

NUECES COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT No. 4

MINUTES of the meeting held AUGUST 26, 2026

The Commissioners of the Nueces County Emergency Services District no. 4 held a regular meeting on **Wednesday, AUGUST 26, 2026, 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 – Geoff Atwood, Alton Koenning, Kathy Wimberly, and Otis Grupe.

Quorum established.

Commissioners absent – Paul Swetish.

Others present – Fire Chief Michael Clack, EMS Director Stephanie Simmons, Ernest Garza of Ernest R, Garza & Co PC, NCESD No. 4 Fire personnel, Oscar Zepeda, and District legal counsel John Peeler (remotely).

2. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Public Hearing – Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

6. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Public Comment

(The Board conducted the Public Hearing on Tax Increase and regular Public Comment items concurrently so that the public could comment broadly on items of concern.)

Mary Skruppa expressed her concern about emergency preparedness; personnel levels and source of water to fight fires.

Barbara Jones expressed disappointment about the method of meeting minutes preparation.

Another taxpayer expressed opposition to a tax increase based upon his belief that money from the State should keep taxes from increasing. He also expressed his desire for greater tax exemptions from the District.

Mr. Garza presented information on the CAD valuations for 2026 vs 2025; noting that the ESD rate cap prevented the ESD from reaching the VAR, which is roughly a 3.5% increase over the NNR. He noted the costs for the new station construction and other costs ongoing into FY 2027. Mr. Atwood noted that the mathematical rate proposed is the same as last year's rate and how appraised values affect the taxes

owed rather than the rate adopted. District Counsel John Peeler explained that the increase is a comparison to NNR not last year's rate.

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: - Adoption of 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget.

Chief Clack presented the Budget noting some minor changes from the posted Budget, including lower estimated sales tax revenue and a reduction in personnel costs on the fire side by removing some positions. He also noted that sales tax revenue is not as predictable as property taxes and that the FY 2026 property tax revenue number was incorrect on the originally submitted Budget, but that the numbers have been corrected on the FY 2027 Budget presented for adoption today. This led to some review by Chief Clack and Ernest Garza of the revenue figures for comparison in response to question from Commissioner Wimberly.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wimberly, seconded by Commissioner Koenning, to approve the FY 2027 Budget as presented by Chief Clack. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.

4. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Adoption of 2026 Tax Rate for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Koenning, seconded by Commissioner Wimberly, that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.100000, which is effectively a 2.17 percent increase in the tax rate. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.

Closed Session was held from 8:31 AM to 8:36 AM under Government Code section 551.071 to consult with legal counsel.

5. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Invoice for NCESD #1 for extra additional managerial and construction management services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wimberly, seconded by Commissioner Grupe to approve the invoice from NCESD 1, as presented. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.

7. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

Commissioner

Signature



Date

