

MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2024 MEETING
HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 46

A public meeting was duly called by the Board of Commissioners of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 46** on **July 15, 2024**, held at the **Atascocita Fire Department, Headquarters Building**, located at **18425 Timber Forest Drive, Humble, Texas 77346**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by **TOM TRUVER**, Board President and Chairman of the meeting. Other Commissioners present include **BUDDY RICE**, **RON CLARKE**, **JOHN BOLLUM** and **JAMES CONE**. Chief of the Department **Mike Mulligan**, Assistant Chief of Operations **Terry Wygal**, Director of ITC & Operations Support **Mike Wassell**, Director of Human Resources and Finance **Mary Anne Sokol**, Alberta Balderas of ESD Tax Management Services, **Ira Coveler** and **Melissa Wiggins** of **Coveler & Peeler, P.C.**, District legal counsel, **Ricardo Martinez** of **Martinez Architects**, and members of the Fire Department and public were also present.

The Board first opened the floor to public comment, at which time President **TRUVER** recognized and thanked Chief **Mulligan** and the Department for their efforts after the recent storm. Chief **Mulligan** stated over sixty (60) responses were made in a single day after the storm, and also complimented the crews for their dedication to the community.

The Board next reviewed matters related to the Station 29 construction project. **Mr. Martinez** advised the Board that the Construction Committee had recently met with **MACO** representatives, and that all but one (1) contract was in place with the project subcontractors. Cleaning for the interior and exterior of the Station would begin shortly, as crews were already preparing to mobilize on site. He then presented Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$103,143.13.

Mr. Coveler inquired about any storm damage or obvious leaks, and was told a pre-existing leak was still present at the Station, though no additional leaks were found resulting from the storm. Damages included a downed fence between the Station and neighboring apartment complex, though it belonged to the complex and would be repaired by them. He also noted that some antennas on the communications tower were rotated by the storm, but would be taken care of shortly. There being no further discussion, Commissioner **CONE** made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner **BOLLUM**, to approve payment of the pay application as presented. Thereafter, President **TRUVER** called for a vote, and the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

The Board next received a report from Mr. Martinez regarding the District's maintenance facility. Mr. Martinez stated no updates were available as information was still forthcoming from Humble ISD regarding ongoing design and detention issues. No action was taken by the Board.

Next, the Board received the District's sales tax report from Ms. Alberta Balderas of ESD Tax Management Services. Ms. Balderas reported that the previously unavailable June allocation report was now being presented, and that allocations for the month totaled \$424,245.33. July allocations were then posted in the amount of \$412,979.48, for a year-to-date total of \$3,148,849.88. The top nine (9) taxpayers contributed \$138,768.34 for the month, almost \$16,000 over the same period in 2023. She then advised that \$3,612 in delinquent allocations had been collected from a local fast-food establishment, and noted that research into allocations from the new food-truck park was ongoing. When asked, she explained that though food-trucks were responsible for allocations based on their sales locations, because they travelled, they sometimes registered and allocated taxes based on their home addresses, and that tracking the information was difficult.

Commissioner **CONE** then requested a monthly year-to-date total be provided in future reports. After review, Commissioner **CONE** made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner **CLARKE**, to approve the report as presented. Thereafter, President **TRUVER** called for a vote, and the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

The Board then received the District's financial report Ms. Mary Anne Sokol who reported District bank balances as of the end of June totaled \$15,689,426. No items of concern were noted at this time. Ms. Sokol next presented bills for payment, and advised that no Commissioner submittals had been received. After review, Commissioner **CONE** made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner **BOLLOM**, to accept the report and pay District bills as presented. Thereafter, President **TRUVER** called for a vote, and the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

The Board next addressed prior meeting minutes, though none were forthcoming, and the item was tabled for discussion at the August meeting.

The Board then addressed the Department reports which were provided prior to the meeting. Chief Mulligan informed the Board that recent fleet issues had led to a "juggling" of apparatus, though at no point did the Department run less than four (4) ambulances, the pumper, and the tower. He commended the fleet division for keeping the vehicles on the road, especially after the recent storm, and added that there was still one (1) reserve ambulance, and one (1) reserve pumper available as needed. Another ambulance was currently on deployment. He then advised

that overall call volumes continued to increase, along with hold times at local hospitals due to overcrowding. For reference, he stated in the last week, approximately one hundred sixty-seven (167) calls were made, mostly EMS related, as a mix of regular and storm responses.

Commissioner **RICE** again noted his frustration that District ambulances were being used for what he considered excessive aid to the City of Houston, and stated the Department would be better served by focusing on improving response times within the District, rather than allocating resources outside of the territory. There being no further discussion, Commissioner **CLARKE** made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner **CONE**, to approve the reports as discussed. Thereafter, President **TRUVER** called for a vote, and the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

The Board then reviewed thirty (30) day advance request(s) related to District and Department business, though none were forthcoming, and no action was taken.

The Board next discussed the purchase of a forklift as listed in the District capital budget. Mr. Wassell informed the Board that this purchase was already part of the District's capital spending plan, but required Board approval to complete the purchase. After review, Commissioner **BOLLOM** made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner **CONE**, to approve the purchase as presented. Thereafter, President **TRUVER** called for a vote, and the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

The Board took no action regarding the sale or disposal of obsolete surplus and/or salvage property.

Mr. Wassell informed the Board no action was required regarding repairs to District property.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session to consult with legal counsel, discuss sales tax matters, discuss personnel matters, or discuss real estate matters.

The Board took no action on District real estate or personnel matters.

The Board next discussed upcoming meeting schedules, and additional items for inclusion on related agendas. Mr. Coveler advised the Board that tax setting would occur in August, and thus require a special meeting to propose and adopt the 2025 FY budget, and 2024 ad valorem tax rate. The next regular meeting was scheduled for August 19, 2024, with the understanding that such special meetings might be called as needed.

At this time, the Board tabled discussion regarding changing the District's regular meeting date and time.

No announcements were made by members of the Board of Commissioners or the Department staff.

There being no further business brought before the Board, Commissioner **BOLLOM** made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner **CONE**, to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Thereafter, President **TRUVER** called for a vote, and the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

The foregoing minutes were passed and approved by the Board of Commissioners on August 12, 2024.

By:



RON CLARKE
Board Secretary