MINUTES OF THE JULY 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 July 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, KEVIN O'BRIEN** and **JACK HELTON**. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Chris Anderson and Staff 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. Mr. Anthony Cappadona came forward and addressed the training facility, noting that he would like the proposed facility to be built in a different place. He also noted his support of the Santa Fe Fire Department and Firefighters. Mr. Andrew Blasdell came forward and said he would like more transparency from the District noting that he was not aware of the ESD meetings. He also noted his support of the Santa Fe Fire Department and Firefighters.

The Board then addressed item 3 of the agenda, to review and approve the minutes from prior meetings. The meeting minutes from June 22, 2026, meeting were sent to the Commissioners prior to the meeting for review. A motion was made by **Commissioner O'BRIEN,** seconded by **Commissioner GASS**, to approve the meeting minutes as presented. With a vote of 5 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 financial report and the monthly bills noting there was approximately 2.5 months of reserve funds available. A motion was made by **Commissioner GASS**, seconded by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, to approve paying the monthly bills as presented. With a vote of 5 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 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, Year To Date Budget, and the monthly funding requests. Chief noted that they have $615,000 in EMS billing, and noted that a big piece of that goes to new apparatus which are due later this year and next year. He also noted that the billing monthly average is lower than this time in 2025. Lastly there was a discussion on community outreach and a public event on Safety Heros. A motion by **Commissioner FREE** and second by **Commissioner GASS** to approve the payment of $188,815 under the approved budget. With a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried.

The Board then addressed item 7 of the agenda, to review and approve a District False Alarm policy. There was no discussion on this agenda item.

The Board then addressed item 8 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 9 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 10 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. There was no discussion on this agenda item.

The Board then addressed item 11 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 agenda item.

The Board then addressed item 12 to review and act regarding Dispatch Services Agreement with the City of Santa Fe, including designation of committee to negotiate with the City regarding renewal and to review dispatch options for the District. The District may also act to approve semi-annual payment to the City for dispatch services under current agreement. Chief Anderson noted that he is waiting for proposals from the County and League City. He also spoke with the City Manager about a six-month extension. He also noted that the City Manager said the City may not continue doing dispatch. There was some discussion on how the County is doing dispatch for other entities and pricing from County and other entities. There was no action on this item.

The Board then addressed item 13 to review and discuss the 2027 Budget and 2026 Tax Rate. Chief Anderson presented the EMS salary survey information and 2027 Department Budget options. There was a discussion on availability of volunteer and part-time firefighters. The Board will review the budget material from the Fire Department. District Counsel John Peeler noted that there would be more information for their special meeting on August 3rd at 6:00pm when they propose the tax rate. There was no action on this item.

The Board then addressed item 14 to review and act regarding the 2027 contract for emergency services with Santa Fe Fire & Rescue, including funding for the same. District Counsel John Peeler noted that the contract with Santa Fe Fire and Rescue expires this year and the Board would like to review options. District Counsel John Peeler stated they would need to discuss some things in Closed Session under consulting with Legal.

The Board then addressed item 15 to review and act regarding bookkeeping and accounting services, including current consultant Ham, Langston & Brezina merging with CohnReznick. **Commissioner FREE** noted there was no information on changes to service or pricing at the time of the meeting. There was no action on this item.

The Board met in Closed Session under item 16 of the agenda to consult with legal counsel from 6:47 PM to 8:08 PM.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 17 to deliberate regarding real estate of the agenda.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 18 to deliberate regarding security devices or security audits.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 19 to deliberate regarding critical infrastructure and cyber security matters.

The Board then addressed item 20 of the agenda, to set the regular meeting date for July 2026 and potential workshops or special meetings. The Board confirmed their Regular Meeting date will be Monday August 24, 2026, at 6:00 pm. The Board also noted that they would be open to a possible contract/FD Budget workshop.

There being no further business brought before the Board, **Commissioner GASS** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner HELTON,** to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM. By a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried.

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Secretary of the Board