

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING**  
**ON TAX INCREASE**  
**HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 16**

A special public meeting was duly called by the Board of Commissioners of **Harris County Emergency Services District No. 16** on **August 25, 2025**, which was held at the **District Administrative Building** located at **18606 Stuebner Airline Road, Klein, Texas 77379**.

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by **Lance Wilson**, Board President and Chairman of the meeting.

President **Wilson** announced that a quorum was present. Those Commissioners present included:

<b>Lance Wilson</b>	President	Present
<b>Anna Vollenweider</b>	Vice President	Present
<b>Gary Morrison</b>	Secretary	Present
<b>Brian Gillman</b>	Treasurer	Present
<b>Steve Falkner</b>	Asst. Secretary	Present

Also present at the meeting were Fire Chief Jason Catrambone, Ryan Holak, District General Manager, Melissa Wiggins of Coveler & Peeler, P.C., and other members of the Department and public.

**TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONDUCT THE PUBLIC HEARING/OPEN FORUM TO ALLOW INTERESTED PARTIES TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND BE HEARD REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE SETTING.**

At this time, the Board opened the floor to public comment, and agreed to a five-minute (5:00) limit per speaker.

First to address the Board was Ms. Donna Cox, who addressed the Board regarding a request the use of the District's Administrative Building for a public Town Hall Meeting related to the Klein ISD Board. Ms. Cox thanked the Board and District for their "unwavering dedication and service" to the community. Ms. Cox then stated her interest in using the District's facilities for a community event related to the Klein ISD Board meeting, noting the use of public buildings paid for by taxpayers helped engender a spirit of transparency, community development, and open interaction. "Ethical management demands public funded projects be open to the public, including using buildings for Town Hall meetings for the ISD Board." Ms. Cox noted that use of the building would not constitute advocacy for any particular candidate or party, and offered to provide information regarding past requests to use District facilities for similar purposes. President **Wilson** noted that this particular topic was not available for discussion on the meeting agenda, but offered to discuss the matter further with Ms. Cox outside of the meeting.

Next to address the Board was Ms. Rhonda Foster who also thanked the Board and Department for their service and support to the community. A local resident and active community volunteer, Ms. Foster also requested the Board's support for the use of District facilities related to Klein ISD Town Hall meetings, claiming use of the public building would help create a safe space for citizens and candidates alike to interact and share their perspectives and concerns in an appropriate setting. Ms. Foster noted she had hosted several community events in District facilities in the recent past, and would continue to do so in the future. She presented a letter to the Board which would be sent to the School Board candidates if permission to use the building was granted by the ESD Board. "This is a fair opportunity to invite everyone out to share their perspectives and responsibilities. Thank you for your time."

Last to address the Board was Harris County ESD No. 11 Commissioner George Peckham, who introduced himself and requested additional information regarding the debt rate and current debt amounts held by Harris County ESD No. 16. Chief Catrambone offered to discuss the requested information with Mr. Peckham after the meeting. No action was taken by the Board.

#### **CONCLUDE PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE.**

There being no further comment regarding the District's 2025 tax increase, Mr. **Gillman** made a Motion, seconded by Ms. **Vollenweider**, to conclude the Public Hearing. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

#### **TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE DISTRICT'S 2026 BUDGET.**

Chief Catrambone next advised the Board that the 2026 proposed budget had been provided for their review, though additional amendments to the budget could be made later in the year as needed. Mr. **Falkner** inquired if two (2) crews would be housed at Station 1 and was assured at this time there was no need, or financial option to do so. Chief Catrambone and President **Wilson** agreed that the measure was unnecessary at this time, though did not rule out the possibility of housing multiple crews in single stations in the future if needed. Mr. **Falkner** warned that paying and housing additional crews in the Station would not look good to the public, and asked if any other Districts housed multiple crews in single stations. It was confirmed that other Departments with high call volumes did house multiple crews that way when needed, but that the District had no immediate need to do so at this time. If call volumes and community growth necessitated additional crews in the future, however, the issue would be revisited at that time.

Mr. **Gillman** also noted that new Stations were being constructed with the capacity to hold additional crews and apparatus due to community growth and increased response needs. President **Wilson** then stated the benefits of hosting additional crews and manpower to offer relief for overrun crews during peak hours, thus avoiding burnout and danger to Department personnel. There being no further discussion, Ms. **Vollenweider** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Morrison**, to adopt the 2026 budget as discussed. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

**TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT'S 2025 AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR DEBT SERVICE.**

The Board next addressed the District's 2025 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Debt Service. After review, Mr. **Morrison** made a Motion, seconded by Ms. **Vollenweider**, to adopt the District's 2025 Debt Service rate of \$0.003689 per \$100 property valuation to ensure payment of District debt pledged by property tax revenue. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

**TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT'S 2025 AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS.**

The Board next addressed the District's 2025 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Maintenance and Operations. Ms. Wiggins reviewed available rate scenarios with the Board. President **Wilson** acknowledged the public's opposition to raising the District's tax rate cap, and expressed his preference to adopt a rate which would continue to provide the best care and services available to the community and Department members alike. Mr. **Morrison** agreed, arguing that the opportunity to maintain services to the area at the proposed tax rate was best for the District, and minimize the impact of the District's recent failed election to raise the tax rate cap. Mr. **Falkner** stated his opposition to any rate which would raise taxes for the community.

After discussion, President **Wilson** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Morrison**, to adopt a 2025 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Maintenance and Operations at a rate of \$0.046311 per \$100 property valuation. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Mr. **Falkner** opposed.

**TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT'S 2025 TOTAL AD VALOREM TAX RATE.**

The Board next discussed the District's 2025 total Ad Valorem Tax Rate. After discussion, President **Wilson** made a Motion to increase the District's tax rate through the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.050000 per \$100 property valuation, which is effectively a 3.53% increase in the tax rate. Mr. **Morrison** seconded the Motion. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1, with Mr. **Falkner** opposed.

**TO CANCEL THE DISTRICT'S NOVEMBER 4, 2025 TAX RATE ELECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH TEXAS ELECTION CODE §2.081.**

The Board next discussed the District's November 4, 2025 tax rate election with Harris County. Based on the adopted tax rate, this election was considered moot and was rendered unnecessary. After discussion, Mr. **Morrison** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Gillman**, to cancel the District's November 4, 2025 tax rate election in accordance with Texas Election Code §2.081. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.


**TO APPROVE PAYMENT FOR HOUSTON CHRONICLE INVOICE FOR PUBLICATION OF THE DISTRICT'S NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE.**

No action was taken by the Board.

**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

There being no further business brought before the Board, Mr. **Morrison** made a Motion, seconded by Mr. **Gillman**, to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m. Thereafter, the Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

By:

  
**Gary Morrison**  
Secretary