

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 5
Minutes of the Meeting Held on July 23, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Larry Hall
James Blaha
Brent Burley
Luther Brady
Johnny Clark

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

JoAnn Kuritz – Director of HR & Finance, HCESD 5
Nicole Pierce – Smith, Murdaugh, Little & Bonham, L.L.P., District Counsel
Blake Milnes – Outreach Coordinator, HCESD 5
Kody Outlaw – Medic, HCESD 5
Mark B. - Member of the public

Agenda Item No. 1

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

Agenda Item No. 2

Mr. Burley opened the floor up to public comment. There was no public comment received.

Agenda Item No. 3

The Board then reviewed the minutes for the regular meeting held on June 25, 2026. Commissioner Blaha made a Motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Brady. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 4

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

Agenda Item No. 5

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

Agenda Item No. 6

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

Agenda Item No. 7

The Board received a quarterly report from the District's Outreach Coordinator, Blake Milnes. Mr. Milnes provided an update on the Safe Street grant and that it has been submitted. He reported that he, along with Chief Gonzalez and Dr. Ellerbe attended the Medical Directors Conference. He reported on his committee report with Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) and Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC). The Board thanked Mr. Miles for his work and report to the Board. No action was required by the Board.

Agenda Item No. 8

The Board received the monthly report from Mr. Milnes, prepared by EMS Chief Gerardo Gonzalez. The report noted no issues at any of the stations. It was noted that one truck is currently at the shop due to a sensor repair which covered under warranty and should be back the following day. The report noted no issues with personnel and that the new part-time medics are going through the FTEP program. It was reported that a team is currently out on deployment assisting with the flooding in the Southwest Texas area and they are projected to come home the following day. The Board thanked Mr. Milnes for providing the report. No action was required by the Board.

Agenda Item No. 9

There was no capital requests presented at this time.

Agenda Item No. 10

There was no action required by the Board at this time related to the disposition of surplus and/or salvage property.

Agenda Item No. 11

The Board received a monthly report from Ms. Kuritz, Director of Human Resources and Finance. She reported that there are currently six (6) employees out on deployment. She discussed the requirements under House Bill 4144 and that she is obtaining additional cost/pricing information from VFIS on same. She and Ms. Pierce discussed the matter with the Board regarding the TCDRS plan and after discussion, the Board agreed that the board commissioners are not considered employees of the district. She advised that she is working on the draft FY2027 budget. The Board thanked Ms. Kuritz for her report. No action was required by the Board.

Agenda Item No. 12

The Board tabled review of the District 2027 Budget.

Agenda Item No. 13

The Board discussed the 2026 Tax Rate. Ms. Pierce discussed the deadlines and planning calendar with the Board. She advised that they have not yet received the Truth in Taxation Worksheet with calculations from the Harris County Tax Office and they expect to have those out by the first week of August. After discussion, Commissioner Blaha made a Motion to propose a District 2026 Tax Rate of \$0.03/\$100. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 14

The Board then scheduled the public hearing on the District's 2026 Tax Rate and the meeting to adopt the tax rate to be held on August 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda Item No. 15

The Board then authorized District Counsel to publish the necessary 2026 Tax Rate setting notices. Commissioner Brady made a Motion to authorize District Counsel to prepare and publish the 2026 Notice of Public hearing in the HCN Observer and the Star Courier. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Clark. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 16

The Board then reviewed the need for calling for an election to be held on November 3, 2026 under Texas Tax Code, Section 26.07. Commissioner Clark made a Motion to call for an election to be held on November 3, 2026 under Texas Tax Code, Section 26.07 related to the District's 2026 Tax Rate. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 17

The Board went into Closed Session under Government Code Section 551.074 to discuss personnel matters at 3:12 p.m. The Board came out of Closed Session at 4:05 p.m.

Agenda Item No. 18

Following Closed Session, Commissioner Blaha made a Motion to authorize the title change for Blake Milnes to Deputy Chief of Administration, effective immediately. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0. The Board commended and thanked Chief Milnes for all of his great work and time on behalf of the District.

Agenda Item No. 19

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

Agenda Item No. 20

The Board's next regular meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** at EMS Station 3 located at 111 West Stroker Road, Crosby, Texas 77532.

Agenda Item No. 21

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Board Secretary