

**MINUTES OF MEETING
SMITH COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NUMBER 1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
LINDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, LINDALE, TEXAS
DECEMBER 18, 2025**

Carolyn Todd, President, called the meeting to order.

Carolyn Todd gave the invocation.

Pledge by all in attendance to the American Flag lead by Louie Brown.

Carolyn Todd certified that the Agenda was posted as dictated by law on the Board Website on December 12, 2025, and at the Lindale Volunteer fire Department on December 15, 2025. Board Members present in addition to Carolyn Todd were Louie Brown, Owen Scott, Cory Crowell and Charles Froebe. Annie Baldwin, Volunteer Clerk, was present.

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

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2025, Board of Commissioners, were presented for approval. Charles Froebe made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Louie Brown. All in favor and motion carried.

Jermey Larue, Fire Chief, Lindale Volunteer Fire Department, presented the monthly activities report for November. He stated 228 calls were made; most were EMS. The CAD Project is still on going with a start-up date projected in January. Staffing is going well. The Department now has a call list to fill open work slots. Troy Pritchard, Assistant Fire Chief discussed several fires the Department had responded to. He stated that at the Christmas Party several firefighters were honored.

Before bills were presented for payment, Jay Brooks addressed the Board. He discussed several bills that he had concerns with such as credit cards not having back up receipts. Mr. Brooks discussed a bill from Ramey Flock, Attorney, in which the fire department had discussed disqualification of a Commissioner. Jermey Larue explained the reason for conferring with the law firm. He stated several people had wanted to know if a Commissioner on the ESD Board could be employed by another emergency services district. Cory Crowell stated he had contacted an attorney before he ran for the board position and the attorney had assured him there was no conflict of interest. Mr. Brooks addressed the fire department budget and said he was unhappy about taxpayers' money paying the bill.

Owen Scott, Treasurer, presented the bills for the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department. The total requested for District funds was \$ 150,533.47. Louie Brown made a motion to approve the bills and pay the fire department the requested amount. Motion seconded by Cory Crowell. All in favor and motion carried.

Annie Baldwin presented the Workers' Compensation Audit for FY 2024-2025. She explained the

Board would owe an extra \$ 349.00. Cory Crowell made a motion to approve the Workers' Compensation Audit for FY 2024-2025. Motion seconded by Owen Scott. All in favor and motion carried.

Annie Baldwin explained assignments of board members' attendance at Lindale Volunteer Fire Department's monthly meetings for calendar year 2026 would need to be approved. A motion was made by Cory Crowell to approve the following members' attendance at the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department's monthly meetings for the calendar year 2026: January, Louie Brown; February, Owen Scott; March, Carolyn Todd; April, Charles Froebe; May, Cory Crowell; June, Louie Brown; July, Owen Scott; August, Carolyn Todd; September, Charles Froebe; October, Cory Crowell; November, Louie Brown; December, Owen Scott. Motion was seconded by Charles Froebe. All in favor and motion carried.

Annie Baldwin discussed required training hours for board members. She stated that all board members are in compliance with state law concerning this. No action to be taken.

Owen Scott presented the following bills for payment: TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool \$ 349.00 for workers' compensation insurance; Smith County Appraisal District \$ 30,371.00 for 2026 assessment for services; Gary B. Barber, Smith County Tax Assessor-Collector \$ 13,637.25 for tax collection fees. Louie Brown made a motion to approve payment of the bills as presented. Motion seconded by Charles Froebe. All in favor and motion carried.

Owen Scott presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2025. Louie Brown made a motion to approve the report. Motion seconded by Cory Crowell. All in favor and motion carried.

Carolyn Todd told the Board that she is planning to have a Board Member's Training session in January. The date will be January 07, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Cory Crowell discussed proposal for building fire stations and asked that a proposal by Mark Whatley be put on the Agenda for next month. Mr. Crowell asked about the situation with the Department joining the Department on Fire Protection. Mr. Larue stated he had conferred with an attorney in which he stated it was not mandatory for the Department to join. He relayed that information to the Department on Fire Protection and has not heard back from them. Mr. Crowell asked why the fire trucks had not been put in the name of the Smith County Emergency Services District No. 1. Mr. Larue explained he is talking to an attorney to get a lease agreement between the fire department and the fire board drawn up.

Louie Brown discussed building new fire stations and questioned why they would need 2.5 acres of land for a fire station.

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

CAROLYN TODD, PRESIDENT

CHARLES FROEBE, SECRETARY