

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 8

**Minutes
October 21, 2025**

1. A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 8 was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 5:15 p.m., at Station 801, located at 801 Bee Creek Road, Spicewood, Texas 78669, for the following purposes:

Call meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

Board Present in Person:

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

Board Absent:

Becky Wynn – Treasurer

Also present in person: Chief Tony Haden, Assistant Chief Tye Prange, Director of Administration (DoA) Lynnette Courtney, John Carlton, General Counsel

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 the Board consideration of the 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. Approval of Minutes of the 9/4/2025, 9/16/2025, and 9/23/2025 Board meetings; Commissioner Opdahl asked the Board if there were any changes to the meeting minutes from the 9/4/2025, 9/16/2025, and 9/23/2025 Board meetings. There were no changes that needed to be made to the minutes. Commissioner Goodhartz moved to approve the 9/4/2025, 9/16/2025, and 9/23/2025 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Mills seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President Opdahl stated that six CPAs in the last fiscal year that have looked at the District's books confirming that the District is complying with all rules and regulations with no malfeasance.

Commissioner Goodhartz confirmed that this was for 200 billable hours at \$120 per hour.

Commissioner Mills commented that there were cost savings from this ILA from a funded full-time position.

Commissioner Valadez asked if the long-term goal was to hire a finance employee.

Chief Haden stated that there are cost savings by utilizing this shared service and that there is no intent to remove the financial position from our budgeted personnel.

Commissioner Opdahl asked if there were any more questions. No other questions were asked.

Commissioner Mills moved to approve the monthly bills, invoices, checks, and payroll, including all expenses exceeding \$5,000.00 for the month ending September 30, 2025, the financial report ending September 2025 and the quarterly investment report. Commissioner Valadez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The investment reports were then signed.

6. Discuss and consider approval of Resolution Authorizing Sale of Surplus Property for used boat motors.

Chief Haden stated that the crews-built motor stands for the old motors to be stored, and once the motors are declared surplus the District can sell them. Chief Haden explained that the motors have to be removed so that the boat can be taken to Lake Assault for further evaluation. The Board asked how much the motors are worth. Chief Haden stated that this was difficult to estimate but thought between \$2,000- \$5,000 each.

Commissioner Goodhartz asked what it would cost for new ones.

Chief Haden explained that the new motors are part of the refurbishment estimate and would be approximately \$30,000 each. The refurbishment of the boat is in line with our 10-year financial forecast and apparatus replacement plan. Commissioner Opdahl asked Commissioner Valadez if he had any questions because he has expressed concerns in the past regarding some board decisions about the boat.

present to each board with their findings of the feasibility study.

John Carlton, General Counsel, updated the board and explained the following:

- State statute allows for districts to merge legally
 - Senator Eckhart pushed this many years ago
- If a merger of tax districts were to happen, each Board would vote on the merger, if approved by both Boards, it would then go to an election of the voters for each district. An election is required only if a new taxing district is created.
- There are lots of other options that are short of a merger
 - ILAs for service is one - this would not have a citizen vote but would go to the board.
 - Contract for services is another option - this also would not have a citizen vote but would go to the board.
- Once a full merger of tax districts is completed it cannot be undone.

Commissioner Mills asked about the labor collective bargaining agreement that Travis ESD 6 has and the District does not. He questioned if a merger was approved would it by default implement collective bargaining in our district if the citizens of the District had not voted on a collective bargaining agreement.

- Mr. Carlton stated that this is something he is researching and he will consult with Mr. Mullen for additional guidance.

Commissioner Valadez asked if Travis ESD 16 would have to have an election if a merger were to happen.

Mr. Carlton stated that the merger discussion has only been between the District and Travis ESD 6. It was his assumption that ESD 16 would remain intact.

Chief Haden stated that both Locals are asking questions and working with the IAAF on how this might work and the potential for concerns. They will report their findings to the administrative staff.

Commissioner Opdahl thanked Chief for his transparency with the Board and anyone that might have concerns with the potential merger. She then asked Commissioner Valadez to share with the Board and the community details about his recent meeting with ESD6 Chief Abbott and CFO Sharon Smith.

Commissioner Valadez stated that Chief Abbott gave a brief history of the discussions. Chief Abbott gave Commissioner Valadez an update on the fact-finding process. Chief Abbott told Commissioner Valadez that the merger is not a done deal and no decisions have been made. Chief Abbott said Travis ESD 6 and the District is exploring all avenues and want to have the facts before anything else is done. Chief Abbott stated that both labor unions and both administrative staffs have been working with Chuck Cambell on the labor agreement issues.

Commissioner Opdahl thanked Commissioner Valadez for sharing his meeting with the

11. Receive monthly Fire Chief report and consider taking appropriate actions.

- Emergency operations, response times, call volume.
- Training.
- Management activities, personnel, amendments to budget FY 2024/2025, and community impact, 801 remodel updates; and
- Apparatus needs.

Assistant Chief Prange gave a PowerPoint presentation which included:

- September 2025
 - 93 Total Calls.
 - 62 Medical Calls
 - Station 802 responded to most calls this month
 - Response time on non-EMS call of 7:55 minutes.
 - 1 brush fire from an illegal burn near La Cabana. This fire was approximately 5 acres and over 20 different agencies worked together in the community.
 - Crews will do a post incident review
 - Next training for the multi-company drills will be over wildfire alarms.
- Training.
 - 597 hours of training logged
 - Lieutenant . Ming and Lieutenant Fulbright attended a wildfire crew boss training.
 - Battalion Chief Montgomery graduated with his Certified Fire Executive from Texas Fire Chief's Association. This is a 2-year certification that is sought out all over the state. He is the 4th person in the department to have obtained this.
 - Regional Auto-Aid training for crews this month has been high rise
- Management activities, personnel, amendments to budget FY 2023/2024, community impact.
 - Admin has moved to station 805
 - The staff has been handling a lot of public information requests
 - Firehouse feast hosted by the Auxiliary was a huge success. Chief Haden thanked all the ladies and gentlemen that have worked countless hours to make this event and others a huge success and expressed gratitude for the amazing auxiliary that supports the District. This has been a great partnership, and the District looks forward to maintaining that for many more years to come.
- Personnel
 - Chief Montgomery graduated from the Texas Fire Chief's Certified Fire Executive class. He makes the 4th member of the department with this certification.

15. Receive report from Pedernales Association of Firefighters regarding fundraising efforts, social and membership events, and unresolved issues discussed at the Chief/Association/Board (aka "CAB") Committee meeting.

- No update.

16. Receive monthly report from the District's attorney regarding pending litigation matters, contract issues, and legislative efforts and consider taking related actions;

Mr. Carlton apologized for being late to the meeting and for the mistakes on the agenda. He also apologized to Commissioner Valadez for not getting the items that he wanted on this month's agenda.

Commissioner Opdahl reminded Commissioner Valadez and Mr. Carlton that the District does have a process for getting items on the agenda through Director Courtney. Each month she sends the agenda to all the Commissioners for items to be added, then compiles those items and forwards the draft agenda to Carlton's office.

Mr. Carlton updated the Board on legislation efforts.

- SAFE-D is gearing back up with their legislative team. Pedernales Fire was a huge part of our efforts at the Capital and the District would love to continue that partnership. Several of the firefighters in the room today made a difference in efforts at the Capital.

17. Discuss required training hours for Commissioners

Director Courtney reminded the board that they are required to do six hours of CE over a two -year period. The current period ends on December 31. SAFE-D will give all Commissioners their required hours.

18. Discuss agenda, time, and date for next meeting; and

The next regular meeting will be held on November 18, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. at 801 Bee Creek Road Spicewood, Texas 78669.

19. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.


Bruce Goodhart, Secretary
Travis County ESD #8