

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 24, 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 August 24, 2026, at **Santa Fe Fire and Rescue Station 1** located at **13112 Highway 6, Santa Fe, Texas**.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:07 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 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. No public comment was forthcoming.

The Board then addressed item 3 of the agenda, to review and approve the minutes from prior meetings. The meeting minutes from July 27, 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 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 financial report and the monthly bills noting there was some confusion on the tax bills for the real property the District purchased in 2025 which lead to some penalties and interest being incurred. Ms. Hansen noted that the mail had been delivered to Santa Fe Fire & Rescue but wasn't sent to Legal Counsel for review until July. A motion was made by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, seconded by **Commissioner GASS**, to approve the financial report and pay the monthly 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 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. There was a discussion on dispatch that lead to some general discussion regarding the Fire Department's budget, including pension funding for Fire Department volunteers. It was noted that paid employees have an IRA where the employee and Fire Department each contribute 3%. The Fire Department also has the Next Level Urgent Care

Program. There was some discussion on the possibility of collecting impact fees if the District were to adopt a Fire Code as allowed by law. It was also noted that this might allow the District to capture some fees related to large developments since there is a delay in new taxes being collected. Lastly there was a brief discussion on the lack of water supply throughout the District and the use of tankers. 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 4 to 0, the motion carried.

The Board then addressed item 7 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 8 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 9 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 10 to review and take any action regarding real estate, including sale, purchase, lease, platting, utilities, encumbrances, maintenance and legal actions related to real estate. A motion was made by **Commissioner GASS**, seconded by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, to designate as surplus the real property owned by the District as documented by file number 2025026861 in the Real Property Records of Galveston County and to authorize the Board President to engage a real estate broker to assist with listing a property for sale per applicable law. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried. The Board also noted the payment of taxes, including penalties and interest, for the property were approved in the payment of bills.

The Board then addressed item 11 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 asked the City Manager for an extension and was told it would be on the next City agenda for an extension from October 2026 through April 2027. He also noted there was an offer from the County for \$106,000 and Westcom for \$41.00 per call, for an estimated

\$130,000 total per year. There was a brief discussion on other possible options like other cities. Chief Anderson also noted that the estimated population in the ESD was 33,000. There was no action on this item.

The Board then addressed item 12 to review and act regarding the 2027 contract for emergency services with Santa Fe Fire & Rescue, including funding for the same. District Counsel noted he would make some suggested revisions to the contract and send it to the Board for review before the September meeting. It was also noted that then the District and Fire Department might have a special meeting just to discuss the contract. **Commissioner GARDNER** noted that there is still some data that is needed from the Fire Department on payroll numbers. There was no action on this item.

The Board then addressed item 13 to review and act regarding bookkeeping and accounting services, including current consultant Ham, Langston & Brezina merging with CohnReznick. A motion was made by **Commissioner GASS**, seconded by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, to approve the contract as presented. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried. The Board instructed counsel to add an item to the next agenda to review bookkeeping and financial planning consultant options.

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

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

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 September 2026 and potential workshops or special meetings. The Board confirmed their Regular Meeting date will be Monday September 28, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business brought before the Board, **Commissioner GASS** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner FREE**, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM. By a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.

Secretary of the Board