



# North Hays County Emergency Services District #1

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



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

### October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting

**Commissioners Present**

President Staci Dement  
Secretary Cristina Nelson  
Treasurer Darrell Debish  
Vice President Dan O'Brien  
Assistant Treasurer Grant Tait

**Others Present**

Chief Bob Luddy, NHCEMS  
Accountant Pam Reynolds, SMHCEMS  
Chief Scott Collard, NHCFR  
Executive Assistant Christine Lowrance, NHCEMS  
Assistant Chief interim Jill Rosales  
Jennifer Schein, Carlton Law Firm

**Commissioners Absent**

None

**Present Via Teleconference**

None

**A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 5:01p**

**B. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Lois Shmidle presented the desire from her and the community of The Retreat to put in a flagpole on the ESD property at Station 71. Raising and lowering the flag in inclement weather would be requested of the crew in the station but all other installation and maintenance would be taken care of by the Retreat community. There was discussion around whether the desired location was in the right-of-way or if there was room for the flag pole on the property outside of the right-of-way.

**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 Regular Board Meeting on September 17, 2024
2. Approve and accept the October 2024 mail log
3. Approve and accept the October 2024 Treasurer’s Report
4. Approve and accept October 2024 Disbursements
5. Approve and accept HdL Sales Tax Report
6. Consider acknowledgement of the Quarterly Investment Report
7. Consider acknowledgement of the District Calendar and Task List
8. Consider acknowledgement of the Chief’s Response Activity Report

**Motion by Commissioner Nelson to accept the consent agenda. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Tait. Motion passed unanimously.**

**D. REPORTS**

1. Construction report

Luddy reported that Jermaine Wilson won’t be reporting anymore as the services with AG/CM are now done, but there are still some punch items that we are working with Jermaine and Flynn on.



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## 2. North Hays County Fire/Rescue (NHCFR)

Chief Scott Collard reported the following: ESD6 has hired a training officer. There are currently 6 candidates in the hiring process for the new training officer to work through. Their hired Chaplain will start in a few weeks and the volunteer Chaplain is now part time, they are happy to share the Chaplain position in a critical event management capacity with ESD1. They are in the process of training a facility dog that will be in a PR capacity and work capacity. They are full swing into Fire Prevention month. Call volume was reported at 292 calls, peak day and time are the same as ESD1. 1900 training hours were logged for the month.

## 3. San Marcos Hays County EMS (SMHC EMS)

Assistant Chief interim Jill Rosales reported 215 calls for the month for ESD1, with an average of 7/day. Most of the month's stats are almost the same as last month, response times are good. Falls and traffic accidents are the most prominent call types. Trends are a little all over the place and maintenance report had nothing significant to note. Pam reported on financials and mentioned there will be year end adjustments. Still working on the 401k audit, and their actual audit begins the week of Thanksgiving.

## 4. Contract negotiations update

Nothing to report.

## 5. Chief's report

Chief Luddy reported about facilities maintenance, ambulance maintenance, new equipment, crew shift time updates, grant processes are opened for VFIS and Panasonic, record requests were medical and forwarded to SMHCEMS, there is interest in establishing an explorer post, there is an HOA request for an education piece, a new urgent care – Fast Aid, and as for construction, there is one outstanding PCO for the gate generator. Chief Luddy enrolled in the Chamber of Commerce leadership course. The website that spoke out against the ESD has since been taken down, but all website pages were archived before the content disappeared.

## E. COMMITTEE UPDATES

### 1. Community Outreach Committee (Debish & Dement)

Nothing new to report.

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

Nothing new to report.

### 3. Finance Committee (Debish & Tait)

Nothing new to report.

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

Nothing new to report.



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

Commissioner O'Brien reported about 22 acres near the old high school is being acquired by Hays County. The county is looking at using the land for offices and wanted to know if we would be interested in utilizing some land for relocating station 71. Land acquisition for this location is not something that would come up sooner than a year or two from now.

6. Public Information Officer (Nelson)

Nothing new to report.

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

Commissioner Debish mentioned we are in the holding pattern until the DSHS license is submitted.

8. Election Committee (Tait & Dement)

Nothing new to report.

## F. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

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

Jennifer Schein was present but there was nothing to report.

## G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible action regarding submitting the EMS Provider Application to the Tx DSHS.

The board went into executive session at 5:36pm for the purpose of deliberating personnel matters and consult with legal counsel pursuant to Section 551.072 and 551.074 of the Government Code. The board came out of executive session at 6:18pm and reconvened in open session. No action was taken during executive session.

After discussion in open session, the following action was taken:

**Motion by Commissioner O'Brien for the district to submit the EMS Provider Application to the Texas Department of Safety and Health Services. 2nd by Commissioner Debish. Motion passed Unanimously.**

2. Discussion and possible action regarding filling open position for Deputy Chief.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion by Commissioner Nelson that Commissioners Tait and Dement work with Chief Luddy to narrow down the applicants to the top 2-3 candidates and conduct 2-3 interviews and hire the best candidate as deputy chief by Nov 1 with the PTO benefits equal to Chief position and with the salary that has already been established. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner O'Brien. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Discussion and possible action regarding vehicle purchases.

After discussion, the following action was taken:



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**Motion by Commissioner Debish to approve the Chief to spend no more than \$250,000 on purchase of 3 vehicles and upfit package – a Ram Truck, and 2 Tahoe SSVs. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner O'Brien. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Discussion and possible action regarding pay scale for future uniformed employees.  
After discussion, the item was tabled until a future meeting.
5. Discussion and possible action regarding shift schedule options for future uniformed employees.  
After discussion, the item was tabled until a future meeting.
6. Discussion and possible action regarding changing payroll vendors.  
After discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion by Commissioner Debish to allow the Chief to change payroll vendors based on the information in the packet to Alliance for future of expanding role. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Nelson. Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Discussion and possible action regarding the District's financial policy  
After discussion, the item was tabled until a future meeting.
8. Discussion and possible action regarding SMHCEMS Contract funding and M75 hours.  
After discussion, no action was taken.
9. Discussion and possible action regarding renewing HAAS system in ambulances.  
After discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion by Commissioner Debish to approve subscribing to the service at a cost of no more than what was presented in the packet with installation and equipment being covered by provider. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner O'Brien. Motion passed unanimously.**

After clarification, edits were made to the motion to read:

**Motion by Commissioner O'Brien to approve subscribing to the HAAS service at a cost of \$399/ambulance per year for 3 ambulances, and \$599/ambulance per year for 2 ambulances with installation and equipment being covered by provider. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Nelson to amended motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

10. Discussion and possible action regarding adding a security system to Station 71.  
After discussion, no action was taken.

\*\*Board President Staci Dement exited the meeting at 6:45p and did not return. None of the discussions or unanimous votes of motions made after that time included her vote or input. Board Vice President Dan O'Brien led the meeting in her absence.



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11. Discussion and Possible action regarding replacement of District Electronic devices.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion by Commissioner Debish to allow the Chief to buy up to 5 laptop computers spending no more than \$5,000 total. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Nelson. Motion passed unanimously.**

12. Discussion and possible action regarding union contract negotiations representatives.

The CWA/Hays County EMS Association representative present at the meeting, Zach Phillips, reported that the CWA has no issues with Chief Luddy nor do they have an issue with Chief Luddy representing the ESD in the union negotiation meetings.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion by Commissioner Nelson to replace Chief Luddy's representation of the ESD at the union meetings with Commissioner O'Brien. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Tait. Motion passed unanimously.**

13. Discussion and possible action regarding Hays County EMS Association activity against ESD1.

The CWA/Hays County EMS Association representative present at the meeting, Zach Phillips, reported that the CWA did not own the website that was used to spread misinformation about the ESD, nor did the CWA/Hays County EMS Association condone the information that was put on the website.

After discussion, the item was tabled until a future meeting.

14. Discussion and possible action regarding required training hours for Commissioners.

After discussion, no action was taken.

15. Discussion and possible action to consider attendance at Texas State Association of Fire and Emergency Services District (SAFE-D) Annual Conference in February 2025 at the Kalahari Resort in Round Rock, Texas.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion by Commissioner O'Brien to register all commissioners and employees including future Deputy Chief to attend SAFE-D and to reserve the necessary amount of hotel rooms and to pay the required registration fee. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Nelson. Motion passed unanimously.**

16. Discussion and possible action regarding the FY24 audit.

After discussion, no action was taken.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Commissioner Nelson to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Debish. Motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment at 7:21p.