UPSHUR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2

AUGUST 18, 2026
7:00 P.M.
MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Upshur County Emergency Services District No. 2 Commissioners was held on August 18, 2026, at the Ore City Fire Station, 102 S. Dogwood, Ore City, Texas 75683.

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**. Devin Pesek with Jacobs-Weber Insurance spoke in regards to insurance coverage his company can provide to the departments.

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 was unable to attend the meeting. This items will be passed to next month's agenda.

6) **Discuss and take action on the Financial Statement ending July 31, 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 July 31, 2026. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

7) **Approve the minutes as written for the meeting held July 21, 2026.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Rita Criswell to approve the minutes as written for the meeting held July 21, 2026. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

8) **Discuss and possibly take action on the FY27 Proposed Budget.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Tommie Whitaker to approved the FY27 Proposed Budget. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

9) **Discuss and take action to schedule the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for September 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Rita Criswell to schedule the Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for September 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the New Mountain Fire Station. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

10) **Discuss and take action to schedule the Public Hearing on the Tax Increase (any rate above the No-New Revenue Rate) for September 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Kenny Hankins to schedule the Public Hearing on the Tax Increase for September 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the New Mountain Fire Station. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

11) **Discuss and set the PROPOSED tax rate by RECORD VOTE.** Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Tommie Whitaker 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.

Not present and not voting: Gregg Price

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

13) **Pay bills for the Upshur County ESD #2 as submitted and approved**. Motion by Tommie Whitaker 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 (July Bookkeeping/Clerical)	$ 833.33
Upshur County Tax Accessor	$ 1,993.03

14) **Discuss and take action to pay Diana VFD their carryover from previous budgets in the amount of $85,210.66 for note payments**. Motion by Tommie Whitaker with a second by Rita Criswell to pay Diana VFD their carryover from previous budgets in the amount of $85,210.66. Motion carried 3-0 with Kenny Hankins abstaining.

15) **Discuss and take action for pre-approval expenditures, if any, over $25,000.00 by Diana VFD or New Mountain VFD.** None presented.

16) **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 3-0 with Tommie Whitaker abstaining.

17) **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**. 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. Motion carried 3-0 with Kenny Hankins abstaining.

18) **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**. Chief Matt Burnett requested the remaining budget amount to be paid in advance of next month's meeting in addition to their regular monthly budget allotment. Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Tommie Whitaker 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 and the additional $5,021.67 as their remaining budget amount. Motion carried 3-0 with Rita Criswell abstaining.

19) **Discuss and take action on budget amendments.** No action.

20) **Items to be considered for next month's agenda.** Shawn Salter with Christus EMS

21) **Adjournment**. Motion by Kenny Hankins with a second by Tommie Whitaker to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Gaston D. Berry, III (JR)
Presiding Officer Signature
Title: President

Date: 9-15-26