



North Hays County Emergency Services District #1

P.O. Box 1604, Dripping Springs, TX. 78620



Minutes for Regular Meeting August 20, 2024

Commissioners Present

President Staci Dement
Secretary Cristina Nelson
Treasurer Darrell Debish
Assistant Treasurer Grant Tait

Others Present

District Administrator, Bob Luddy, NHCEMS
Accountant Kayla Cochran, SMHCEMS
Accountant Pam Reynolds, SMHCEMS
Jermaine Wilson, AG/CM
Assistant Chief Chas Humphrey, NHCFR
Executive Assistant Christine Lowrance, NHCEMS
Justin Waggoner, Touchstone Services

Commissioners Absent

Vice President Dan O'Brien

Present Via Teleconference

None

A. CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 pm

B. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

None

C. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Commissioners and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Commissioner, in which event, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

1. Approve and accept the minutes for the Special Board Meeting on July 16, 2024
2. Approve and accept the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on July 16, 2024
3. Approve and accept the minutes for the Special Board Meeting on August 5, 2024
4. Approve and accept the August 2024 mail log
5. Approve and accept the August 2024 Treasurer's Report
6. Approve and accept August 2024 Disbursements
7. Approve and accept HdL Sales Tax Report
8. Consider acknowledgement of the District Calendar and Task List
9. Consider acknowledgement of the District Administrators Response Activity Report

Motion by Commissioner Debish to accept the consent agenda. 2nd by Commissioner Nelson. Motion passed unanimously.

D. REPORTS

1. Construction Update

Jermaine Wilson reported that we achieved the C/O for all buildings and they can now officially be occupied. The front bay doors at both stations should be operable by the end of next week. Final punches have been scheduled for this week and we are still on budget.

2. North Hays County Fire/Rescue (NHCFR)

Asst. Chief Chas Humphrey reported the new station for the Headwaters location is scheduled to start in



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2025 along with the new training facility. They are hiring a new training officer as well as 6 new firefighters. The responses for last month were as follows: 9 fire calls, 212 EMS calls, 8 hazmat calls, 13 service calls and 18 false alarms. The peak response time for the total 292 calls was 1pm on Monday.

3. San Marcos Hays County EMS (SMHC EMS)

Chief Smith reported they just hired a new administrative assistant for his position and have an opening for a new position. They are waiting on the quote for health insurance before they can finalize the budget for the next fiscal year. The new academy starts in September. The total calls for ESD 1 were 235 and the peak day was Wednesday. There were 22 level zeros for a total level zero time of 8.5 hours.

4. Contract negotiations update

Nothing new to report.

5. District Administrator

DA Bob Luddy reported about various facility maintenance, as well as ambulance and equipment maintenance. He noted that ESD1 will not be eligible for a grant from LCRA until 2025. He reported various community education events that have already happened and will happen in the coming month. Lastly, he mentioned that the district offices will be moving into the new facilities by the end of the week and hopefully all stations will be outfitted by the Station 75 Open House.

E. COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Community Outreach Committee (Debish & Dement)

Nothing additional to report.

2. Website/Social Media Committee (Debish & Tait)

The website re-launch will now take place by January 1 as the delay in construction has delayed the media needed to submit revisions.

3. Finance Committee (Debish & Tait)

Nothing additional to report, see new business.

4. Budget & Long-Range Planning Committee (Debish & Dement)

Long-Range Planning and FY25 budget are complete.

5. Future property acquisitions and stations (Nelson & O'Brien)

Nothing to report.

6. Public Information Officer (Nelson)

Nothing to report.



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7. EMS Service Delivery Model Committee (Debish & Tait)

The extended budget numbers lead the committee to believe there is a need for Touchstone's services.

F. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Legal update. Input from and legal questions for John Carlton

Nothing to report.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Reserve Study.

After discussion, no action was taken.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding initial reserve funding amount for Operations / Management line for FY25.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion by Commissioner Debish to move \$1,000,000 from the TexPool operating account to create a new TexPool account for O/M for future reserve line for Fiscal Year 2026. 2nd by Commissioner Tait. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding Touchstone District Services for assistance in raising the tax cap.

- a. Media Consultant
- b. Tax rate increase

Justin Waggoner reviewed the services Touchstone would offer and revealed the cost to the district would be \$3,150/month as an engagement fee. After discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion by Commissioner Debish to move forward with Touchstone's proposal at \$3,150/month for tax cap election support. 2nd by Commissioner Nelson. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding current contract with REMI Group.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion by Commissioner Debish to terminate the contract with REMI Group and begin coverage with Stryker. 2nd by Commissioner Tait. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of Stryker items.

After discussion, the subject of purchasing heart monitors was tabled to next month. However, the following action was taken regarding additional Stryker equipment:

Motion by Commissioner Debish to authorize the District Administrator to upgrade the Lucas 2 devices to Lucas 3 devices not to exceed a total spending amount of \$54,000. 2nd by Commissioner Nelson. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Debish to authorize the District Administrator to purchase 3 new stretchers, 1 powerload unit and the maintenance contract for those items not to exceed a spending amount of \$175,000. 2nd by Commissioner Tait. Motion passed unanimously.



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6. Discussion and possible action regarding RFP for southeast Station.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion by Commissioner Debish to authorize the District Administrator to request RFP's on newbuilds on our existing station configuration for our future southeast Station configuration. 2nd by Commissioner Nelson. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and possible action to add committee for outreach plans and goals.

After discussion, topic was tabled until the next meeting and no action was taken.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding the Resolution to become a member of the BuyBoard.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion by Commissioner Nelson to authorize the District Administrator to join the BuyBoard. 2nd by Commissioner Debish. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding modifying the "hiring of a consultant" motion from June 18, 2024.

After clarifying, the following action was taken:

Motion by Commissioner Debish to modify the motion made on June 18th, 2024 in the regular meeting authorizing the District Administrator to hire a consultant. The revisions are as follows: "a consultant" is changed to say "consultants"; the maximum amount of monthly spend is increased to \$10,000/month not to exceed 10 months; and the hourly wage limit is removed.

The new motion reads "Motion by Commissioner O'Brien to authorize DA to hire ~~a consultant~~ consultants for the delivery model transition of up to \$100 per hour for no more than 80 hours per month for a period ~~not to exceed 90 days~~ with an amount not to exceed \$10,000/ month for a period of no more than 10 months and to adjust the budget accordingly. 2nd by Commissioner Nelson. Motion passed unanimously." 2nd by Commissioner Tait. Motion passed unanimously.

With no further business, the following action was taken:

Motion by Commissioner Nelson to adjourn. 2nd by Commissioner Debish. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT- 6:46 pm