

HIDALGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 3
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
October 22, 2020

The Board of Commissioners of the Hidalgo County Emergency Services District No. 3 met for a Board Meeting on October 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The Notice and Agenda was posted according the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551. **The meeting was conducted via video conference or telephone call as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and pursuant to Governor Abbott's suspension order of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act.**

Call meeting to order and roll call.

The meeting was called to order by Luis Flores, President at 6:05 p.m. Members present were Luis Flores, President; Travis Richards, Secretary-Treasurer; Patrick Eronini, Member; and Gail Cappadona, Member. Absent was Aaron Vela, Vice-President. Also present was Frank Prado, Jr., Attorney; Velinda Reyes from Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Commissioner's Office; and Pilar Rodriguez and Chief Guzman from the LSMVFD.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No member of the public asked to comment on any agenda item.

1. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2020 Board Meeting.

Frank Prado, Jr. presented the Commissioners with the minutes of the meeting for the September 17, 2020 Board Meeting. The Commissioners reviewed the minutes. There being no questions or discussion regarding the minutes as presented, Patrick Eronini made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Travis Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to ratify and approve the District's bills for the preceding month.

Frank Prado, Jr. presented the bills due to be paid. The Commissioners reviewed the bills presented for \$300,000.00 to the City of Edinburg for the final payment on the Interlocal Agreement for the Edinburg Fire Station No. 5; \$967.76 to Linebarger Attorneys for delinquent tax collection September 2020; \$1,250.25 to Hidalgo County Appraisal District for 4th Quarter 2020 Assessment; \$1,159.66 to TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool for 2021 insurance coverage; \$8,000 to Hidalgo County EMS for contracted ambulance service September 2020; and \$1,875.00 to Francisco J. Prado, Jr. for attorney fees for September 2020. There being no discussion or questions concerning the District's bills, a motion was made by Patrick Eronini to approve payment of the bills presented. Travis Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Consider and take appropriate action to approve the District's financial report for the preceding month.

Frank Prado, Jr. presented the Commissioners with the financial report for the month of September 2020. The Commissioners reviewed the bank statement and reconciliation for September 2020. Frank Prado, Jr. informed the Commissioners about the District's checking account register ending balance as of September 30, 2020. There being no questions or discussion, Travis Richards made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Patrick Eronini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding the District’s current MSA SCBAs (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) and related equipment and possible purchase of 3m Scott Air-Pak 75i SCBAs and related equipment.

Frank Prado, Jr. provided the Commissioners information regarding the possible purchase of six 3M Scott Air-Pak 75i SCBAs together with air tanks and masks. The Commissioners reviewed the quotes provided by MES and H.E.A.T Safety Equipment. Frank Prado, Jr. advised the Commissioners that MES was part of the HGACBuy purchasing cooperative of which the District is a member. Frank Prado, Jr. advised the Commissioners that if the purchase was going to total over \$50,000 then either the purchase would have to be through the HGACBuy Cooperative or the District would need to go out for competitive bidding. Frank Prado, Jr. also provided information received from CASCO Industries regarding the estimated value of the SCBAs currently owned by the District which the District would likely propose to sell if the purchase of the newer models were to be made. Patrick Eronini requested information from Linn San Manuel Volunteer Fire Department (LSMVFD) regarding the number of calls it is responding to, the number of members in the department, and why it believed there was need to purchase new units. Patrick Eronini further discussed response to the area of the District by the City of Edinburg Fire Department when LSMVFD was not available. Chief Guzman and Pilar Rodriguez discussed the number of calls being responded to and their explanation for the City of Edinburg FD having to respond to calls in the District. They also advised that the purpose of the proposed purchase was to have enough units available on calls, to have units that were compatible with units used by nearby entities for sharing of air tanks on a call when needed, and to reduce COVID-19 concerns with use of the units among different department members. Patrick Eronini advised that based on the calls that are being responded to by LSMVFD and the calls being responded to by Edinburg FD instead, he did not agree that the purchase was needed or with the District making the expense. Patrick Eronini suggested that, as discussed at the previous Board meeting, LSMVFD continue to pursue possible funding through the County of Hidalgo and CARES Act funds. Patrick Eronini made a motion to table which initially failed for lack of a second. Luis Flores discussed how before proceeding with making any sort of decision, he would like for the Board to have more specific information regarding whether there were actually any entities interested in purchasing the current units owned by the District and how much they would actually be willing to pay for them. Frank Prado, Jr. advised that the proper way to proceed based on the discussions would be table the item. Patrick Eronini restated his motion to table the item. Travis Richards seconded the motion. The motion to table passed unanimously.

5. Board Member Reports

- a. **County Commissioner’s Precinct 4 Office** – No report.
- b. **Monthly Tax Collection report** -- September 2020 tax collection report was presented.
- c. **Linn-San Manuel Volunteer Fire Department** -- Chief Guzman reported that the pumper truck build was proceeding steadily and would be forwarding photos of the progress.
- d. **Edinburg Volunteer Fire Department** – No report.
- e. **Hidalgo County EMS** – No report.

6. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Board of Commissioners, a motion was made by Gail Cappadona to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Travis Richards. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Approved on the 19th day of November, 2020.

LUIS FLORES,
PRESIDENT
HIDALGO COUNTY ESD NO.3

TRAVIS RICHARDS,
SECRETARY-TREASURER
HIDALGO COUNTY ESD NO.3