

**TRAVIS COUNTY**  
**EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**August 9, 2021**

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The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 held a meeting on Monday, August 9, 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:

Mike Bessner                      Mike Howe

Commissioners who attended via video conference:

Rico Reyes                      Robert Turner                      April Griffin joined at 7:04 p.m.

The following persons were also in attendance:

Ron Moellenberg      Nick Perkins              Jessica Frazier      Victor Gonzalez      John Carlton  
Patricio Perez

1. THE MEETING *was called to order by Commissioner Bessner at 6:00 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: *There was no special recognition; no action was taken on this item*

**CONSENT ITEMS**

4. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM THE JULY 15, 2021 REGULAR MEETING, THE JULY 26, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING, AND THE JULY 29, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING;
5. APPROVE THE EARLY PAYOFF OF PARTICULAR DISTRICT LEASES AND LOANS, AND RELATED BUDGET AMENDMENTS;

6. APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENTS AS PRESENTED;

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Howe to approve the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Turner made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.*

**REPORTS**

7. COMMISSIONERS REPORT, INCLUDING RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES, INCLUDING:

- a. COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CITY COUNCIL OF PFLUGERVILLE PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE; (GRIFFIN/HOWE); *President Bessner responded to the City Council of Pflugerville's request to meet with them after this board meeting.*
- b. TRAVIS COUNTY ESD COMMISSIONERS' COUNCIL REPORT; (BESSNER); *There was nothing to report.*

8. TREASURER'S REPORT: *Commissioner Howe inquired who Intera is and if the fee paid to them was an annual expense, Assistant Chief Perkins responded. Commissioner Howe also asked Finance Director Jessica Frazier about checks written to PNC and Southside Bank. Commissioner Reyes asked about the item description "12-foot" Pierce Arrow, Mrs. Frazier replied it referred to the year 2012. Commissioner Howe discussed the variations in sales tax. The Fire Chief stated the numbers are fluctuating. 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 Turner made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.*

9. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT'S FIRE CHIEF; Chief Moellenberg's report was included in the board packet;

- *The Fire Chief stated the District is seeing a tremendous upswing in total number of all calls, with days running 40 to 50 calls.*
- *The Fire Chief stated the District received notification from the Federal Government of another grant award. The grant is for a sprinkler system for the central station and is for \$100,000. The timeline to respond falls before the next scheduled board meeting so the Fire Chief asked the Board to approve him to respond and then ratify the action at September's board meeting. Commissioner Reyes asked for Attorney Carlton's input to make sure there were no legal issues with doing so. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Howe to accept the FEMA grant. Commissioner Reyes made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.*
- *Commissioner Howe asked for the status of Station 6 and if the City of Pflugerville had given approvals yet. The Fire chief said he had not received approvals. The District moved forward with responses on the City's permit recommendations and should receive a response in the next 15 business days. Commissioner Howe stated the City's approval process is costing the Fire Department and other businesses seeking permits money.*

10. 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 reported dealing with the tax rate and preparing staff to talk with the City about EMS services.*

11. RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE PFLUGERVILLE FIREFIGHTER'S PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION, LOCAL #4137 AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION; *No representative was present.*

## DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

12. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS RENEWAL, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *Patricio Perez from Frost Insurance presented to the Board. When discussing how the District's health plan compares to others, Commissioner Howe asked if the District provides a letter to employees with the information. Commissioner Howe asked about the cost impact of COVID-19 to which Mr. Perez replied. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Howe to continue using United Health Care, Commissioner Reyes made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.*
13. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION FOR STATION 6 AND TRAINING FIELD EXPENSES, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *The Fire Chief explained the reimbursement resolution would allow the District to pay cash up front and wait to seek long term financing once hard costs are determined for Station 6 and the Training Field engineering improvements. Attorney Carleton explained this is a commonly used practice by public entities. Mrs. Frazier clarified what the board would be approving. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Howe, Commissioner Turner made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.*
14. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CONVEYANCE OF TAX CREDITS TO HENDRIX CONSULTING ENGINEERS, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *The Fire Chief explained we would pass our tax credits to Hendrix Consulting Engineers. A MOTION was made by Commissioner Howe, Commissioner Reyes made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried.*
15. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET AND FEE SCHEDULE, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *The Fire Chief highlighted the proposed budget. He called attention to the new fees for plan review and developmental services. Commissioner Howe asked if the fees were sufficient, the Fire Chief responded the City of Pflugerville gets a 50% cut in the fees on plan review and development fees for all development inside the City. This was established in the original Fire Marshal contract and needs to be revised. Commissioner Howe would like to see the revision on a future agenda item. The Fire Chief proposed the budget at a 9-cent tax rate, down from 10 cents last year. Last year, the average taxable home value with a homestead exemption was \$263,635 where the homeowner paid \$264 in taxes. This year, the average home value with a homestead exemption is \$290,493. Homeowners will pay \$3 less this year than last with the proposed 9-cent tax rate. No action was taken on this item.*
16. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION REGARDING THE 2021 TAX RATE, INCLUDING:
- ESTABLISHING THE PROPOSED TAX RATE BY TAKING A RECORD VOTE;
  - SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING AND A MEETING TO VOTE TO ADOPT TAX RATE;
  - AUTHORIZING THE PUBLICATION OF "NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE" IN THE PFLUGERVILLE PFLAG; AND
  - ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPROVING THE POSTING OF TAX RATE NOTICE AND "NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE" TO THE HOMEPAGE OF THE DISTRICT WEBSITE; *Commissioner Howe asked about the notice stating tax increase even though the tax rate is going down. Attorney Carleton explained. Commissioner Howe made a MOTION to propose a reduced tax rate of 9 cents per \$100 evaluation, to schedule a public hearing and a meeting to vote to adopt the tax rate on September 9, 2021, authorize publication of "notice of public hearing on tax increase" in the Pflugerville Pflag, and acknowledge and approve the posting of tax rate notice and "notice of public hearing on tax increase" to the homepage of the District website. Commissioner Reyes made a SECOND to the motion; after a record vote, the motion carried.*

Reyes-           Aye  
Bessner-        Aye  
Turner-          Aye  
Howe-            Aye  
Griffin-         Not present

17. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN FISCAL YEAR 2022, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION FOR THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- TO TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 17;
- TO CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE
- TO THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF TRAVIS COUNTY IN THE DISTRICT OUTSIDE OF TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 17;

The Board recessed to Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 551.071 of the Texas Government Code for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel at 7:04 pm. The Board re-convened from Executive Session at 8:45 pm; no action was taken during Executive Session.

*Commissioner Griffin joined via zoom during executive session. Commissioner Reyes intends to thank the City of Pflugerville for their willingness to meet quickly. After looking at all the important details, Commissioner Reyes feels for the meeting to be productive it needs to be conditions based rather than calendar based. The Board would first like to establish an interlocal agreement with ESD 17, adopt the budget, and the tax rate. The Board would like to give a third-party 30 days to review AP Triton's report so the Board can give reasonable and thoughtful answers to the City's questions.*

*Commissioner Howe mentioned ESD 2 provides service to the City of Pflugerville and the County. He mentioned one of the reasons ESD 17 extended services in the City to the end of the year was to have the opportunity to get all of the pieces together. Commissioner Howe feels The Board owes it to all the citizens in the entirety of the District to take a look at all of the issues in a rational, reasonable way.*

*Commissioner Reyes reiterated that we want to take the information and give it to a third-party expert, just as the City did with AP Triton. ESD 2 staff have had approximately 30 days to review the report, AP Triton had 6 months to review the data and write their report so giving our third-party expert 30 days does not seem unreasonable. This is not an attempt to drag our feet, the intent is to adequately evaluate the facts and circumstances to give just and reasonable answers to the questions they've asked. Commissioner Turner suggested President Bessner and Attorney Carlton draft a letter to the City of Pflugerville stating our intentions.*

18. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS COMBATTING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *The Fire Chief discussed the importance of being vaccinated. No action was taken on this item.*

19. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE DISTRICT'S FIRE CHIEF, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *No action was taken on this item.*

President Bessner adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rob Humphrey  
Board Recorder