

**NUECES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR  
5781 FM 666, ROBSTOWN, TEXAS 78380  
AGENDA NOTICE REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT  
FIRE STATION NUMBER ONE  
5781 FM 666, ROBSTOWN, TX 78380**

**MINUTES FOR March 13, 2024**

The Fire Commissioners of the Nueces County Emergency Services District Number Four held a special meeting on **March 13, 2024 Wednesday at 8:00 AM**, in the conference room, 5781 FM 666, Fire Station No. 1, Robstown, Texas:

*Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Ernest R. Garza at 361-241-2452 at least 48 hours in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.*

*PUBLIC NOTICE is given that the Commission may go into executive session at any time during the meeting in order to discuss matters listed on the agenda, when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. In the event the Commission elects to go into executive session regarding any agenda item, the section or sections of the Open Meetings Act authorizing the executive session will be publicly announced by the presiding officer. The Commission may also address items in no particular order.*

The minutes are as follows:

**AGENDA**

1. **CALL TO ORDER & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.**

Chairperson will call the meeting of the Nueces County Emergency Services District Number Four to order and let the record show that a quorum of the Board Members is present; that the meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Commissioners present –Otis Grupe, Paul Swetish and Geoff Atwood Absent – Jesse Guerra and Donald Hermann - Quorum established. Meeting opened at 8:02 a.m.

8:03 a.m. Donald Hermann arrives.

Others present – Ernest R, Garza, CPA, Assist Chief Oscar Zepeda, – Michael Clack – NCESD#4 Fire Chief and NCESD#4 EMS Director Stephanie Simmons.

2. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:** A). To approve the February 14, 2024 regular board meeting minutes.

The commissioners reviewed the February 14, 2024 regular board meeting minutes, after the review, a motion to approve the February 14, 2024 regular board meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Swetish, motion was seconded by Commissioner Swetish, motion passed 4-0.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: B). Distributions and/or prepaids February 13, 2024 to March 13, 2024.

Accountant Garza stated the fire expenditures were \$13,439.96 and the EMS expenditures were \$52,209.52 for the February 13, 2024 to March 13, 2024 period. After a review of the expenditures, a motion to approve the Fire and EMS expenditures was made by Commissioner Swetish, Motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe, motioned passed 4-0.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: C). To approve the February 29, 2024 Financial Statements.

Accountant Garza stated that our cash position at February 29, 2024 was \$2,389,633 compared to \$1,857,390 for the prior year, this was \$532,243 higher in 2024 than 2023. Revenue for the 5 month period of February 29, 2024 were \$1,104,351 and expenditures were \$418,043 for a net revenue over expenditures of \$386,308. This compares to the prior period in 2023 when revenue were \$1,051,188 and expenditures were \$398,757 for a net of \$65,431. Therefore we are up \$33,877 comparing 2024 to 2023. A motion to approve the February 29, 2024 financial statement was made by Commissioner Swetish, motion was seconded by Commissioner Hermann, motion passed 4-0.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Fire Chiefs Report. A). Public relations B). Training C). Station/equipment status D). Fire Calls.

Station Update:

1. Received quote for spray foam for portable storage buildings and the well house, has issued a PO just waiting on contractors schedule..
2. The electrician finished the well house and the pump for the trucks is working so the fire trucks can be filled at the station now.
3. The roll off dumpster was delivered last week and the volunteers have done a great job cleaning up around the station and the property.
4. Chief will start working on getting station 2 plumbed and wired for a pump like station 1 new pump.
5. EMS Director Stephanie has been working with the tax office for property on station 3. Will be worked with the attorney.

Truck Update

1. Brush 42 is in service and we will get it placed at station 2.
2. Brush 43 will be taken out of service in a couple of weeks so that we can replace the pump on it.
3. Rescue 41 needs to go to the shop for a/c replacement and then get the frontend aligned.

4. I will start pulling the lights and fire stuff off of Tanker 42 (the military tanker) so that we can work on getting rid of it. The surplus has one for \$9,800. It is marked down from \$12,000. How do we want to proceed with getting rid of it, do we want to wait for the TCEQ to open the TERP grant? Do we want to try accept sealed bids, or send it to an auction? Chief reported the thought we could see on E-Bay also as an auction item.
5. The white dodge is at the shop going to install lights and siren on it.
6. Assist Fire Chief Zepeda should be done with preventive maintenance except the medic units which we will do as needed.

#### Membership

1. We had one volunteer whose gear has been ordered and another one who will be sized on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March.
2. Turnout for training is still going good – last Monday the crew trained on driving and made sure everyone could operate the brush trucks, last night the crew finished training on the brush trucks and clearing people to drive and trained on the tanker and how to use the stations tank and pump to fill trucks.

#### EMS

1. Our medical director came by and did an audit of drugs and inspected ambulances
2. Knox boxes are installed and being used.
3. EMS calls
  - a. January 48 calls
  - b. February 52 calls
  - c. As of March 10, 2024 14 calls.

Chief asked for a approval of the selling the surplus truck at \$9,800. Commissioner Swetish motioned to place the truck on EBay at \$9,800. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe. Motion was approved 4-0.

Motion to go into executive session at 8:52 a.m. under 551.072 by Commissioner Swetish, motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe. 4-0 vote to go into executive session.

Board came out of executive session at 8:56 a.m.

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: EMS Report. A). Public relations B). Training C). Station/equipment status D). EMS Calls. E). Employment – personnel.

Included in Fire Chief's report.

5. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Frost Connect for NCESD#4 and ACH transactions.

Chief Clack explained how we could save time by paying vendors and payroll online thru Frost Connect. Commissioner Swetish asked Mr. Garza how this would work. Mr. Garza prepared the invoices sent to the Fire Chief or EMS Director for coding and approval. Mr. Garza explained that this would save time having to come by the office to sign checks. After the discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Swetish to set up the Frost Connect and ACH transactions. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe. Motion was approved 4-0.

6. DISCUSSION: Avina Clean Hydrogen, Inc. AKA (Amonia Plant) and all matters related thereof.

Chief Clack made a report that is included in the minutes regarding the Amonia Plant. Apparently water availability is the reason for the 1889 location. The permits are in the process. Concern was explained by the danger because of 18 wheeler caring the ammonia and when accidents happed and releases happen.

7. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Public Comment.

President Atwood explained to the public that was present and some that had signed up that that public comment is for the public to make a comment but the board could not respond. So questions cannot be answered back. Seven people signed up to speak – a summary of that public comment is the following, a 2 minute comment time limit was set on each participant:

Alma Studer- Ms. Studer stated her concerns of the development and how it would affect the area. Concerns of accidents that happen because of human error, open tanks, seals that break.

Bette Cranford – Emphasized the errors that happen and danger of these tanks and the water issue. Very concerned with human error on dangerous chemicals.

Myra Alaniz – Stated there is no benefit for the area, wonders who is benefitting for this plant. Discrepancies on the amount of water the water plant says the Amonia plant will need – is it 7.2 million, 7.8 million??? The water plant will be at 75% capacity. The contract has discrepancies on the amount of water needed.

Marie Lucio – Stated the Amonia plant is no benefit and is not good for the area. This will be piped and is not good.

Thomas Dulon – Stated he had signed in but no comment.

Sandra Arizmendi – Wanted to know why not notified the public, TCEQ application? They are out of the ETJ (extra territorial jurisdiction) TCEQ air permits been issued ?? This will be piped to the Port of Corpus Christi. Don't really need our approval.

Denise Rhodes – Had questions on 1). time of meeting, She is a school teacher and can't make the meetings during the day. 2). Heard they were doing away with Bluntzer Fire station. Banquete?? 3). What is the relationship with Annville here??

Other comments/questions were what equipment does the fire department have to handle an ammonia plant?

8. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Training.

EMS Director Stephanie Simmons went over a Cybersecurity Awareness Training with the board and the awareness training to educate the local government board and employees about the risks of using computers, networks, and electronic devices. Discussion of keeping personal information off computers, password protection and other threats, cyber attacks.

9. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Grupe, motion was seconded by Commissioner Hermann. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting ended at 9:02 a.m.

Commissioner

Signature

Date