

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

WALLER-HARRIS EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO.200

The **WALLER-HARRIS EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 200** held a special meeting and public meeting on **September 17, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.** at the District office located at **40644 Business Highway 290, Waller, Texas 77484.**

In attendance were: Commissioners: Tommy Davis, Darwin Hargrave, Gary Ferguson, Tommy Albert and Hollis Ulbricht; Katy FD, Gundersons Bookkeeping, the District Bookkeeper; and Mr. Barry Weinman, ESD Director.

1. **Call Meeting to order.** The meeting was called to order at: 9:00 a.m. by *Mr. Tommy Davis.*
2. **To receive public comment.** No citizens present
3. **To review and take action on the District FY 2019 Budget.** *Mr. Tommy Albert* said that the budget that was presented to the Board of Commissioners has holes in it. *Mr. Peeler* said that you can adopt the budget and change it later. *Mr. Tommy Albert* stated that no one is out of money yet, but Brookshire will probably need an increase. He also stated that he looked over some of the budgets and some of the providers are asking for ridiculous amounts of money in some areas. He said that they still need to go over the provider budgets now that they are all turned in. Monaville is requesting \$8000 for diesel and they haven't used but \$3,100 to date. Brookshire was caught up when they were paid \$16,500, Kim called and asked if ESD was going to do anything different. We know they will get more money, but cannot tell Kim really how much. *Mr. Albert* stated that the problem with Brookshire is the money given goes to the City and they hand it out to Brookshire VFD. Brookshire hasn't stepped up to help EMS get the building.

Mr. Albert said that the Board of Commissioners got an email about EMS wanting to have an additional ambulance. If ESD uses an existing truck and bring it up to speed with the equipment, it will be a one-time offer of \$80,000. To staff that ambulance it would cost \$431,000 per year for 24/7 and Kristin Gunderson stated that they only have \$432,000 in Capital Outlay which is extra. *Mr. Albert* said that of that \$432,000 they still have to take in adjusted provider budgets. Gene Schmidt asked for lockers for their Capital Outlay. Tri-County is asking for a Tanker Truck, which they have 3 now, but want to get rid of one of the older one. The loan payment is still the same as last year.

Mr. Davis said that we need to do something about the grants because the equipment they are buying with it, ESD has to provide the maintenance and insurance for them. PVFFA has a \$55,000 boat with Sonar that we have to maintain. Imagine what the cost to fix the Sonar if need be? *Mr. Albert* asked how to word the contracts for the stations that have a Chief's car and where they can drive and not drive to separate the fuel. The budget was based off the projected income of \$6.1 million and ESD is projected to get 95% of those collections, which would be \$5.9 million. *Mr. Davis* stated that it is getting to the point where the tail is wagging the dog. *Mr. Davis* also stated that nothing ever got resolved in regards to Monaville taking their fire

truck outside of the District to water down the band. *Mr. Davis* didn't agree with *Monaville* and he was out of line and at some point we are going to have to figure out some way to deal with this.

Mr. Hollis Ulbricht has some questions about the budget. He asked about Katy #6 fuel going from \$5,000 to \$15,000 and Salaries from \$597,000 to \$832,000 and the match for their retirement went from \$17,000 to \$24,000? *Mr. Albert* stated on the salaries that it hasn't been voted yet, but we added 1 more person to each shift. *Mr. Ulbricht* stated that they will send someone to pick up gear that needs to be washed and then it puts them down to a 2 man crew. *Mr. Ulbricht* looks on the call sheets and they are running 30 medical and total calls 50 with 11-12 disregards which means they only run 10 calls. That is a lot of money. *Mr. Albert* stated the pension increases as the personnel increases. *Mr. Weinman's* fuel comes out of the Katy fuel budget as well. *Mr. Weinman* stated that pumper truck at Katy #6 is doing pre-plans, trainings, and riding territory everyday. The pumper has 14,000 miles on it. *Kristin Gunderson* stated that to date the fuel actual is at \$8000 for Katy#6. *Captain Orsak* commented on the call report that the disregards are from mostly mutual aid that has disregarded them before they got on scene. *Captain Orsak* also stated that all the calls in their area, they are on scene. *Mr. Ulbricht* stated that Katy#6 likes to self-dispatch and he emailed *Bo Hashaw* and *Bo* said that he didn't request them everytime. *Mr. Ferguson* asked if Katy #6 was running a pumper truck everytime an ambulance was dispatched and *Mr. Weinman* said yes if it is in their District. *Mr. Ferguson* asked for an explanation. *Mr. Weinman* stated for extra hands and *Captain Orsak* stated that was the understanding with EMS. *Mr. Ferguson* stated he understands if they are on I-10 to have back-up, but not in a subdivision. *Mr. Weinman* said that with no disrespect but any departments that isn't backing up and ambulance with a pumper truck is living in the stone-age. He also stated that when they started that 25 yrs. ago he was against it. He went on to state that we don't always get the best information from dispatch. *Mr. Weinman* stated that it keeps people from getting hurt with extra hands when there is a weight issue. *Mr. Weinman* said that he is getting a totally different story from *Bo*. *Mr. Weinman* thinks it would be a mistake not having a pumper with an ambulance.

Mr. Ulbricht stated that ESD gave EMS money to get an extra squad and *Mr. Weinman* said that it didn't come out of our budget. *Mr. Ferguson* stated that *Mr. Albert* made the motion to give the money. *Mr. Weinman* stated that the money ESD gave to EMS was to get them through the end of the year for salaries. *Kristin Gunderson* pulled the past minutes from May 23, 2017 in regards to the money given to EMS and confirmed what *Mr. Weinman* stated that it was for payroll for the rest of the year.

Mr. Ferguson asked why ESD is paying \$2,500 in certificates? *Mr. Weinman* said that it is mandated the station has to pay for the EMS and TCFP certificates every year. *Mr. Davis* spoke to College Station and they use the ladder truck for most of their calls for safety and to put miles on it. *Bo* stated by email to *Mr. Ulbricht* that he doesn't want any PT fire fighters on his calls. *Mr. Weinman* stated that *Bo* told him that he didn't want anyone on his scene that doesn't have protocol. *Mr. Ulbricht* asked why is it that different ones need help and other EMS don't need

help. Mr. Weinman said that he does need help, but PT fire fighters don't have protocol. Mr. Weinman said that he has discussed this with the Commissioners before and in the future they need to strive to get protocol for PT fire fighters. Mr. Weinman said that there is a cost and they have to spend 24 hrs. on an ambulance and it gets broken up into 2 shifts of 12 hrs. Mr. Weinman said that they have 1 PT already signed up for a class. *Mr. Ulbricht* asked is there anyone that can be called in in case something happens? Mr. Weinman stated that not a PT fire fighter at the moment, but there are other FT.

Mr. Ulbricht stated that he had a volunteer that is part of Houston FD, but couldn't wear HFD gear while he was fighting for Pattison VFD. *Mr. Ulbricht* stated that a fire fighter got into a mess not having any gear, but that he still doesn't have any gear. Captain Orsak commented that his gear has been ordered and on the way. *Mr. Albert* stated that no one will get new gear unless they have been a fire fighter for a year and 3 years for custom gear. *Mr. Ulbricht* said that ESD needs to get EMS and Fire on the same page. Mr. Weinman said that they can get the PT people on protocol by taking an 8 hr. course and ride 2 – 12 hour shifts and once the EMS signs off then they are good.

Mr. Davis asked if they are giving PT new or custom gear and Mr. Weinman said no. *Mr. Davis* then asked why it is taking so long for the Pattison VFD to get his gear? Mr. Weinman said that the gear manufacturers have to go to a material supplier and the material supplier was out of fabric. Mr. Weinman said they are now supplied and are back to 2 week turnaround on "off the shelf" gear. *Mr. Albert* said another thing on the budget you will see a big increase is for paid PT duty crews, he went ahead and put in there to add a crew for Prairie View, Hempstead, and Brookshire. Out of the group of people that were interviewed they can get their bunker gear on order and start working as of January 1st if the budget is approved. *Mr. Ferguson* asked if Katy #6 is put on a line item and Kristin Gunderson said yes. *Mr. Tommy Albert* made a motion to accept the 2019 District Budget. *Mr. Darwin Hargrave* second the motion, which passed 5-0.

4. **To review and take action on the 2018 tax rate, including approving an Order setting the tax rate.** *Mr. Tommy Davis* read the "Resolution Adopting the 2018 AD Valorem Tax Rates for Waller-Harris Emergency Services District No. 200". *Mr. Davis* took roll call and asked each Commissioner if they were "For" or "Against". All 5 Commissioners voted "For" the new tax rate.
5. **To review, discuss and take action on grant priorities and to engage the services of a grant-writing consultant.** *Mr. Tommy Davis* stated that Brian Cantrell has someone to do the grant-writing for ESD. *Mr. Davis* also asked what the grant is for. Barry Weinman stated that is has to be for payroll. *Mr. Gary Ferguson* stated that there was a big raise for Barry Weinman. Barry Weinman stated that it isn't a raise, it is to make his position FT instead of PT. *Mr. Gary Ferguson* stated that if we are awarded the grant, it is a step down. *Mr. Ferguson* asked that if we use it for payroll, does it include the taxes as well? *Mr. Ferguson* asked once this 4-5 years is up, are we going to have to come up with the money used by the grant. Mr. Weinman stated yes. *Mr. Ferguson* asked aren't we already paying \$500,000 for payroll? Mr. Weinman stated yes. *Mr. Tommy Davis* stated that Monaville has already been awarded a grant in the amount of

\$474,000 Safer Grant. Mr. Weinman stated that he didn't know anything about Monaville applying for the grant. Mr. Weinman also stated that the Chief of Monaville is the one who approves the grants. None of the Board of Commissioners had any knowledge of this. *Mr. Tommy Davis* requested that we make a copy of the grant and send it over to Mr. Peeler. *Mr. Tommy Albert* made a motion to table the grant for now. *Mr. Hollis Ulbricht* second the motion, which passed 5-0.

6. To act on annual review of Investment Policy and name investment officer. *Mr. Tommy Albert* was named the investment officer. *Mr. Gary Ferguson* made the motion. *Mr. Darwin Hargrave* second the motion, which passed 5-0.

7. To review and take action to approve minutes from prior meetings, including revisions to same. Mr. Peeler didn't get a chance to revise the minutes. No Action.

8. Adjourn. *Mr. Gary Ferguson* made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. *Mr. Hollis Ulbricht* second the motion, which passed 5-0.

Tommy Albert, Secretary/Treasurer