

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 5
Minutes of the Meeting Held on February 26, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Larry Hall
James Blaha
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 Brady at 1:00 p.m. at EMS Station No. 3, 111 West Stroker Road, Crosby, Texas 77532.

Agenda Item No. 2

Mr. Brady opened the floor up to public comment. Ms. Pierce advised that the law firm's rates would be increasing for FY2026. 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 January 21, 2026. Commissioner Blaha made a Motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burley. The Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 4

The Board then discussed taking action on the Order(s) Declaring Unopposed Candidates as Elected and Canceling the Commissioner Election called for May 2, 2026. After discussion, Commissioner Hall made a Motion to approve the Order(s) Declaring Unopposed Candidates as Elected and Canceling the May 2, 2026 Commissioner Election. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha. The Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 5

The Board then discussed taking action on the Order Levying Additional Penalty for Delinquent Taxes to defray collection costs. After discussion, Commissioner Burley made a Motion to approve the Order Levying Additional Penalty for Delinquent Taxes. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha. The Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 6

The Board then discussed taking action on the Orders Adopting Property Tax Exemptions for Homestead, Persons 65 or Older; or Disabled. After discussion, Commissioner Burley made a Motion to approve and adopt granting the following property tax exemptions: Homestead: 20%; Over-65: \$30,000 and Disability: \$30,000. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha. The Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 7

The Board discussed the annual financial report to the Texas Comptroller pursuant to Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 203, Subchapter D. Commissioner Burley made a Motion to authorize District Counsel to file the annual financial report to the Texas Comptroller on behalf of the District. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha. The Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 8

The Board received the monthly financial report from Ms. Kuritz and the bills for payment. Following review of same, Commissioner Burley made a Motion to approve the financial report and District bills as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha. The Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 9

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

Agenda Item No. 10

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

Agenda Item No. 11

The Board received a monthly report from the EMS Chief Gerardo Gonzalez. He advised no issues at any of the stations. He reported no issues with personnel and that morale remains high. He reported that the two new trucks have been fully stocked and prepared for service and have been entered into the rotation as reserves for now. He reported that all other units remain in good operating condition and that Hernando has been doing a great job at keeping the units serviced and operational. He reported that they completed three (3) two-week long deployments to Kerrville to assist with recovery efforts, and all crews have returned. He reported that he is currently working on building a deployment team with the side by side for EMS wildland fire rehab. Chief Gonzalez and Ms. Pierce also discussed with the Board the new drone system recently discussed and acquired by ECOM and reported that one of the drones would be located at Station 2. The Board thanked Chief for his report. No action was required by the Board.

Agenda Item No. 12

There was no capital requests presented at this time.

Agenda Item No. 13

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 have sent all documents to the auditor for preparation of the annual audit. She reported that she has been working with Chief Gonzalez and the captains on the 4th quarter and annual reviews and those should be scheduled for next month. The Board thanked Ms. Kuritz for her report. No action was required by the Board.

Agenda Item No. 14

The Board did not enter into Closed Session.

Agenda Item No. 15

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

Agenda Item No. 16

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

Agenda Item No. 17

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

Agenda Item No. 18

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Board Secretary