



# Cameron County Emergency Services District No. 1

## Board of Emergency Services Commissioners Meeting Notice

Wednesday, August 28, 2024 –1:30 P.M. Regular Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSIONERS OF THE CAMERON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1 (CCESD) WILL BE HELD AT **THE EOC MEETING ROOM LOCATED ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, 964 E. HARRISON STREET, IN BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, AT 1:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28th, 2024.**

Quorum: Oscar Tapia, Eduardo Alvarez, Rene Perez, Beverly Meyn, Calixto Suarez

Staff: Grecia Lucio –ESD Coordinator, ESD Consultant – Tom Hushen

Legal: Daniel N. Lopez, Myles Garza

Budget Consultant: Xavier Villareal

Attendance: Los Fresnos Fire Chief Gene Daniels, CC Fire Marshal Juan Martinez, STEC Director Bill Aston, Brownsville Fire Chief Jarret Sheldon, Brownsville Fire Deputy Chief Gabriel Garza, COB Deputy Rick Najera, SPI EMS LT. Emilio Hinojosa, CCECD Joel Davila, DCM COB Alan Guard, Arroyo City Fire Chief John Wheelan, San Benito Fire Chief Efrain Bautista, SPI Fire Chief Jimm Pigg

### MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order.
  - A. Quorum
  - B. Pledges of Allegiance – United State of America and Texas

*Meeting was called to order by Mr. Oscar Tapia at 1:31 p.m.*  
*Quorum was established by members present.*
2. Public hearing on FY 2024 - 2025 Budget.

*Motion to open public hearing made by Alvarez seconded by Mrs. Meyn.*  
*No Comments.*  
*Motion to close public hearing made by Mr. Alvarez seconded by Mrs. Meyn.*  
*Motion Carried.*
3. Public hearing on FY 2024 Tax Rate.

*Motion to open public hearing made by Alvarez seconded by Mr. Perez.*  
*No Comments.*  
*Motion to close public hearing made by Mr. Perez seconded by Mr. Alvarez.*  
*Motion Carried.*
4. Public Comments (**Each individual has up to three minutes. Board members will not engage in any discussion**).

*No Public Comments.*
5. Consideration and Adoption of the Budget for the Cameron County ESD No.1 General Fund for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

*Mr. Rene Perez made a motion on the estimated tax rate of collections for the budget fiscal year 2024-2025; the 2024 voter approval tax rate is 0.068017, total estimated revenues are of \$4,752,049.13 at a*

98% collection rate. The amount budgeted for FIRE/EMS is based on a 60/40 split and a \$15k base pay including the allocation of the first responders 40k. Mrs. Meyn second.

Mr. Tapia stated that the budget hearing notice was posted on our ESD webpage as well as in the paper. Motion carried.

Mr. Alvarez made a motion to approve discussion subject to item number 9, seconded by Mr. Suarez. Motion carried.

6. Consideration and Action setting the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year 2024 in accordance with the attached order for Tax Rate.

Mr. Rene Perez made a motion to move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.068017. This tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 3.5% and will raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$-5.66, seconded by Mr. Alvarez. Motion carried.

7. Consideration and possible action to update the CCESD Cover Sheets for Fire and EMS reporting to include an additional line for "Special Event".

Motion to approve the amendment on the CCESD Cover sheet for Fire and EMS to include an additional column for Proposed Special Event made by Mr. Alvarez, seconded by Mrs. Meyn. Motion carried.

8. Consideration and possible action for FY 2024-2025 Fire/EMS Service Providers Contracts.

Daniel Lopez legal counsel made a presentation and discussed that for the new fiscal year and contracts the board and CCESD contracted providers must define what is a special event and discuss how it will be funded.

Motion to approve subject to legal made by Mr. Perez, seconded by Mr. Alvarez.

Motion carried.

9. Consideration and possible action of the annual interlocal agreement/service contract between Cameron County and the Cameron County Emergency Services District No.1 for performance of governmental functions.

Motion to approve the 5% increase for the employees who are fully funded and half a salary for one secretary paid by the ESD subject to final legal review made by Mr. Alvarez seconded on Mr. Perez. Motion carried.

10. Consideration and Approval of the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) Liability Insurance for the coverage period of December 12, 2024 – December 12, 2025.

Mrs. Lucio reported that there had been a change to the TAC Liability Insurance coverage, where cybersecurity is an additional coverage and that the County's IT department answered the questionnaire on said packet and sent directly back to TAC. Daniel Lopez, legal counsel states that the ESD contracts with Cameron County, and stated that Mrs. Lucio utilizes the county's server therefore the IT department was able to answer and submit said questionnaire on the behalf of the district.

Motion to approve Alvarez seconded by Mr. Perez

Motion carried.

11. Approval of Minutes:

- A. August 2, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the August 2, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes made by Mr. Perez, seconded by Mr. Alvarez. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Monthly Financial Reports:
- A. Presentation of July Bank Statement/Revenues
  - B. Presentation of July Payment of Claims

*Presentation of bank statement, revenues and payment of claims made by Mrs. Lucio, As of July 1, 2024 the beginning balance was of \$3,212,149.57, a total of 12 deposit/ credits in the amount of \$43,662.05, a total of 4 check/debit in the amount of \$46,426.97, total interest incurred for the month in the amount of \$5,420.50. Ending balance as of July 31, 2024 was in the amount of \$3,214,805.15. The reconciliation for the month was complete.*

*Total revenue for the month of July 2024 was in the amount of \$ 51,412.88.*

*Mrs. Lucio reported for the payment of claims on \$182.00 for the board shirt embroidery,*

*Motion to acknowledge reports made by Mr. Perez seconded by Mr. Alvarez. Motion carried.*

13. Presentation of Monthly Action Reports:
- A. Coordinator's Report
  - B. Emergency Services Consultant's Report
  - C. Fire Marshal Update

*Coordinators report was presented by Mrs. Lucio, she stated that the Cameron County Tax office withheld the first installment payment of \$12,419.12 in reference the Keppel Amfels lawsuit.*

*Mrs. Lucio also reported and reminded the board on the Port Isabel – San Benito and Port of Brownsville's tours that will take place on September 18<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 10:30 a.m.*

*Mrs. Lucio also reported on the importance of at least one person from each service provider to attend the ESD meetings for their own situational awareness, updates, new up and coming discussions and uniformity between the ESD and its providers. Mrs. Lucio then reported that she was unable to cut the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter checks due to Lone Star changing their online treasury portal. End of report.*

*ESD Consultant Tom Hushen reported for item B and C. Mr. Hushen cordially invited everyone to attend the next Emergency Management Meeting that will take place August 29, 2024 at 10:30 am at the Harlingen Casa de Amistad. Mr. Hushen also formally invited everyone to attend and bring a fire unit to the County Dancy Building for a 9/11 Memorial at 9:00 a.m. On the Fire Marshal Office Mr. Hushen presented Mr. Eddie Guerra, new employee for the CC Fire Marshals Office. End of report.*

*Motion to acknowledge items A., B., and C. made by Mr. Alvarez, seconded by Mrs. Meyn. Motion carried.*

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

- A. Confer with Cameron County Emergency Services District Board Legal Counsel regarding legal issues with Service Contracts, pursuant to V.T.C.A., Government Code Section 551.071 (2).
- B. Confer with Cameron County Emergency Services District Board Legal Counsel regarding legal issues with the tax lawsuit settlement Cause No. 2012-DCL-5625, Amfels vs. Cameron County Appraisal District, pursuant to V.T.C.A. Government Code, Section 551.071(1).

*Motion to enter executive session made by Mr. Alvarez seconded by Mr. Suarez.*

*Motion to exit executive session made by Perez seconded by Mrs. Meyn @2:36 p.m.*

15. Action Relative to the Executive Session.

- A. Possible Action
- B. Possible Action

*Motion to proceed as discussed for item A. made by Alvarez seconded by Mr. Suarez*

*Motion carried.*

*Motion to approve the additional payment of \$7,463.98 for the settlement in Cause No. 2012-DCL-5625, Amfels vs. Cameron County Appraisal District by Perez seconded by Mr. Meyn.*

*Motion carried.*

**16. Adjournment.**

*Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Alvarez seconded by Mrs. Meyn @2:58 p.m.*

Signed and posted on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, at \_\_\_\_\_ in Brownsville, Texas.

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Oscar Tapia, Board President - Cameron County Emergency Services District No. 1