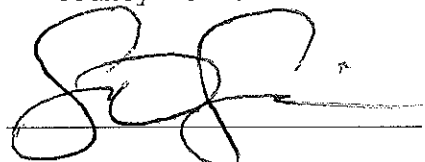


PANOLA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #1 met for a regular called meeting on the 17th day of June 2025. The meeting was held at the Carthage Civic Center Street located at 1702 South Adams Street in Carthage, Panola County Texas at 7:00 P.M.

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

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 May 20, 2025 regular meeting and the May 30, 2025 audit meeting then approved them on a motion by Fuselier, a second by Todd, and a unanimous vote following.
3. Under public comments and suggestions Chairman Lipsey discussed he and Murff's visit to Panola Pride on June 14th. Lipsey explained that they discussed the role of the ESD in Panola County and its importance with Jerry Hanszen. He asked that the VFD's also sit for Panola Pride to get their activity and roles within the community broadcasted to the public as it will help in the upcoming sales and use tax vote. Lipsey will look into the Panola Watchman writing a piece on the ESD and VFD's in the paper.
4. The Chiefs Association Mark Dawson announced that he will remain the President of the Association until October then decide if he will retire from his position or not. Chief Dawson presented the board with a 2026 proposed budget for all of the VFD's and a draft of a six-year ESD plan.
5. The board discussed current ESD/VFD insurance and bonds. Per Attorney Campbells suggestions the Treasurer Bond was increased to 100k and "crime coverage" under the insurance policy was increased to 100k/each.
6. The board reviewed the Interlocal Agreement with Tatum/Tatum VFD/Rusk County ESD completed by Attorney Campbell. After review and discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Fuselier and a unanimous vote following, the board approved the Tatum Interlocal Agreement. Agreement will be signed by Chairman Lipsey and Secretary Harris then sent to Tatum for their approval.
7. The board discussed ordering an election on the adoption of a sales and use tax in the District for November 4, 2025, reviewed preliminary property tax evaluations and estimated tax collection options. Attorney Campbell is working on getting the ETJ in the ESD's taxable zone. Chairman Lipsey spoke with the Tatum mayor and they expressed interest in getting the extra tax percentage. The board decided to give Tatum time to do so and vote on moving forward with the election at the July ESD meeting. Todd reported that the Crossroads magazine is no longer in business so that's out as an option for ESD media coverage.
8. The board discussed the hiring of a new ESD auditor. After discussion, on a motion by Todd, a second by Fuselier and a unanimous vote following, the board approved the hiring of ESD auditor Margaret Nixon.

9. Chief Coxen from Flatwoods VFD reported that unit 705 is back in operation after the auto charger was repaired and batteries replaced.
10. Intercommunity VFD reported that unit 5510 is currently at H & H Engines waiting for repairs on the injector. VFD will pay for repairs from their operating account.
11. The board discussed the upcoming budget for the 2026 calendar year and tax items. It was requested that the ESD include a 30k contribution in the budget towards the Carthage Fire Department training facility for additions as our VFD's frequently use this facility. CPA Nixon will assess the budget and report at the July meeting.
12. CPA Jason Woodfin presented the bills to be paid. After discussing and looking over the bills, on a motion by Todd, a second by Fuselier, and a unanimous vote following, the bills that were presented were approved for payment.
13. The monthly financial statements were presented by CPA Woodfin. Treasurer Fuselier reported that the best option for the CD maturing at First State Bank is to roll into a new cd. After the discussion, on a motion by Harris, a second by Yates and a unanimous vote following, the monthly financial statements and decision to roll into a new CD was approved.
14. Chairman Lipsey then adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM on a motion by Todd and without objection. The next regular meeting will be held at the Carthage Civic Center located at 1702 S. Adams Street in Carthage, Panola County Texas and is tentatively set for July 15, 2025 to start at 7:00PM.



Board Member

Dated 7/22/25