

PANOLA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 met in a regular called meeting on the 15th day of April 2025. The meeting was held at the Carthage Civic Center located at 1702 S. Adams Street in Carthage, Panola Co Texas at 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Taylor Harris, Justin Yates, Stuart Lipsey, and Cliff Todd

Absent: Palmer Fuselier

1. Chairman Lipsey opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and established a quorum. Todd offered a prayer.
2. Board members then reviewed the minutes from the March 18, 2025 regular meeting and approved them on a motion by Todd, a second by Yates, and a unanimous vote following.
3. Under public comments and suggestions, the following was discussed: Chairman Lipsey introduced Leslie Wiley as the new ESD administrative person. Robert Delconte gave Scott Yarnell an open meeting record and asked to have Community Four discussed in open records. Dave Atkinson from TEEEX distributed information to firemen and Chairman Lipsey introduced Taylor Harris as the new board member.
4. Chairman Lipsey gave recognition to ESD Commissioner Todd on his recent accomplishment of becoming a Certified Emergency Services Commissioner. Todd conducted 25 hours of training and specific other courses over two years to achieve this title.
5. Chairman Lipsey discussed officer positions as follows: In light of Taylor Harris being appointed to the board, new appointments are needed. Chairman Lipsey instructed Harris to complete Open Meetings Act training and Public Information Act training. After the discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Harris, and a unanimous vote following, appointments are as follows: President Stuart Lipsey, Vice President Justin Yates, Secretary Taylor Harris, Treasurer Palmer Fuselier and Vice Treasurer Cliff Todd.
6. The Chiefs Association Mark Dawson and Panola County Fire Marshal Bryan Murff made a presentation as follows: Murff discussed the purchase of new air packs and charges for hydrotesting that were paid for from his budget. Discussed that all reimbursements for grants and insurance go to the ESD, as the ESD pays the premiums.
7. Chairman Lipsey proposed to the board that the new board attorney, Ken Campbell, hold an ESD 101 training class. After discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Yates, and a unanimous vote following, Chairman Lipsey instructed Leslie Wiley to speak with Attorney Campbell about cost and coordinate scheduling.
8. The board discussed imposing a time limit per person or topic in public comments during ESD meetings. After discussion, on a motion by Harris, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following, Chairman Lipsey was authorized to limit public comments to 2 minutes per person or topic in public comments.

9. Chairman Lipsey discussed Attorney Campbell's recommendation to have Inter-Community VFD converted from a 501c4 to a 501c3 as follows: The cost to make this change is approximately \$2,000. After the discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Harris, and a unanimous vote following, the change from 501c4 to a 501c3 for Inter-Community VFD was authorized.
10. Chairman Lipsey discussed that Ken Campbell would like the ESD to have a separate "Dishonesty Insurance Policy". Board will look over with Attorney Campbell when he comes.
11. Chairman Lipsey went over the capital outlay request from Scott Yarnell with Inter-Community to buy a used brush truck for the new station on TX FM 123 as follows: Yarnell presented the board with information on a 2003 Stewart Stevenson brush truck with 12,000 miles, located in Lonestar, Texas. Yarnell explained the truck is in great condition, has new tires and is fully operational. Jenkins Volunteer Fire Department is asking \$5,000 and agreed to produce the title to the ESD prior to purchase. Nixon to cut check from Inter-Community's capital outlay account. The motion includes to correct the April 2025 agenda: "new station on TX FM 123" to "new station on TX FM 31". After the discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Yates, and a unanimous vote following, the purchase of said brush truck for Inter-Community VFD was authorized.
12. The board discussed the request from Murff for a payment from contingency for a pump motor repair for Intercommunity VFD for approximately \$2,100. After the discussion, on a motion by Harris, a second by Yates, and a unanimous vote following, the payment for repair was authorized.
13. Chairman Lipsey went over his discussion with Attorney Campbell over Policies and Procedures and Internal Control Policies. Rachael Payne and Attorney Campbell are currently working on it.
14. Chairman Lipsey discussed various options for utilizing the services of Leslie Wiley as an ESD administrative person. The option to be a Panola County employee is off the table, leaving Wiley to be paid under Nixon's CPA agreement or the ESD hiring her as an employee. Lipsey will consult with Attorney Campbell if an ESD job is required to be posted. Board agrees she be on a part-time, three-month contract with a salary of \$1,900/month. After the discussion, on a motion by Harris, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following, the discussed plan of action for hiring Wiley was approved.
15. Chairman Lipsey discussed the new VFD contracts and related banking changes. Nixon to transfer balance over \$10,500 monthly to the respective VFD capital budgets. Nixon will be able to tell each department how much is in their capital gain account after May 2025. After the discussion, on a motion by Harris, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following, transfer of overflow money to capital budgets was approved.
16. Chairman Lipsey discussed interlocal agreements with the City of Carthage and City of Tatum/Tatum VFD/Rusk County Emergency Services District #1. After the discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Harris, and a unanimous vote following, Chairman Lipsey was authorized to

sign the contract presented by the City of Carthage and continue to work with Attorney Campbell on an agreement for Tatum.

17. Chairman Lipsey discussed the training he and Commissioner Todd attended with Safe D over sales tax programs as follows: Rusk County reports that they have collected approximately \$3,000,000 under the program. Lipsey went over the potential revenue for our ESD if this sales tax program were imposed for Panola County. If the ESD should move forward with this, Beckville and Gary must be carved out as they already have a sales tax program. After the discussion, on a motion by Yates, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following, Todd and Harris were authorized to form a subcommittee to research the process and potential revenue possibilities.
18. Drew Nixon presented the bills that needed to be paid, with the direction to not approve the Tatum check yet and the First State Bank was authorized to add Taylor Harris as a signator on any ESD bank accounts. After discussing and looking over the bills, on a motion by Todd, a second by Harris, and a unanimous vote following, the bills that were presented were approved for payment.
19. The monthly financial statements were presented by Nixon and he updated the departments on their budget items. Nixon discussed the many budget adjustments occurring currently and after May 2025 he will read balances for annual budgets for each VFD. Nixon to find out from Rachael Payne when the next audit is. After the discussion, on motion by Yates, a second by Harris and a unanimous vote following, the monthly financial statements were approved.
20. Chairman Lipsey then adjourned the meeting at 8:18 PM on a motion by Todd and without objection. The next meeting will be held at the Carthage Civic Center located at 1702 S. Adams Street in Carthage, Panola Co Texas and is tentatively set for May 20, 2025 which is set to start at 7:00PM.

  
Board Member  
Dated 5/20/25