

1. Establish quorum and call to order: President D. McJunkin established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 8:32am. Other Commissioners present were: B. Warren, K. Stacy, T. Kuykendall and E. Krenek. Members of the public present were: Pam Bolil, Walt Bolil, John Dowdall, Tajana Surlan, Jeff Sorocak, Wendy Duncan and Jen Furgason. District employees in attendance were: Brandi Crone, Business Manager; Karol Bone, Administrative Assistant; Chief Herc Meier; and Assistant Chief Wade Goates.
2. Public Hearing on Proposed 2019 Tax Rate: President McJunkin opened the Public Hearing with opening remarks regarding the proposed 2019 Tax Rate and information about the District.

Mr. Dowdall addressed the Board first and asked why the District was raising taxes again and asked what the Board was proposing as the new tax rate. Commissioner McJunkin responded to his questions and Chief Meier interjected that comments should be held until after all had spoken. Mr. Dowdall continued and stated the tax rate could be dropped to \$0.09/\$100 and the District's revenue would be the same as in 2018. He noted items in the District's annual budget and reserve budget. Mr. Dowdall concluded his comments by asking why there had not been an appraisal performed on the 6 acres the District purchased on FM 359 north.

Ms. Surlan spoke next and thanked the District administrative staff for all the assistance she has received in the past regarding Public Information requests and commended them on the detailed meeting minutes. She thanked Chief Meier for his good work with the Department. She questioned the purchase of the same 6 acres on FM 359 as Mr. Dowdall and why no appraisal had been done. She stated that the Board purchased the 6 acres in 2016 for \$1.6 million which is \$6.00 per square foot. She also stated she hoped that if the District was not going to use this property for a station, she would like to see the District donate or work with the City of Fulshear to purchase and use the property for a new City Hall and parks as the City could benefit from it.

Mr. Walt Bolil was next to speak and asked where all of the information Ms. Surlan mentioned could be found. He stated based on future growth indicated by the handouts provided, the ESD needs to start looking beyond 2020 and into the future. He also stated that the District should dispose of any property that it cannot use.

Mr. Sorocak thanked Chief Meier and the District staff for doing a good job. He stated this is his fourth year to attend and the District continues to tax at the maximum rate allowed. Mr. Sorocak added that even after purchasing land and trucks, it still has a large surplus of funds. He commented that it is not fair to put money in New First Bank to sit there and it is irresponsible to over tax. Mr. Sorocak stated that future growth means more rooftops which means more tax revenue and the District should do something with the money and not just keep it in the bank. Mr. Sorocak further stated that he is willing to pay what it takes for first class service- build it, use the money wisely and set a realistic tax rate. Mr. Sorocak also noted that his homeowners insurance has not shown the benefits of a lower ISO rating except one time, but his rates continue to increase.

Ms. Furgason introduced herself and said she was present to represent her husband who is an engineer and asked if there is a capital plan and a plan for the acreage on FM 1093 that is in the flood plain. Ms. Furgason asked whether this was the best location to build an EOC due to the recent flooding in that area.

Ms. Duncan introduced herself and stated she is running as a Republican candidate for the office of Fort Bend County Commissioner, Precinct 3 and was attending to listen and learn.

The last speaker was Commissioner Krenek, who spoke as a citizen and taxpayer of the District. He began by stating that since 2011, the District has had tremendous development and population growth. He is confident in the manner in which the Board is handling the District's needs and believes everyone on the Board has the taxpayers' best interest in mind when making decisions and performing a strategic analysis for the funds. Commissioner Krenek stated that it is not fair to consider just the needs of the people in the City of Fulshear, but to look at the overall District and the large area it encompasses. He added more stations are needed and he knows that the Board is working to make that happen by being fiscally responsible with District funds. Commissioner Krenek stated that since Hurricane Harvey, there has been tremendous improvements in the Department to prepare for another event like that. He noted that the purchase of real property for stations helps maintain the ISO rating and suggests property owners calculate savings based on the current ISO compared to the past ISO rating. Mr. Krenek further noted that he has seen the debt that other Districts carry, and is thankful to the District for not being in debt. He closed by stating that communication between the District and taxpayers needs to improve.

President McJunkin thanked the citizens for attending the public hearing. He stated that Ms. Crone is the Public Information Officer for the District and to please contact her with any questions or information requests.

3. Adjourn: Commissioner Warren motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner T. Kuykendall seconded the motion; all voted AYE, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58am.

Passed and approved this 17th day of September, 2019.

Kim Stacy

K. Stacy

Secretary, Board of Commissioners

