an interest in attending the training. Owen Scott said he was considering attending. Cory Crowell made a motion to approve Board Members attendance at the conference and members will be reimbursed by the Board for all expenses. Motion seconded by Louie Brown. All in favor and motion carried.

Cory Crowell stated that the Neumo contract had been completed. Annie Baldwin stated she had discussed the contract with Chris Yeary with Neumo and he had explained how the company would locate businesses in the area that should be collecting sales and use taxes. After he receives the signed contract from the Board, he would send out necessary paperwork for the Board President to sign that Neumo would then send to the Comptroller so they could begin requesting Monthly Confidentiality Reports from the Comptroller's office. Louie Brown made a motion for a Resolution to approve the contract with Neumo Group, LLC to locate businesses in the District who should be collecting sales and use taxes. Cory Crowell will serve as Liaison. Carolyn Todd, Board President will sign all necessary documents concerning the contract. Motion seconded by Charles Froebe. All in favor and motion carried.

Annie Baldwin explained that the Board will need to approve Form 1295, Certificate of Interested Parties prepared by Neumo Group, LLC. Cory Crowell made a motion to approve the document. Motion seconded by Owen Scott. All in favor and motion carried.

Annie Baldwin explained House Bill 103 in which each year every taxing entity will have to complete a report to the Comptroller's Office concerning the issuances of bonds and elections held to increase taxes. She stated that she would be responsible for this report and most likely will always have a negative report on both issues. No action to be taken by the Board.

Owen Scott presented the following bill: U S. Postal Service \$ 114.00 for post office rent for one year. Cory Crowell made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion seconded by Louie Brown. All in favor and motion carried.

Owen Scott presented the Treasurer's Report for October 2025. Louie Brown made a motion to

approve the report. Motion seconded by Charles Froebe. All in favor and motion carried.

Mr. Crowell stated that Concerned Citizen Group wrote a letter to all Board Members including himself in which in Sec. 775.073 of the Texas Health and Safety Code it states “Any property, including an interest in property, purchased or leased using district funds, wholly or partly, must remain the property of the district, regardless of whether the property is used by a third party under a contract for services or otherwise, until the property is disposed of in accordance with section 775.0735.” He said that the Board had approved to put the vehicles in its name starting last October, but this has not occurred. He would like to get the trucks in the District’s name.

Mr. Crowell asked about an update on Cad System. The Fire Chief stated it is processing but slower than anticipated with a projected startup date of January 2026. It has cost the Department about \$ 100,000 but maybe lower than that for equipment. When the Cad System is operational the computer system will determine which Smith County fire department will respond based on the closest proximity to the location.

Mr. Crowell asked the Chief what was holding up hiring of a full time fire chief and stated that Lindale was the only fire department in Smith County who did not have a full time paid fire chief. He also asked about full time staffing. The Chief responded that to facilitate a fully career department, it will require more funds to insure a substantial business model.

Owen Scott made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Louie Brown. All in favor and motion carried.

CAROLYN TODD, PRESIDENT

CHARLES FROEBE, SECRETARY