

TRAVIS COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2021

The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 held a meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 Headquarters located at 201 East Pecan Street, Pflugerville, Texas, for the following purposes.

Commissioners who attended via video conference:

Mike Bessner Mike Howe Robert Turner April Griffin Rico Reyes

The following persons were also in attendance via video conference:

Ron Moellenberg Nick Perkins John Carlton Jessica Frazier Victor Gonzalez

Rob Humphrey Josh Stubblefield

1. THE MEETING *was called to order by Commissioner Bessner at 6:01 p.m. and the minutes were recorded by mechanical means.* The meeting was held pursuant to a formal Notice of Meeting, which had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act at the Travis County Clerk's Office and in the offices of the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 Headquarters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: *There was no public comment; no action was taken on this item.*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

3. CELEBRATE SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PERSONNEL FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE:
 - *Recognition of calendar year 2020 employee awards*
 - *Texas Fire Chiefs Lonestar Achievement Award to Chief Ron Moellenberg*

CONSENT ITEMS

4. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 11, 2021 REGULAR MEETING. *A MOTION was made by Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Reyes made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.*

REPORTS

5. COMMISSIONERS REPORT, INCLUDING RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES: *Commissioner Howe stated they spoke to the Wells Branch Democrats and updated the Wells Branch MUD on the District's financial condition. Commissioner Griffin thanked Assistant Chief Perkins and Commissioner Howe for representing the District well during the meeting.*

6. TREASURER'S REPORT: *Commissioner Howe informed the Board the District is four months into the fiscal year and expenditures are right at 25%. He also noted that sales tax was projected to be at 14% but is actually 12%. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Howe to accept payment of bills and invoices, processing of payroll, financial report, and monthly sales tax analysis report. Commissioner Griffin made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.*
7. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT'S FIRE CHIEF; Chief Moellenberg's report was included in the board packet;
 - *The Fire Chief reported to be cautiously optimistic with a downward trend with ILI (Influenza Like Illness) responses. The last 4-5 weeks have been at or below the trend line for responses on a 7-day average. As of April 8, there may be a brief uptick but is hopefully a result of how data is collected and reported.*
 - *The Fire Chief stated the District continues to support the local vaccination clinics at Circuit of the Americas and the Pflugerville Rec Center. The District has not been able to support any other requests due to the protentional impact on emergency response.*
 - *The Fire Chief reports call volume continues to increase and expects to see more now that people are coming out of isolation.*
 - *The Fire Chief discussed an email that the Assistant City Manager sent requesting information for emergency medical services that reads as an RFQ for contractual services. It has a short timeline and needs to be responded to quickly.*
 - *Commissioner Howe asked the Fire Chief about three firefighters that left for other Departments wanting to know if there were any similarities. The Fire Chief reported one left to go to a slower department and two left for a bigger department.*
8. RECEIVE MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT'S LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION MATTERS, CONTRACT ISSUES, AND LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION; *Attorney Carlton stated the State Legislature is in full swing. Attorney Carlton has been communicating with the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief about ongoing issues with the City in response to a previous letter sent.*
9. RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE PFLUGERVILLE FIREFIGHTER'S PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION, LOCAL #4137 AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION; *Association President Josh Stubblefield stated the union continues to focus on the election and will continue to do so. President Stubblefield discussed a rumor that has been going around about the Union wanting to be a part of the City. President Stubblefield stated the rumor is false due to the City's response to the creation of ESD 17 and the lack of support for the fire department. Commissioner Reyes asked where the rumor came from. President Stubblefield explained there were discussions about the opportunity for the City and the Fire Department to start working together now for whatever the future holds but after the way the City has handled the situation, the Union no longer wants to be associated with them.*

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

10. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE OPTION TO TRADE IN AN AMBULANCE UPON THE PURCHASE OF A NEW ONE, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION INCLUDING; *The District has been offered a unique opportunity to trade in an ambulance. President Bessner asked if the District realizes anything from things that are auctioned as surplus. The Fire Chief responded a recent auction brought in \$5,000 for a retired fire apparatus and \$10,000 for the damaged aerial that has a \$1,000,000 price tag brand new. Commissioner Griffin asked if the District has done any type of analysis to see if the \$30,000 offer for trade in is a good deal. The Fire Chief responded the best examples he can provide is the ones just given. The amounts given were for fire apparatus that have a much higher beginning value than an ambulance. Commissioner Howe inquired about the reason the ambulance company was offering so much to which the Fire Chief responded he believes they are attempting to secure a continuation of business. Commissioner Reyes stated he assumed the Fire Chief thought*

this was a good deal and that is why it was being brought to the Board; the Fire Chief confirmed. Commissioner Reyes stated when asking about any other type of vehicle you could refer to the Kelly Blue Book or Edmunds to see what a reasonable value would be but because these are such specialized vehicles no such information exists. Commissioner Reyes asked the Fire Chief to comment on this. The Fire Chief confirmed there is not a Kelly Blue Book for ambulances and fire apparatus, but he does believe this is a good offer because the ambulance has been well taken care. This vehicle is not a part of the vehicles being considered for refurbishment. Commissioner Reyes questioned if more time should be spent looking into the value of the ambulance if it has not been done so yet. The Fire Chief stated he has not personally investigated this, but the Apparatus Committee and the Fleet Coordinator said this is a good deal. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Reyes made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.

11. CONDUCT THE ANNUAL REVIEW AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION OF THE INVESTMENT POLICY AND STRATEGIES, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *Attorney Carleton stated the Board is required to review the investment policies and list of brokers every year. There is no indication a change is necessary, so the same policies and brokers have been brought forth. Commissioner Reyes asked if there have been any issues raised to which Attorney Carleton stated no. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Griffin made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.*
12. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE PROPOSED DATE AND LOCATION FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *An in-person strategic planning meeting was proposed for July 8-10, 2021 at the Courtyard New Braunfels River Village. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Howe, Commissioner Griffin made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.*
13. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE DISTRICT, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *The District put out an RFQ to seven companies and received one proposal from Mike Montgomery. The Fire Chief requests the Board authorize the District to negotiate and execute a contract with Michael S. Montgomery LLC for an emergency management assessment and needs study for \$44,673. Commissioner Howe asked if this was for the entire District working with all entities and neighboring counties; the Fire Chief confirmed it was. Commissioner Howe also asked where the funds are coming from and the Fire Chief explained the funds were approved last year for this fiscal year for various studies that were proposed to be conducted. Commissioner Griffin inquired if funds were still in the budget to conduct the other studies and the Fire Chief stated there was. Commissioner Griffin also asked why two companies responded but only one gave pricing, Assistant Fire Chief Perkins explained the typical approach is they want to know your budget so they can base their quote off that. Commissioner Howe inquired about the time frame for completion to which Assistant Chief Perkins stated we want it done in 90-120 days. Commissioner Reyes asked what, if any, differences there were in the proposals that made Mr. Montgomery's stand out. Assistant Chief Perkins responded they were similar proposals, but the District is familiar with Mr. Montgomery's work, he has more experience, and he offered his numbers up front. Assistant Chief Perkins also mentioned we are potentially partnering with the other company on another project but felt more comfortable with Mr. Montgomery for this one. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Reyes made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.*
14. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF STRATEGIC PLANNING WITHIN THE DISTRICT, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *No action was taken on this item.*
15. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE COUNCILMEMBERS REFERENCE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LETTER DATED MARCH 15, 2021, AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE CONTRACTOR AP TRITON REFERENCE THE ASSESSMENT OF THE FIRE AND EMS SERVICES IN THE CITY, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *The Fire Chief reported communication from Assistant City Manager Trey Fletcher that was not to the Fire Chief but to the Staff regarding information about boundaries of ESD 2 relative to provision or non-provision of services. The Fire Chief also has a telephone message from Councilman Rogers that was received*

after he left town and he has not returned the call. Mr. Rogers wanted to discuss sound practices for City of Pflugerville. Because this is a council member the Fire Chief feels it is appropriate that Mr. Rogers engage the Board of Commissioners. The District has had ongoing communication with the lead investigator at AP Triton as recent as the day before yesterday. The Fire Chief reports the conversations feel as if he is attempting to negotiate a contract with ESD 2 to offer EMS services in the City and the Fire Chief does not feel as if the conversations are following the correct protocol. The Fire Chief would have expected a call from the City Manager or Assistant City Manager or for the City Manager to address concerns in their weekly Monday meeting. The Fire Chief addressed a concern that ESD 2 has not been cooperative with AP Triton to which he said the District has extended considerable staff time supplying information and AP Triton themselves; the District has been quite cooperative. We understand AP Triton is working on a tight timeline and will continue to submit documentation and respond to the best of our ability. Commissioner Howe stated instead of the City having conversations with us they spent \$35,000 of taxpayer money to have someone reach out for the information, he was confused on why this is happening this way. Commissioner Reyes mentioned he thinks a challenge is that different council members have different ways of consuming information and making decisions and they have different agendas. Because they are not speaking in a unified voice Commissioner Reyes feels they are trying to do the best in their individual capacities to make the best decisions they believe as a council which can lead to a disjointed message from them. Commissioner Reyes has confidence the District is providing the information to AP Triton in a timely manner. The Fire Chief expressed frustration for the tight timeline because this is not a new issue and has been addressed with the City several times. Attorney Carlton stated he felt the need to go into executive session to give advice and address some of the legal issues on this matter.

The Board went into Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551.071 of the Texas Government Code for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel at 7:13 pm. The Board re-convened from Executive Session at 8:06 pm; no action was taken during Executive Session.

Commissioner Turner made a MOTION to authorize President Bessner and Attorney Carlton to draft a letter expressing ESD 2's interest in response to the RFI that was issued today by the City of Pflugerville. In that response we want them to be aware we are interested in discussing with them provision of ALS response and transport and we also want to discuss with them some of the inconsistencies the District recognizes in the RFI compared to the way 911 service and radio systems operate in Austin and Travis County. Commissioner Griffin made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.

Commissioner Turner made a MOTION that directs the Fire Chief, when elected officials from other government agencies contact him or the staff, the Fire Chief is to advise those individuals to contact a member of the Board of Commissioners. Furthermore that the Fire Chief will be the point of contact for an agency's employee wanting information from ESD 2. Commissioner Griffin made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.

16. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE DISTRICT RELATED TO FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL PROJECTIONS, INCLUDING:

- REVIEWING PROJECTED GROWTH IN REVENUE, POPULATION, SERVICE DEMAND, AND IMPACT ON RESPONSE TIMES AND PROVISION OF SERVICE,
- PRESENTING REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS CONCERNING COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS AND RELATIONS,
- AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *No action was taken on this item.*

17. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS COMBATting THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *Commissioner Howe mentioned the District has gone through a lot since January 1 including the pandemic and storm Uri and thanked District employees for everything they have done. The staff have made him proud to be associated with the District. No action was taken on this item.*

President Bessner adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.
The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rob Humphrey
Board Recorder