

**MINUTES OF MEETING
SMITH COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NUMBER NO. 1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
LINDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, LINDALE, TEXAS
JULY 17, 2025**

Carolyn Todd, President, called the meeting to order.

Louie Brown 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 July 11, 2025, and at the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department on July 11, 2025. Board Members present in addition to Carolyn Todd were Louie Brown, Cory Crowell, Charles Froebe and Owen Scott. Annie Baldwin, Volunteer Clerk, was absent

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 Louie Brown. All in favor and motion carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 19, 2025, Board of Commissioners, were presented for approval. Charles Froebe made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Cory Crowell. All in favor and motion carried.

Before the Fire Department presented its reports, Mrs. Todd addressed the Board and members of the audience. She said, "No personnel issues can be addressed and only items posted on the Agenda can be discussed." Jeremy Larue, Fire Chief, Lindale Volunteer Fire Department, presented monthly activities report for June. The Chief discussed the CAD operations and stated this system is not in operation yet. Smith County is trying to get FEMA reimbursements that will benefit the county and other emergency services operations in the county as well. The Department has six new firefighters, five are career firefighters. Troy Pritchard, Assistant Fire Chief, discussed some of the types of calls the Department had responded to during the month of June. Mr. Pritchard, who is also the Operations Chief, will be giving these reports each month in the future.

Benjamin Pate had a concern about inadequate staffing at the fire stations. Jeremy Larue stated the present staffing is up to 6 firefighters on the day shift and 4 firefighters on the night shift. Chief Larue stated they have a vehicle training program established to get all firefighters qualified to drive the vehicles.

Owen Scott, Treasurer, presented the bills for the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department. The total requested for District funds was \$ 149,774.82. Charles Froebe 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. Cory Crowell asked about the increase of salaries for the firefighters of which the Board has not been informed of. Joe Yeakley, Former Fire Chief, stated that he had made the decision to give the raises which did not increase the budget. The Fire Department had discontinued the stipend. Mr. Crowell had called several area fire departments and Lindale

Volunteer Fire Department has the highest paid firefighters.

Jeremy Larue presented the Audit report for the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024. He discussed the recommendations in the Audit report. No action to be taken by the Board.

Carolyn Todd explained to the Board the Smith County Appraisal District's Proposed Budget for 2026 in which it states they will charge the District \$ 30,371 for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the District's portion of the Smith County Appraisal District's Proposed Budget for 2026. No action to be taken by the Board.

The District's unencumbered fund balances and current year debt services were not discussed by the Board as Mrs. Baldwin had not provided paper work for this item. This will be discussed at next month's Board meeting. However, the Certification of Anticipated Collection Rate for 2025 and Certification of Excess Debt Collections were discussed in which the anticipated collection rate for the period of July 01, 2025, through June 30, 2026, is estimated at 99.23%. No action to be taken by the Board.

Carolyn Todd explained that the Board needed to set a date, time and place for a called meeting to discuss proposed tax rate, no-new revenue tax rate, voter approval tax rate, de minimis rate and unused increment rate. At our May 15th meeting the Board set that date to be August 14, 2025. Mrs. Todd stated she was scheduling that date for the meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department, 208 E. Hubbard St., Lindale, Texas 75771.

Mrs. Todd explained that every two years the District needed to employ an accounting firm to audit funds to the next two years. For the past six years the District had used the Audit firm of Wilf & Henderson, P. C. to conduct this audit. She recommended we continue to employ this company. Mrs. Todd entertained a motion to employ the firm of Wilf & Henderson, P. C., 1810 Galleria Oaks, Texarkana, Texas 75703, to audit the District's accounts for the current fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 for a fee not to exceed \$ 6,755 and the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, for a fee not to exceed \$ 7,125. Motion made by Cory Crowell and seconded by Charles Froebe. All in favor and motion carried.

Louie Brown updated the Board concerning construction of fire station #4. He stated that the water supply corporation had gone to another title company in Tyler to see if they could get the title approved. The title company has not given them a definite answer yet, but Mr. Brown feels this title company will rule the same as Landmark Title. No action to be taken by the Board.

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

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

CAROLYN TODD, PRESIDENT

CHARLES FROEBE, SECRETARY

