

Meeting Minutes: ESD 1 Board Meeting

Date: August ¹⁷~~18~~, 2026

Time: 5:03 PM

Location: ESD 1 Firehouse

Attendance

Present: Chris Hughes (President), Kathy Simmons, James Woods, Keith Anderson (Treasurer)

Not Present: Bill Aycock

Staff/Guests: Diane Baccus (Fire Chief), Bob Reeves (Tax Collector), Bo McClure (Citizen)

1. Call to Order The meeting was called to order by President Chris Hughes at 5:03 PM.

2. Minutes June July and August tabled

3. Fire Department Report (Chief Diane Baccus)

Financials: Operating account: \$149,429.53; Savings: \$75,739.96; Fundraiser: \$60,717.72.

Operations: Total calls for the year reached 325. The station was manned 24/7 from July 14 to August 14 for flood relief. Crews restored eight driveways and provided door-to-door aid.

Grants & Equipment:

Texas A&M rejected the tender payment receipt; investigation is ongoing before the October 14 deadline.

State Farm grant denied; UGRA grant pending.

ISO assessment was delayed due to weather.

Fundraising: Gun raffle drawing set for December 19. Pancake supper scheduled for September 12 (\$10/plate).

4. Treasurer's Report & Bills (Keith Anderson)

Report: The board reviewed the current cash position and outstanding checks. The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Bills Approved: Total of \$12,333.09, including \$11,642.01 for bunker gear (PPE) and various vehicle repairs/registration fees.

5. Tax Rate Proposal FY 2026-2027 (Bob Reeves)

Market Overview: Taxable values are leveling due to a stagnant market and a new \$125,000 business personal property exemption (removing ~\$13M from the roll).

Proposed Rate: The board unanimously moved to propose a tax rate of **\$0.0130** per \$100 valuation.

Rationale: Targets a balanced budget; the current rate (\$0.0122) would result in an \$8,000 deficit.

Impact: Estimated annual increase of \$1.00 to \$5.84 for the average homestead.

Facilities & Fleet Maintenance

Kitchen Remodel: A \$25,599.98 proposal from ^{CASA}~~Coffee~~ Keepers was reviewed. The board agreed to split costs with the department but tabled the project until the next fiscal year (October) to align with the new budget and LCRA grant cycles.

Fleet: Units 502, 503, and 509 are scheduled for maintenance. Unit 514 requires sandblasting and plumbing upgrades (2-3 week downtime).

6. Governance

Resignation: Chris Hughes announced his resignation as President effective September 30. He recommended Kathy Simmons as his successor.

Board Vacancies: Three seats are up for renewal. The board is actively seeking Precinct 1 representation.

7. Citizen Comment:

Bo McClure contested his dismissal from the department. Chief Baccus and leadership maintained the dismissal followed SOPs regarding conduct at a funeral. The board declined to intervene, citing the department's internal appeals process.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Upcoming Dates Pancake Supper

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM at the Firehouse