

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2026, REGULAR MEETING OF
GALVESTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1**

A regular Meeting was duly called of **GALVESTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1**, which was held on February 23, 2026, at **Santa Fe Fire and Rescue Station 1** located at **13112 Highway 6, Santa Fe, Texas**.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Commissioner **GREG GARDNER**. Those Commissioners present when the meeting commenced were **GREG GARDNER, SHARON FREE, TOMMY GASS, JACK HELTON** and **KEVIN O'BRIEN**. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Chris Anderson (via teleconference) and Administrator Kim Hansen of Santa Fe Fire & Rescue ("Department"), and District Legal Counsel John Peeler of Coveler & Peeler, P.C.

A quorum being present and established, the meeting proceeded as scheduled.

The Board addressed item 2 of the agenda, to review and discuss annual conflicts of interest requirements under Local Government Code §176.003 (Conflicts Disclosure Statement Required) and §171.004 (Affidavit and Abstention from Voting Required). Mr. Peeler reminded the Board that conflicts statements under the applicable chapters are required to be filed annually or whenever a conflict arises and when abstention from the deliberation and vote on items is necessary. No Board action was necessary, but Commissioners **FREE** and **GASS** executed conflicts forms for 2026.

The Board addressed item 3 of the agenda, to review and discuss access to personal information under the Public Information Act, including review of sections 552.024, 552.117 and 552.1175. Mr. Peeler reviewed the access to public information forms related to public officials, noting that if anyone is unsure if they have forms on file, there is no problem with completing new forms.

The Board opened the floor for public comment under item 4 of the agenda. No public comments were offered.

The Board then addressed item 5 of the agenda, to review and approve the minutes from prior meetings. The meeting minutes from December 17, 2025, meeting were sent to the Commissioners prior to the meeting for review. A motion was made by **Commissioner FREE**, seconded by **Commissioner GASS**, to approve the meeting minutes as presented. With a vote of 5 to 0 the motion carried. The Board noted that there were no minutes for January 2026, as the January meeting was cancelled due to the inability to meet a quorum.

The Board then addressed item 6 of the agenda, action on the Investment Policy for 2026. Mr. Peeler reviewed some minor updates to the Policy for 2026 and said that he would bring the clean version ready for approval and execution to the March meeting.

The Board then addressed item 7, to review and act on financial matters, including financial reports, audits, investments, and bills. **Commissioner FREE** presented the monthly reports and bills. She noted that due to the early point in the year all the property tax funds have not yet been received from the Tax Office, making it appear that the District is short on funding for the FY 2026 operations, but that the remaining funds are expected to be received soon. She discussed the need to move funds from the checking account which receives the deposits from the Tax Office to the District's investment accounts in order to generate interest income. The Board also discussed the dispatch fee paid to City of Santa Fe being categorized in the monthly report as a miscellaneous expense and how that should be properly noted moving forward. A motion was made by **Commissioner HELTON**, seconded by **Commissioner FREE**, to approve the financial report and pay the district's bills as presented for January and February. With a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried. A motion was then made by **Commissioner O'BRIEN** and seconded by **Commissioner GASS** to move \$1,000,000 from the checking account to the Texas CLASS account as recommended by Commissioner Free. With a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried.

The Board then addressed item 8, to receive a status update from the Strategic Planning Committee. There was no discussion on this agenda item. The Board generally discussed the potential residential development projects in the area and the need to discuss with developers the possibility of setting aside property for emergency services facilities.

The Board then addressed item 9 to receive a monthly report from Santa Fe Fire & Rescue, including to authorize the payment of operations funding to Santa Fe Fire & Rescue in accordance with the adopted budget and service agreement. Chief Anderson and Kim Hansen presented run reports, ambulance billing reports, EMS billing account balances, upcoming and recent training, and the monthly funding requests. Chief Anderson noted that day crew personnel stated last week and explained the shift staffing to the Board. He noted that the semi-annual pension funding payment will be on next month's funding request. He noted that new protective gear is coming in soon, so that will also be on the next funding request. He also noted how EMS billing revenue would be used for upcoming vehicle and apparatus acquisitions. A motion was made by **Commissioner GASS**, seconded by **Commissioner HELTON**, to approve the Fire Department report and pay monthly funding requests for December 2025 and January 2026 as presented. With a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried.

The Board then addressed item 10 of the agenda, to review and approve a District False Alarm policy. Chief Anderson noted that he was coordinating with the City Fire Marshall on this policy noting that the City of Santa Fe is also developing a false alarm policy. Chief Anderson explained that he is concerned about frequent, repeat alarms being a nuisance to the Department.

The Board then addressed item 11 of the agenda, to review and approve expenditures necessitated for the maintenance, upkeep, replacement, purchase, repairs and modification of real property, vehicles, and equipment. Chief Anderson noted that the Department's maintenance staff are keeping the ambulances running.

The Board then addressed item 12 of the agenda, to review and act regarding capital acquisitions, including fire fighting vehicles/apparatus, ambulances, and emergency equipment and acquisition funding/financing for the same. Commissioner GARDNER asked Chief Anderson and Mr. Peeler to help get information together for the Board about all vehicles/apparatus in use by the Department, whether titled to the Department or District, as the Board needs this information for planning purposes. The Board also generally discussed the recent mix of funding of vehicles by the District and Department being somewhat different than the past practices. Chief Anderson noted that the new Type 3 brush truck is expected to be delivered in about 8 months and will be eligible for TIFMAS deployments. The Board discussed the issues with getting the most recently purchased ambulance title paperwork completed with the County. Commissioners FREE and GASS each stated they could be available to accompany Department personnel to meet with the title clerks to resolve the matter. There was also discussion about the best procedures for vehicle registration renewals.

The Board then addressed item 13 of the agenda, to review and act on matters related to construction, renovation, repair, maintenance and improvements to District facilities and real property, including engagement of design professionals or engineering services, selection of builders/contractors, acquisition of materials for same, and cooperation with other county entities regarding the development of stations, including action on construction financing. Chief Anderson noted that he will be meeting with College of the Mainland representatives regarding the plans for development of the training facility on the District property. He noted that they do not believe any re-zoning will be necessary and that plans may be presented to the City in the coming months for permit approval, with construction potentially going from May – December. The Board and counsel noted that a review of insurance for the property will be necessary as we get closer to construction.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 14 to consult with legal counsel of the agenda.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 15 to deliberate regarding real estate of the agenda.

The Board then addressed item 16, to review and take any action regarding real estate, including sale, purchase, lease, platting, utilities, encumbrances, maintenance and legal actions related to real estate. There was no discussion on this item.

The Board then addressed item 17 of the agenda, to set the regular meeting date for September 2025 and potential workshops or special meetings. The Board confirmed their Regular Meeting date will be Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business brought before the Board, **Commissioner GARDNER** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM. By a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried.

Secretary of the Board