

## **TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 8**

### **MINUTES July 30, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 8 was held on **Wednesday July 30, 2025 at 10 a.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 10:02am

#### **Board Present in Person:**

Debra Opdahl – President, Becky Wynn – Treasurer, – Charles Valadez – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer, Bruce Mills- Vice President, Charles Valadez – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

#### **Board Absent**

Bruce Mills- Vice President,

#### **Also present in person:**

Tony Haden, Lynnette Courtney, Tye Prange, Matthew Montgomery

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**

4. Discuss and consider taking action regarding repairs and refurbishment of Boat 801.

Chief Haden presented that the proposed boat refurbishment was included in the budget presentation. This would be an item absorbed into FY 2025-2026's budget for \$275,000. Chief Haden recommended that the board approve this request so that the boat can be sent to Lake Assault for repairs. Repairs are just an estimate based off pictures staff has sent. We do not know the full extent until Lake Assault receives the boat. Repairs are expected to take 7-9 months. Staff is also working on a loaner boat with Travis County Parks as well as a back up plan so that we would have a boat on the water.

The Board asked for more information and other options on a temporary or long term solution for the boat so that they can make a more informed decision. Debra Opdahl asked that this item be placed on all future agendas until a resolution is reached.

5. Discuss and consider taking action regarding extending or renewing the Board Financial Consultant Contract.

Becky Wynn presented that the Boards financial advisor has been working with both Districts

for almost a year now. They meet one time a month. Kyle Bolls does great work and works well with staff. He has been a great addition to the team. This also helps with segregation of duties as describe necessary from our auditor. Becky Wynn recommended that the board renew the financial advisor contract with Kyle Bolls for the FY 2025-2026 not to exceed \$8,000.

Bruce Goodhartz made a motion to extend the financial advisor contract with Kyle Bolls for the FY 2025-2026 with a not to exceed amount of \$8,000. Charles Valadez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chief Haden stated the department's top priority needs, which are: Financial stewardship-accurate reporting, a change to a new pay scale for staff that mirrors a neighboring ESD, add an education reimbursement program, create a replacement schedule to minimize future budget impacts, clean up of accounts and coding, and a new 10 year financial and CIP planning forecast.

Presented tax rate planning:

Proposed tax rates- ESD8 from .081 to .0885 and a debt service rate of .004515 for a total tax rate of .093015; ESD16 from .075 to .0775.

This option is less than the \$500,000 increase and would let us follow the PURPLE options (exceeds the no-new-revenue and the voter-approval rate but does not exceed the de minimums rate) on the tax planning calendar.

Chief Haden added that the ESD 16 contract will decrease this year to \$3,225,200

Lynnette reviewed Budget proposal:

Revenues-

- Debt Service Rate-

As part of our 10 year financial planning tool created with the help of Sharon Smith, ESD 6 CFO. Our debt service rate will allocate funds that will directly go towards our Capital Improvement Plans.

Payroll-

- The budget presented includes a new pay scale that is comparable to a neighboring ESDs.
- Benefits
- Staff looked at moving health care to a 10/1 renewal instead of a 12/1 (current) and our new broker advised us against this change. A utilization review was conducted and our renewal should be a good one.
  - HR is the biggest portion of our budget which accounts for 87% of the Budget.

Notes and Mortgages

- The Financing for Station remodel/ expansion is included

Administration

Staff worked hard to identify what items were and place them into board categories, not a specific line item.

The board directed staff to create and separate all administrative costs from professional services to clean up the budget.

#### Communications

- 4 additional radios identified in the CIP plan, a new MDC for the Tender replacement was added.

#### Public Relations

- The board asked that the category annual banquet and flowers and gifts be renamed more appropriately to reflect yearly items, not one time a year.

#### Facilities

- Repairs and upgrades at station 802 were discussed that included shower issues and PPE gear storage. The Board directed staff to work with Carltons office on a future agenda item to change the scope of work from Station 801 expansion remodel to Facilities upgrades and expansion so that Station 802 could be included.

#### Support Equipment

- No questions were asked

#### Training

- Staff added a profession services line item specifically for training. These are items like Geoff Tumlin..
  - Staff also presented the education reimbursement program was a reduction due to activity.

The board thanked 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 \$11,652,168.39

#### Chief Haden presented a wish list of items:

- Refurbishment of Battalion 802
- Boat 801 Refurbishment
- Replace BAT 802
- Replace Squad 803
- SAR upgrades
- Gear Room for Station 802
- Bathroom repairs for Station 802

The Board expressed that more options were still needed in order to make a determination on Boat 801. They also expressed that if reserve funds were needed, we had funds to help cover the budget deficit. The Board also expressed concern with the amount to replace squad 803. They asked that staff review the wish list and capital outlay and present it at a later meeting.

No other questions were asked. The Board thanked staff for all their hard work on this years budget.

#### 7. Discuss and consider taking action regarding 2025-2026 Budget.

The Board directed staff to make the changes discussed during the presentation. No action

was taken.

8. Discuss and consider meeting dates regarding 2025-2026 budget planning and proposed tax rate.


A special meeting will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10:15am. A public meeting will be held at the regular Board meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:15pm.

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

A special board meeting will be held at 801 Bee Creek Road, Briarcliff Texas on Tuesday August 5, 2025 at 1015am.

The next regular board meeting be held at 801 Bee Creek Road, Briarcliff Texas on Wednesday August 20, 2025 at 515pm.

10. Adjourned at 12:44pm

  
Chris Goodhart, Secretary  
Travis County ESD #8