



# Bandera, Uvalde, Medina, and Real County – Utopia/Vanderpool Area Emergency Services District No.1

Minutes of October 17, 2019, Regular Meeting

**Meeting Location: Utopia Volunteer Fire Department,  
485 Main Street, Utopia, (Uvalde County), Texas. 78884.**

Commissioners attending: Al Buckner, Bill Cockerill, Josef Richarz

Commissioners not attending: Chad Hillis, Karen Heideman

- 1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by **Buckner** and a quorum was established at 7 p.m.
- 2. Invocation:** **Richarz** gave the invocation.
- 3. Citizens communications:** Kevin Wise expressed concerns about a possible sales tax, maintaining that people did not want another tax. Jacque Chaney worried about a sales tax being an additional burden on businesses. Both said they wanted to hear more about the issue when it came up on the agenda.

#### **4. Departmental reports:**

**Utopia Fire/ Rescue:** **Richarz** reported that the tender grant was pending. Tender maintenance issues growing. General maintenance is being performed on other trucks. New members are getting involved and helping. Some more training is planned.

**Utopia EMS:** **Cockerill** reported that protocols were updated and approved by the state that include neonatal guidelines and drug security. Two new members, including a driver and a paramedic with San Antonio Fire who will respond when available. LCRA grant obtained that will be used toward purchase of three new radios. New slide board are now on units for easier patient transfer. Bandera Electric grant submitted for the purchase of three tablets. Proposed budget approved for 2019-2020 fiscal year reflects substantial increase in payroll expenses due to lack of volunteers. The EMS

**Al Buckner** – *President* ♦ **Chad Hillis** – *Vice President* ♦ **Karen Heideman** – *Treasurer*  
**Bill Cockerill** – *Secretary* ♦ **Josef Richarz** – *Asst. Treasurer*  
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approved purchase of new security system and will soon begin considering applicants for new medical director. Will pursue hiring another paramedic when Bandera County funding is received.

**Vanderpool Volunteer Fire:** *Buckner* reported that a truck was down for two to three days and is now up and running. There is an ongoing issue with tender but it is still in service. Two new members, a husband and wife, have been obtained.



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### Minutes of October 19, 2017 Regular Meeting

**5. Minutes of previous ESD Board of Directors meeting, corrections and approval:**

*Richarz* moved to approve minutes as submitted. *Cockerill* seconded. Motion carried.

**6. Treasurer's report and approval to pay ESD bills:** *Cockerill* moved to approve report and pay bills. Seconded by *Richarz*. Motion carried. No major news on budget; taxes will soon be coming in.

**7. Discuss establishing sales tax, including procedures and potential costs and benefits:**

*Cockerill* moved that a presentation be sought by the board president for the next meeting, noting two commissioners were absent. Seconded by *Richarz*. Motion carried. *Cockerill* gave background on earlier thoughts on the sales tax issue, noting that there is a cap on the tax rate and increased property values, thereby limiting additional revenues. He said a sales tax might help fund emergency expenses. *Buckner* reviewed limitations on tax rate and property values. The new rule calls for a 2.5 percent cap on increased values unless approved in an election and that is good for only one year. *Buckner* said he thought the district retained the right to adopt a sales tax at the time of its creation. He said the state would manage the sales tax; the ESD might need to help with a complete list of affected businesses. Further discussion is expected at next meeting.

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8. **Adjourn:** Before adjourning, **Buckner** noted that the ESD will be required to have an online presence in the coming year. Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Cockerill, Secretary

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board President or Vice President

**Al Buckner** – *President* ♦ **Chad Hillis** – *Vice President* ♦ **Karen Heideman** – *Treasurer*  
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