

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2025 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 **December 15, 2025**, which was held at the **Atascocita Fire Department, Headquarters Building** located at **18425 Timber Forest Drive, Humble, Texas 77346**.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by **Tom Truver**, President of the Board and Chairman of the meeting.

President **Truver** announced that a quorum was present. Those Commissioners present for the meeting were:

Tom Truver	President	Present
Buddy Rice	Vice President	Present
John Bollom	Treasurer	Present
Ron Clarke	Secretary	Present
James Cone	Asst. Sec/Treas.	Present

Also present at the meeting were Chief of the Department, Mike Mulligan, Assistant Chief of EMS Sean Conley, Assistant Fire Chief Terry Wygal, Director of ITC & Operations Support Mike Wassell, Director of Human Resources and Finance Mary Anne Sokol, Ira Coveler and Melissa Wiggins of Coveler & Peeler, P.C., District legal counsel, and members of the Fire Department and public.

JOIN TOGETHER IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The District Commissioners and other persons present at the meeting joined together to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas.

TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT.

The Board opened the floor to public comment, though none was forthcoming.

RECOGNITION OF PROMOTIONS, COMMENDATIONS, AND AWARDS FOR DISTRICT FIREFIGHTERS, FIRE OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.

Chiefs Conley and Wygal next presented awards to District personnel.

At this time, the Board convened in Closed Session at 7:05 p.m. to consult with legal counsel.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:32 p.m. and returned to Agenda Item No. 5 related to construction projects.

TO REVIEW, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON ANY MATTERS RELATED TO THE DISTRICT'S CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Mr. Wassell advised that no updates were available regarding open construction projects.

TO REVIEW, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PAY APPLICATIONS PRESENTED.

No action was taken by the Board.

TO RECEIVE A SALES TAX REPORT FROM ESD TAX MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

The Board then reviewed two (2) District sales tax reports from November and December as provided by Ms. Alberta Balderas of ESD Tax Management Services. It was noted that allocations for the month of November totaled \$525,301.88, with a year-to-date allocation total of \$5,893,110.76. Eight (8) entities reported significant allocations during the month of October, totaling \$161,512.30. Allocations for the month of December totaled \$491,665.75, with a year-to-date allocation total of \$6,384,776.51, an increase of \$821,287.78 compared to 2024. Twelve (12) entities reported significant allocations during the month of November, totaling \$209,734.97. After review, Mr. **Rice** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Clarke**, to approve the reports as presented. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

TO RECEIVE A FINANCIAL REPORT AND TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE REPORT.

Ms. Mary Anne Sokol next presented the District's financial report, stating available balances as of the end of November totaled \$11,204,904.05. Revenues currently exceeded anticipated budgeted income by approximately four percent (4%), and expenses totaled 99.26% of budgeted expectations. Ms. Sokol then presented two (2) loan payments for approval in the following amounts:

1. Apparatus – \$121,648.56 US Bank Corp
2. Trustmark – \$105,434.36 – building

After review, Mr. **Cone** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Bollom**, to approve the report, and loan payments as discussed. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

TO PAY DISTRICT BILLS AND APPROVE COMMISSIONER SUBMITTALS PURSUANT TO TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE §775.038(A-1).

The Board then reviewed District bills and Commissioner submittals for payment. At this time, Mr. **Cone** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Bollom**, to approve payment of the bills and Commissioner submittals as provided. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S).

The Board next reviewed the November 13, 2025 meeting minutes. After review, Mr. **Rice** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Cone**, to approve the minutes as presented. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

TO REVIEW, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON THE DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

Chief Mulligan next reviewed the monthly District reports, noting a minor increase in mutual aid received to the District during the month of November. There being no further questions, Mr. **Cone** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Bollom**, to approve the reports as provided. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

TO REVIEW, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION REGARDING MEMBERSHIP IN TEXAS SMARTBUY PROGRAM TO MIGRATE THE DISTRICT'S FIBER CONNECTION TO THE TEXAS STATE CONTRACT.

Mr. Wassell advised the Board that by joining the Texas SmartBuy program, the District could contract with the state to get better pricing for fiber services to cover the District's critical load. Tachus would continue to provide service for primary non-critical matters. He presented a contract for execution by the Board, and advised there was no cost to join the program. After discussion, Mr. **Clarke** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Rice**, to join the SmartBuy program as discussed. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

TO REVIEW, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION REGARDING EXECUTING THE TX DIR CONTRACT.

At this time, Mr. **Clarke** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Rice**, to execute the TX DIR contract as presented above. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

TO REVIEW, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON SUBMITTALS OF THIRTY (30) DAY ADVANCE REQUEST(S) FOR NECESSARY PURCHASES RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT DISTRICT BUDGET.

No action was taken by the Board.

TO REVIEW, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION FOR THE SALE OR DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE SURPLUS AND/OR SALVAGE PROPERTY PURSUANT TO TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE §775.0735.

No action was taken by the Board.

TO REVIEW, DISCUSS AND ACT REGARDING PURCHASE REQUESTS AND REQUISITIONS, AND ACQUISITIONS, REPAIRS OR MAINTENANCE RELATED TO DEPARTMENT, FACILITIES, APPARATUS, VEHICLES, TECHNOLOGY, AND EQUIPMENT IN SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT.

- a. Acquisition of new District apparatus pursuant to the District's Capital Replacement Plan;
- b. One (1) Sutphen Heavy Duty 100' Mid-Mount Aerial Platform for \$2,586,202.47
- c. One (1) Sutphen Heavy Duty Custom Pumper for \$1,566,297.60

Next, Mr. Wassell presented pricing for the purchase of two (2) Sutphen apparatus including an aerial platform and custom pumper. He advised that discounts were available for prepayment on the apparatus, quoting costs of \$1,570,000 for the pumper, and \$2,300,000 for the tower apparatus. Prepaid discounts would save the District approximately \$390,000. He advised that those prices included PPI allowance for both apparatus, and cautioned that the pricing was not fixed and could increase based on market fluctuations on an index pricing model. The contract, if approved, could be cancelled if the price increased more than five percent (5%) over the original price, however a five percent (5%) penalty would be charged to the District for canceling the contract.

Mr. Wassell explained the new tower would replace the current 2013 tower which would move to the reserve fleet, and the new pumper would replace the current 2006 pumper entirely to comply with NFPA frontline apparatus standards. The Board discussed alternative manufacturer options including pricing, repair statistics, and the Department's past experiences with different manufacturers. When asked, Mr. Wassell explained that the apparatus had not gone through a bidding process as price comparisons were done directly by the purchasing cooperative. Mr. Clarke opined that the District's budget should be carefully reviewed before any purchases were made, especially concentrating on maintaining sufficient reserves to cover a minimum of six (6) months' operations expenses if needed. At this time, Mr. **Clarke** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Rice**, to defer the purchase of two (2) apparatus for two (2) years. Thereafter, the Motion failed by a vote of 1 to 4, with Commissioners **Truver, Rice, Bollom, and Cone** opposed.

Mr. Wassell then explained the purchase would be completed with a new ten (10) year loan, with a three (3) year lead time for delivery. The purchases were accounted for in the current District strategic plan, but were not yet included in the 2027 budget. The loan's first payment would be made in 2027, with an annual payment of approximately \$508,000. After discussion, Mr. **Cone** made a Motion to approve the purchase of both apparatus. Mr. **Clarke** restated his concern that the budget was not clear, and required review by the Board and validation by an outside party before any such purchases and debt assumptions could be made. At this time, the Motion to approve the purchase of both apparatus made by Mr. **Cone** was repeated, and seconded by Mr. **Bollom**. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Mr. **Clarke** opposed.

TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE §551.071 TO CONSULT WITH LEGAL COUNSEL OR TO DISCUSS SALES TAX MATTERS AS PERMITTED BY TAX CODE §323.3022.

The Board convened in Closed Session at 8:05 p.m. to consult with legal counsel.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:17 p.m.

TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE §551.074 TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.

The Board did not convene in Closed Session to discuss personnel matters.

TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE §551.072 TO DELIBERATE REGARDING REAL ESTATE MATTERS.

The Board did not convene in Closed Session to discuss real estate matters.

TO REVIEW, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON AN ENGAGEMENT TO RECEIVE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SERVICES FROM COVELER & PEELER, P.C., AND THEIR RELATED CONTRACTORS.

At this time, Mr. **Cone** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Bollom**, to engage Coveler & Peeler, P.C. and their contractors to provide Governmental Affairs Services to the District. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Mr. **Clarke** opposed.

REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION ON DISTRICT REAL ESTATE MATTERS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS.

No action was taken by the Board.

DISCUSS ANY NEW ITEMS WHICH NEED TO BE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE SUBSEQUENT DISTRICT MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE REGULAR DISTRICT MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 12, 2026.

The Board next confirmed the next meeting date as Monday, January 19, 2026.

RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OR THE DEPARTMENT STAFF.

No announcements were made by the Board or staff.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business brought before the Board, Mr. **Bollom** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Cone**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

The foregoing minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners on January 19, 2026.

By: 

Ron Clarke
Board Secretary