

**NUECES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR
5781 FM 666, ROBSTOWN, TEXAS 78380
AGENDA NOTICE REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT
FIRE STATION NUMBER ONE
5781 FM 666, ROBSTOWN, TX 78380**

MINUTES FOR March 11, 2026

The Fire Commissioners of the Nueces County Emergency Services District Number Four held a regular meeting on **March 11, 2026, Wednesday at 8:00 AM**, in the conference room, 5781 FM 666, Fire Station No. 1, Robstown, Texas:

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Ernest R. Garza at 361-241-2452 at least 48 hours in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

PUBLIC NOTICE is given that the Commission may go into executive session at any time during the meeting in order to discuss matters listed on the agenda, when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. In the event the Commission elects to go into executive session regarding any agenda item, the section or sections of the Open Meetings Act authorizing the executive session will be publicly announced by the presiding officer. The Commission may also address items in no particular order.

The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.**

Chairperson will call the meeting of the Nueces County Emergency Services District Number Four to order and let the record show that a quorum of the Board Members is 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. Meeting opened at 8:00 a.m.

Others present – Ernest R, Garza, CPA, Online - Michael Clack – NCESD#4 Fire personnel Oscar Zepeda. Also online was our new District Attorney John Peeler.

2. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:** Public Comment

Barbara Jones, Leona area, said we were supported to meet the last several months and did not have a quorum, this should be authorized by a board member, who did not sign off on this. Ms. Jones also asked for the meetings to be moved to the evening. Ms. Jones stated it was pitiful that the meetings are not at night. She stated the CE's are still not on website. Ms. Jones said if the board is not following the policies then they should leave.

Also spoke, Dwayne Witzsche, 5388 Palama Trail, said he believes Geoff Atwood, Paul Swetish and Otis Grupe should be removed. Mr. Witzsche said he wanted the meeting to be moved to the evening. Mr. Witzsche said he is a taxpayer and was part of the volunteer firemen that left the department but due to the people serving he will not be a part of this Department.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Audit for Fiscal Year September 30, 2025 by Noel Snedeker, CPA.

Mr. Snedeker went over the financial and went over the balance sheet – this indicated the District is strong financially with a fund balance of \$4,686,214. Mr. Snedeker went over the revenue over expenditures on page 14 which indicated revenue of \$3,136,575 and expenditures of \$1,769,437 for a net increase to fund balance of \$1,366,138 and ending fund balance of \$4,686,214. On the management letter, Mr. Snedeker reminded the board they need to all have their required continuing education hours. After the audit review, a motion to approve the audit for fiscal year September 30, 2025 was made by Commissioner Swetish, motion was seconded by Commissioner Koenning. Motion passed 5-0.

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: A): To approve the February 18, 2026 Special board meeting minutes.

Some corrections to the minutes need to be made. Mr. Garza asked for the commissioners to table the minutes until corrected. Minutes were tabled.

- B). To approve the disbursements and/or pre-pays from February 18, 2026 to March 11, 2026.

Accountant Garza went over the disbursements for the fire expenditures which were \$2,525.55, EMS was \$16,049.78 and the General Account was \$25,307.91. Various questions were made on the expenditures. A motion to approve the February 18, 2026 to March 11, 2026 disbursements and/or pre-pays was made by Commissioner Koenning, motion was seconded by Commissioner Swetish, motion passed 5-0.

- C): To approve the February 28, 2026 financial statements.

The General fund report cash of \$6,250,885 which is \$2,773,528 more than last year's General fund cash of \$3,477,327. The I&S cash was \$271,302 and the Capital Projects reported cash of \$2,951,824.

General Fund revenue for the five months ending February 28, 2026 was \$2,399,965 and General Fund expenditures were \$802,322 for a net revenue over expenditures of \$1,597,643. Mr. Garza noted the property tax collections had been materially collected. Overall. Sales tax continues to be coming in strong, up \$810k at \$992,139 from last year at \$181,780.

After the discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Wimberly to approve the February 28, 2026 financial statements. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Swetish, the motion passed 5-0.

5. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Update on Banquete No. 43 Fire Station.

Chief Clack reported that the culverts are 60% complete. We are still waiting on AEP to get the electricity going. Well was dug with a 5" pipe well. When we opened a 2" valve, we got 50 psi. No other water source is available, entities have not been responsive. Discussion of boring arose the highway, line would have to be 5' under the highway with many safety controls that would have to be done. Well was dug 400' and got water at 300', good water. Contractor will finish the culverts and then go from there to the foundation etc. Chief has a meeting later this week with the contractor. We have been waiting for a response from the water departments for 2 years and still no answer.

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

Chief went over the various pay and benefits to be considered. This was a discussion only item. Discussion of insurance – life, Aflac, Globe Life, Accidental Death and etc. This will be discussed in a future meeting. The average pay for a firefighter is \$50,000 and so any benefits would be up to \$20,000. These are recruiting benefits we can use for the District. Average number of years with current firefighters with the District is 5 years currently. Also noted, as the employees get certificates, they will get certification pay. Chief will be hiring 6 firefighters and requested approval of the board to approve this decision. A motion was made by Commissioner Swetish to have Chief Clack hire 6 employees and 6 part time employees at the Chief's discretion. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe. Motion approved 5-0.

7. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Scheduling Software.

EMS Chief Simmons reported that we are wanting to go to a scheduling software. We have gone thru several software(s) and have come back to TCP Lab Tech. Cost will be about \$1,200 a year. After the discussion, a motion to approve the scheduling software was made by Commissioner Swetish, motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe. Motion approved 5-0.

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

Station Update

1. Electrical work is done on back building and wiring for additional pump is done.
2. We will work on pulling the original well pump next week
3. Station 42 well went out and we had to have the pump replaced

Truck

1. Brush 43 tank is set in place and plumbing has been started.

Membership

1. No change in membership, we did change the action training account to allow for the use of videos and power points and the volunteers have been working through firefighter I series.

Paid Employees (EMS) and (Firefighters)

1. Working on benefits package and tracking full time vs part time and what it takes to calculate.

New Business

1. I will work on getting the truck hauled off next week and get the well pulled.
2. I have 6 full time employees that have been picked and would like to start them next week, Some will have previous commitment to finish but we will work with them. I also have a list of part time firefighters that we will start interviewing to help fill in.

Announcements

Station 43 is coming along. The base is set for the building and the parking lot, the crews are installing the underground electrical that comes thru the slab, once they are done the Plumbers will start their under slab work. KBI started installing culverts for the main drive, after they are done with the culverts then they will move to the retainage pond.

9. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Training

Training will be available online soon.

10. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wimberly, motion was seconded by Commissioner Koenning. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting closed at 9:01 a.m.

Commissioner

Signature



Date

4/8/26