

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2024

1. Hank Dembosky called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.
2. Hank Dembosky led the Board in prayer.
3. Hank Dembosky led the Board in the pledges of allegiance.
4. Guests (4) in attendance are noted on the attached sign-in sheet.
5. Commissioners in attendance: President, Hank Dembosky; Treasurer, Colleen Majoue; Assistant Treasurer, Claren Kotrla; Secretary, Judy Bryant. Vice-President, Skip Smith, was absent.
6. Pecan Prairie Solar Project update was provided by Project Manager Carolyn Hiebert of Repsol (formerly ConnectGEN). Substation construction is ongoing. GeoTech analysis pilot testing is on track to mobilize to the site by the end of July 2024. Thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000) in site improvements (steel, cable, civil site preparations) should be done by the end of this fiscal year. There will be a road use agreement with the county and insurance for any road damage. The construction schedule is being finalized, and updates will be provided for Highway 3 traffic impacts. Dembosky will provide contact information for Greg Nelson to Ms. Hiebert. He will also provide contact information for Chris Moss so that road/traffic information can be posted in The Normangee Star. Additionally, Dembosky will contact Gransolar LLC to get an update on the planned battery storage facility. Repsol will contact all ESDs and VFDs about the Emergency Response Plan.
7. (a) Treasurer Majoue reported that Check #1500 in the amount of \$907.50 (invoice 10456) needs to be issued to Carlton Law Firm for legal services. Bryant motioned to approve, with a second by Kotrla. Motion carried.
(b) Majoue reported on March and April 2024 financials (report attached). Check #1471 to Carlton Law Firm, in the amount of \$99, has not yet cleared the bank. Prosperity Bank checking account earns 3.03% interest, and Normangee State Bank checking account earns 1.0%. Majoue motioned to approve the monthly financial reports, with a second by Bryant. Motion carried.
(c) Sales tax revenue for May 2024 was \$5,120.24.
8. The HTL VFD/EMS Financial and Activity Reports (attached) were presented by Jim Hawthorne and Sherri Guerra. The monthly performance measures reported are noted in the activity report. Guerra reported that times are estimated because some things have not been updated in the new computer system. Majoue motioned to approve the reports, with a second by Bryant. Motion carried.
 - EMS Calls: 28

- Average Response Time: 7 mins
- Average Out-of-Chute Time: 2 mins
- Fire Training Hours: 13.5
- Volunteer Response Hours: 37

(a) New ambulance is expected to arrive in June 2024. The contract will be amended to say that ESD will, with proof of full coverage insurance on the ambulance, deposit \$3,740.60 of sales tax money monthly into the VFD checking account for the monthly ambulance payment. A St. Joseph helicopter will be set up in Centerville. Leon County residents will be transported free of charge.

(b) Sam Frusti, new EMS Director, begins work Friday, May 24, 2024. Jennifer Travis will be Assistant EMS Director. VFD currently has 17-18 volunteers.

As of April 30, 2024, VFD is no longer involved in HTL security.

9. (a) We will continue to follow ESD No. 2 Record Retention Guide, dated 04/09/12, and any updates from the 2024 SAFE-D Conference. Bryant/Kotrla/Majoue to resume file retention and destruction, as appropriate.

(b) Workers comp insurance has been cancelled. We will receive a prorated refund.

(c) Dembosky attended a May 13th public hearing on tax abatement. Leon County may receive tax money from the \$35,000,000 site improvements mentioned in #6 above.

Dembosky is in contact with Leon County Appraisal District to keep them informed of what is happening in our area.

(d) No discussion regarding Emergency Planning/CERT.

10. By August 2024, we need to have budget information/Tax Planning Calendar from Carlton Law Firm put together. There is approximately \$20,000 more on appraisal this year. If that's the case, HTL VFD will get \$310,000 from us, instead of \$290,000.

11. Rather than using Carlton Law Firm for the amendment to the contract with HTL VFD/EMS, ESD No. 2 (specifically Dembosky and Smith) will prepare it internally. The amendment will include (1) how much and when we will give funds to HTL VFD/EMS for the ambulance loan.

12. Majoue made a motion, with a second by Kotrla, to approve the April 16, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

13. Dembosky, Majoue and Bryant provided a copy of their 2024 Safe-D Training Certificates.

14. Dembosky, on behalf of ESD No. 2, sent two thank you letters for HTL VFD/EMS donations.

15. No public comments.

16. Next meeting is Tuesday, June 18, at 6pm.

17. At 8:17pm, Kotrla made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Majoue. Motion carried.