



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

Minutes of March 19, 2026 Regular Meeting  
Meeting location: Utopia Volunteer Fire Department  
485 Main St, Utopia, Uvalde County, Texas 78884

Commissioners attending:

**1. Call to order and establish quorum:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM. Commissioners attending Al Buckner, Nick Pope, Zach Barfield, Karen Heideman and James Myers.

**2. Invocation:**

Nick Pope gave an invocation

**3. Citizen's communications:**

No citizens communications.

**4. Departmental reports:**

Al Buckner gave a short report for the Vanderpool VFD.

Nick Pope gave a short report for Utopia VFD.

Rhonda Garofano and Doug Carlyle gave a short report for the Utopia EMS. Discussed costs of payroll and ways they are cutting back to be able to afford for their payroll. Discussed cost of what it would cost to pay a company to bring in an ambulance for the ESD if our EMS were to have to shut down.

**5. Discuss and Approve Minutes of previous ESD Board of Directors meeting:**

February meeting minutes will be approved next month.

**6. Discuss and Approve required documentation from UVEMS, UVFD and VVFD.**

Discussed and approved required documentation from Utopia VEMS, Utopia VFD and Vanderpool VFD. Karen Heideman made a motion to approve that all documentation has been submitted. Nick Pope seconded. Motion passed (5-0)

**7. Discuss and Approve Treasurer's report and to pay ESD bills:**

Discussed treasurer's report and pay the ESD bills and cashing in the CD at maturity on 4/6/2026. Nick Pope made a motion to approve report, to pay ESD bills and to cash in the CD. Zach Barfield seconded. Motion carried (5-0)

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Al Buckner – President ♦ Nick Pope – Vice-President ♦ Zach Barfield – Secretary  
Karen Heideman – Treasurer ♦ James Meyer – Asst. Treasurer  
Mailing and Contact address: P.O. Box 1027, Utopia, TX 78884  
Website: [www.uvesd1.org](http://www.uvesd1.org)



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## 8. Discuss and Approve Disbursement of EMS and VFD Funds

Karen Heideman made a motion to disburse funds to the entities @ 95% of total disbursement. James Meyers seconded. Motion carried (5-0)

Utopia EMS – \$126,155.25

Utopia VFD – \$75,693.15

Vanderpool VFD - \$50,462.50

## 9. Discuss and Approve 2024-2025 Audit.

Discuss and approved 2024-2025 Audit. Karen Heideman made a motion and Nick Pope seconded. Motion carried to approve (5-0)

## 10. Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 am.

Minutes Taken By: \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
President/Vice-President Secretary/Treasurer