

TRAVIS COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2021

The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 held a meeting on Thursday, October 14, 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 Robert Turner April Griffin

Commissioners who attended via Zoom: Rico Reyes

The following persons were also in attendance:

Rob Humphrey Nick Perkins Michael Anderson Brian Fairbanks John Carlton
Mark Moellenberg Jim McDonald AJ Stacer Victor Gonzalez Jessica Frazier
Melody Ryan Anthony Nguyen

1. THE MEETING *was called to order by Commissioner Bessner at 6:02 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:
 - *Anthony Nguyen- 19905 Tree Sap Way, Round Rock*
 - *Melody Ryan- 1012 Ripley Castle, Pflugerville*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

3. CELEBRATE SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PERSONNEL FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE. *There was no special recognition, no action was taken.*

CONSENT ITEMS

4. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 REGULAR MEETING, THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING, THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING, AND THE OCTOBER 5, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING;
5. APPROVE AN AGREEMENT TO TRADE-IN TWO AMBULANCES WITH THE PURCHASE OF TWO NEW AMBULANCES INCLUDING A FY 22 BUDGET AMENDMENT;

6. APPROVE A ONE YEAR CONTRACT TO CONTINUE SOFTWARE SERVICES TO TRACK SAFETY INCIDENTS AND INJURIES BEGINNING NOVEMBER 4, 2021;

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

REPORTS

7. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS, RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES, INCLUDING;
 - COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CITY COUNCIL OF PFLUGERVILLE PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE; (GRIFFIN/HOWE) *Commissioner Griffin attended the last City Council meeting. Commissioner Griffin stated her opinions on how the meeting went. She stated ESD 2 has met with the City of Pflugerville several times and prompted the initial meetings. Commissioner Griffin stated ESD 2 has provided information to the City of Pflugerville but now is probably not the best time to meet considering there is a lawsuit pending with ESD 17. Commissioner Griffin stated that as a resident of the City she trusts ESD 2 to provide quality EMS services and believes that using a private, for profit, provider is to the detriment of the community. She feels that the City Council putting an ordinance in place to block a quality EMS service provider is unreasonable and disheartening. Commissioner Griffin stated the City has not funded any EMS services and everything that has been provided up to this point was from the Fire Department's budget. Commissioner Howe was unable to attend the City Council meeting but made his remarks. He discussed the City's motivation to go with a for profit EMS provider over a fire department that is rated in the top 1%. Commissioner Howe discussed the AP Triton report and some of their suggestions for the Department. Commissioner Howe asked for clarification on private ambulance services and whether they are able to integrate with the Austin Travis County 9-1-1 service. The Fire Chief confirmed they are not able to use the local radio system and explained the way a call would be routed. The Fire Chief explained response times and the different ways to report it. Commissioner Reyes supports the overlay district and feels it is a mistake to go with a private provider as the District's motives are public service and theirs is profit. President Bessner gave his remarks which called out the District's services were the highest rated service in Pflugerville on their annual survey. President Bessner also called out flaws in AP Triton's report and encouraged anyone listening to not be fooled by the 'Vote No' and 'Double Tax' signs and the misstating of the facts by the Mayor and City Council. President Bessner mentioned the District sent four letters to the City wanting to meet with the last letter stating ESD 2 would be willing to meet with the City once the tax rate was finalized. The City sued ESD 2 two days prior to finalizing the tax rate so meeting at this time would not be advantageous. President Bessner established the board is not elected – they are volunteers that are there to serve the people. They are not concerned about saying whatever people want to hear to ensure they will get more votes like the City Council does.*
 - TRAVIS COUNTY ESD COMMISSIONERS' COUNCIL REPORT; (BESSNER) *There was nothing to report.*
8. TREASURER'S REPORT: *Commissioner Howe explained some of the checks that had been written and gave an overview of the documents provided in the board packets. 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. Commissioner Reyes was not present to vote on this item.*
9. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT'S FIRE CHIEF; Chief Perkin's report was included in the board packet;
 - *The Fire Chief reported ILI (influenza like illness) calls have decreased.*
 - *We are currently in Stage III according to APH but numbers are closer to Stage II.*
 - *Commissioner Turner asked the Fire Chief if the Department was prepared for a potential surge in COVID cases like we saw around this time last year. The Fire Chief responded the Department is prepared to live with COVID forever.*

- *The Fire Chief stated the Board was going to hear a presentation from the consultants that created the Ambulance Supplemental Program for the State. AP Triton falsely claimed to be the ones that created the program.*
- *PCG presented to the Board about strategic planning for years 2024-2034. President Bessner asked what the timeframe was for the project and was told the final product would be available August 2022. Commissioner Reyes asked about the time commitment for each of the necessary subgroups.*

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 stated the legislature is still in session and gave an overview. He will discuss more in executive session.*

11. RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE PFLUGERVILLE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER' S ASSOCIATION, LOCAL NO. 4137 AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION; *The Union President, Josh Stubblefield was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a letter for Board President Bessner to read. Commissioner Howe expressed his frustration of the behaviors from a City Council member. President Bessner and Commissioner Griffin also expressed their feelings on the matter. Commissioner Turner thanked all the uniformed staff for everything they do and that they have the full support from the Board.*

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

12. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A PROGRAM TO RECRUIT, HIRE AND TRAIN CIVILIAN FIRE CADETS, TO INCLUDE A BUDGET AMENDMENT, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *The Fire Chief briefly explained the program and the need for it. The Fire Chief discussed attrition rates and explained the expected increase with this program. The Fire Chief asked the Board to approve 75 positions. This would allow for two separate groups in this budget year with a goal of bringing on 25 from the first group of 50. The Fire Chief discussed the cost and salaries for the cadets. Commissioner Griffin asked if the total cost covers the cadets that do not complete the program. The Fire Chief explained the types of candidates this program can potentially attract. Commissioner Howe asked if other Departments run this type of program. Commissioner Griffin asked about the marketing plan. Commissioner Howe mentioned he thought the amount sounded low and would not be surprised if unexpected expenses pop up. Commissioner Griffin made a MOTION to approve the program, Commissioner Howe made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried. Commissioner Reyes was not present for the vote.*

13. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH RONALD MOELLENBERG, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *The Fire Chief stated Ronald Moellenberg would assist with strategic planning and potentially help evaluate EMS performance in the District. The contract is for a minimum of 20 hours per week at \$125 per hour. Commissioner Howe asked where the funds would come from to which the Fire Chief stated there is money in professional services. Commissioner Howe made a MOTION to approve the agreement, Commissioner Turner made a SECOND to the motion; the motion carried. Commissioner Reyes and Commissioner Griffin were not present for the vote.*

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 7:55 pm. The Board re-convened from Executive Session at 9:05 pm; *no action was taken during Executive Session.*

14. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN FISCAL YEAR 2022 TO OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES, TO INCLUDE:

- *AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 17, Attorney Carlton stated he has been working with ESD 17's attorney Howard Katz on the ILA between ESD 2 and ESD 17. The document is nearly finalized so there may be a special meeting to get it*

approved. Attorney Carlton is looking at the City of Pflugerville's franchise ordinance to determine the impact on ESD 2 and will report back once done.

- AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *No action was taken on this item.*

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

- RESPONSE TO THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE CONTRACT AWARD AND THE FRANCHISE ORDINANCE;
- REVIEW OF 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.*

16. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS COMBATTING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *There was nothing to report, no action was taken on this item.*

President Bessner adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rob Humphrey
Board Recorder