

**MINUTES OF MEETING
SMITH COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NUMBER NO. 1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
LINDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, LINDALE, TEXAS
JULY 16, 2026**

Carolyn Todd, President, called the meeting to order.

Owen Scott 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 July 09, 2026, and at the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department on July 09, 2026. Board Members present in addition to Carolyn Todd were Louie Brown, Owen Scott, and Cory Crowell. Board member Charles Froebe was absent 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 Louie Brown. All in favor and motion carried.

The minutes of Regular Meeting of June 18, 2026, Board of Commissioners, were presented for approval. Louie Brown made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Cory Crowell. All in favor and motion carried.

Jeremy Larue, Fire Chief, Lindale Volunteer Fire Department, presented the monthly activities report for June. The Department ran 272 calls. There were a lot of EMS calls and several wrecks caused by the bad weather. Since January 01, 2026, there have been 1698 calls for 7 1/2 months and on track to have 2600 calls by year's end. The Department is working within its budget and has expended 61%, with some of the expenditures being over and some being below. The Department has put the 6th man on at night.

Troy Pritchard, Assistant Chief, Lindale Volunteer Fire Department, stated it is time for grass fires and we need a wet fall. Eight firefighters will attend Texas A&M Training next week. He is proud of the Department as they have had good response times and the effectiveness of their responsibility. He is also proud of one of the firemen who helped deliver a child. This fireman will be recognized for his actions.

Responding from a question from Cory Crowell, the Fire Chief stated the CAD System should be on line by next week.

Owen Scott, Treasurer, presented the bills for the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department. The total requested for District funds was \$ 154,600.64. 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 fire department audit has not yet been completed, Carolyn Todd tabled this item.

Annie Baldwin explained the certification of 2026 and certification of excess debt collections from

information from the Smith County Tax Assessor-Collector. She stated that the Tax Assessor-Collector anticipated collection is estimated at 99.23 %. Excess debt collections is -0-. No action was taken by the Board.

Since the contract between Watson Commercial Construction Ltd. and the District has not yet been completed, Carolyn Todd tabled this item.

Since the contract between Watson Commercial Construction Ltd. and the District has not yet been completed, and Form HB 1295 has not been completed, Carolyn Todd tabled this item.

Cory Crowell discussed his progress on finding a replacement for Annie Baldwin, Volunteer Clerk. He reported that has contacted several ESDS and discussed the matter with SAFE-D. He found a wide range of pay and benefits which were between \$ 55,000 to \$ 65,000. Mrs. Todd suggested that the Board discuss this item with Ratliff Bookkeeping and Tax Services, LLC, a CPA firm, who is working with the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department paying the Department's bills. She stated she would contact the company and set up an appointment and that she, Annie Baldwin, Cory Crowell and Jerney Larue, Fire Chief would meet with them.

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. Mrs. Todd announced the date to be August 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Lindale Volunteer Fire Department, 208 E. Hubbard St., Lindale, Texas 75771.

There were no additional bills to be paid.

Owen Scott presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2026. Cory Crowell made a motion to approve the report. Motion seconded by Louie Brown. All in favor and motion carried.

Mrs. Todd stated she had been in contact with Watson Commercial Construction Ltd. They feel the cost of building the new fire station will be between \$ 400-\$ 430 per sq. ft. This will include fees. The Department is required by law to hire an architect. This will happen at a later date.

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

CAROLYN TODD, PRESIDENT

CHARLES FROEBE, SECRETARY