



North Hays County Emergency Services District #1



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

MEETING MINUTES December 19, 2023

Approved January 16, 2024

Commissioners Present

President Staci Dement
Secretary Cristina Nelson
Treasurer Darrell Debish

Others Present

District Administrator, Bob Luddy, NHCEMS
Asst. Chief Todd Colvin, North Hays County Fire/Rescue
Accountant Kayla Cochran, SMHCEMS
Comptroller Pam Reynolds, SMHCEMS
Assistant Chief Jim Swisher, SMHCEMS
Assistant Chief Matt Weinberg, SMHC EMS
Brian Fruge, AG/CM

Commissioners Absent

Dan O'Brien

Present Via Teleconference

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 5:00 pm

B. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

None

C. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve and accept the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on November 21, 2023
2. Approve and accept the November 2023 Treasurer's Report
3. Consider acknowledgement of the District Calendar and Task List
4. Approve and accept the December 2023 mail log
5. Approve and accept December 2023 Disbursements
6. Approve and accept HdL Sales Tax Report
7. Consider Acknowledgement of the District Administrators Response Activity Report

**Motion by Commissioner Debish to approve the Consent Agenda as stated. 2nd by Commissioner Nelson.
Motion passed unanimously.**

D. REPORTS

1. Construction Update

Brian Fruge reports successful negotiations RVK architecture over contested outstanding money, contract will be amended to reflect additional \$86,634.00. Landscaping issues at both sites discussed, Brian directed to resolve with drought tolerant plants and no irrigation.

2. North Hays County Fire/Rescue (NHCFR)

Chief Colvin reported that Station 62 located on FM 1826 has re-opened and is in service. The mobile home has been delivered at Station 69 and final utility connection is in process. The burn ban remains off. Busiest days were Friday and Saturday, and busiest time was 12:00 noon.



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3. San Marcos Hays County EMS (SMHC EMS)

Chief Swisher reported that 6 cadets have cleared the academy and are on the street with their FTO's. Eclipse event planning is in progress, additional ambulances will be staffed county-wide with one in the ESD1 area. There is an issue with Knox Box keys that need to be replaced, we will be receiving a bill. Matt Weinberg reported that there was a total of 205 calls in November. Busiest time was 12:00 noon Wednesday and busiest days were Friday and Saturday. Comptroller Reynolds reports that the audit is in progress, retainer has been paid and we will be receiving an invoice. Medical insurance bills for the employees increased this year, which will result in an increase in our payments.

4. Contract Negotiations Update

Tabled for next meeting

5. District Administrator

The lease at station 69 has been renewed for one year at the previous terms. The lease at Firehouse 11 properties has been terminated effective March 01, 2024. Shoreline has been installed at station 71 and storage container ordered. Semi annual generator maintenance performed at station 71.

E. COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Community Outreach Committee (Debish & Dement)

LCRA delivered a grant check and we engaged in a photo op at station 71. Christmas on Mercer was a success with several hundred people visiting our booth.

2. Website/Facebook Committee (Debish & Nelson)

Nothing new to report.

3. Finance Committee (Debish & Dement)

Nothing new to report.

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

Nothing new to report.

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

Property is for sale at the intersection of w 290/Martin Rd. District will be moving forward with researching feasibility.

6. Public Information Officer (Nelson)

Nothing new to report

7. EMS Service Delivery Model Committee (Debish & O'Brien)

Nothing new to report.

F. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

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

Nothing new



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G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Presentation: Jonathon McKane, Thoughtful Triage
The board needs time to review; asked Mr. McKane to return for January meeting. Action tabled until January
2. Discussion and possible action regarding Board vacancies.
Nothing new
3. Discussion and possible action to replace Executive Assistant Bodie Hudson
Motion made by Commissioner Debish granting authority for the District Administrator to initiate hiring processes for vacant positions as needed. 2nd by Commissioner Nelson. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Discussion and possible action regarding hiring Christine Lowrance.
Motion made by Commissioner Debish to hire Christine Lowrance for approximately 20 hours/week at a rate of \$22/hr. with no other benefits offered at this time and a start date of January 3rd, 2024. Motion 2nd by Commissioner Nelson, passed unanimously.
5. Discussion and possible action regarding estimate from SOMA for station grand openings.
After discussion, the Board agreed to table this discussion until January, DA will gather more information on pricing for similar events from neighboring departments.
6. Discussion and possible action to purchase a manufactured home for station 69.
The lease renewal for the current property for station 69 nullifies the ESD's need to continue investigating this option. No action will be taken.
7. Discussion and consider submitting required annual report to the Texas Division of Emergency Management.
District administrator has already completed this report
8. Discussion and possible action regarding potential sales tax recovery.
There is a possibility that the Comptroller will be recovering disputed sales tax payments from a local vendor. If so, the ESD will be losing up to \$140k that has been disbursed over several years. No action needed.

With no further business, the following action was taken:

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

ADJOURNMENT – 6:39 PM