



JIM WELLS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT # 1
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES – September 09, 2025

Notice is hereby given that a Regular Monthly Meeting and Public Hearing of the Board of Commissioners of Jim Wells County Emergency Services District #1 was held on Tuesday September 09, 2025, 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 President, Abraham Aguilar at 7:03pm. Commissioners present were Patrick Carter, Karin Knolle, Matthew Schmidt and Diana Hernandez. Business Administrator, Brien Nicolau, joined via phone. Firefighters present were Fire Chief David Bradfute, Captain Ron Cole, Asst. Fire Chief Joe Pena 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 Knolle made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 12, 2025 regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Carter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

The beginning ESD #1 statement balance for August 2025 was \$113,413.17. Total cleared checks and payments were \$ 7,460.69, total deposits were \$ 2,001.42, which included \$ 4.38 in interest. This brings the statement ending balance to \$107,953.90. The total for uncleared checks and new pending transactions was \$214.82, resulting in an ending register balance of \$107,739.08 on August 29,2025. Uncleared transactions after August 29, 2025, were \$ 4,391.41, this makes the register balance \$103,347.67 as of August 30,2025.

Commissioner Carter made a motion to accept the financial report as presented for August 2025. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6) SVFD COMMAND STAFF REPORT

I. Fire Chiefs Incident, Operations, Vehicle, and APFH Maintenance Reports August 2025.

Chief Bradfute presented the report for August 2025. APFH responded to 7 total calls and Sandia 534 Substation responded to 2 calls. He stated that all Units are in service.

a) Update on the installation of a new radio system for Jim Wells County.

Chief Bradfute checked with Lance Brown for the update of the installation of the new radio system. The new date has been pushed back to January 2026 now.

II. Safety Officers Report.

No report.

a) Selection of a new Safety Officer.

Selection of a new Safety Officer will be made this month.



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

I. Budget and Tax Rate Adoption

- a) Take action to approve Resolution Adopting Budget for fiscal year October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 (budget must be adopted before tax rate);

Commissioner Aguilar read the “Resolution Adopting Budget” report for the period of October 1, 2025, thru September 30, 2026. A record vote was taken.

Commissioner Aguilar	YES
Commissioner Carter	YES
Commissioner Knolle	YES
Commissioner Schmidt	YES
Commissioner Hernandez	YES

- b) Take a record vote on the District’s 2025 tax rate, adopt an Order Levying Taxes, authorize filing the Order with the Jim Wells County Tax Assessor/Collector; and

Commissioner Aguilar made the motion, “I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.096393 per \$100 valuation, which is effectively a 3.85 percent increase in the tax rate.” A record vote was taken.

Commissioner Aguilar	YES
Commissioner Carter	YES
Commissioner Knolle	YES
Commissioner Schmidt	YES
Commissioner Hernandez	YES

- c) Acknowledge and approve posting of statement regarding adopted tax rate to home page of District website.

Commissioner Aguilar read the “Website Posting Upon Adoption of Tax Rate” to be posted on the home page of the Jim Wells County ESD No. 1 Website. A record vote was taken.

Commissioner Aguilar	YES
Commissioner Carter	YES
Commissioner Knolle	YES
Commissioner Schmidt	YES
Commissioner Hernandez	YES



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II. **FY 26 Insurance Premiums**

- a) Accident and Sickness Policy. Cost: \$1,239.00 with additional coverage.

Mr. Nicolau stated that for an extra \$220.00 in the annual premium the insurance coverage can add an extra \$20,000 for medical expenses, it will also have 24hr duty benefits. Mr. Nicolau said the premium will be due on October 2, 2025. Commissioner Knolle made a motion to approve the \$1,239.00 for the Accident and Sickness Policy to be paid on October 2, 2025. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- b) Property & Casualty Policy. Cost: \$20,982.00.

Mr. Nicolau stated that the renewal cost for Property & Casualty Policy is \$20,982.00. Commissioner Knolle made a motion to approve \$20,982.00 for Property & Casualty Policy renewal. Commissioner Carter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- c) Workman's Compensation Policy. Cost: \$2,066.00 for In-Network and \$2,327.00 for Out of Network.

Mr. Nicolau stated that we always get the Out of Network policy. Commissioner Knolle made a motion to approve getting the Out of Network policy for \$2,327.00 renewal cost. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- d) HALO Flight Guardian Membership. Cost \$800.00.

Mr. Nicolau stated that the renewal for HALO Flight Guardian Membership should not be more than \$800, he did not have an exact amount at this time. Commissioner Knolle made a motion to renew the HALO Flight Guardian Membership for \$800. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. **Training Programs**

- a) Renewal of Vector Solutions Online Training Program. Cost: \$2184.30.

Mr. Nicolau stated that the renewal cost of Vector Solutions Online Training Program was \$2,184.30, and at our August meeting he stated that the renewal cost was going to be \$2,101.00 and that amount had been approved. He needs approval for payment of the new amount. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve \$2,184.30 for the renewal of Vector Solutions Online Training Program. Commissioner Carter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Firefighter Apparel**

- a) Purchase of custom apparel for firefighters.

Chief Bradfute presented a quote for the purchase of apparel for the firefighters. He stated that he would like to order 2 short sleeves, 1 long sleeve and 1 hoodie for a total of 4 pieces of apparel for each firefighter. Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the purchase of 4 pieces of apparel per firefighter for no more than \$2000 total. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.



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

- I. Update on purchase/Installation of a coffee bar for the turnout room.
Asst. Chief Pena stated that all the items have been delivered so they just need to set it up.

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

- I. Update on SFFMA membership for all active volunteer firefighters.
Mr. Nicolau is working on it and getting an updated roster.
- II. Update on purchase of volunteer firefighter badges, name plates, and official firefighter ID cards.
Chief Bradfute stated that he is working on ordering the badges first and will see how those look.
- III. Update on planning for future disaster events.
Asst. Chief Pena is working on getting information on purchasing items.
- IV. Update on establishing a Priority Projects list to present to perspective donors.
Ongoing. No Update.
- V. Update on development of Roles and Responsibilities, Operational, and Organizational SOPs for the JWCESD#1/SVFD.
Ongoing. No Update.
- VI. Update on the establishment of a travel policy for attending conferences and training meetings.
Ongoing. No Update.
- VII. Update on website.
No Update.

10) ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Carter made a motion to adjourn to meeting. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Aguilar adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

Date Submitted 10-7-2025

Commissioner Diana Hernandez, Secretary