

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 31, 2025, 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 31, 2025, at **Santa Fe Fire and Rescue Station 1** located at **13112 Highway 6, Santa Fe, Texas**.

The Meeting was called to order at 12:16 PM by Commissioner **GREG GARDNER**. Those Commissioners present when the meeting commenced were **GREG GARDNER, SHARON FREE, JACK HELTON** and **KEVIN O'BRIEN**. Commissioner **TOMMY GASS** was absent. Also in attendance were Chief Anderson and other members and officers 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 June 30, 2025, 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 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 regarding payment to Sterling McCall upon confirmation that the ambulance was delivered to Santa Fe Fire & Rescue. A motion was made by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, seconded by **Commissioner HELTON**, to authorize the wire transfer to Sterling McCall after delivery. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried. A motion was made by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, seconded by **Commissioner HELTON**, 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 review and act on insurance coverage issues. Chief Anderson noted that the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue budget and funding request will have an insurance increase for FY 2026.

The Board then addressed item 6, to receive a status update from the Strategic Planning Committee. **COMMISSIONER GARDNER** noted that the Committee would

likely schedule a meeting after tax setting. It was also noted that Counsel John Peeler would work with the attorney for College of the Mainland on the Interlocal Agreement for the development of a firefighter training facility on the land recently acquired by the District.

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, officer certifications and the monthly funding requests. He noted that new CPR machines were being purchased via contract with the vendor with quarterly payments, and that it would be paid with EMS billing funds and not ESD funds. **Commissioner FREE** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, to approve the Fire Department report and pay monthly requests as presented. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.

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 or action on this 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. Chief Anderson noted that they are scheduled to pick up the new ambulance on August 1st.

The Board then addressed item 10 of the agenda, to review and discuss the District 2026 Budget, including review of funding requests and budget from Santa Fe Fire & Rescue. Chief Anderson presented information on the 2026 funding requests noting HB 5424 related to payments to Volunteer Firefighters and their transition to TCFP. **COMMISSIONER FREE** requested documentation on staffing from Chief Anderson. There was general discussion on available funds for the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue and other District expenses in the 2025 property tax levy based on projected collections at different tax rates. They discussed a need for increased revenue due to higher costs for PPE, trucks, and personnel due to competition and the changing balance of volunteers and paid firefighters. There was another discussion about the Fire Department buying

land to build a facility that could be used for Department training and also as a community center for community and other events. **COMMISSIONER FREE** noted concerns about spending on items outside the District's and Santa Fe Fire and Rescue's core function of providing emergency response services. **COMMISSIONER HELTON** expressed concerns about the possible perception of the District and Fire Department not supporting the community more broadly if the Department were to cease allowing the use of its facilities for community events.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 11 to consult with legal counsel of the agenda.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 12 to deliberate regarding real estate of the agenda.

The Board then addressed item 13, 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 14 of the agenda, to review and act regarding interlocal agreement with College of the Mainland regarding development of training facilities on District property. Counsel John Peeler noted that the attorney for College of the Mainland hasn't sent anything over to review, so he will draft the interlocal agreement and send it for review and action at an upcoming meeting.

The Board then addressed item 15 of the agenda, to set the regular meeting date for August 2025 and potential workshops or special meetings, including meetings related to tax setting. The Board set a special meeting for property tax proposal on August 4, 2025, at 12:00 pm. The Board then confirmed their Regular Meeting date will be Monday, August 25, 2025, 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 1:53 PM. By a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.

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Secretary of the Board