

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 8

MINUTES

July 22, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 8 was held on **Monday July 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**, at Station 801, located at 801 Bee Creek Road, Spicewood, Texas 78669, for the following purposes:

1. Call meeting to order; Meeting called to order at 5:57pm

Board Present in Person:

Debra Opdahl – President, Becky Wynn – Treasurer, Bruce Mills- Vice President

Board Absent

Charles Valadez – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

Also present in person:

Tony Haden, Lynnette Courtney, Tye Prange, Matthew Montgomery, Trichelle Lee

2. Public Comment: Members of the public may speak for up to three (3) minutes regarding general topics or specific agenda items. In accordance with the Texas Attorney General's opinion, any public comment that is made on an item that is not on the published final agenda will only be heard by the Board of Commissioners. No formal action, discussion, deliberation, nor comment will be made by the Board of Commissioners;

None.

3. Public Comment on Agenda items: Individual members of the public may address the Board for a maximum of three minutes per person per agenda item. Individuals may address the Board once per item. Members of the public will speak on agenda items before Board consideration of item. Members of the public who wish to speak on agenda items or make a public comment must complete speaker cards prior to the beginning of the Board meeting.

None.

Discussion/Action Items

3. Discuss and consider F.Y. 2024 - 2025 budget presentations;

Chief Haden stated the department's top priority needs, which are: Financial stewardship-accurate reporting, 5% increase for all staff, add 3 full time firefighter positions, add an education reimbursement program, create a replacement schedule to minimize future budget impacts, include a mid-year budget workshop to adjust and review budget items.

Presented tax rate planning:

Option - Proposed tax rates- ESD8 from .081 to .083; ESD16 from .073 to .075.

These options are less than the \$500,000 increase and would let us follow the BLUE options (exceeds the no-new-revenue rate but does not exceed the voter-approval rate) on the tax planning calendar.

Chief Haden added that the ESD 16 contract will increase this year to \$3,300,000.

Chief Haden reviewed Budget proposal:

Payroll-

- The budget presented includes 3 new full-time firefighters added to our staff. Budget includes a 5% raise for all employees and will increase accrued PTO for our tenure staff.

HR

- HR is the biggest portion of our budget which accounts for 80% of the Budget. This includes a 12% increase in healthcare.

HR Admin Fees

- This line item was removed this year. Since our administrative team has grown we are able to handle this in-house and a contract is no longer needed at this time.

Notes and Mortgages

- The new Engine 803 payment has been included in the budget.

Communications

- A reduction was seen in this line item due to a reduction of radios needing to be ordered.

Public Relations

- Brown Santa line item was renamed to Community Outreach.
 - Items in this category will be events that are not public relations such as, stop the bleed, hands only CPR, Boaters safety, etc.
 - The prevention line item was reduced by half and the other half went to Community outreach.

Becky Wynn asked that the flowers and gift line item be reduced and placed into awards or community outreach.

Facilities

- No questions were asked in this line item.

Support Equipment

- Uniforms were a large ticket item last year and will continue through the upcoming year as we transition staff into the new uniforms.

Training

- Staff suggested that a leadership/facilitation allotment be added to the course fees for items such as Geoff Tumlin and other programs.
 - Staff also presented the education reimbursement program.

The Board thanked the staff for their continued efforts to create a positive culture and their commitment to furthering our employees education.

Fleet

- No questions were asked.

Budget Summary

- The proposed budget is \$10,745,125.39

Chief Haden presented a wish list of items:

- Carna Training Gear
- PPE gear dryer
- CPR manikins
- Glidasopes
- AED program
- Battalion 801 and 802 slide upgrades
- Repairs to Engine 802 suspension
- Additional administrative vehicle.

Chief Haden presented capital assets for future planning purposes:

- Tender 801
- Brush truck 803
- Brush truck 801

The Board expressed concern for the future needs of the department, to include new stations, personnel, and equipment. There is a desire to hold a strategic planning meeting with the Board to make sure that we have these items laid out for budgeting purposes. Chief Haden stated the staff will start working on that request. The Board asked that staff review the wish list and capital outlay and present it at a later meeting.

4. Discuss and consider adoption of the tax and budget planning calendar for 2024 and take any related reaction.

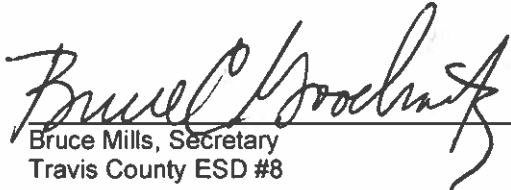
The board wants to continue forward with the blue tax planning calendar. The Board will have a regular Board meeting at its normal time, August 20, 2024, at 6:30pm.

Debra Opdahl asked for a motion to approve the tax and budget calendar for 2024 for Tax Exceeds No-New Revenue Rate but not the Voter approval rate. Becky Wynn moved to approve the budget planning calendar, motion was seconded by Bruce Goodhartz. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discuss agenda, time, and date for next meeting.

The next regular Board meeting be held at 801 Bee Creek Road, Briarcliff Texas on Tuesday August 20, 2024 at 7pm.

6. Adjourned at 8:03pm


Bruce Mills, Secretary
Travis County ESD #8