

# NUECES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT No. 4

## MINUTES of the Meeting Held March 11, 2026

The Commissioners of the Nueces County Emergency Services District No. 4 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:

The minutes are as follows:

### MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.

District President Geoff Atwood called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM with Commissioners Kathy Wimberly, Geoff Atwood, Alton Koenning, Otis Grupe and Paul Swetish present and no Commissioners absent, thereby establishing a quorum of the Board present.

Others present – CPA Ernest R. Garza (attending remotely), –Fire Chief Michael Clack, NCESD#4 Fire personnel Oscar Zepeda, District legal counsel John Peeler (attending remotely), and members of the public.

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Public Comment

Barbara Jones of the Leona area expressed concern about recent meetings being cancelled due to a lack of quorum. She also expressed concern about ESD Commissioner training status and also asked for the meetings to be moved to the evening.

Wayne Witzsche also offered public comments. He offered comments regarding his belief that some Board members should resign based upon his belief that they have acted in a manner he considers improper. He also expressed his desire that the Board meet at a different time of day. He also noted that he was one of several volunteer firefighters who had resigned from the department.

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

Mr. Snedeker presented the audit, noting that he is issuing an unqualified opinion. He reviewed the fiscal year-end balance sheet which indicates the District is strong financially with a fund balance of \$4,686,214, for a net increase to fund balance of \$1,366,138. After the audit review, a motion to approve the audit for fiscal year ending 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 take no action on the minutes as presented to allow for corrections and presentation at a later meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to take no action on minutes for the February 18, 2026 meeting.

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

Mr. Garza presented the disbursements for the fire expenditures which were \$2,525.55, EMS was \$16,049.78 and the General Account was \$25,307.91. The Board discussed details of some expenditures. A motion to approve the February 18, 2026 to March 11, 2026 disbursements and/or pre-paids 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: The culverts are 60% complete. We are still waiting on AEP to complete the electrical service. Well was dug with a 5" pipe well. When we opened a 2" value, we got 50 psi. No other water source is available, entities have not been responsive. Discussion of boring around the highway, as a 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. 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 have 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 options, including life, Aflac, Globe Life, Accidental Death. This will be discussed in a future meeting. Chief Clack provided information on average firefighter pay in the region and the application of federal rules allowing for 20% of pay for volunteers. These are recruiting benefits we can use for the District. Average number of years with current firefighters with the District is 5 years. He also noted, as the employees get certificates, they will get certification pay. Chief asked for approval to hire 6 firefighters and other funding for payroll and benefits as detailed in information provided to the Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Swetish to have Chief Clack hire 6 full-time

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 on the need for scheduling software based on increasing staffing. We have gone through 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Wimberly", written over a horizontal line.

Date

5/13/26