

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 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 August 25, 2025, at **Santa Fe Fire and Rescue Station 1** located at **13112 Highway 6, Santa Fe, Texas**.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Commissioner **GREG GARDNER**. Those Commissioners present when the meeting commenced were **GREG GARDNER, SHARON FREE, JACK HELTON, TOMMY GASS** and **KEVIN O'BRIEN**. 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 August 25, 2025, meeting was 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, to review and act on financial matters, including financial reports, audits, investments, and bills. **Commissioner FREE** presented the monthly reports and bills. **Commissioner GARDNER** noted an insurance amount being too low versus the actual and **Commissioner FREE** stated that the insurance went up in price. 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 5, to receive a status update from the Strategic Planning Committee. Chief Anderson presented information on expected upcoming subdivisions and costs related to such growth. He noted that construction is expected to begin in 2027. He also noted a few other smaller expected projects. Chief Anderson provided information on staffing volunteers and noted many of the staff work for other Fire Departments and this leads to needing more paid staff. He also reviewed their ISO rating,

a grant they are expecting for a tanker in the coming years, the backup pumper being in ISO critical range. He also detailed the savings plan for the new pumper.

The Board then addressed 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. **Commissioner GARDNER** mentioned he was concerned that they needed more EMS capacity. Chief Anderson then presented information on paid firefighter staffing and the volunteer incentive plan to supplement fire response for 2026, additional personnel and stipend for 2027 and an additional stipend for 2028 and funds for part-time firefighters during the week. He also discussed the comparison of pay with Galveston to other municipalities. **Commissioner FREE** noted this will need a tax increase, so they should start community outreach now. Stress that they are trying to recruit volunteers but letting the public know that it's been a difficult task. A motion was made by **Commissioner GASS**, seconded by **Commissioner FREE**, to approve the Fire Department report and pay monthly requests as presented. 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. District Counsel John Peeler presented a generic policy for discussion. Chief Anderson noted that he needed more time on the policy and would get information on what other Fire Departments charge for the October meeting. There was no action taken on this item.

The Board then addressed item 8 of the agenda, to review and act under the Government Code section 552.234 to designate an email and mailing address for receipt of Public Information Act requests and notify the Attorney General of the same. A motion was made by **Commissioner O'BRIEN**, seconded by **Commissioner FREE**, to have legal counsel set up the email address for the website and keep legal counsel address for the mailing address. With a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried.

Then Board then addressed item 9 of the agenda, to review and act on an interlocal agreement with College of the Mainland for the construction, maintenance and use of training facilities on District property and related issues. Chief Anderson noted that they expect groundbreaking in late 2026. A motion was made by **Commissioner HELTON**,

seconded by **Commissioner GASS**, to approve the interlocal agreement as presented. 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 or action on this 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 item.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 12 to consult with legal counsel of the agenda.

The Board did not meet in Closed Session under item 13 to deliberate regarding real estate of the agenda.

The Board then addressed item 14, 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 or action on this item.

The Board then addressed item 15 of the agenda, to schedule a Board workshop on Growth in the District. There was no discussion on this item.

**Commissioner FREE** left the meeting at 7:45 pm.

The Board then addressed item 16 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, October 27, 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 7:46 PM. By a vote of 5 to 0, the motion carried.

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Secretary of the Board