

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 8

Minutes
April 22, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 8 was held on Wednesday, April 22, 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 5:18 p.m.

Board Present in Person:

Debra Opdahl – President, Becky Wynn – Treasurer, Bruce Goodhartz- Secretary

Board Present Virtually:

Bruce Mills- Vice President

Also present in person:

Chief Tony Haden, Asst. Chief Tye Prange, EMS Coordinator Clayton Blount, CRR Lt. Mike Barker, CRR Chase Brunnemann, BCESD 9 Fire Chief Derrick Curtis, Captain Andrew Hunt, and General Counsel, Jordan Ludzenski.

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 3/18/2026 Board meeting;

President Opdahl asked if there were any changes to the meeting minutes from the 3/18/2026 Board meeting. There being none, Commissioner Goodhartz made a motion to approve the 3/18/2026 Board meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Mills seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting minutes were then signed.

President Opdahl changed the order of the meeting and moved to item 7 and started with item c.

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

- c. Fire Wise/ wildfire mitigation

Chief Prange introduced Burnet County ESD 9/Spicewood Fire Rescue which included Fire Chief Derrick Curtis and Captain Andrew Hunt. We work with them with many aspects of the fire service especially in our shared neighborhoods such as Barton Creek Lakeside and Thomas Ranch, as well as with wildfire mitigation.

Commissioner Mills stated that he worked with Captain Hunt when he was a Commissioner with BCESD9 and that this was a great collaboration with a great group of

people.

Chief Prange informed the Board that while the Department reviews the 5 stages of disaster management (prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery), the Department is looking at the Genasys Protect and Evac software to address preparation and response.

- This software fits addresses the preparedness and response aspects of disaster management. It can help the District prepare for a wildfire event through training and pre-plan mapping as well as during the event with evacuation plans and mapping hazards.
- ESD 6 and ESD 2 currently have the software and it was utilized by ESD 2 during the floods that took place in ESD 1 last July showing regional collaboration and support.
- The software includes zoned evacuation alerting, live traffic updates and real time public awareness via website and app. The year 1 cost is \$6,000, and this will come from funds in this year's approved prevention budget.

Chief Prange recommended that the Board make a motion to approve the purchase of the Genasys software within our approved budget.

No additional questions were asked.

Commissioner Wynn made a motion to approve the purchase of the Genasys software. Commissioner Mills seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Haden thanked Spicewood Fire Rescue for being at the meeting and supporting our communities.

a. Explorer post-

No update

b. Briarcliff ETJ

No Update. Chief Haden thanked Mayor Hostetler for working with Charles Valadez on the item over time. Chief Haden will contact Mayor Hostetler to determine next steps.

d. Public Speaking/ Presentations

No Update

e. Legislative Support

No Update

f. Community Partner and PFD Relations

Commissioner Goodhartz had the privilege of attending Luck Reunion with our staff to get our word and brand out. He stated that the event is a great way to give back to our community.

5. Receive report from the Director of Administration and consider taking action, including;

- a. Approval of monthly bills, invoices, and checks, including processing of payroll;
- b. Approval of financial report; and
- c. Review and approve quarterly investment report.

Director of Administration Lynnette Courtney was absent and Chief Haden presented the report in her place. Chief Haden reviewed;

- Approval of monthly bills, invoices, and checks, including processing of payroll.
 - Blue Cross Blue Shield
 - City of Austin Wireless
 - FGMA Architects
 - HVAC Cowboy
 - Lake Assault Boats

- Mission Critical
 - MES
 - Paylocity
 - Septic Pumping and Maintenance
 - SJM Equipment
 - US Bank Corp
 - Travis County Appraisal
 - TCDRS
 - Vector Solutions
- Approval of financial report.
 - Revenue
 - Property Tax
 - Sales Tax
 - Expenses
 - Cash Accounts
 - Capital Assets
 - Quarterly Investment Report
 - Texpool General Fund
 - Texpool Sales Tax

President Opdahl asked if there were any questions. There being none, Commissioner Mills made a motion to approve all bills, invoices, checks, and payroll, including all expenses exceeding \$5,000.00 for the month ending March 2026, and approval of the financial report ending March 2026 and the investment reports for the quarter ending March 31, 2026 as presented. Commissioner Goodhartz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discuss and consider approving the purchase of a brush truck.

Chief Haden stated that the Department is at the point in the build of the Brush Truck where the final contract needs to be executed. This purchase has been spread out over two budget cycles. One purchase was the cab and chassis, and then the completion of the unit was another purchase. This will be a cash purchase.

Chief recommended that the Board approve a motion for the final build of the brush truck with those previously budgeted funds with a not to exceed \$260,000 and for the Board President to execute the contract.

Commissioner Wynn asked when we will receive the new apparatus.

Chief Haden answered 60-120 days from the signed contract is the estimate.

Commissioner Wynn made a motion to approve the purchase of the brush truck with previously budgeted funds not to exceed \$260,000 and authorize the board president to execute the contract. Commissioner Goodhartz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President Opdahl moved to agenda item 13.

13. Discuss and consider taking action regarding the annual review of the fire Chief and compensation package.

The Board convened in closed session at 5:40 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 7:17 p.m. Commissioner Mills left the meeting during executive session.

No action was taken in executive session.

The Board stated that they are proud of how Chief Haden has guided the department, the board, and the community through the merger discussions. Chief Haden continues to focus on keeping the department positive and moving forward. The Board is very proud of his leadership and how the staff love their jobs. Chief Haden has continued to fill roles and needs within the Department to better our community while promoting within. All of the staff takes pride and ownership in the success of the department and that is the testament of a great leader.

Commissioner Wynn made a motion to approve a 6% increase in Chief Haden's base compensation rate. Commissioner Goodhartz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Haden thanked the Board for the kind words and the support and direction that they have given him. Chief Haden stated that the credit he gets is because of the passion and dedication of the people within this Department to serving everyone in our community and he thanked his team.

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

- 10-year financial planning;
- Strategic Service Goals;
- Debt use/limit;
- Purchasing Policy;
- Fiscal Reporting/transparency;
- New member orientation; and
- Commissioner Code of Conduct
- Review of policies with quarterly reporting metrics.

After the last Board meeting, the Board gave specific instructions to Chief Haden to make changes they wanted to see as he finalized the policies listed. He made those recommended changes and sent them to the attorney for review. The policies were in the Board packet. President Opdahl asked for a motion to approve the policies if there were no changes. Commissioner Goodhartz made a motion to approve the 10-year financial planning, Strategic Service Goals, Debt Use/Limit, Purchasing Policy, and Fiscal Reporting/Transparency Policies as presented. Commissioner Wynn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President Opdahl directed staff to bring the review of the quarterly reporting metrics policy to the May meeting

This group of policies were given to Chief at the direction of our strategic planning consultant. The remaining policy for Board review/approval is the Commissioner Code of Conduct, which the Board is still considering. There are many conduct items that do not pertain to our Board, and much of the language is repetitive. President Opdahl asked the Board if they would agree for staff to organize the policies into sections, get rid of repetitive language, and bring it back to the board for the May meeting. Commissioner Wynn agreed. Commissioner Goodhartz agreed as well but reiterated that policies were developed for a reason and gave the example that even if it seems logical that everyone should know not to come to the Board meeting in beach attire, appropriate attire should be included.

President Opdahl moved to direct Chief and staff to rework the Commissioner Code of Conduct and send it to the Commissioners so they can review prior to the May meeting to ensure it contains necessary language. Commissioner Wynn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

President Opdahl reported on the Auxiliary's current Siren publication. With the extensive remodel on Station 801, the Auxiliary will not be able to hold fundraising this year. She encouraged board members to make a donation to the auxiliary.

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

- o A. Department relations with district entities; and

Chief Haden reported:

- Travis Club
 - o Residential
 - Phase 1- Fully paved with 10 homes under construction
 - o Water/Wastewater Infrastructure
 - Raw water intake facility- complete
 - Pump stations-complete
 - Water Treatment plant- to be completed early June 2026
 - Wastewater treatment plant- to be completed in Jan 2027
 - o Golf
 - 99% complete. Scheduled to be open for members to play in September
 - Comfort stations 1 and 2 are complete
 - Golf Maintenance and cart barn buildings are complete
 - o Club Facilities
 - Gate house- July Completion
 - Golf Performance center/pro-shop- Mid 2027 Completion
 - Marina- Construction to begin in the next month
 - Security trailer- now have on site 24/7 security team
- o B. Strategic Plan Update
 - On time and on budget
 - Working on draft report- sometime in May

Chief Haden also reported that Thomas Ranch is meeting with the Barton Creek Lakeside POA.

10. 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 2025/2026, 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. March 2026
 - 103 Total Calls.
 - a. 60% EMS Calls
 - 2. Response time on non-EMS call of 7:45 minutes.
 - 3. Turn out time 1:10 minutes
 - 4. Utilizing data for traffic incidents from based on information we submitted to Citygate for our strategic plan
 - a. Produced a heat map for traffic incidents only.
 - b. Most accidents take place along Highway 71
 - i. Paleface Ranch
 - ii. Pace Bend
 - iii. Bee Creek
- b. Training.
 - i. 956 hours of training logged for March
 - ii. 19% increase year over year
 - iii. Regional training
 - 1. Six personnel through General Rescuer
 - 2. Three personnel successfully finished ACC semester and are ready for state test
 - iv. Statewide Training
 - 1. Three personnel through TEEX vehicle rescuer
 - 2. Three officers completed the TFCA Company Officer Program.
- c. Management activities

- i. TFCA Annual conference
 - 1. ESD6 Fire Chief Abbott- 2025 Texas Fire Chief of the Year
 - 2. Chief Haden represented the department and the TFCA as a board member and was a speaker at this year's event, along with Assistant Chief Prange.
- ii. Personnel
 - 1. CRR position filled
 - a. LT. Mike Barker
 - b. FF Chase Brunnemann
- iii. Station 801
 - 1. Upcoming work
 - a. Truck bay and Kitchen extension
 - 2. Village of Briarcliff-
 - a. Installed a fire hydrant at Station 801. This will be incredibly helpful to 801 and Chief Haden thanked Mayor Hostetter.
- iv. Fleet – in the current budget, the board approved \$75,000 for a new vehicle. Chief explained how this vehicle will be rotated into the fleet:
 - 1. Battalion 802 becomes reserve BC vehicle
 - 2. FMO vehicle becomes FTO 801
 - 3. New vehicle becomes FMO 801
 - a. \$75,000 approved in current budget
 - i. Buy Board quote \$69,000
 - 1. Turnkey ready SUV
 - ii. Remaining \$6,000
 - 1. Outfitting for FTO801

Commissioner Wynn asked if modifications had to be made to the FMO new vehicle. EMS Coordinator Blount explained this vehicle will not have to go elsewhere for retro-fitting. He stated that this company is a specialized manufacturer and will have everything on it and will be ready to go. EMS Coordinator Blount will move his medical equipment to the new vehicle. President Opdahl made a motion to approve the purchase of a new FMO SUV and outfit the new FTO 801 with previously budgeted capital funds not to exceed \$75,000. Commissioner Wynn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- v. Community Risk Reduction
 - 1. Chief Haden introduced the new team. The new team thanked Chief and the board for the opportunity. The CRR team is meeting with area groups and ESD's and focusing on the following:
 - a. Creating a Community Risk Assessment
 - b. Community Risk Reduction Plan
 - i. From those we will be able to create an evaluation for our community
 - c. Working on building this program from the ground up
 - i. Met with Casey Villanueva from TCESD 2 about the program that she built

Commissioner Goodhartz asked if Pflugerville had measurable results from their program. He was told that they do and have changed things based on their assessments. The Board thanked the CRR team for their eagerness to help our community. The CRR team thanked Chief for picking them for this mission.

- 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.

Local 4820 President Mikeska stated that they are losing a board member as FF Brunnemann goes into his new role and 4820 is appointing FF Thomas to the role of secretary. FF Brunnemann will help transition FF Thomas. Our next meeting will be with Executive Staff and then hosting a union meeting for updates.

The Association thanked Dr. Valadez for his many years of service to the department and

community.

12. Conduct annual review of investment policy and investment strategies and consider action to adopt resolution regarding review;

Chief Haden reviewed investment policy, noting the following:

- Industry standards
- Rules and regulations
- Investment policy approval date

The Board of Commissioners discussed the policy; and agreed that no changes were necessary.

Commissioner Wynn made a motion to approve the Resolution Reviewing the Investment Policy, Strategies, as presented, adopt and sign the resolution. Commissioner Goodhartz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The resolution was then signed and notarized.

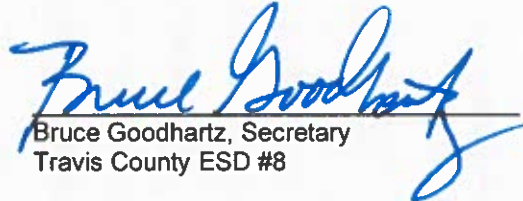
14. Receive a monthly report from the District's attorney regarding pending litigation matters, contract issues, and legislative efforts and consider taking related actions.

None.

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

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 20th, at 5:15 p.m. at 801 Bee Creek Road, Spicewood Texas 78669.

16. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.


Bruce Goodhartz, Secretary
Travis County ESD #8