

HIDALGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 3
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
May 21, 2020

The Board of Commissioners of the Hidalgo County Emergency Services District No. 3 met for a Board Meeting on May 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at 21661 East Highway 186, Edinburg, Texas (Linn San Manuel Emergency Services Facility). The Notice and Agenda was posted according to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Call meeting to order and roll call.

The meeting was called to order by Luis Flores, President at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Luis Flores, President; Travis Richards, Secretary-Treasurer; and Patrick Eronini, Member. Absent was Gail Cappadona, Member and Aaron Vela, Vice-President. Also present was Frank Prado, Jr., Attorney; Precinct 4 County Commissioner Ellie Torres, and Velinda Reyes; representatives of Hidalgo County EMS; Chief S. Snider, Edinburg Fire Department; and Chief J. Guzman Linn San Manuel Volunteer Fire Department.

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 January 16, 2020 Board Meeting.

Frank Prado, Jr. presented the Commissioners with the minutes of the meeting for the January 16, 2020 Board Meeting. The Commissioners reviewed the minutes. The Commissioners noted that correction needed to be made to the board members listed as present at the board meeting. There being no questions or discussion regarding the minutes as presented, Patrick Eronini made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections regarding board members in attendance at the meeting. 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 \$1,250.25 to Hidalgo County Appraisal District for 2nd Quarter Assessment; \$1,290.64 (January–February 2020) and \$964.94 (March–April 2020) to Linebarger Attorneys for delinquent tax collection attorneys fees; \$5,000 (4th Quarter 2019) and \$5,000 (1st Quarter 2020) to Linn San Manuel Volunteer Fire Department for First Responder Services; \$1,750 (January 2020), \$1,450 (February 2020), \$1,248 (March 2020) and \$350 (April 2020) to Francisco J. Prado, Jr. for attorney fees. There being no discussion or questions concerning the District's bills presented, a motion was made by Patrick Eronini to ratify and pay the District's bills as 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 reports for the months of January, February, March, and April 2020. The Commissioners reviewed the reports. The Commissioners reviewed current bank balances. The Commissioners asked that at the next meeting, information regarding the balances on the District's certificates of deposit be presented. There being no further questions or discussion, Travis Richards made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Patrick Eronini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider and take appropriate action on the request to ratify and approve Oscar R.

Gonzalez, CPA & Associates, PLLC to conduct an audit of the District's books and accounts for the year ended December 31, 2019.

Frank Prado, Jr. advised the Board that Oscar R. Gonzalez, CPA & Associates, PLLC would be performing the District's audit report for year ended December 31, 2019. Frank Prado, Jr. advised the Board that being that the Board had not met during the COVID-19 shut-in, the Board needed to ratify and approve the engagement of Mr. Gonzalez' office and the services being performed. There being no questions or discussion, a motion was made by Travis Richards to ratify and approve the item as recommended. Patrick Eronini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consider and take possible action regarding Hidalgo County Emergency Services District No. 3 RFP# 2019-01, Request for Proposals for Emergency Medical Services with Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance Service.

Frank Prado, Jr. advised the Board that he was requesting that the Board approve having a special board meeting on June 4, 2020 to consider only the ambulance service RFP. Frank Prado, Jr. advised the Board that he had inquired of the companies as to whether they were willing to go forward with their RFP proposal as submitted being that the period during which the District could hold the companies' proposals had passed. Commissioner Eronini stated that he believed that either the District should go out for a new Request for Proposals or that the companies should be allowed to revise their proposals because of the length of time that had passed without action and because of the change in circumstances due to COVID-19. Commissioner Richards also felt that the companies should be allowed to revise their proposals. Travis Richards made a motion to set a special board meeting for June 4, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. to consider the ambulance service RFP and to allow the companies the opportunity to provide revised proposals. Patrick Eronini seconded the motion. Chief Shawn Snider from Edinburg Fire Department pointed out that he did not believe that the proposals could be revised. Frank Prado, Jr; informed the Commissioners that the only question at issue and the only thing that could be inquired about was whether the companies were willing to go forward with their RFP proposals as submitted. Travis Richards amended his motion accordingly to limit the inquiry to only whether the companies were willing to go forward with their proposals as submitted in light of the passage of time. Patrick Eronini seconded the motion as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Consider and take appropriate action to approve an agreement with the Hidalgo County Appraisal District modifying the provisions of Section 6.06(e) of the Property Tax Code for the allocation of quarterly payments.

Frank Prado, Jr. advised the Board that the Appraisal District was asking the District to approve an agreement to pay the 2020 assessment fee in quarterly installments for 2020 as required by applicable provisions of the Texas Property Code. There being no questions or discussion, a motion was made by Patrick Eronini to approve the item as requested. Travis Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Consider and take possible action on a proposed collaboration between the Hidalgo County ESD No. 3 and the County of Hidalgo Precinct 4 for the construction of a fire station in the Precinct 4 area of San Carlos.

Frank Prado, Jr. advised the Board that Board President, Luis Flores and he had met with Precinct 4 Commissioner Ellie Torres and Velinda Reyes at the Precinct 4 offices to discuss District projects, the District's financial status, and requests and inquiries from the community in the San Carlos area regarding the construction of a facility in the San Carlos area. Commissioner Ellie Torres discussed with the Board inquiries and questions from the San Carlos area that she has received regarding the status of building a facility. Commissioner Torres discussed requesting any guidance that the District or others such as Chief Snider from Edinburg Fire Department or Chief Guzman from the Linn San Manuel Volunteer Fire Department could provide in working towards making a building in the area feasible. No action was taken on this item.

8. Consider and take possible action regarding possible Hidalgo County ESD No. 3 measures and actions in relation to COVID-19 pandemic.

There was no information for this item. No action was taken.

9. Executive: Under the authority of Chapter 551, Subchapter D §551.071-551-084 Government Code, the Board during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, may enter into closed or executive session to discuss any listed item.

No item was considered in Executive.

10. Open: Should any final action, decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the Board with regard to any matter considered in closed or executive meeting or session, then the final action, or final vote shall be either: (a) in the open meeting covered by the Notice upon the reconvening of the public meeting; or (b) at a subsequent public meeting.

There was no discussion or action for this item as there was no item requiring such action in open session as there was no executive session.

11. Board Member Reports

- a. **County Commissioner’s Precinct 4 Office** – No additional information presented.
- b. **Monthly Tax Collection report** -- Tax collection reports for February, March, and April 2020 were reviewed.
- c. **Linn-San Manuel Volunteer Fire Department** -- None
- d. **Edinburg Volunteer Fire Department** – Information from Chief Snider on the progress of the Fire Department Construction and expected completion date.
- e. **Hidalgo County EMS** – None.

No action was taken on any item.

12. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Board of Commissioners, a motion was made by Patrick Eronini to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Travis Richards. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Approved on the 18th day of June, 2020.

LUIS FLORES,
PRESIDENT
HIDALGO COUNTY ESD NO.3

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