

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 17

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MAY 12, 2022

The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 17 held a meeting on Thursday, May 12, 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 Victor Gonzalez
Sequina Allen Mark Moellenberg

1. THE MEETING *was called to order by President Howe at 4:00 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 APRIL 14 ,2022 REGULAR MEETING;
4. APPROVE INVOICE PAYMENT TO TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2 FOR PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR JUNE 2022;
5. APPROVE COUNTY CALCULATION OF TRUTH IN TAXATION RATES;
MOTION: Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Linsalata seconded to approve all consent items. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

6. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS, RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES;
No reports.
7. RECEIVE REPORT FROM TREASURER AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION;
Ms. Frazier shared they received their preliminary report about Senate Bill 2. More finalized numbers will be coming soon. Commissioner Linsalata asked about the cap of the inflation rate and how it would be factored into their budget. Ms. Frazier shared that it will be part of the government to spend less or to go into an election to go above 3.5%. Commissioner Jones noted the property values could go up. Commissioner Howe discussed how extraordinary times can help reflect action and reserves cover this.

MOTION: Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Linsalata seconded to accept the Treasury Report. Motion Passes Unanimously.

8. 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 PERSONNEL;
Officer Perkins shared station 7 is ready to go but is waiting for the Encore Power station. Station 8 is ready, and they are thinking about adding 2 more stations in the next few months. He also discussed the small group portion of the strategic planning process, and the first draft is nearly ready. He discussed a significant change in planning, as ESD 17 voted 6-1 in favor to negotiate with ESD 2 for the provision of service. It ion the tentative agenda for the County Court on May 17th. Lastly, he shared an update about the commissioning academy and hired a large civilian population who are now going through the national registry exam. The goal is to have the group ready to work on emergency services by July with 41 cadets. The annual report has also been sent out and is available on the website.

Dr. Mark Eckstein, from Tele911 Services, gave a presentation on how to bring field services to medics by providing telemedicine to low-income and stable patients and are connected with a provider in 60 seconds to provide a quick assessment to determine patient dispositions. In addition, he discussed how their dedicated social workers do a comprehensive needs assessment and take on the mission of public safety and collaboration to make the job more efficient.

Commissioner Linsalata asked about the MDs who will be calling the patients. Dr. Eckstein responded they all have Texas Licenses and also connect patients with social workers to help solve mental health needs.

Commissioner Howe asked how the doctors are reimbursed. Dr. Eckstein shared they bill patients' insurance and later bill separately according to state law. Commissioner Howe asked where they operate already. Dr. Eckstein replied they operate in Montgomery County and have many success stories. Officer Perkins shared they have not signed the deal yet but are reviewing protocols and could start with a pilot to get it started in the filed within the next 3—60 minutes.

9. 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;

Mr. Katz shared that this would be similar to the April update and the paperwork has been filed. They will be receiving a notice in a possibly published opinion. He noted that the current events enter into the activity. He has no concerns regarding the lawsuit.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

10. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING PROPOSED TRAVIS COUNTY ESD NO. 2 REVISED EMS BILLING RATES AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;
Mr. Katz hoped to review this with Mr. Carlton and noted his reservations concerning the [previous billing effort. He summarized his idea on balanced billing and not knowing the differential and cost-sharing is the issue. He also discussed the anti-kickback statement administered by the office of the Inspector General and shared certain exceptions including a municipal ES provider or ESD 2. He discussed having a subsidy with ESD 2 by using tax funds to cover patient waivers. This has been tested in private contexts and he noted that ESD 2 can look at this along with the interlocal agreement. Commissioner Howe clarified that one of the solutions would be ESD 17 paying a separate tax revenue for the patient waiver funds. Commissioner Linsalata shared this could be in the budget. Mr. Katz replied that it would be separately delineated in the contract. Officer Perkins shared that surprise billing is being outlawed, but their activities are expensive to be realistic. Mr. Katz shared that visitors would need to be factored in and noted the goal is to recognize the residents and taxpayers and hotel guests. The key is that they would not bill anything more than collected by insurance and

emphasized this is not balance billing. Mr. Katz shared that there are in a good place, but future discussions will be held.

President Howe adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.
The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Sequina Allen
Board Recorder