

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PECAN GROVE VOLUNTEER FIRE
DEPARTMENT HELD A REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ON
Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.
PGVFD, 727 Pitts Rd., Richmond, Texas 77406**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Golden, Katz, Hamrick, Grillo, Barski

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Baker, Levan

ALSO PRESENT: L. Danna, K. Itzen, M. Rogers, AC Vontz, J. Easley

CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Agenda was adopted as presented.

Board President Grillo first read a board statement that had been sent out to the Department volunteers concerning the Fire Chief Selection committee. He noted that in January 2020 the Board signed a one-year employment agreement with Chief Woolley and concurrently established a fire chief selection committee for going forward. Grillo noted that Covid delayed the committee work and the fire chief contract was extended through December 31, 2021. He said that the committee resumed its work in 2021 and the fire chief contract was extended to March 31, 2022. He said that the committee was composed of 3 board members and 2 members each from the volunteer firefighters and paid firefighters. Grillo said the committee has been working and interviewing and would have a selection made this month.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Three speakers addressed the Board. Some speakers felt the Department membership and community should be involved and informed about the fire chief selection. It was noted that this fire chief selection committee was initiated two years ago and was discussed at the board meetings over that time, and an outside firm was engaged to assist in the process. It was also noted that the board has the duty of selecting and hiring the fire chief and that it is a serious matter given that the Department is now publicly funded by a number of MUDs following public elections.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on February 17, 2022 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Hamrick to approve the minutes and seconded by Katz. The motion carried and the minutes were approved unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The financial report was presented. Of note, Harvest Green MUD 134D is now tapped and should start providing income, fuel prices have increased and volunteer numbers in the stipend program are increasing. One matter discussed was the volunteer firefighter stipend program. Katz asked about the number of participants. He asked AC Vontz for a report next month showing the participation level currently and historically and the budget levels now and anticipated. The Board reviewed the Financial Report, and a motion was made by Hamrick and

seconded by Katz to approve the report. The motion passed unanimously as presented.

As of March 17, 2022, Bank balances as listed:

New First ICS	\$395,879.79
New First Checking	\$ 15,059.07
New First Money Market	\$230,440.63
TOTAL OF ACCOUNTS	\$641,379.49

Reserve Acct (CDARS)	\$100,000.00
	(\$100k required by board)

CASH AVAILABLE	\$541,379.49
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Apparatus: Engine 66 in repair shop due to part failure, no damage. Other minor repairs

Station 1 Remodel: Projected to start on June 1st. A facelift for the front of the station is desirable.

NEW BUSINESS:

AC Vontz asked if approvals are needed per items as invoices are received for remodel. Katz explained that if it is part of the contracted amount, approval by a board rep on the construction committee of the Payment Request form for the construction loan draw is required. If an invoice is for an item outside of the construction loan or over the contracted amount, then full BOD approval is needed.

J. Easley explored the possibility of moving the sweep account to an online bank. Interest rate is currently .01%, interest earned in 2019 was \$1539 and in 2021 it was \$39. She will gather interest rates from other local banks and issue will be revisited later. The concern with an online platform is security and protection.

New location will be needed for board meetings starting in May. MUD meeting room site will be checked.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: at 7:44 p.m. Executive session was called to order.

The board reconvened in open session at 8:26 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS from Executive Session:

The Board unanimously approved offering Jerod Vontz an employment contract for the position of Fire Chief, authorized Board President Grillo to work out the compensation and other terms as discussed in the executive session.

Katz commended J. Easley for her work with the Station 1 remodel loan with Government Capitol.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting has been scheduled for April 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.