

**HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 5**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held on July 24, 2025**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Larry Hall  
Luther Brady  
Brent Burley  
James Blaha  
Sharon Cotton

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Gerardo Gonzalez – EMS Chief, HCESD 5  
JoAnn Kuritz – HR Director, 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. There was no public comment received by the Board.

**Agenda Item No. 3**

The Board then reviewed the minutes for the regular meeting held on June 19, 2025. Commissioner Blaha made a Motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

**Agenda Item No. 4**

The Board received the financial report and the bills for payment from by Ms. Kuritz. Following review of same, Commissioner Brady made a Motion to approve the financial report as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall. The Motion passed by a vote for 5 to 0. Commissioner Blaha made a Motion to approve the bills for payment as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burley. 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 discussed the draft 2026 Budget. Mr. Kuritz presented the Board with the draft 2026 Budget. She advised that many expense line items had to be cut or drastically reduced in order to meet revenue

constraints. She reported that there is no new capital items included in this draft budget. The Board thanked Ms. Kuritz for the draft budget. No action was required by the Board at this time.

#### **Agenda Item No. 8**

The Board discussed the 2025 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 1<sup>st</sup> week of August. After discussion, Commissioner Burley made a Motion to propose a District 2025 Tax Rate of \$0.03/\$100. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha and the question called. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item No. 9**

The Board then scheduled the public hearing on the District's 2025 Tax Rate and the meeting date to adopt the tax rate to be held on August 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

#### **Agenda Item No. 10**

The Board then authorized District Counsel to publish the necessary 2025 Tax Rate setting notices. Commissioner Burley made a Motion to authorize District Counsel to prepare and publish the 2025 Notice of Public hearing in the HCN Observer and the Star Courier. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha and the question called. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item No. 11**

The Board then reviewed the need for calling for an election to be held on November 4, 2025 under Texas Tax Code Section 26.07. Commissioner Burley made a Motion to call for an election to be held on November 4, 2025 under Texas Tax Code, Section 260.07 related to the District's 2025 Tax Rate. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha and the question called. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item No. 12**

The Board received a monthly report from the EMS Chief Gerardo Gonzalez. He reported that there are no issues at any of the stations. He advised that the garage door openers have been installed and the small door for the oxygen generator room has been adjusted. He reported morale remains high and that the District is currently 100% fully staffed. He reported that the replacement UTV has been purchased and is being outfitted. He reported that they took delivery of the two (2) new ambulances. He reported that during the recent flooding events in Kerrville, HCESD 5 was on standby with SETRAC to assist if needed. The agency was not deployed but did help collect donations with Huffman Fire Department and used our trailer to transport all the donations to the region. He commended the crews on an amazing job during a cardiac arrest call and the patient has made a full recovery. The District will be looking at promoting more CPR courses. The Board thanked Chief for the report and commended the staff and crews on their great work and service to the District.

#### **Agenda Item No. 13**

There were no capital requests presented at this time.

**Agenda Item No. 14**

The Board then discussed the sale or disposal of surplus and/or salvage property pursuant to Local Government, Section 263.151. Chief Gonzalez discussed that with the delivery of the two (2) new ambulances, that the District no longer needs the two (2) oldest ambulances within its fleet. One is a 2015 with 127k+ miles and the second is a 2013 with 155k+ miles. Both are reserves at Station 1. Ms. Pierce discussed the process with the Board on determining that the ambulances are surplus and the process for selling them. Following review of same, Commissioner Blaha made a Motion to declare the 2015 ambulance as surplus and to put it out for bids in the newspaper. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall. The Motion passed by a vote for 5 to 0.

**Agenda Item No. 15**

The Board received a monthly report from Ms. Kuritz, Director of Human Resources and Finance. Ms. Kuritz reported that she and Lindy had a successful time at the 2025 SHRM Conference in San Diego. She reported that she met with TDEM related to the new requirements for federal procurement in the event of a natural disaster. She also reported that she has been working with Frost Bank and will be recommending to the Board to move forward with Frost Bank for all its banking needs. No action was required by the Board.

**Agenda Item No. 16**

The Board did not enter into Closed Session.

**Agenda Item No. 17**

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

**Agenda Item No. 18**

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

**Agenda Item No. 19**

There was no update from the construction committee related to new Station 3 and no action was required.

**Agenda Item No. 20**

There was no discussion needed at this time related to the planned projects, including the Administration Building, Station 1 and Station 4.

**Agenda Item No. 21**

The Board's next regular meeting will be held on **August 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at EMS Station 3 located at 111 West Stroker Road, Crosby, Texas 77532.**

**Agenda Item No. 22**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

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Board Secretary