

UPSHUR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2

JULY 21, 2026

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Upshur County Emergency Services District No. 2 Commissioners was held on July 21, 2026, at the Diana Fire Station, 10496 State Hwy 154 E, Diana, Texas 75640.

- 1) **Open meeting.** The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Gaston DeBerry, III.
- 2) **Call to order.** Gaston DeBerry, III called the meeting to order. Prayer was led by Gaston DeBerry, III.
- 3) **Determine quorum present.** Gaston DeBerry, III determined a quorum with Tommie Whitaker, Rita Criswell and Kenny Hankins being present. Gregg Price was absent.
- 4) **Public Comment.** No public comment.
- 5) **Hear from Shawn Salter with Christus EMS regarding ambulance coverage to the Upshur County ESD #2 area and take action if needed.** Shawn Salter gave a brief update regarding some matters that they were working on and asked to pass the matter to the August meeting for a follow-up.
- 6) **Discuss and take action on the Financial Statement ending June 30, 2026.** Gaston DeBerry, III announced the bank balances on the Checking Account at First National Bank and the Savings Account at Gilmer National Bank. Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Kenny Hankins to accept the Financial Statement ending June 30, 2026. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.
- 7) **Approve the minutes as written for the meeting held June 16, 2026.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Tommie Whitaker to approve the minutes as written for the meeting held June 16, 2026. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.
- 8) **BUDGET DISCUSSION.** Budget discussion only. No action.
- 9) **Discuss and take action to appoint the Upshur County Tax Assessor to calculate the No-New Revenue Tax rate (NNR) and the Voter Approval Tax rate (VAT) and to submit the tax calculation to the Upshur County Appraisal District and post on the Upshur County website, as required by Tax Code 26.04.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Tommie Whitaker to appoint the Upshur County Tax Assessor to calculate the No-New Revenue Tax rate and the Voter Approval Tax rate and to submit the tax calculation to the

Upshur County Appraisal District and post on the Upshur County website. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 10) **Discuss and set the PROPOSED tax rate by RECORD VOTE.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Rita Criswell to set the PROPOSED tax rate at \$0.100/\$100 for Upshur County Emergency Services District #2 for the FY27. Votes as follows:

Gaston DeBerry, III	Yay
Tommie Whitaker	Yay
Rita Criswell	Yay
Kenny Hankins	Yay

Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 11) **Pay Upshur County Sheriff for dispatching services for the month of July, 2026 in the amount of \$900.00.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Kenny Hankins to pay the Upshur County Sheriff for dispatching services for the month of July, 2026 in the amount of \$900.00. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 12) **Pay bills for the Upshur County ESD #2 as submitted and approved.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Rita Criswell to pay the following bills as submitted and approved. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

Terri Ross (June Bookkeeping/Clerical)	\$ 833.33
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- 13) **Discuss and take action for pre-approval expenditures, if any, over \$25,000.00 by Diana VFD or New Mountain VFD.** None presented.

- 14) **Pay the City of Ore City the amount of \$14,166.00 as the monthly installment as set out in the Contract for Fire Fighting Services for the FYE 2026.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Rita Criswell to pay the City of Ore City in the amount of \$14,166.00 as the monthly installment for the FYE 2026. Motion carried 3 For with Tommie Whitaker abstaining.

- 15) **Pay Diana VFD the amount of \$16,583.33 as their monthly budget allotment for the FYE 2026 and any other expenses presented for approval.** Diana VFD submitted an invoice in the amount of \$9,368.81 and requested reimbursement for same. Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Rita Criswell to pay Diana VFD in the amount of \$16,583.33 as their monthly budget allotment for the FYE 2026 plus an additional \$9,368.81 for the invoice submitted. Motion carried 3 For with Kenny Hankins abstaining.

- 16) **Pay New Mountain VFD the amount of \$4,291.66 as their monthly budget allotment for the FYE 2026 plus \$1,500.00 as the recurring truck payment as previously approved and any other expenses presented for approval.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Kenny Hankins to pay New Mountain VFD in the amount of \$4,291.66 as their monthly

budget allotment for the FYE 2026 plus an additional \$1,500.00 as previously approved for their truck payment. Motion carried 3 For with Rita Criswell abstaining.

17) Discuss and take action on budget amendments. The following budget amendments were presented to the Board.

- a) To move \$3,650.00 from Retained Earnings to Radio Maintenance and Repairs;
- b) To move \$48.37 from Contingency to Audit;
- c) To move \$3,691.47 from Retained Earnings to Safe-D Dues.

Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Kenny Hankins to approve the budget amendments as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

18) Items to be considered for next month's agenda. Diana VFD request for payment of their retained funds to pay off notes; Shawn Salter with Christus EMS

19) Adjournment. Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Tommie Whitaker to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Presiding Officer Signature

Title: _____

Date: _____