

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 17

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 10, 2023

The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 17 held a meeting on Thursday, August 10, 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.

Commissioners who attended:

Mike Howe Vicky Linsalata Mitchell Jones Angela Orth Charles Pleasant

The following persons were also in attendance:

Mark Moellenberg Jessica Frazier Victor Gonzalez Howard Katz Sequina Allen
Michael Anderson Ashley Hackstock

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 JULY 13, 2023, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES;
4. APPROVE INVOICE PAYMENT TO TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 2 FOR PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023;
Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Orth seconded to approve the consent items. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

5. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS, RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES; *Nothing to report.*
6. RECEIVE REPORT FROM TREASURER AND CONSIDER TAKING RELATED ACTION;
Jessica Frazier discussed the financials through May 31st.
Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Orth 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;

Mark Mollenberg discussed fire danger and fire support situations. He discussed changes to the dispatching system from Austin EMS and noting the calls and delays. He noted there is an effort for ESD 2 to do EMS for Priority 3-5 calls. There is a meeting with Pflugerville officials to see why this is being attempted. No resolution to that topic as of yet. Mollenberg discussed their local fire incidents.

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;

No report.

ACTION ITEMS

9. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET, AND TAKE ANY RELATED ACTION;

Ms. Frazier discussed their 5-year plan and discussed the FY 24 budget. Their proposed property tax rate is \$.0170/\$100, with a \$307,000 reserves target. It includes a 3-5% inflation increase. Ms. Frazier discussed the addition of new buildings added to the roll, and added there is 100 million more properties to protect. She discussed house appraisals and house values rising. She discussed the no-new revenue rate at \$0.024/\$100. She discussed the voter approval rate (with 3.5% additional revenue) and the incremental rate with unused increment amount). Commissioner Howe asked if they went above the proposed rates, would they get an additional half a million in reserves. Ms. Frazier discussed ESD 2's situation about their lawsuit that could threaten their sales tax revenue. Ms. Frazier discussed proactive funding with regard to ALS. She noted she presented a cost-analysis and cost-of-services of their services with ALS. She noted they wanted to provide the best level of service without a high tax rate. Howard Katz discussed the utility of the reserve funds and noted that the only legal obligation is to adopt a tax rate for their budget, to include their anticipated tax revenue and reserves. He noted that the a goal for the reserves is for a full replacement of tax rate revenue in a catastrophic event, such as Hurricane Harvey. Ms. Frazier shared that they can adopt propose a higher rate today, but agree on a lower rate at a the time when the tax rate is set. Commissioner Howe discussed the rate of \$0.0243/\$100. Commissioner Jones did not think they needed \$400,000 in reserves for the year. Commissioner Howe emphasized the uncertainty of the ESD 2's financial situation which could have an effect on ESD 17 and the cost of EMS, and Commissioner Linsalata discussed consequences of a recession.

No action needed.

10. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION REGARDING THE 2023 TAX RATE, INCLUDING:

- ESTABLISHING THE PROPOSED TAX RATE BY TAKING A RECORD VOTE;
- SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING AND A MEETING TO VOTE TO ADOPT TAX RATE;
- AUTHORIZING THE PUBLICATION OF "NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE" IN THE AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATEMAN; AND
- ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPROVING THE POSTING OF TAX RATE NOTICE AND "NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE" TO THE HOMEPAGE OF THE DISTRICT WEBSITE;

Commissioner Howe suggested a tax rate of \$.0240/\$100 and added they can consider lowering the tax rate at the September meeting.

Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Howe seconded to approve the Voter approval rate at \$.0240/\$100. The record vote passed unanimously as follows.

Commissioner Linsalata: Aye

Commissioner Jones: Aye

Commissioner Howe: Aye

Commissioner Orth: Aye

Commissioner Pleasant: Aye

The adoption of the tax rate and budget will take place on September 13th at 4PM. For this rate the Board is required to have a public hearing, since they are going over the no-new revenue rate.

There was discussion that if they do \$.0230/\$100, they will have a \$710,000 ending balance. Mr. Jones said that seemed enough.

Without objection, the Board re-opened this item to propose a 2023 tax rate, and the prior motion was rescinded.

Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Howe seconded to propose a 2023 tax rate no higher than the no-new revenue rate, with the rate of \$0.023/\$100. The record vote passed unanimously.

Commissioner Linsalata: Aye

Commissioner Jones: Aye

Commissioner Howe: Aye

Commissioner Orth: Aye

Commissioner Pleasanton: Aye

Commissioner Linsalata moved and Commissioner Jones seconded to set the September 13th meeting to adopt the tax rate and the publication of the tax rate on the website and in the Austin/American Statesmen. The meeting will take place at the regular District meeting location of 201 East Pecan Street, Pflugerville, Texas. Based on the proposed tax rate, a public hearing will not be required.

President Howe adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.
The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Sequina Allen
Board Recorder