

TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 17

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District No. 17 held a meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the 2106 Klattenhoff Drive, Austin, Texas, for the following purposes.

Commissioners who attended:

Mike Howe Vicky Linsalata Charles Pleasant Mitchell Jones Angela Orth

The following persons were also in attendance:

Nick Perkins Jessica Frazier Sequina Allen AJ Stacer Brian Fairbanks
Howard Katz

1. . THE MEETING was called to order by President Howe at 6:00 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.
1. A Public Hearing was called to order by President Howe at 6:01 p.m. on the matter of the proposed 2024 District tax rate and proposed tax rate increase

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON PROPOSED 2024 TAX RATE

2. Receive public testimony on the proposed 2024 tax rate of \$0.03700 per \$100, , and tax rate increase. The public hearing was held pursuant to the Tax Code and following newspaper publication of the public hearing on the proposed 2024 tax rate and tax rate increase.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2. Public Comment: *In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, any response to a public comment that is made on an item that is not on the published final agenda will be limited to a statement of factual information or a statement of existing policy given in response to the public comment. Any deliberation or decision by the Board must be limited to a proposal to place the subject on a future agenda.*

CONSENT ITEMS

3. Approve regular meeting minutes from the August 8, 2024 regular meeting;
4. Approve the Maxwell Locke & Ritter Engagement Letter for the FY24 Financial Audit;
Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Linsalata seconded to approve the consent items.

REPORTS

5. Commissioners' reports, responses to inquiries;
No reports.
6. Receive report from treasurer and consider taking related action; *Ms. Frazier noted they opened a savings account and earn \$264 in interest in the first month. The goal is to increase interest earned on their reserves. They discussed the need for a reimbursement check due to declining property tax and refunds paid by the County on the District's behalf. Commissioner Orth 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 noted they are receiving improved EMS call processing times. He discussed the upcoming study of EMS services in Travis County. Ultimately, he believed this would be a good thing for Travis County. He noted September was National Preparedness month. Chief Perkins discussed the annual meeting of Fire Chiefs, where they discussed wildfire coordination and suppression. He noted there's a legislative webinar coming up. Commissioner Howe added National Night Out will be Oct 1st.
8. Receive monthly report from the District's legal counsel regarding contract issues, administrative matters, and legal 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 requested to hold this item for later in the meeting for an Executive Session.

ACTION ITEMS

9. Discuss and consider taking action regarding the fiscal year 2025 budget for the period October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025 including:
 - District Financial Policies
 - Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget*Ms. Frazier discussed the reserves and fund balance in the Proposed Budget documents. Commissioner Howe noted that the tax rate proposed was higher than expenses planned for FY25 to prepare the District if the election does not come out in favor of ESD 2 and the cost for Ambulance services increases. Commissioner Orth also reiterated the tax rate increase was not for the purpose of creating a reserve, but as a proactive measure. She also noted that the goal would be to stive toward a 1-year reserve. Mr. Katz discussed the level of service and how it would relate to the tax rate pending the outcome of the November election. Commissioner Orth explained that the proposed Budget reflected a tax rate that would allow a 1-year reserve, but the Board wants to reflect the additional funds as a Supplemental Reserve and revise the Financial Policy to define the new Supplemental Reserve. Ms. Frazier stated that the Proposed Budget documents will be amended to reflect a \$710,000 Operating Reserve and \$1.2 million Supplemental Reserve and the financial policy will be amended as well.*

Commissioner Linsalata moved, and Commissioner Jones seconded to approve the fiscal year 2025 budget for the period October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025, and the financial documents as amended. The motion passed unanimously

10. Take a record vote on the District's 2024 tax rate, including:

- Adopting an Order Levying Taxes;
- authorizing filing the Order with the Travis County Tax Assessor/Collector;
- or authorizing the date, time and place of the meeting to vote on the tax

President Howe noted the tax rate of 0.037 per \$100 valuation. He said the Board is are proposing this higher rate due to the uncertain outcome of the ESD 2 November election.

Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Pleasant seconded to approve a 2024 District tax rate of \$0.037/\$100.

Record vote:

Commissioner Orth: Aye

Commissioner Jones: Aye

President Howe: Aye

Commissioner Pleasant: Aye

Commissioner Linsalata: Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Linsalata moved and Commissioner Jones seconded to authorize filing the tax Order with the Travis County Tax Assessor/Collector. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Authorize posting of statement regarding the adopted 2024 tax rate to home page of District's website;

Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Howe seconded to post the 2024 tax rate to the home page of the District's website.

The Board re-entered public session at 7:07 p.m.

Commissioner Jones moved and Commissioner Orth seconded to approve the signing of the settlement outline on the District's claim for attorney's fees against the city. The motion passed unanimously, and Commissioner Howe was authorized to sign the settlement documents when presented.

12. Adjourn the meeting.

President Howe adjourned the meeting at p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2024

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sequina Allen

Board Recorder