

NUECES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT No. 4

MINUTES of the meeting held APRIL 8, 2026

The Commissioners of the Nueces County Emergency Services District no. 4 held a regular meeting on **APRIL 8, 2026, Wednesday at 8:00 AM**, in the conference room, 5781 FM 666, Fire Station No. 1, Robstown, Texas:

The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.

The presiding officer called the meeting of the Nueces County Emergency Services District No. 4 to order at 8:01 AM. Let the record show that a quorum of the Board Members was present; that the meeting has been duly called, and that notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Commissioners present –Kathy Wimberly, Geoff Atwood, Alton Koenning, Otis Grupe and Paul Swetish. Absent – none. Quorum established.

Others present – Mark Wright of the firm Ernest R, Garza & Co PC, Fire Chief Michael Clack, EMS Director Stephanie Simmons, NCESD#4 Fire personnel Oscar Zepeda, and District legal counsel John Peeler (remotely).

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Public Comment

Barbara Jones, expressed concern that the District’s meeting minutes were not up to date on the District website and that Commissioner continuing education information is not posted on the website. She also stated her desire that the entire Board of Commissioners resign from office.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: A): To approve the March 11, 2026 Regular board meeting minutes.

The Board noted that Paloma Trail was misspelled in the draft minutes presented. Motion to approve the March 11, 2026 Regular board meeting minutes with the noted spelling correction was made by Commissioner Alton. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Swetish. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board noted that the February minutes have not been approved yet and asked that they be placed on the next agenda for action.

B). To approve the disbursements and/or pre-pays from March 11, 2026 to April 8, 2026.

Accountant Wright presented the disbursements: EMS expenditures which totaled \$42,347.43, Fire expenditures which totaled \$16,254.86 and the General Account expenditures totaled \$207,469.63. The Board reviewed details of the expenditures. Mr. Wright explained that the large expenditure in the General Account was for a

purchase. A motion to purchase 2 AEDs for \$7,851.98 was made by Commissioner Swetish. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe, motion passed 5-0.

7. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Firefighter and EMS pay and benefits discussion.

Chief Clack reported we need to plan for employee benefits for the 2027 Budget. A handout was provided regarding some estimated insurance costs. We were also thinking about retirement contribution amounts. He expressed a desire to fund credit for service prior to the implementation of the retirement program. He reported that the Volunteers have been budgeted already. He discussed the need to set thresholds for participation in department activities for volunteers to qualify for benefits. One requirement to be included would be for the firefighters to make 25% of calls. Current employment leads to an estimated \$300 per employee or \$1,000 total per month for the additional costs. Chief Clack discussed some health coverage options. This item was tabled pending additional development by Chief Clack for action at a later time.

8. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Thermal Imagers.

Only one of our thermal imagers is working. Thermal imagers are used to detect heavy heat during a fire. The imagers come with a 5-year life span. Cost per imager with chargers is \$4,944. Chief is requesting two. A motion to approve purchasing 2 thermal imagers as requested was made by Commissioner Koenning for \$9,888. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe. Motion passed 5-0.

9. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Fire Chief's report. A) Public relations, B) Training C). Station/equipment status D). Fire calls.

Station Update

1. Station 42 has a septic problem.
2. The old truck was loaded and taken to Comacho recycling.

Truck

1. Brush 43 is back in service and back at station 43.
2. Either the new Tanker or the New Engine will be ready at the end of April and will be going up the first week of May to be inspected.

Membership

1. Training has been going good.

Paid Employees (EMS) and (Firefighters)

1. Working on benefits package and tracking full time vs part time and what it takes to calculate.
2. The new firefighters are doing good, they are responding to assist the ambulance with all EMS calls except for at the prison unless it is a CPR call then they will respond and stage at the gate.