

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 5
Minutes of the Meeting Held on January 21, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Larry Hall
James Blaha
Sharon Cotton
Brent Burley
Luther Brady

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Gerardo Gonzalez – EMS Chief, HCESD 5
JoAnn Kuritz – Director of HR & Finance, HCESD 5
Nicole Pierce – Smith, Murdaugh, Little & Bonham, L.L.P., District Counsel

Agenda Item No. 1

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Cotton at 1:00 p.m. at EMS Station No. 3, 111 West Stroker Road, Crosby, Texas 77532.

Agenda Item No. 2

Ms. Cotton opened the floor up to public comment. Chief Gonzalez recognized Paramedic H.Andrada for his 35 years of service to the agency and Commissioner L.Hall for his 25 years of service to the ESD Board. The Board congratulated and thanked both for their many years of service to the Crosby community. There was no additional public comment received by the Board.

Agenda Item No. 3

The Board then reviewed the minutes for the regular meeting held on December 17, 2025. Commissioner Burley made a Motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 4

The Board then discussed taking action on calling a public election to be held on May 2, 2026 to elect three (3) commissioners to the District Board. After discussion, Commissioner Hall made a Motion to approve the Order calling for the May 2, 2026 election. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 5

There was no action taken related to calling for a tax rate increase election for May 2026.

Agenda Item No. 6

The Board received the monthly financial report from Ms. Kuritz and the bills for payment. Following review of same, Commissioner Blaha made a Motion to approve the financial report as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0. Commissioner Blaha made a Motion to approve the District bills as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burley. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 7

The Board received the monthly investment report prepared by Ms. Kuritz. No action was required by the Board at this time.

Agenda Item No. 8

The Board received the monthly ambulance billing report prepared by Ms. Kuritz. No action was required by the Board.

Agenda Item No. 9

The Board then discussed the District's Investment Policy for Fiscal Year 2026. Ms. Pierce advised that the current policy reflects Commissioner James Blaha and HR Director JoAnn Kuritz as the District's Investment Officers. She advised that no additional changes were necessary at this time to the Investment Policy. Commissioner Burley made a Motion to continue to operate in FY2026 under the same Investment Policy as adopted in May 2020 by the Board and to approve Commissioner Blaha and Ms. Kuritz to continue to act as the District's Investment Officers. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Brady. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 10

The Board received a monthly report from the EMS Chief Gerardo Gonzalez. He reported for FY2025, the department ran a total of 4,170 calls with 2,464 transports, compared to FY2024 with a total of 3,718 calls and 1,774 transports. This was an increase of 452 calls and 690 transports for FY2025. He reported that there are no issues at any of the stations and there have been no further issues with the fire panel since the surge protections were installed. He reported no issues with personnel and that morale remains high. He advised that Frazer will be showcasing one of the new ambulances at SAFE-D for a 2nd year in a row. He reported that crews were deployed to Kerrville to continue to assist with recovery efforts. The Board thanked Chief for his report. No action was required by the Board.

Agenda Item No. 11

There was no capital requests presented at this time.

Agenda Item No. 12

The Board received a monthly report from Ms. Kuritz, Director of Human Resources and Finance. She reported that she and staff are working on year-end projects and preparing for the annual audit. She has been working on the reimbursement spreadsheets related to the Kerrville deployment and has finalized all preparations for the annual SAFE-D Conference. The Board thanked Ms. Kuritz for her report. No action was required by the Board.

Agenda Item No. 13

The Board did not enter into Closed Session.

Agenda Item No. 14

There was no action required related to personnel matters following Closed Session.

Agenda Item No. 15

There was no action required related to District real estate matters.

Agenda Item No. 16

The Board's next regular meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 26, 2026** at 1:00 p.m. at EMS Station 3 located at 111 West Stroker Road, Crosby, Texas 77532.

Agenda Item No. 17

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Board Secretary