

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 17

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 08, 2022

The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 17 held a meeting on Thursday, February 08, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 17 Headquarters located at 201 East Pecan Street, Pflugerville, Texas, for the following purposes.

Commissioners who attended:

Mike Howe Vicky Linsalata Mitchell Jones

The following persons were also in attendance:

Howard Katz Jessica Frazier Brian Fairbanks Nick Perkins Breat Irving
Victor Gonzalez Mark Moellenberg Sequina Allen Christopher Turner

1. THE MEETING was called to order by President Howe at 4:01 p.m. and the minutes were recorded by mechanical means. The meeting was held pursuant to a formal Notice of Meeting, which had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act at the Travis County Clerk’s Office and in the offices of the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 17 Headquarters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was made.

CONSENT ITEMS

3. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 13, 2022 REGULAR MEETING
4. APPROVE INVOICE PAYMENT TO TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2 FOR PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR MARCH 2022; Mitchell Jones *MOVED to approve items 3 and 4, and it was seconded by Vicky Linsalata. Motion PASSES unanimously.*

REPORTS

5. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS, RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES; *There were no reports to be presented.*
6. RECEIVE REPORT FROM TREASURER AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION; *Board Treasurer Jones noted that the Board has checks to approve and asked Finance Director Jessica Frazier if she had anything to add. Ms. Frazier presented the financial report, discussed the status of the Travis County Emergency Services District’s No 17 (TCESD# 17) audit, and discussed checks. After discussion, Commissioner Jones moved to approve two payments of \$124,028.22, to Travis County ESD No. 2, for January and February EMS services provided; Commissioner Howe seconded the motion; and it passed 3-0. Ms. Frazier also discussed the remaining checks to be approved by the Board. Commissioner Howe noted that the district is spending a significant amount on legal fees associated with ongoing litigation. There was also discussion relating to delinquent tax lawsuits. Commissioner Howe noted the taxes not being paid is remote., Mr. Katz said some counties have gone to private law firms and if that is the case in Travis County, that will be handled*

in the next district meeting. Commissioner Jones moved to approve the remaining checks to be paid; Commissioner Linsalata seconded.

7. RECEIVE MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2 FIRE CHIEF REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OPERATIONS, RESPONSE TIMES, CALL VOLUME, TRAINING, MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PERSONEL TO INCLUDE AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION AS MAY BE NECESSARY; *Chief Perkins noted they are finalizing 2021 data and preparing an annual report. There was increased demand for service this year. Temporary sites are being worked on and the goal is for them to be operational from April to May, despite supply chain problems. The new EMS billing will help cement the relationship with the county. Mr. Turner from Emergicon presented a report about Emergicon and explained EMS fees based on level of service to the patient, fees and reimbursement, the payer mix (emergency, uninsured, federal, etc.), level of service mix (emergency, advanced life support, and basic life support). He also discussed 2022 Cash projections, insurance payments including the Medicare allowable, and the ambulance supplemental payment program, commercial insurance. He also discussed the impact of surprise bills and discussed recent legislation to eliminate those bills. They also discussed the difference of resident and non-resident rates and examined air ambulance matters PHR, and whether to use air travel vs ground travel due to head trauma. They discussed patient accounts vs traditional collections while being sensitive to the nature of EMS. Finally, they discussed the Medicare Cost Data Collection and Subscription Programs. President Howe asked about the Cash projection considering other companies such as Acadia and other for-profit companies. MR. Turner responded that they are still 30-40% lower in rates than Acadia or other for-profit EMS companies. When discussing fees, they look at many factors including the relationship they have with response partners and their client base. President Howe clarified that District 17 is looking at a discount program and resident/nonresident rate to lower costs.[1:05:30) asked when a charge incurs after an ambulance for. Mr. Turner answered that they bill when they treat or do a procedure on scene.*
8. RECEIVE MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT'S LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING CONTRACT ISSUES, AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS TO INCLUDE THE CASE OF THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, ET AL. V. TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 17, ET. AL, AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION AS MAY BE NECESSARY; *Howard Katz, the District's legal counsel, discussed the status of the District's contracts and litigation including the District's brief, which will be due on February 25th, but there is no reason to why that shouldn't get an extension. The lawsuit and appeal are pending. Once the brief is filed, the city has asked for the oral argument, but that will be for the appellate court to decide. Nothing else is pending in the county EMS contracting with ESD 2 until they go into further agreements.*

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

9. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE PROPOSED PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BY TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2 TO OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *President Howe noted the number of calls is up 3000 is inconsistent with the city's study. The population is up significantly. Mr. Perkins noted that Acadian ambulance has requested mutual aid and they are getting close to a draft of that document. President Howe requested that Mr. Perkins present his report at the next meeting and have it distributed to the board prior to the next meeting. Katz asked about the city EMS provider reaching out or if they are assisted by Acadian. Mr. Perkins replied that they have answered the call when the system allows for it and when asked if they are reaching out to other cities for mutual aid, Mr. Perkins replied that these arrangements are important to help keep people alive, and the district needs to be careful on how they work with mutual aid through an agreement and collaborative approach.*

President Howe adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.
The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Sequina Allen
Board Recorder