

Walker County ESD # 3 – Board of Commissioners

Minutes for Regular Session September 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

GENERAL ITEMS

Prayer was led by Commissioner McCaffety.
Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge were performed.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Walker County ESD #3 Board of Commissioners was called to order by President, Robert McCaffety at 6:35 p.m., at the Crabbs Prairie Volunteer Fire Station 41.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner, Rob McCaffety	President	Present
Commissioner, Huey Campbell	Vice President	Present
Commissioner, Billy Don Avritt	Secretary	Present
Commissioner, Mike Bilberry	Treasurer	Present
Commissioner, Floyd Garner	Assistant Treasurer	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS BOARD/CITIZENS COMMENT

ACTION: None at this time

4. ELECT OFFICERS

There was discussion with Regina to add to Commissioner Garner's title to be Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary. Commissioner McCaffety asked to move forward to nominate Floyd Garner as the District's Assistant Treasurer / Assistant Secretary.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Bilberry to appoint Floyd Garner as the District's Assistant Treasurer / Assistant Secretary.

SECOND: Made by Commissioner Avritt.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve minutes of the August 11, 2023 regular meeting;
Commissioner McCaffety presented information.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Campbell to approve Minutes of August 11, 2023.

SECOND: Made by Commissioner Bilberry.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

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6. Bookkeeper's Report, including:

- a. Authorize payment of bills/invoices;
Commissioner McCaffety went over each receipt presented by the CPVFD. It was stated the District owed \$750.00 for their part in the fence, Attorney fees and the Fire Departments amounts presented. Commissioner McCaffety held off on approving (item a) until the Board went over (item b).
- b. Review investment report and authorize investment of District funds, as necessary;
Eric Johnston presented information. There was discussion on the amount of funds the District had in their account.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Campbell to move \$ 450,000.00 to texpool account.
SECOND: Made by Commissioner Bilberry.

MOTION RECENDED by Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Bilberry.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Campbell to move \$ 350,000.00 to texpool and \$ 100,000.00 into the Prime account.
SECOND: Made by Commissioner Bilberry.
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Amend FYE September 30, 2023 Budget, if necessary;
Eric Johnston presented information. After discussion, the Board will amend at the next meeting. Eric Johnston presented information form the Bookkeeper's Report including profit and loss of the District. Commissioner McCaffety stated they can vote all together or by each item.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Bilberry to authorize payment of bills. (item a)
SECOND: Made by Commissioner Garner.
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Campbell to approve investment report and authorize investment of District funds. (item b)
Attorney, Regina stated they already voted on this.

ACTION: TABLED item c.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Campbell to accept the Bookkeeper's Report.
SECOND: Made by Commissioner Avritt
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

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d. Review proposed FYE September 30, 2024 Budget;

Eric Johnston with the Budget Committee gave a report from the Committee meeting. He also went over the basics of the Budget on additions and consolidating line items.

There was discussion on the CPVFD Budget. Chief Baack and Assistant Chief French gave information on what the department was facing for the next budget cycle. There was an overview of calls for service. There was discussion of recent fires and medical calls responded and those not responded to. There was discussion on the growth of the area and the need for a duty crew to be added to the Department as other Departments in the County have already implemented. There was discussion with Attorney, Regina regarding the way the duty crew would be paid and if the bylaws account for the different structure.

There was discussion on the rest of the CPVFD budget per line.

There was a lengthy discussion on setting aside for future capital with the ESD and the VFD.

There was an amendment to item 6-b

MOTION: Requested by Commissioner McCaffety change the texpool to \$ 275,000.00 to texpool account and \$ 175,000.00 into the prime account to be earmarked for the fire truck.

Commissioner Campbell so moved.

SECOND: Made by **Commissioner Bilberry.**

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

There was more discussion on the remaining line items of the VFD budget. There was discussion regarding adding a duty crew. Commissioner Avritt and Commissioner Bilberry agreed it would be a great addition. Commissioner McCaffety has concerns with the expense of the addition. Commissioner Bilberry added the duty crew would be a benefit and would help with the addition of the future Sales Tax implementation to fund the expansion out Highway 30.

Chief Baack discussed if it is a funding issue there are line items we can pull from to be able to implement a duty crew this budget cycle. Commissioner Garner's concern is where the duty crew will be housed versus response times even though he supports a duty crew. Commissioner McCaffety does not believe it is feasible at all with affordability. There was discussion on insurance and expenses that are increasing. There has to be funds for pending projects.

Commissioner Bilberry asked to review this budget again with a long-term plan with the needs of a duty crew, the Station on Hwy 30, Station 41 and 43. Commissioner Campbell stated there needs to be a minimum of a 3-man crew, even though he feels it cannot be afforded today. Commissioner McCaffety feels the same. There was discussion on Tabling the budget and bring back.

There was discussion the date to have all Board members present. Regina stated that the video conference has to be posted and has to have two-way visual ability. Regina also stated the Public

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Notice of the hearing on the tax rate has to be publicized at least five days before the hearing in the local newspaper.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Campbell to TABLE the budget until Friday, September 22nd at 6:30 p.m.
SECOND: Made by Commissioner Bilberry.
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. Tax Assessor-Collector's Report;
Commissioner McCaffety presented information.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Garner to accept the Tax Assessor's report.
SECOND: Made by Commissioner Avritt.
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Regina asked if the Board wanted to go over the allocations from the Appraisal District on the Appraisal Costs and Collections Cost. Commissioner McCaffety went over the quarterly payments. He asked to just pay it so they don't have to do the quarterly.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Bilberry to pay in full.
SECOND: Made by Commissioner Campbell.
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. Review 2023 Tax Rate setting process and proposed tax rate, authorize publication of proposed tax rate and set public hearing date, if necessary;

Commissioner McCaffety presented information. Regina discussed the work sheet that was prepared. The Adjusted Taxable Value is \$ 1,794,019.00.

There are three categories of a potential tax rate.

- 1. The No-New Revenue Tax Rate (brining in the same amount of taxes received)
7.73598 cents per \$100.00 valuation.*
- 2. The Voter-Approval Rate (the highest that can be set without an election)
8.06323 cents per \$100.00 valuation.*
- 3. The De-Minims rate (rate that can be set to garner an additional \$500,000.00 in revenue)
This is more than the 10 cents Constitutional Threshold.
It is at 12.7 cents and some change.*

The number of the \$817,000.00 (given by Regina) was at the Voter-Approval Rate. There would need to be a Record Vote on the tax rate the Board agrees to set and authorization to process the publication of that rate. Commissioner McCaffety proposed to put it at the .08.

There was discussion with the Board on the three options.

Commissioner Bilberry stated he was for the 0.0806.

Commissioner Avritt stated to keep it what it is right now.

Commissioner McCaffety stated that would be the 0.077.

Commissioner Avritt, Bilberry, Campbell and Garner agreed to leave it as it currently is.

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MOTION: Requested by Commissioner McCaffety to set the proposed tax rate at 0.0773598 cents per \$100.00 valuation.
Commissioner Bilberry made the Motion.

SECOND: Made by Commissioner Campbell.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Regina stated it needed to be a Record Vote.

Commissioner McCaffety - Yes for the No-New tax Rate.

Regina stated she thought it was for the Voter Approval Rate. The consensus of the Board was at the no-new tax rate.

Commissioner McCaffety - Yes for the No-New tax Rate of .773598.
Commissioner Campbell - Yes for the No-New tax Rate.
Commissioner Avritt - Yes for the No-New tax Rate.
Commissioner Garner - Yes for the No-New tax Rate.
Commissioner Bilberry - Yes for the No-New tax Rate.

Regina stated with that proposal, the revenue will be going down for the District. Commissioner McCaffety stated it will be similar to last year so all the budgets will have to change.

9. CPVFD Fire Chief's Report, including:

Chief Justin Baack presented information.

a. Fire operations;

ACTION: *Due to the amount of calls over the past few weeks, the reports from dispatch were received today so there is not a total to present at this time.*

b. Status of build of new fire truck;

ACTION: *There was an update of the Trucks still in Caldwell.*

There have been several compliments on the Department and saving the properties that were saved during the recent wildfires. Chief Baack gave credit to County Judge Colt Christian, for helping with fuel and feeding the Florida Crews. The Commissioners that were out there with their dozers and maintainers etc. He Thanked them and the other Commissioners crews that were out there. He thanked the strike teams for their response as well as our local Fire Departments. There was discussion of the containment of the fires. County Judge, Colt Christian gave an update on the TIF-MAS Strike Teams.

c. Status of procurement of District capital items through America Rescue Plan Act funding;

ACTION: *None Discussed*

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MOTION: Made by Commissioner Garner to approve CPVFD Fire Chief's Report.
SECOND: Made by Commissioner Campbell.
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

10. Consider improvements to or to serve the District's real property, including any necessary transaction documents and take any necessary actions on the same;
Commissioner McCaffety presented information with no update.

ACTION: Table

11. Consider repair or maintenance items for the District's real property and take any necessary actions on the same;
Commissioner McCaffety presented information with no update.

ACTION: Table

12. **Attorney's Report, including memorandum regarding Senate Bill 232;**
Regina presented information with Senate Bill 232 to the Board.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Bilberry to accept the Attorney's Report.
SECOND: Made by Commissioner Garner.
VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

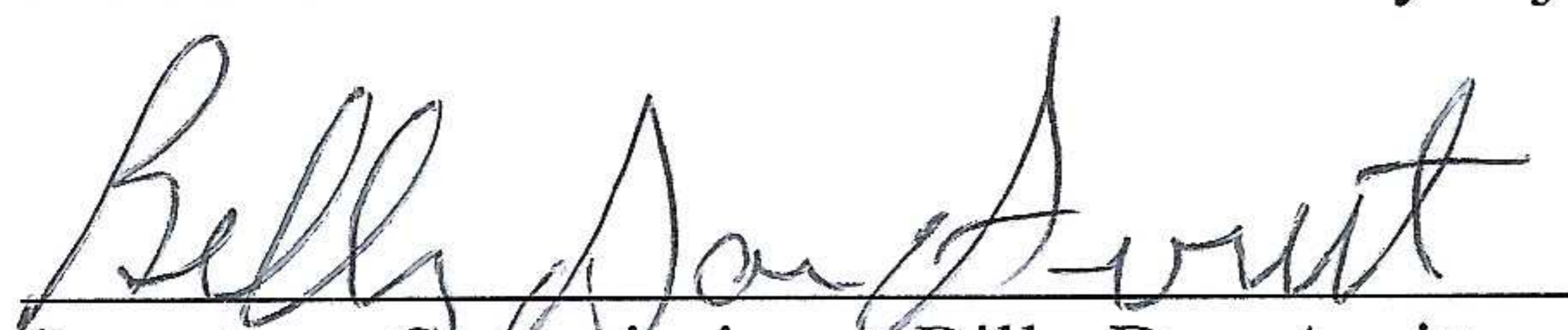
13. **Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, (Open Meetings Act) to discuss matters, as may be necessary;**

ACTION: None at this time.

14. **Adjournment.**

The next meeting (Special) is scheduled for September 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

ACTION: Commissioner McCaffety adjourned meeting at 8:52 p.m.


Secretary, Commissioner Billy Don Avritt

Minutes Approved on: 10-13-23

