

MINUTES OF MEETING

Gregg County Emergency Services District No.2
Regular Meeting Minutes
6:30 PM
August 4, 2015
736 Wilkins Rd.
Gladewater, Texas 75647
Sabine VFD

Greg Colquitt called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Those present were:

Mike Clements
Clyde Willoughby
Daniel Patterson

Also present were Richard Sisk, Chief, Sabine VFD, Chelsea Katz, Vicky Raymond, Jamie Duckworth, Clyde Carter, and Rick Faulkner, Attorney for GCESD No. 2.

Colquitt introduced Gina DeHoyos as the newly appointed Commissioner.

A MOTION was made by Clements and seconded by Willoughby to approve the Minutes of the June 2015 Board of Emergency Services District Commissioner's meeting as corrected. A typographical correction was made to change "once" to "one." The motion passed unanimously.

Gina DeHoyos volunteered to serve as Secretary/Treasurer to replace the resigned commissioner. She was unanimously confirmed. DeHoyos advised that she is a practicing CPA.

The Commissioners discussed the certified real estate values which value was \$373,207,060.00.

Faulkner discussed proceeding under Tax Code § 26.052. Small Taxing Units. GCESD No. 2 qualifies as a small taxing entity because its tax rate is less than \$0.50 per 100 dollar valuation and because the tax revenue generated will be less than \$500,000.00.

A MOTION was made by Colquitt and seconded by Patterson to use procedures for Small Taxing Units, Tax Code § 26.052. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners discussed the proposed tax rate. There was some discussion about the history of the tax rate and the tax rate expected by the voters as a result of the election. The Commissioners discussed that the present stream of income funding the volunteer fire department, namely the approximately \$3,000.00 per month, which is not guaranteed, from a local activity such as bingo and the \$15,000.00 per year from Gregg County would be withdrawn. They also noted that donations had decreased since the formation of the ESD. The Commissioners also discussed the possibility of moving expenditures from the volunteer fire department to the ESD when such expenditures rightly should be charged to the ESD operating the entire fire district.

DeHoyos specifically mentioned the need to build a reserve over the next five years. Sisk reported that there was \$50,000.00 worth of debt on the building owned by the ESD and all vehicles were paid for. Sisk also mentioned that there was an old tanker under a lease agreement with Gregg County built in 1984 which should be removed from service.


A MOTION was made Clements and seconded by Colquitt to adopt a *proposed* tax rate of \$0.10 per 100 dollar valuation. Commissioner Willoughby indicated that he was not comfortable with the \$0.10 proposed tax because it believed that the election had been promoted at \$0.05 per 100 dollar valuation. Sisk responded that the \$0.05 discussion was based on netting \$350,000.00. The discrepancy comes in because the certified property values were less than had been originally anticipated. Therefore, requiring a higher tax rate to generate the same \$350,000.00.

Sisk cited the need for additional expenditures including a tanker that was in unsatisfactory condition and the need for additional personnel to respond to calls. Sisk also indicated that counting on mutual aid was insufficient and that it was not always a reliable source of assistance.

The motion passed. The Board of Commissioners stated that at the next meeting the board would deliberate on and vote on adopting the proposed tax rate as the tax rate for FY 2015-16. The next meeting is set for September 1, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:


Gina DeHoyos, Secretary