

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

**Minutes  
March 18, 2026**

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 8 was held on Wednesday, **March 18, 2026, 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, Becky Wynn – Treasurer, Bruce Goodhartz- Secretary

Bruce Mills – Vice President, Charles Valadez – Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

**Also present in person:**

Chief Tony Haden, Asst. Chief Tye Prange, DOA Lynnette Courtney, Lt. Mike Barker, 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. 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.

**Discussion/Action Items**

4. Approval of Minutes of the 2/24/2026 Board meeting;

Commissioner Opdahl asked if there were any changes to the meeting minutes from the 2/24/2026 Board meeting. There being none, Commissioner Goodhartz made a motion to approve the 2/24/2026 Board meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Mills seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting minutes were then signed.

6. Review, discuss and consider taking action on special subcommittees, including:

- a. Explorer Post;

Commissioner Valadez stated that he visited the Explorer Post, and they were conducting ladder and hose training. They meet every other week. Lt. Brown is very involved in the program. He would like to see more participants from the Spicewood area.

- b. Briarcliff Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Project;

Commissioner Valadez stated that Travis Club has all the paperwork and has agreed to sign. He should have things finalized by the next meeting. This project is currently being handled at the Board level by Commissioner Valadez without department staff involvement.

c. Fire Wise/ Wildfire Preparedness;

Chief Haden stated that we are adding 2 Community Risk Reduction personnel to our staff to help with this mission. They will work with other ESDs that have these programs in place to outline what this will look like for our community. A meeting is planned with these employees, Chief Haden, Commissioner Wynn, and the appropriate ESD6 staff in April.

Chief Prange updated the Board that the District received a demonstration about the new Genesis Evacuation planning at ESD 2. This will help with any event that might happen in our area as well as real-time training for our personnel. Staff is working through the groundwork for this and will be working on funding for this software. Commissioner Wynn asked the Board to think hard about funding this if staff cannot find the funds, explaining that she believes that it is really needed.

d. Public Speaking/ Presentations;

No Update.

e. Legislative Support;

No Update.

f. Community Partner and PFD Relations.

President Opdahl stated this is the only subcommittee that the Board has not talked about and would like the Board to discuss this.

Commissioner Mills asked if this subcommittee could have one main person who could bring in other subject matter experts as necessary. Commissioner Goodhartz stated this subcommittee is geared towards getting out in the community and building relationships that are not just in the Homeowners Associations and Property Owners Associations.

Commissioner Valadez asked if this was in place of the Community Advisory Committee. It is not.

Commissioner Wynn also stated that all these subcommittees are very operational and the Board should only support operations with direction from the Fire Chief. With that said, Commissioner Opdahl opened the floor for nominations for this committee. Commissioner Wynn made a motion to nominate Commissioner Goodhartz for the Community Partner and PFD Relations subcommittee. President Opdahl asked for additional nominees. Hearing no others, Commissioner Mills seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

John Carlton stated that mission statements were needed for each subcommittee. Staff should help develop those to establish clear expectations for each Board member so that no one Board member was acting on their own without Board direction or creating a walking quorum.

Mr. Carlton also stated that this brings up the Code of Conduct policy that was sent to the Board to review. The sample policy came from a Harris County ESD, and he gave a brief background as to why their policies might seem particularly onerous.

Commissioner Valadez stated that he tried to find the Harris County document online and was unable to locate it. He then asked why the document was not a public document? Chief Haden stated that he received the manual as a favor from a Chief in Harris County and is not comfortable making their document public. Mr. Carlton explained to Commissioner Valadez that ESD Chiefs often help each other out with documentation, and Chief Haden must be respectful of those relationships.

Commissioner Wynn stated that staff provided the Board with exactly what we directed them to from the last Board meeting and that the Board needs to work together on language for our Board to use.

7. Review, discuss and consider taking action regarding Board policies, including:

- a. 10-year financial planning;
- b. Strategic Service Goals;
- c. Debt use/limit;
- d. Purchasing Policy;
- e. Fiscal Reporting/transparency;
- f. New member orientation; and
- g. Review of policies with quarterly reporting metrics.

Chief Haden passed out packets for the requested polices and the Board discussed each policy.

The Board walked through each policy with Chief Haden and gave him specific direction for verbiage to simplify and organize the documents. All policies should be written at a high-level that points back to the legal compliance that governs the District. These policy drafts will be sent to the District's General Counsel and brought back to the Board for final review and approval at the next meeting.

Each Commissioner was asked to send Chief important information that a new Commissioner should know so that staff can compile a guide/quick start manual for new Commissioners. No timeline was established for this new document.

The Code of Conduct policy will be re-sent to each Commissioner and should be reviewed and edited by each Commissioner for discussion at the next Board meeting.

- 8. Receive monthly president's report and consider taking related action;

None.

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

Director Courtney Reviewed:

- Approval of monthly bills, invoices, and checks, including processing of payroll.
  - Aflac
  - Blue Cross Blue Shield
  - Hartford
  - Lighthouse Restaurant
  - Lion
  - Mission Critical
  - US Bank Corp
  - Paylocity
  - TCDRS
- Approval of financial report.
  - Revenue
  - Property Tax
  - Sales Tax
  - Expenses
  - Cash Accounts
  - Capital Assets

Hearing no questions, Commissioner Wynn made a a motion to approve all bills, invoices, checks, and payroll, including all expenses exceeding \$5,000.00 for the month ending February 2026, and approval of the financial report ending February 2026 as presented. Commissioner Goodhartz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

a) Department relations with district entities; and  
Chief Haden reported:

- o City of Lakeway
  - Crews supported the City of Lakeway Special Olympics with our tethered drone.
  - Lakeway officials sent a thank you letter to the staff for their professionalism and dedication to our communities.
- o Travis County Fire Marshal's Office
  - Continued discussions and meetings on development within our district.
  - Assisted in the Community Risk Reduction position process, along with representatives from Travis County ESD2 and ESD6.
- o Strategic Plan Update.
  - Project continues on time and on budget
  - GIS and incident data gathering continues and should be completed by the end of the month.

No action taken.

10. Receive monthly Fire Chief report and consider taking appropriate action, including:

- a) Emergency operations, response times, and call volume.
- b) Training.
- c) Management activities, personnel, amendments to budget FY2025/2026, and community impact, 801 remodel updates; and
- d) Apparatus needs.

Chief Prange gave a PowerPoint presentation, which included:

- a. Emergency operations, response times, and call volume.
  - i. February 2026
    - 86 Total Calls.
      - a. 51 EMS Calls
      - 2. Response time on non-EMS call of 7:31 minutes.
      - 3. Turn-out time 1:03 minutes
      - 4. HAAS alerting software is in place
        - a. 1841 drivers alerted
        - b. 4 apparatus to apparatus alerts
        - c. Average on scene time 27.3 minutes
- b. Training.
  - i. 923 hours of training logged
  - ii. In-house training
    - 1. Vehicle Rescue training
    - 2. 5 firefighters completed probation
    - 3. SCBA and consumption drills
  - iii. External training
    - 1. Nozzle forward training
    - 2. TEEX Spring 2026 school for advanced engine operations.
- c. Management activities
  - i. Biannual compliance inspection with TCFP
    - 1. No major violations, minor infractions were corrected onsite
  - ii. Online Training facility was also surprise inspected
    - 1. No violations or discrepancies were found
  - iii. Special thanks to Chief Schmitdzinsky, Chief Perkins, Chief Montgomery, FF Fojtik and Chief Prange for taking on this project.
  - iv. Genesis software-
    - 1. Staff demoed this software with ESD2. Full discussion took place earlier in the meeting.
  - v. Uniforms
    - 1. Final phase of new uniforms has been completed. Staff are working through the next phase, which is Class A uniforms.
- d. Personnel
  - i. Community Risk Reduction Officer had 2 internal candidates

1. Job offers will go out this week.
  - a. 1 year commitment
  - b. These personnel will strengthen the position and make a great team for our administration staff as well as this mission
    - i. One currently vacant operations firefighter position will be maintained to fund the second CRR position.
  - c. Chief Haden asked if the Board had any concerns with the plan as presented. All Commissioners were supportive of the addition of CRR positions to the department and none of the Commissioners voiced any objections, Commissioner Wynn thanked Chief Haden for creating the new office to better serve the community.
- e. 801 Remodel
  - i. Septic replacement is on schedule for the end of the month
  - ii. Site work continues for the new concrete
  - iii. Meeting next week to work through change orders and project status
- f. 805-
  - i. AC has been replaced
- g. Fleet
  - i. Boat 801 refurbishment is underway.
  - ii. Loaner boat is in the water
  - iii. Engine 811 (tender) is expected to arrive in May

No action taken.

11. 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.

None.

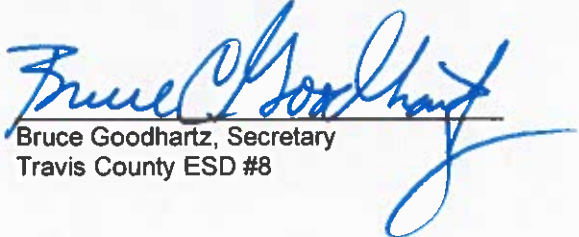
12. Receive a monthly report from the district's attorney regarding pending litigation matters, contract issues, and legislative efforts and consider taking related actions.

None.

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

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:15 p.m. at 801 Bee Creek Road, Spicewood Texas 78669.

14. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

  
Bruce Goodhartz, Secretary  
Travis County ESD #8