

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 8

Minutes

January 17, 2026

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 8 was held on **Saturday, January 17, 2026, at 9:00 am.**, at Station 801, located at 801 Bee Creek Road, Spicewood, Texas 78669, for the following purposes:

1. Call meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

Board Present in Person:

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

Also Present in Person:

Fire Chief Tony Haden, Assistant Chief Tye Prange, Lieutenant Mike Barker, Citygate Consultants: Homer Robertson, Landon Stallings.

Present Remotely:

Citygate Consultant Stewart Gary

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. 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, review and consider Strategic Planning presentations and collaborations.

- Citygate Associates facilitated a strategic planning workshop focused on expectations, governance roles, service delivery, and long-term fiscal sustainability. To date, Citygate has been working with the Pflugerville Fire Department Staff on data collection and analysis that will lead to the final report including a Standard of Coverage assessment.

- Board S.L.O.T. Assessment

- Strengths identified included open and transparent discussion, a unified board, strong leadership, and an organizational culture that empowers firefighters to speak up. Limitations discussed included opportunities to improve community understanding of the Fire Department and the absence of a centralized community forum. Opportunities included growth-driven collaboration and proactive engagement. Threats identified included legislative impacts related to special districts and ad valorem revenue. The Board asked to have the report include contingency plans due to loss of funding.
- The Board identified Community Risk Reduction as a possible addition to how we serve.

- Fiscal Planning and Governance
 - Long-term fiscal planning was discussed, including the volatility of sales tax revenue, the District's use of a six-month fund balance as a safety net, and the value of a ten-year financial forecast. Board members emphasized that the Board sets financial and strategic direction, while the Fire Chief and staff manage operational execution. There was consensus that formal written Board policies would support future Boards and clarify roles.
 - Citygate advised the Board that their report and findings would be based on realistic expectations due to funding realities.
 - Direction and Outcomes
 - The Board provided clear direction to Citygate and Chief Haden to continue exploring shared services with neighboring ESDs and partners as a part of how we serve our community. Citygate noted that the final report will include an executive summary with actionable recommendations and a framework for reviewing progress over time.
 - Citygate will deliver to Chief Haden a report with findings from the session including priorities identified by the Board, along with recommendations for Board Policies as discussed in person.
 - The Board needs policies driving our 10-year Financial Plan, strategic service goals, a debt use and limit policy, a purchasing policy, fiscal reporting/transparency policy, and new member orientation. The Board will also need to review these policies annually and have quarterly reporting of metrics.
5. Discuss agenda, time and date for next meeting; and
- The next meeting will be held on January 20, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. at 801 Bee Creek Road, Spicewood, Texas 78669
6. Adjourn at 12:14 p.m.

Bruce Goodhartz, Secretary
Travis County Emergency Services District No. 8