

NUECES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT No. 4

MINUTES of the meeting held February 18, 2026

The Fire Commissioners of the Nueces County Emergency Services District Number Four held a regular meeting on **February 18, 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 8:00 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 – CPA Ernest R. Garza, District legal counsel John Peeler (remotely), Fire Chief Michael Clack (remotely) – NCESD#4 Fire personnel Oscar Zepeda, and Assistant Fire Chief Joel Hillard.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Public Comment

Barbara Jones asked for the meetings to be moved to 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. She also expressed concern that ESD Commissioner continuing education information is not posted on the District website.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Oath of Office.

Accountant Garza who is also a notary administered the Oath of office to Geoff Atwood and Kathy Wimberly.

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Election of Officers.

Commissioner Swetish nominated the following slate of officers for the 2026 term: President – Geoff Atwood, Vice President – Alton (Bud) Koenning, Treasurer – Otis Grupe, Assistant Treasurer – Paul Swetish, and Secretary – Kathy Wimberly. The nominations were seconded by Commissioner Koenning. There being no other nominations offered, the slate of officers was elected by a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Koenning moved to update the bank signature cards, and establish a Capital Projects account at Frost Bank. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe. Motion passed 5-0. Accountant Garza will notify Frost Bank.

5. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: A): To approve the January 22, 2026 Regular board meeting minutes.

A review of the January 22, 2026 regular board meeting minutes. After the review, a motion to approve the January 22, 2026 regular board meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Koenning. Commissioner Wimberly seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

B). To approve the disbursements and/or pre-paids from January 22, 2026 to February 18, 2026.

Accountant Garza presented the disbursements for the fire expenditures which were \$3,465.00, EMS was \$37,783.82 and the General Account was \$373,734.71 which included Pay Applications 1 and 2 for the Banquete project, payments of \$178,525.90 and \$153,662.50 were made out of the General Fund, funds were transferred from the Capital Projects Account to the General Fund. The Board reviewed details of the expenditures. A motion to approve the January 22, 2026 February 18, 2026 disbursements and/or pre-paids was made by Commissioner Swetish, motion was seconded by Commissioner Koenning, motion passed 5-0.

C): To approve the January 31, 2026 financial statements.

The General fund report cash of \$5,612,409.54 which is \$2,406,068.82 more than last year's General fund cash of \$3,206,340.72. The I&S cash was \$120,613.33 and the Capital Projects reported cash of \$3,096,700.20.

General Fund revenue for the four months ending January 31, 2026 was \$1,537,116.28. General Fund expenditures were \$577,607.77 for a net revenue over expenditures of \$959,508.51. Mr. Garza noted the property tax collections are down from the prior year but the sales tax is higher. Mr. Garza will contact the State for the source of the funds.

After the discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Wimberly to approve the January 31, 2026 financial statements. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Swetish. The motion passed 5-0.

6. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Pick meeting date and time for 2026 meetings.

Commissioner Atwood said he could be flexible but mornings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:00 AM work for him. Commissioner Grupe stated we had tried evenings at 5:30 pm and 6:00 p.m. but no one came. Mr. Koenning said mornings work for him and after he gets out in the field he has to make sure his staff get back with the equipment and he would have to be getting late at 8:00 p.m. Commissioner Swetish said mornings work for him because after he gets to work, he is busy all day. Commissioner Wimberly said she could be flexible. After the discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Swetish to maintain the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. for the meetings. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Wimberly. Motion passed 5-0.

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

1. The Property was cleared back in January
2. The foundation under the building has been dug down 5 feet and built back up to 8 feet.

3. The well has been drilled and cased, it is 400 feet deep and expected to deliver 40-60 gallons per minute at 40psi.
4. The pump needs to be approved so we can have water on the site for construction. We plan on taking a portable generator out there and leaving it to run the well
5. The building corners were marked out on Saturday and foundation borders were suppose to be set so that the plumbers and electricians could start their underground
6. The easement has been established for the electrical to come in, AEP ids finalizing paperwork to be signed so they can start installing poles.
7. Marshal and Company has installed their temporary pole for power and as soon as it is hooked up they will move their trailer in.
8. We are still waiting for our permanent driveway permit to be approved so they can start the driveway.

Commissioner Swetish moved to allow President Atwood to sign off on the AEP easements once we receive them. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Koenning. Discussion of the 400 foot deep well, we still need to have meeting with TDOT on permits. Motion passed 5-0.

8. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Review and act on the disposition of surplus and salvage property under Health and Safety Code section 775.0735.

Assistant Chief Joel Hillard reported we need to dispose of surplus items that we have no need for. The Board reviewed the items for disposition. After the lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Grupe to dispose of the surplus under Heath and Safety Code Section 775.0735, specifying the salvage truck to Camacho Recycling and the rest to the Bradshaw auction. Motion was seconded by Koenning. Motion passed 5-0.

9. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Approval of Water Well Pump.

Chief Clack provided information on the well pump. Commissioner Swetish asked if a covered slab will be at the bottom. Chief Clack will work with the contractor on this. Chief is asking for a budget of \$15,000 for the well pump project. A quote was provided for the Commissioners to review. After the discussion, a motion by Commissioner Swetish to accept the quote from Martin Wells and authorize Chief Clack to manage the project with a budget up to \$15,000 which includes the pad. Commissioner Grupe seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

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

Station Update

1. Electrical has been started in back building.
2. Well was tested but pump needs to be replaced, going to have to pull it by hand because of power line location

Truck

1. Brush 43 has been taken out of service for tank upgrades, tanks have been removed and plumbing has been removed will start putting it back together.

Membership

1. No change in membership

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. Interviewing potential full time employees to staff Station 2.

Regarding staffing, Commissioner Swetish asked to talk to Refugio Ronnie, as he has developed a great set of volunteers and would like to see what his is approach to obtaining his volunteers. Commissioner Atwood asked how the ETA of our staff to calls has been compared to the last six months. Chief Clack said about the same. A discussion of the staffing and who has regularly been coming. Back up from other department exists and we are still working on training. Discussion of the plan to have an EMT and fire personnel at all occurrences. Discussion of the Banquete station and the needed manpower and the plan for EMT's and firefighters. Look to have 5 personnel in Banquete when station is developed. We have a goal to maintain our consistent plan to have an EMT and fire personnel at all calls. The Chief is working on a retirement and benefits plan for the department and will provide a budget to the Commissioners.

11. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Swetish, motion was seconded by Commissioner Grupe. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting closed at 9:04 a.m.

Commissioner

Signature



Date

3/13/26