

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 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 March 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 6:00 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 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 opened the floor for public comment under item 2 of the agenda. No public comments were offered.

The Board then addressed item 3 of the agenda, to review and approve the minutes from prior meetings. The meeting minutes from February 23, 2026, meeting were sent to the Commissioners prior to the meeting for review. A motion was made by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, seconded by **Commissioner FREE**, to approve the meeting minutes as presented. With a vote of 5 to 0 the motion carried.

The Board then addressed item 4 of the agenda, action on the Investment Policy for 2026. Mr. Peeler reviewed the updates to the Policy for 2026. A motion was made by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, seconded by **Commissioner GASS**, to name **Commissioner FREE** as the Investment Officer. With a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried. A second motion was made by **Commissioner GASS**, seconded by **Commissioner HELTON**, to adopt the Investment Policy as presented. With a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried.

The Board then addressed item 5, to review and act on financial matters, including financial reports, audits, investments, and bills. **Commissioner FREE** presented the monthly reports and bills. A motion was made by **Commissioner GASS**, seconded by **Commissioner HELTON**, to approve the financial report and pay the district's bills as presented. With a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried.

The Board then addressed item 6, to receive a status update from the Strategic Planning Committee. **Commissioner Gardner** noted that he was informed that the City of Santa Fe had a meeting about a planned residential development in the ETJ that may be cancelled. He also noted that the Dispatch contract with the City expires later in 2026, so the District needs to look at their options on dispatch services, including possible extension with the City.

The Board then addressed item 7 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 presented run reports, ambulance billing reports, EMS billing account balances, upcoming and recent training, and the monthly funding requests. He also gave an update on the efficacy of the paid day crews, including their participation on a structure fire with multiple mutual aid departments helping. He also noted that they provided mutual aid to other departments in March as well. **Commissioner HELTON** inquired if they could get response time data and **Commissioner GARDNER** noted that two County Commissioners want to schedule a meeting with them about the budget and tax planning, so the expenses and response time data related to increased paid staffing were important items to have information on. The Board and Department discussed upcoming vehicle/apparatus expenses that the ESD and Department are coordinating on. Chief Anderson presented the monthly operating expense invoice. Motion by **Commissioner GASS** and second by **Commissioner HELTON** to approve the payment of \$193,575 under the approved budget. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

The Board then addressed item 8 of the agenda, to review and approve a District False Alarm policy. Chief Anderson noted that he is still working with the City Fire Marshall on this policy. No action was taken on this item.

The Board then addressed item 9 of the agenda, to review and act on Ad Valorem tax exemptions for 2026. The Board discussed upcoming needs for equipment and especially staffing to match population growth. Chief Anderson noted that he expects personnel related costs to increase over the next three to five years. A motion was made by **Commissioner HELTON**, seconded by **Commissioner FREE**, to leave the exemptions the same as in 2025 with the Homestead at zero percent, Over-65 and Disable exemptions each at \$10,000. With a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried.

The Board then addressed item 10 of the agenda, to review and approve expenditures necessitated for the maintenance, upkeep, replacement, purchase, repairs and modification of real property, vehicles, and equipment. There was no discussion on this agenda item.

The Board then addressed item 11 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. There was no discussion on this agenda item.

The Board then addressed item 12 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 the College of the Mainland is planning to start construction on the training facility on the District property under the ILA in June or July.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 13 to consult with legal counsel of the agenda.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 14 to deliberate regarding real estate of the agenda.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 15 to deliberate regarding security devices or security audits.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 16 to deliberate regarding critical infrastructure and cyber security matters.

The Board then addressed item 17, 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 18 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, April 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business brought before the Board, **Commissioner GASS** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner HELTON**, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM. By a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried.

Secretary of the Board