

TRAVIS COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JULY 13, 2023

The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 held a meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2023, 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 Zoom:

Rico Reyes Robert Turner

Commissioners who attended:

Mike Howe April Griffin Randy Reese

The following persons were also in attendance:

Nick Perkins AJ Stacer Sequina Allen Brian Fairbanks Jessica Frazier
Kara DiClemente Michael Anderson Ed King Tory Thompson Trevor Stokes

1. THE MEETING *was called to order by Commissioner Griffin 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, in the offices of the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 Headquarters, and on the District’s website at <https://www.pflugervillefire.org/board-of-commissioners-agenda/>.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: *No public comment.*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

3. CELEBRATE SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF PERSONNEL FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE.
Special Recognition Letter of appreciation to the District from Lori Carl a Local Citizen.

CONSENT ITEMS

4. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 7, 2023 MEETING;
5. APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2 AUTHORIZING SALE OR DISPOSAL OF SALVAGE PROPERTY;
6. APPROVE AN EASEMENT TO TRAVIS COUNTY FOR THE WATER QUALITY RETENTION POND AT THE TRAINING FIELD/ STATION 7 COMPLEX;

Commissioner Howe MOVED and Commissioner Reese SECONDED to approve consent items 4, 5, and 6. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

7. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS, RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES, INCLUDING;
 - COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CITY COUNCIL OF PFLUGERVILLE PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE;
 - DISTRICT PUBLIC RELATION COMMITTEE
 - TRAVIS COUNTY ESD COMMISSIONERS' COUNCIL REPORT;

Commissioner Turner discussed the June 17th meeting and noted Chuck will work with Travis County ESD to reach an understanding of the enforcement of fire codes within the county property. Secondly, Commissioner Turner discussed the annual ESD report, which is scheduled for August 8th. Thirdly, he shared a demonstration of the Overdose Map currently used by ESD 6, which serves as a tool to view where overdoses are occurring in their area.

8. RECEIVE REPORT FROM TREASURER AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION INCLUDING:
 - A. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS AND INVOICES;
 - B. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT, INCLUDING PROCESSING OF PAYROLL;
 - C. RECEIVE MONTHLY SALES TAX ANALYSIS REPORT;
 - D. APPROVAL OF PURCHASES FOR ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE DISTRICT'S APPROVED BUDGET;

Commissioner Howe gave an overview of the checks and discussed sales tax, noting that it has dropped 8 percent over the year. He discussed payroll, sharing dated July 14th, and capital funds. An update was announced that Station 6 is nearly finished.

Commissioner Howe MOVED and Commissioner Griffin SECONDED to approve the financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

9. RECEIVE MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF REGARDING EMERGENCY OPERATIONS, RESPONSE TIMES, CALL VOLUME, TRAINING, MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PERSONNEL TO INCLUDE:

- AN UPDATE ON THE DISTRICT'S EMS BILLING POLICY;
- AN UPDATE ON THE DISTRICT'S PLANNING DEVELOPMENT;
- AND CONSIDER TAKING ANY RELATED ACTION;

Chief Perkins discussed the current issue concerning alarm handling times with the City of Austin. They have applied their changes to the entire EMS system. Chief Perkins requested to meet with all the ESD chiefs to discuss Austin EMS; a meeting has not yet been established. Chief Perkins discussed the City of Austin's challenges, including increased call volume and response times, noting that while these are real challenges, they are not on the same level as those in the City of Pflugerville. The Board discussed the Austin EMS call response volume and discussed how to communicate from the Top-Down to ensure that the City of Austin responds to this problem of call response times. Commissioner Turner is happy to speak to individuals to be able to plead their case at the Commissioner's Court.

Chief Perkins also discussed the ESL record management system and shared that all information is populated into a report. When Austin changed the dispatch protocol, it affected the records management system. Chief Perkins added that they do not fully understand the extent of the damage inflicted, and he wishes to communicate these problems with the city of Austin. He discussed projected increases and noted they will be approaching the \$750,000 mark in a few years. These fees include their communication and radio communications in addition to dispatch fees. Commissioner Howe asked Chief Perkins for a report of how the delays affect the dispatch time. Chief Perkins added that currently, delays are at a minute and a half on average. He discussed that some ESDs could provide some staffing services to help ease the issue and decrease response times. Commissioner Turner asked to evaluate and find an improved relationship with the City of Austin. The relationship is currently with the EMS departments, and he encouraged the ESD to have a relationship that isn't subject to these individual partnerships but rather with the city as a whole. Chief Perkins agreed and felt they would have an improved relationship.

Additionally, Chief Perkins discussed a report with Dr. Zimmerman and the Allegiance paramedic incident that led to the death of a patient. Chief Perkins also warned of high temperatures and wildfire activity. He discussed hiring contractors with bulldozers for 30-90 day contracts. He noted the county is offering 2 surplus units: although one is too large, the older unit will be usable. Chief Perkins then discussed the results of the city survey with favorable results for ESD 2 and added that ambulances are a high concern. Commissioner Howe expressed high remarks on the reports for the city survey and felt the report was done well.

Chief Perkins noted that the annual report after the legislative session was finalized, and the Planning Conference will be held July 27th-28th. Subsequently, the Annual Meeting will be held September 13th, and a special meeting could also be held to address budget and tax rate adoption. Finally, Chief Perkins shared that he was accepted into the Community Health Champion's Leadership engagement program. Due to this, he will be missing the Board Meeting for ESD 17. Commissioner Turner added that many rely on Community Health, and he felt that with more knowledge of how they work, they will be able to provide a better service.

10. RECEIVE MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT'S LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION MATTERS, CONTRACT ISSUES, AND LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION;
CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-23-000748; DAVID ROGERS, JENNIFER PAKENHAM, AND KRISTI POWELL, PLAINTIFFS V. TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2 BOARD, DEFENDANT;

Discussed in executive session.

11. RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE PFLUGERVILLE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION, LOCAL NO. 4137 AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION;
Trevor Stokes, PFA, discussed opening a bargaining meeting and noted that every July they discuss Article 18 in order to stay ahead of pay increases. He mentioned a future salary survey. He also discussed administrative work, noting that a new IMF General President and Secretary General is clamping down on compliance with audits. He then mentioned new elections and shared that two council seats will be up for election in November.
He also apologized for discussing an official's name in a meeting. He confirmed that he followed up concerning this, and he now has a clean slate. He later discussed successes with the legislature. Lastly, the PFA is looking forward to the planning session and is hoping to begin starting quarterly events and hosting service training in October.
Commissioner Reyes noted the incident concerning the local official and thanked him for his professionalism in dealing with the issue. Commissioner Turner also thanked the PFA for their legislative support and actions.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

12. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE DISTRICT RELATED TO FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL PROJECTIONS, INCLUDING;
- REVIEW OF PROJECTED GROWTH IN REVENUE, POPULATION, SERVICE DEMAND, AND IMPACT ON RESPONSE TIMES AND PROVISION OF SERVICE,
 - PRESENTING REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS CONSIDERING COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS AND RELATIONS,
 - AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

Chief Perkins asked Ed King about the reserves in relation to interest. Chief Perkins shared this is a way to look at lowering the reserves and purchasing insurance to offset the amount. Ed added that this is a novel concept to insure against risk otherwise adjusted by the balance of the reserve. He shared that they lose the earning power of the reserves and would be purchasing extra insurance. He thought this was an interesting concept but did not recommend changing their current policy at present. Commissioner Howe asked how to fight to get taxes for their money and discussed lawsuits due to the pandemic.

Commissioner Turner asked Ed King if he would be able to talk to the credit analysts to find out their assessment if they were to lower their reserves and have insurance to meet the dollar amount for the reserve level they want, with a mix of cash and insurance.

13. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER DISTRICT WEBSITE STATUS, ACCESSIBILITY, AND POSTING REQUIREMENTS, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

Mr. Carlton shared that their current website is impressive, particularly with their average response time posted.

14. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF NEW FIREFIGHTER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

Chief Perkins noted this is approved money for PPE for new cadets (class 33 and 35) moving into operation on August 16th, 2023, for structural and wildland gear including hoods, boots, and additional shipping costs for a total of \$66,168.90 through various vendors such as Metro Fire. \$670,075.00 was in the budget for FY232, and \$252,000.00 remains for the purchase.

Commissioner Howe MOVED and Commissioner Reese SECONDED, The motion passed unanimously.

15. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE TAX AND BUDGET PLANNING CALENDAR FOR 2023, AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF TAX PROCESS PUBLICATIONS, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

Mr. Carlton shared the calendar and timetable and noted they must have quorums for the meetings. They will need to meet on August 13th to decide the rate. He shared they need a quorum for August 10th to decide which path they will take. Assuming they do not adopt a rate that exceeds the voter approval rate, they would not need to meet until September; however, if they do exceed the rate, they will need to meet again on August 13th.

Commissioner Howe MOVED and Commissioner Reese SECONDED TO approve changing the calendar date from September 14th to September 13th. The motion passed unanimously.

16. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER SCHEDULE BUDGET MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

Ms. Frazier shared they will discuss the tax rates at the planning conference and their implementation at the August meeting.

No action was taken.

17. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LOANS FOR FM973 LAND AND FIRE TRUCKS ON ORDER AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

Ed King discussed the loan options and the \$2 million purchase price for the land. They receive a 4.3 interest rate from Southside Bank for a 20-year fixed rate. For apparatus financing, Southside was the recommended lender with credit approval for a 10-year term. The documentation was prepared in the office for Mr. Carlton's review, and they anticipate closing on the loans on the 28th of the month. He discussed the approval process and the capital market participants concerning defunding ESD's operations. He noted that this ESD is one of the top-rated ESDs in terms of credit in the area; however, these discussions about defunding the department have hurt the ESD's credit.

Commissioner Howe asked when these loans can be refinanced. Ed King noted they can be refinanced or paid off at 50% of the term. The interest rates can be negotiated out early. Commissioner Griffin pointed out a typo in the document.

Commissioner Howe MOVED and Commissioner Reese SECONDED to approve the two items. The motion passed unanimously.

18. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE PROPOSED PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES, COST ALLOCATION, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

Chief Perkins had no update and noted they would have no more than a 3 percent increase and have no intention to go beyond the voter approval rate.

No action was taken.

The Board went into executive session at 7:40 PM.

The Board adjourned from the executive session at 8:48 PM.

No action was taken in the executive session. Chief Perkins shared an incident where all ambulances were busy except one. The City of Austin was dispatched by the system, and their one unit was picked to assist, a Priority One call broke out. Chief Perkins shared they have no agreement with Allegiance, and that calls should be routed to their shift commander. Chief Perkins will start drafting a report. Commissioner Reyes shared this is the sort of incident he shared with the city council. He noted they need to keep a record of this incident.

Vice President Griffin adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sequina Allen
Board Recorder