

March 31, 2010

This message is intended to provide factual information within the scope of the Ponderosa Fire Department's mission of cooperating with the public safety needs of the residents and businesses of Emergency Services District #29, the Champions area.

A committee officially assigned by ESD29 contacted me on February 25, 2010 to establish a meeting with the intent of studying the potential of reorganizing the existing service delivery for ESD29. All actions since then have strictly followed the rules of the State of Texas Open Records Act / Freedom of Information. Many hours of meetings that included key personnel within the Ponderosa FD system including chief officers, the President of the Ponderosa Volunteer Fire Association, Inc., and the President of Emergency Services District #28 developed the plan.

Outcomes of the meetings resulted in a plan where the PVFA, Inc. would be the INTERIM service provider by hiring Texas Commission certified firefighters/EMT's to staff ESD29 24 hours per day and 7 days a week. In effect during an INTERIM period, the PVFA, Inc. would be utilizing PVFA, Inc. employees operating ESD29 assets paid for by the taxpayers of ESD29.

Associated with the proposed plan was the necessity of the PVFA expanding its paid employee staff, expanding insurance coverage for ESD29 assets, liability insurance expansion related to interim service provisions while providing overall management and command and control. The contract was developed and presented to the PVFA, Inc. for these services and voted on acceptance on March 29, 2010. A 3% administrative cost would be based on any additional funds needed to fund the firefighter positions with reimbursement for other costs such as additional insurance. ESD29 approved the plan on March 30, 2010.

Detailed discussions included the additional costs associated with the plan with a high emphasis on minimizing additional costs while maintaining sufficient services. The end result of the entire plan demonstrated a cost avoidance / savings extrapolated for the remaining nine months of 2010. This included the deferred purchase of a new "grass fire truck", replacing breathing apparatus, and recovering the estimated \$250,000 of tax monies residing within the current Champions Area Volunteer Fire Department.

The future goal under discussion by ESD29 is to establish a modern non-profit organization with governance that includes citizen and fire department representation along with volunteer firefighter positions. When the new organization is established, the Ponderosa FD interim service agreement will be terminated. The goal hopes to accomplish this in less than two months.

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