

PANOLA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 met in a regular called meeting on the 18th day of March 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.

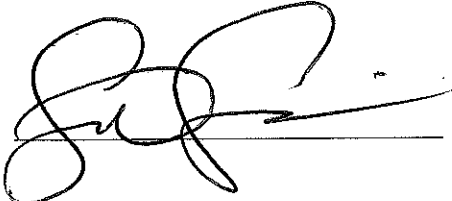
Members Present: Justin Yates, Stuart Lipsey, Palmer Fuselier. and Cliff Todd

Absent:

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 February 18, 2025 regular meeting and approved them on a motion by Todd, a second by Fuselier, and a unanimous vote following.
3. Under public comments and suggestions, the following was discussed: DelConte said he was having an issue with public records with Intercommunity and Community Four. They are saying the ESD is solely responsible for all open records information. He thanked the board members for getting all their training current.
4. The Chiefs Association Mark Dawson and Panola County Fire Marshal Bryan Murff made a presentation and requests as follows: Murff said all pump tests were completed and in good order. Nothing from Dawson.
5. Chairman Lipsey went over his discussion with the attorney as follow: He thanked Judge Anderson for all his hard work over the years but felt with all the legislative changes it would be advisable to get the attorney that works with Safe D exclusively on ESD matters to advise them with all that was going on. He had drafted the contract that Safe D had sent for Lipsey to review. He shared an email he had received from Campbell about his rates. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Fuselier, and a unanimous vote following, Chairman Lipsey was authorized to take whatever action was necessary to retain Kenneth Campbell as the ESDs attorney.
6. Chairman Lipsey went over his discussion with a candidate for the administrative position to assist the district as follows: He said that due to all the many items that have been added to required duties of the ESD over the years, many of those items were just not items our CPA firm needed to be doing so the ESD needed a person to specifically handle a lot of these new items from the past five to ten years. He had visited with a lady that has fire bookkeeping background that he felt was helpful. He had visited with Judge McClane and they had extra space and office items in the same building with Murff. Judge said it would take some time and require posting and Commissioners Court approval to actually put someone on the payroll even if the employee was dedicated solely to ESD items and 100% of her costs were re-imbursed by the ESD to the count. Nixon went over options for having her as an employee on his books and simply using this as a special projects item that is outlined under the current Engagement agreement with the ESD. After the discussion, on a motion by Fuselier, second by Yates, and a unanimous vote following Lipsey was authorized to handle whatever was needed to get the position filled and in place as soon as practical.

7. Chairman Lipsey went over the draft contract between the ESD and the VFDs that had been prepared by Safe D attorney Kenneth Campbell. The following discussion followed: Newly approved attorney Campbell was also on the phone to answer questions. Lipsey went over the questions he had on the agreement along with questions several VFD chiefs had raised. Campbell answered questions and was going to work up some changes he felt could be made to the contract and would re-send it to the ESD to review. After the discussion, on a motion by Fuselier, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote that follows, Chairman Lipsey was authorized to review the contract revisions and if they agree with what was agreed, he could then execute the new contracts and have the chiefs sign also.
8. Chairman Lipsey went over the options for payment of ongoing VFD bills. He then went over the items needed to get the various checking accounts into compliance. A few of the Chiefs ask about quarterly payments. The initial amount considered was starting with a \$4,000 account balance. Several of the chiefs thought that was too low of an operating balance. After some discussion, \$10,500 was agreed to since that basically represented $\frac{1}{4}$ of annual budget. This was a suggestion from CPA Payne. After the discussions, on a motion by Fuselier, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following, the First State Bank was authorized to transfer all account balances over \$10,500 out of the 7 ESD/VFD accounts and back into the main operating account of the ESD. The First State Bank was authorized to stop the automatic transfers into these accounts out of the main ESD account, the First State Bank was authorized to take whatever action was necessary to have the accounts converted from ESD accounts using their EIN number and back into the ownership of the VFDs using their individual EIN numbers, the First State Bank was authorized to remove all ESD board members from the signature cards of the converted VFD accounts, the First State Bank was authorized to remove retired board member Giles from the ESD accounts and add new board member Justin Yates. Chairman Lipsey was authorized to help coordinate any items needed to accomplish the above items. The plan adopted calls for the accounts to begin with the \$10,500 balance which will represent a loan from the ESD to each VFD to be used as operating capital. Each month VFDs will turn in support for expenditures they have made from their accounts and if appropriate and properly supported, will receive a reimbursement from the ESD into their VFD accounts to bump them back up to the \$10,500 balance.
9. Chairman Lipsey went over the need for an interlocal agreement with the City of Carthage and either the City of Tatum or the Rusk County ESD #1 related to the payments the ESD has been making. The discussion was as follows: Lipsey said the City attorney was preparing an interlocal agreement to cover the funds we pay them for mutual aid inside the ESD service area. He then went over his discussions with Rusk County ESD#1 to enter into a similar agreement with them for the benefit of Tatum VFD and the area inside Panola County that they serve. Attorney Campbell requested the ability to review these agreements before being executed. After the discussion, on a motion by Fuselier, a second by Yates, and a unanimous vote following, Chairman Lipsey was authorized to act as needed to get this new agreement into effect with the assistance of Attorney Campbell.

10. Chairman Lipsey presented the bills that needed to be paid. The following discussion was related to the paying of the bills: He presented the bills to be paid and all looked over them. After some discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Yates, and a unanimous vote following, the bills that were presented were approved for payment.
11. Treasurer Fuselier presented the monthly financial statements and updated the departments on their budget items. He then went over the cash balances in the ESD accounts and CDs. After a brief discussion on motion by Fuselier, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following they were approved and the First State Bank was authorized to move \$700,000 out of the main operating account and into the new higher yielding money market account so the ESD could earn a bit more interest on funds not currently needed.
12. Chairman Lipsey then adjourned the meeting at 8:54 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 April 15, 2025 which is set to start at 7:00PM.



Board Member

Dated

4/15/25