

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 8

Minutes December 16, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 8 was held on Tuesday, **December 16, 2025, at 5:15 p.m.**, at Station 801, located at 801 Bee Creek Road, Spicewood, Texas 78669, for the following purposes:

1. Call meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Board Present in Person:

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

Board Present virtually:

Bruce Mills – Vice President

Also present in person:

Chief Tony Haden, Asst. Chief Tye Prange, DOA Lynnette Courtney, Battalion Chief Chad Kubin, LT. Ryan Smith, Lt. Michael Barker, LT. Allen Fulbright, ENG Marc Talamantez, FF Colin Gray, FF Billy Banda

2. Public Comment: Members of the public may speak for up to three (3) minutes regarding general topics or specific agenda items. This may not exceed 30 minutes in total unless approved by the board at the start of the meeting. 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. This may not exceed 30 minutes in total unless approved by the board at the start of the meeting. 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.

Administration

4. Action regarding legal notice of administrative office location;

Director Courtney explained that this is the posting of the administrative offices as required by law. Commissioner Wynn moved to direct staff to publish the legal notice of administrative offices locations as required by law. Commissioner Valadez seconded the motion. Commissioner Mills abstained from voting. The motion passed..

Discussion/Action Items

5. Approval of Minutes of the 11/19/2025 Board meeting;

Commissioner Opdahl asked if there were any changes to the meeting minutes from the 11/19/2025 Board meeting. There were none. Commissioner Goodhartz moved to approve the 11/19/2025 Board meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Valadez seconded the motion. Commissioner Mills abstained from voting. The motion passed.

The meeting minutes were then signed.

6. Receive report from the Director of Administration and consider taking related action, including:

DOA Courtney reviewed the following:

- Approval of monthly bills, invoices, and checks, including processing of payroll.
 - Blue Cross Blue Shield
 - Citygate & Associates
 - Delta Fire
 - Farrwest
 - Fire Aside
 - Hartford
 - Mission Critical
 - Septic pumping and Maintenance
 - Paylocity
 - Station Automation
 - Sales Tax Assurance- HdL
 - Travis Conty Tax Assessor
 - Travis County Emergency Services
 - TCDRS
 - Texas Mutual
- Approval of financial report.
 - Revenue
 - Property Tax
 - Sales Tax
 - Expenses
 - Cash Accounts
 - Capital Assets
- Review and approve quarterly investment reports.
None.

Commissioner Valadez moved to approve all bills, invoices, checks, and payroll, including all expenses exceeding \$5,000.00 for the month ending November 2025, and approval of the financial report ending November 2025. Commissioner Goodhartz seconded the motion. Commissioner Mills abstained from voting. Commissioner Valadez expressed concern with spending money, , but voted yes to the motion after clarification. The motion passed.

7. Review, discuss and consider taking action on special projects including;
 - Explorer post
 - Briarcliff ETJNo updates. No action taken.
8. Receive monthly president's report and consider taking related action;
 - No updates. No action taken.
9. Discuss and consider taking action on the feasibility study for sharing services or merging with other ESDs
 - Receive quarterly update from employees

Chief Haden reported that Travis County ESD 6 hosted a workshop similar to the District's last week, and no action was taken by their Board. Travis County ESD 6 also had their regular board meeting yesterday, and no action was taken at that meeting. The Board of Travis County ESD No. 6 directed Chief Abbott to continue to explore expanded shared services opportunities with the District with but each department remaining in place.

Commissioner Valadez asked for clarification that Travis County ESD No. 6 voted for Option 4 that was presented at the District's Workshop.

Chief Haden replied that no vote was taken by Travis County ESD 6 on any option, and that Chief Abbott was directed to explore expanding shared services with the District.

Commissioner Valadez moved to remove this agenda item from future agendas. Commissioner Wynn seconded the motion. Commissioner Mills abstained from voting. The motion passed.

10. Identify, prioritize, and consider taking action on strategic management activities, including:

Chief Prange reported:

- Travis Club:
 - Continued partnership with water supply options and development changes
- Thomas Ranch
 - Site tour with Engine 803
 - Fire-road access during construction
 - Water supply sites
- Travis County Fire Authority
 - Does not currently exist but is being explored
 - All TCESDs
 - Formal ILA for shared services
 - Ability to communicate with one voice
- Strategic Plan
 - Workshop January 17th

Commissioner Valdez asked if the Fire Authority would consider a grant for the District. Chief Haden explained that this is not in the Fire Authority's scope.

Commissioner Opdahl asked if Chuck Brotherton was involved with this committee. Chief Haden replied that yes, Mr. Brotherton was involved.

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

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

Asst, Chief Prange gave a PowerPoint presentation which included:

- Emergency operations, response times, and call volume.
 - November 2025
 - 63 Total Calls.
 - 34 EMS Calls
 - Response time on non-EMS call of 7:13 minutes.
- Training.
 - Multi- Company drills this month
 - Focus was on tower rescues
 - FF Bushnell and Eng Henry have been instructors
 - ACC semester is wrapping up
 - Chief Zaleski came to speak to our department about further education
 - 680 hours of training logged
- Management activities, personnel, amendments to budget FY 2023/2024, community impact.
 - Continuing to update policies
 - Strategic plan packet
- 801 Remodel
 - Subcontractors have been established
 - Working through kitchen modifications for upstairs
 - Start date of January 5th
- Apparatus needs:

- Boat 801
 - Currently at Lake Assault in Virginia
 - Undergone evaluation
 - Recommendations from other departments that have done a refurbishment of Lake Assault boats.
 - Should have a list with a cost within the next few weeks.
 - Loaner boat 801
 - Mechanical issues were noticed by crews. Currently at the shop for repair.

Commissioner Goodhartz asked if Lake Assault does the refurbishment of Boat 801 and it needs warranty work if Boat 801 would go back to Lake Assault. Prange responded no, warranty work would be done locally

Commissioner Valadez asked for the location of the boat. He was reminded that the boat is in Virginia.

12. 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.

President Mikeska asked Chief Haden to pass on that all the Associations' energy went into the workshop and they had no update. They are looking forward to the new year and their continued partnership with the department.

Commissioner Opdahl thanked the Association for all the information gathering that they did on behalf of the entire department. She also thanked all District staff. Their presentations over the last 6 months have been unbiased and factual. The 4820 helped to ensure that every employee in the department, even those not members of the union, had a voice. Commissioner Mills reinforced Commissioner Opdahl's statement.

13. Discuss and consider taking action on establishing an agenda items submission policy, including;
 - Review process of potential agenda items regarding District funds and personnel matters; and
 - Creation of a Board Calendar

This item was tabled. No action taken.

14. Discuss and consider taking action on establishing review logs for personnel grievances;
 - This item was tabled. No action taken.

Commissioner Wynn moved to remove agenda items 13 and 14 from future agendas. Commissioner Opdahl seconded.. Commissioner Mills abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

15. Discuss and conder submitting required annual report to the Division of Emergency Management.

Director Courtney explained this annual requirement. Commissioner Wynn moved to direct staff to submit the required annual report to the Division of Emergency Management. Commissioner Valadez seconded the motion. Commissioner Mills abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

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

John Carlton, General Counsel, stated that SAFE-D just held a legislative meeting. More information will be presented at the conference, and property taxes will be a big topic.

The Board then exited regular session and went into executive session at 5:41 p. m to discuss management and personnel issues pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code. Commissioner Mills joined the virtually for executive session.

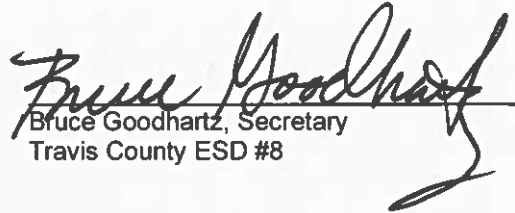
The Board exited executive session at 6:55 p.m., and went into regular session at 6:56 p.m.

No action was taken during executive session.

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

- The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 20, at 5:15 p.m. at 801 Bee Creek Road, Briarcliff Texas 78669.

18. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.


Bruce Goodhart, Secretary
Travis County ESD #8