



## **JIM WELLS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT # 1 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES– January 13,2026**

Notice is hereby given that a Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Jim Wells County Emergency Services District #1 was held on Tuesday January 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Abel Perez Fire House (APFH) located at 101 FM 1540 in Sandia, Texas 78383 for the following purposes.

### **1) CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice President Patrick Carter at 7:02 pm. Commissioners present were Matthew Schmidt, and Diana Hernandez. Commissioners Abraham Aguilar and Karin Knolle were not present. Business Administrator, Brien Nicolau, joined via phone. Firefighters present were Fire Chief David Bradfute, Captain Ron Cole, Safety Officer Christopher Rodriguez, Lieutenant Gilbert Medrano, and Liza Ochoa.

### **2) PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment.

### **3) INVITED GUEST SPEAKERS and/or VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE.**

No Invited Guests or Visitors.

### **4) SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 09, 2025, Monthly Meeting as presented. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **5) TREASURER'S REPORT**

The beginning ESD #1 statement balance for December 2025 was \$63,583.95. Total cleared checks and payments were \$7,253.11, total deposits were \$333.49, which included \$2.72 in interest. This brings the statement ending balance to \$56,664.33. The total for uncleared checks and new pending transactions was \$5,753.50, resulting in an ending register balance of \$50,910.83 on December 31, 2025. Uncleared transactions after December 31, 2025, \$1,975.00, this makes the register balance \$ 48,935.83 as of January 06, 2026. Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to accept the financial report as presented for December 2025. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **6) SVFD COMMAND STAFF REPORT**

#### **I. Fire Chiefs Incident, Operations, Vehicle, and APFH Maintenance Reports December 2025.**

Chief Bradfute presented the report for December 2025. APFH responded to 2 total calls and Sandia 534 Substation did not respond to any calls. All Units are in service except Unit 5, brush truck, it is back at Kirk's Truck Service Shop to recheck the oil leak work done before because it still has a small leak.

#### **II. Safety Officers Report.**

No Safety Report.

### **7) NEW BUSINESS– Discuss, consider, and take action regarding:**

#### **I. Upcoming firefighter training program and cost.**

Chief Bradfute stated that there are two firefighter training programs coming up. First one is in Annaville, and it is for Apparatus Emergency Vehicle Driver training, it is a 2-day course, and the cost is \$15.00 per firefighter, this is mandatory training. Ten firefighters have signed up for it. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the cost for the Apparatus Emergency Vehicle Driver training course for \$15.00/firefighter, 10 firefighters signed up for it, for a total of \$150.00. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Fire Chief Bradfute stated that the second training course is a Fire Chief course, it is a 4-



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weekend training course. The cost is \$400.00 per weekend, and it covers the hotel and the training, this is also mandatory training for Fire Chiefs. This training course will be held in Buda, Tx. Chief Bradfute said that Asst. Fire Chief Joe Pena might also be attending. Chief Bradfute stated that he will be filing for a grant to see if any of the cost could be reimbursed for the training. Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to approve the cost of the Fire Chief training course for Chief Bradfute and possibly Asst. Chief Pena for a cost of \$400.00 per weekend per person. The total for the whole course is \$3,200.00 if both Chief Bradfute and Asst. Chief Pena go or \$1,600.00 if only Chief Bradfute attends. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- II. Texas Forest Service Grant for \$2400.00 to defray costs of Dry Hydrant installations.

Chief Bradfute stated that there is an option to put a dry hydrant in the Barbone Estates area, the estimated cost for that would be over \$6,000.00 and that would be for one hydrant only. His suggestion is not to make one there because it is not a good location and the grant only covers \$1,200.00 per hydrant for a total of two hydrants. There are not any good locations to build dry hydrants in that area, and the costs are too high, so Chief Bradfute does not think it is a good idea to accept the grant. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion not to accept the \$2400.00 grant for Dry Hydrant Installations from the Texas Forest Service. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **8) OLD BUSINESS (Items tabled for further deliberation, updates, and/or action, or review of quotes/information).**

- I. Update on status of new Brush Truck delivery from Deep South Fire Trucks and loan from Community Leasing.

Mr. Nicolau stated that he has been working with Community Leasing and getting paperwork ready for the financing on our part for the new Brush Truck, we will be putting down 10% of the \$315,250.00 cost. Deep South Fire Trucks should be ready to deliver the new truck by next week. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to accept the loan agreement from Community Leasing Partners and for Mr. Nicolau to proceed with the loan application process for the new Brush Truck. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- II. Update on purchase of volunteer firefighter badges, name plates, and official firefighter ID cards.

Chief Bradfute stated that the IDs have been purchased and he has passed out most of them already. He stated that he will wait till next month to order the badges and name plates.

### **9) PENDING ITEMS (Items previously approved or in process)**

- I. Update on planning for future disaster events.

This is ongoing. No Updates.

- II. Update on establishing a Priority Projects list to present to perspective donors.

This is ongoing. No Updates.

- III. Update on development of Roles and Responsibilities, Operational, and Organizational SOPs for the JWCESD#1/SVFD.

This is ongoing. No Updates.



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- IV. Update on the establishment of a travel policy for attending conferences and training meetings.

Mr. Nicolau emailed the FY 2026 per diem rates for Texas to the Commissioners and discussed that following the State of Texas travel Guidelines would be the best way for the ESD to proceed with travel guidelines for the future. He stated the need for proper receipts and record keeping is required and said that mileage would be paid for personal vehicles driving to approved meetings.

- V. Update on website.

No Update.

### 10) ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Carter adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana Hernandez", written over a horizontal line.

Date Submitted 1-23-26

Commissioner Diana Hernandez, Secretary

Jim Wells County ESD #1