MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 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 April 27, 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,** and **KEVIN O'BRIEN**. **Commissioner JACK HELTON** was absent. Also in attendance were Assistant Fire Chief Anthony Pearson 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 March 23, 2026, 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 4 to 0 the motion carried.

The Board then addressed item 4, to review and act on financial matters, including financial reports, audits, investments, and bills. **Commissioner FREE** presented the monthly reports and bills. There was discussion on availability of operations funds and watching the balance closely. **Commissioner GARDNER** inquired about remaining bunker gear payments and insurance. **Commissioner GASS** noted he was concerned with the ESD paying for building insurance on a building the District does not own which led to a discussion on what items were included in the ESD approved fire department funding. The Board noted the bunker gear was an extra expense this year. Commissioner FREE indicated that she will meet with Ms. Hansen to review the items for payment by the District versus to be paid directly by the Department. **Commissioner GARDNER** noted he wanted to look at dispatch numbers at the next meeting because the City renewal fee may be higher. A motion was made by **Commissioner GASS**, seconded by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, to approve the financial report and pay the district's bills as presented. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.

The Board then addressed item 5, to receive a status update from the Strategic Planning Committee. There was no discussion on this item.

The Board the address item 6 to review and take action on resolution from Galveston County Tax Office regarding an Amendment to agreement for Assessment and Collections fee.

A motion was made by **Commissioner GASS**, seconded by **Commissioner FREE**, to approve the resolution as presented. With a vote of 3 to 1, the motion carried. It was noted that **Commissioner O'BRIEN** voted "No".

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. Assistant Chief Pearson presented run reports, ambulance billing reports, EMS billing account balances, upcoming and recent training, and the monthly funding requests. A motion by **Commissioner GASS** and second by **Commissioner O'BRIEN** to approve the payment of $279,234 under the approved budget. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried. The Board noted that the check in the amount of $279,234 was already prepared by the bookkeepers so it would be approved for payment to the Department but noted that next month there will be a reduction of $50,000 from the normal monthly payment to reflect that the Department's insurance and bunker gear were not supposed to be included in the normal monthly payment.

The Board then addressed item 8 of the agenda, to review and approve a District False Alarm policy. There was no discussion on this item.

The Board then addressed item 9 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 10 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. This was discussed with agenda item 7.

The Board then addressed item 11 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. Assistant Chief Pearson noted that the City of Santa Fe Mayor cancelled the original meeting of all parties for the Training Field. It was rescheduled to just the Mayor, City Manager, College of the Mainland, and Board President. **Commissioner GARDNER** noted that the Planning and Zoning Board seemed to be of the opinion that the training field can be built on the District property without asking for a rezoning. He also noted concern that the ESD needs to take the lead on major purchases moving forward rather than defering to the Department. There was some discussion on procedural steps for getting the City to approve or deny the building permit applications in the normal permitting process. Assistant Chief Pearson noted that College of the Mainland has delayed due to zoning fears, but also that the College is okay with the Department getting community support. District Counsel John Peeler advised that there be a committee set up between the ESD, the Department, and College of the Mainland to plan next steps. The Board unanimously approved the designation of **Commissioner HELTON** and **Commissioner GASS** as the Board representatives on the committee. The Board also noted that they support the Department and College of the Mainland seeking community support for the project that is intended to improve firefighter training for the entire region.

The Board then addressed item 12 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 13 to review and act regarding Dispatch Services Agreement with the City of Santa Fe, including designation of committee to negotiate with the City on same. It was noted that the existing Interlocal Agreement with the City expires on September 30, 2026. The ESD would like the Department to propose plans for renewal or other options. There was general discussion on Department needs for dispatch services, noting the need for dispatchers who are experts on Fire and EMS dispatches. The discussion included concerns that the City does not have Automatic Aid properly set up. There was no action on this item.

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 did not meet in Closed Session under item 16 to deliberate regarding security devices or security audits.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 17 to deliberate regarding critical infrastructure and cyber security matters.

The Board then addressed item 18 of the agenda, to set the regular meeting date for May 2026 and potential workshops or special meetings. The Board confirmed their Regular Meeting date will be Tuesday, May 26, 2026, rather than the normal Monday due to Memorial Day, with the meeting time remaining at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business brought before the Board, **Commissioner FREE** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner GASS,** to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM. By a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.

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Secretary of the Board