

THE STATE OF TEXAS X KENEDY COUNTY FIRE AND
COUNTY OF KENEDY X EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1

On the 11th day of September, 2023, at 6:30 o'clock p.m. a Regular Meeting of the Kenedy County Fire & Emergency Services District No. 1 was held at the Kenedy County Fire & Emergency Services District #1 Fire Station, 350 N. Mallory Street, Sarita, Texas.

Commissioners Present:

William Dieterle
Lorraine Burns
Melinda Vela
Rogelio Salinas

Also Present:

Leo Villarreal
Jose E. Mendieta, Fire Chief
James Carr
Judge Charles E. Burns
Grace Salinas
Sylvia H. Villarreal

Absent:

Daniel Alaniz

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

William Dieterle called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

2. **Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

3. **Discuss & Act on Minutes of August 14, 2023 and August 24, 2023**

William Dieterle presented the Fire Commissioners' Minutes of the regular Fire Commissioners' meeting of August 14, 2023 and special Fire Commissioners' meeting of August 24, 2023.

Commissioner Melinda Vela moved and Commissioner Lorraine Burns seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the August 14, 2023, minutes of the Fire Commissioners' Regular Meeting be accepted as presented.

4. Receive Representative with SFFMA Regarding Volunteer Retirement Benefits, and Act, If Necessary

Leo Villarreal informed the Fire Commissioners that Scott Miller with TESRS was unable to come to the meeting and his visit was to be reschedule; therefore, this item needed to be tabled.

Commissioner Melinda Vela moved and Commissioner Rogelio Salinas seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that this item be tabled and be reschedule for the October 11, 2023 meeting.

5. Discuss & Act on Fire Chief's Report

- a. Training Drills**
- b. Meetings and Projects**
- c. Fire/Emergency Incidents Handled in August 2023**
- d. Fuel Consumption Report**
- e. Truck Repairs Report**

Jose E. Mendieta, Fire Chief, presented his Fire Chief's report to the Fire Commissioners. He reported the following:

Training:

- 08/08/2023 Checked all units and cleaned and organized compartments
- 08/15/2023 Attended Fire District meeting
- 08/22/2023 Had a class on pumping and working with the tractor
- 08/29/2023 Had a class on using the foam systems in the truck

Meetings/Projects:

- Spoke with Annville Fire Department to obtain a mechanic to look at air leak in tanker
- On August 28, 2023, TDHS offered immunizations for children needing them; they will return on September 23, 2023 with Covid vaccines
- Spoke with Red Cross during Tropical Storm Harold
- Met with Red Cross regarding Smoke Alarm installations in homes in Sarita
- Purchased ice machine
- Spoke with Don from Wildfire Brush Trucks regarding foam tanks on Brush 1 and 2
- Command truck frontend repaired regarding death wobble and brakes
- Met with Halo and wind farms regarding setting up an exercise drill; set up for October 3, 2023 in the morning
- Will have a workshop with all area Fire Chiefs in Falfurrias regarding last year's fire calls and repairs needed in the area; scheduled for September 26 and 27, 2023
- Received price on the poly tank for the 5-ton truck (800 and 1000-gallon tanks)
- Had sprinkler system repaired
- Obtained quotes for repair of outside and inside lights at Fire Station

<u>Fire Calls</u>	
Vehicle Accidents	1
Vehicle Fires	2
Grass Fires	6
Others (fire alarms & propane fire)	2
Structure Fires	2
Medical Assistance	1
TOTAL CALLS	14

<u>EMS Calls</u>	
Norias	1
Mifflin Armstrong	6
Kenedy County	5
Sarita	5
TOTAL CALLS	17

Commissioner Melinda Vela moved and Commissioner Rogelio Salinas seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Fire Chief's report be accepted as presented and that the Fire Chief is authorized to purchase the 800-gallon poly tank if the price is not more than \$15,000.00 including installation by Siddons-Martin in Corpus Christi.

6. Discuss & Act on Command Standby Officer Compensation

Jose E. Mendieta, Fire Chief, informed the Fire Commissioners that James Creek should be paid \$50.00 for standby/response coverage for the month of August 2023.

Commissioner Melinda Vela moved and Commissioner Lorraine Burns seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that James Creek be paid \$50.00 for standby officer duties.

7. Conduct Public Hearing on Proposed 2024 Budget

William Dieterle called the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2024 Budget of \$792,617.08 to order at 7:15 p.m. and asked if anyone in the audience was interested in addressing the 2023 Proposed Budget.

James Carr addressed the Fire Commissioners regarding his vision for the Fire District; that an election to increase the tax rate to the maximum of \$.10 per hundred in order to have the monies necessary to add improvements to the fire station, purchase equipment and necessary volunteer firefighting vehicles to improve the fire department.

The Commissioners thanked James Carr for his vision and comments.

No other members of the public addressed the proposed 2024 Budget; therefore, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:32 p.m.

8. Discuss & Act on Adopting 2024 Budget

William Dieterle informed the Fire Commissioner of the need to adopt the 2024 Budget of \$792,617.08.

Commissioner Melinda Vela moved and Commissioner Lorraine Burns seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the 2024 Budget in the amount of \$792,617.08 be adopted as presented.

9. Conduct Public Hearing on Proposed 2023 Tax Rate

William Dieterle called the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2023 Tax Rate to order at 7:35 p.m. and asked if anyone in the audience was interested in addressing the 2023 Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.052916.

No members of the public commented; therefore, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:36 p.m.

10. Discuss & Act on Adopting 2023 Tax Rate

William Dieterle informed the Fire Commissioner of the need to adopt the 2023 Tax Rate of \$0.052916.

Commissioner Melinda Vela moved and Commissioner Rogelio Salinas seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the 2023 Tax Rate in the amount of \$0.052916 per \$100 be adopted as presented.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Tex. Gov't Code, Sec. 551.074, Personnel – Jose E. Mendieta

William Dieterle informed the Fire Commissioners of the need to enter into an Executive Session at 7:36 p.m.

12. OPEN SESSION: Discuss & Act on Items Addressed in Executive Session

William Dieterle called the Open Session to order at 8:33 p.m.

No motion was made, therefore, no action was taken.

13. Discuss & Act on Date to Certify Tax Roll and Date for Next Regular Meeting

William Dieterle informed the Fire Commissioners of the need to set a date to certify the and roll and for the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Melinda Vela moved and Commissioner Rogelio Salinas seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the meeting to certify the tax roll be held on

September 28, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. and the next regular meeting be held on October 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

14. Discuss & Act on Payment of Bills

William Dieterle presented the bills for the month ending August 31, 2023, to the Fire Commissioners and informed the Fire Commissioners that the bills should be considered for payment.

Commissioner Melinda Vela moved and Commissioner Rogelio Salinas seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the bills be paid as presented.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, Commissioner Lorraine Burns moved and Commissioner Melinda Vela seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Fire District's Commissioners' meeting be adjourned at 8:42 o'clock p.m.



William Dieterle, President

ATTESTED TO:

Melinda Vela, Secretary