

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 5
Minutes of the Meeting Held on August 20, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Larry Hall
James Blaha
Brent Burley
Luther Brady
Johnny Clark (arrived at 10:05 a.m.)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Gerardo Gonzalez – EMS Chief, HCESD 5
Cody Nance – Deputy Chief of Operations, HCESD 5
JoAnn Kuritz – Director of HR & Finance, HCESD 5
Lindy Ellender – Accounting Executive, HCESD 5
Nicole Pierce – Smith, Murdaugh, Little & Bonham, L.L.P., District Counsel
Kody Outlaw – Medic, HCESD 5

Agenda Item No. 1

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Burley at 10:00 a.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 and opened the public hearing to allow interested parties to address the Board regarding the proposed property tax rate setting. There was no public comment received.

The Board deferred Agenda Item Nos. 3 and 4 until Ms. Kuritz arrived to the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3

The Board then reviewed the draft District's 2027 Budget presented by Ms. Kuritz. After discussion, Commissioner Brady made a Motion to approve the 2027 District Budget 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 then discussed the District's 2026 Tax Rate. Ms. Pierce advised that the Notice of Public Hearing was published advising the public of today's meeting regarding the adoption of the tax rate. After discussion, Commissioner Hall made a Motion to adopt a District 2026 Tax Rate of \$0.03/\$100. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 5

The Board then discussed cancelling the election called for November 3, 2026. Ms. Pierce advised that based on the tax rate calculations that no election would be required. After discussion,

Commissioner Blaha made a Motion to cancel the election for November 3, 2026. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall. The Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 6

The Board then reviewed the minutes for the regular meeting held on July 23, 2026. Commissioner Brady made a Motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall. The Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Commissioner Johnny Clark arrived to the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Agenda Item No. 7

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 and the bills for payment as presented. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Brady. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 8

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

Agenda Item No. 9

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

Agenda Item No. 10

The Board received the monthly report from Chief Gonzalez. He reported no issues on any of the apparatuses. He reported that he met with MACO Construction about some floor cracks at new Station 3 and they are assessing the situation with leveling and he will update the Board at next month's meeting with their findings. He introduced the Board to Cody Nance, the Department's new Deputy Chief of Operations. He reported on the recent deployment with SETRAC to west Texas and south Texas during the recent flooding events and reported that all went well. He reported that the Department is working on a regularly held CPR class for the public. The Board thanked Chief Gonzalez for his report and welcomed Chief Nance to the District. Ms. Pierce provided an update from ECOM related to the new drones and monthly call activity for the five (5) drones currently in service. No action was required by the Board.

Agenda Item No. 11

The Board then discussed a capital request by Chief Gonzalez. Chief Gonzalez advised that with the hiring of Deputy Chief Nance that the vehicle that was currently being used by Medic Hernando was assigned to Chief Nance and that Medic Hernando now does not have a vehicle to use for District work and has been using his own personal vehicle. Chief Gonzalez would like to purchase a small truck for use by Medic Hernando in an amount not to exceed \$35,000. He advised that this would not be a take home truck, but one used by Medic Hernando while doing District business. After discussion, Commissioner Hall made a Motion to approve the purchase of a new District truck

in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 as discussed. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Blaha. The Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

Agenda Item No. 12

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

Agenda Item No. 13

The Board received a monthly report from Ms. Kuritz, Director of Human Resources and Finance. She reported she is working with VFIS on the upcoming insurance renewal and currently awaiting proposed rates for 2027 coverage. She reported that they received the 2027 Blue Cross BlueSheifl renewal and health insurance rates increased by 8.9% and that their agent is currently reviewing and shopping for all available options to identify the most cost-effective coverage while maintaining quality benefits for the employees. 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.

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, September 24, 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 11:39 a.m.

Board Secretary