

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 17

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2023

The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 17 held a meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023, 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.

(Prior to commencement of the meeting, the oaths of office were administered to recently appointed commissioners, Charles Pleasant and Angela Orth.)

Commissioners who attended:

Mike Howe Vicky Linsalata Mitchell Jones Charles Pleasant Angela Orth

The following persons were also in attendance via Zoom: Howard Katz

The following persons were also in attendance:

Mark Moellenberg Jessica Frazier Brian Fairbanks Nick Perkins Sequina Allen

1. THE MEETING *was called to order by President Howe at 4:02 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 FEBRUARY 9, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES;
4. APPROVE INVOICE PAYMENT TO TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2 FOR PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR APRIL 2023;
Commissioner Linsalata moved and Commissioner Jones seconded to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

5. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS, RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES;
No report.

6. RECEIVE REPORT FROM TREASURER AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION;
Jessica Frazier shared the audit will be presented next month.

Commissioner Linsalata moved and Commissioner Jones seconded to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

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 PERSONNEL;
Chief Perkins discussed they have been busy at the Capital. There will be another opportunity on March 21st. He also reported that they have noticed an increase in response time because of staffing and costs associated with 911 overtime rates. They will be meeting with city of Austin officials on Monday to address the added response time of 3-4 minutes.
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 has not new report as the Court of Appeals has still not yet issued a ruling.

ACTION ITEMS

9. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR COMMISSIONER ORTH AND COMMISSIONER PLEASANT AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;
Without objection, the Board took notice of the Statements of Appointed Officer and oaths of office of recently appointed commissioners Angela Orth and Charles Pleasant. Mr. Howe stated that Ms. Orth and Mr. Pleasant were administered the oaths of office prior to commencement of the meeting.
10. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION; *This item will be postponed until the next meeting.*
11. TO REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION ON CONTINUATION OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF HOWARD L. KATZ, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, AS DISTRICT COUNSEL, AND APPROVING THE HOURLY RATES AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT TERMS; *Commissioner Howe discussed the changes of his contract, moving to \$400/hr from \$350/hr. Mr. Howe also offered complimentary comments about the services provided by Mr. Katz over the past few years. Mr. Katz again apologized for having to attend the meeting via ZOOM, and said he would reach out to Commissioners Orth and Pleasant to have a lunch meeting prior to the next District meeting. Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Linsalata seconded to approve Howard Katz's contract and the hourly rates and expense reimbursement terms. The motion passed unanimously.*
12. TO REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION ON GRANTING EXEMPTIONS FOR 2023;
Commissioner Howe shared that this should be discussed at the next meeting. Howard Katz shared that local governments can grant up to a 20% homestead exemption, and also exemptions for homeowners 65+ and older and disabled. Mr. Howe noted that currently, ESD 17 does not grant any exemptions. Commissioner Howe is disinclined to approve exemptions and shared the ESD 17 tax rate is capped at 10 cents. The burden would be shifted to other taxpayers. Mr. Katz said he asked for the agenda item to have a formal record of action and agreed that exemptions were in no way required or suggested.

Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Linsalata seconded to keep the current ESD 17 policy in place and grant no exemptions. The motion passed unanimously.

President Howe adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.
The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Sequina Allen
Board Recorder