

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF  
FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 9**

A regular meeting was duly called of the **FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 9** (the "District"), which was held on January 21, 2026, at the Needville Fire Station, 3323 Richmond Street, Needville, Texas 77461.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the President of the Board of Commissioners ("Board" or "Commissioners"), **Barbara Smolik**. Pursuant to Agenda Item 1, a roll call of the Commissioners was made, and a quorum was confirmed, to-wit:

Barbara Smolik	President
Keith Thumann	Vice President
Rex Havron	Secretary
Jon Norwood	Treasurer
RJ Reiser	Assistant Treasurer

All members of the Board were present except Director Havron, thus constituting a quorum. Also present at the meeting were Monica A. Garza of Polley Garza PLLC, attorney for the District ("PG" or "Attorney"); Millie Dunmire of Artesian Financial Services, bookkeeper for the District ("Bookkeeper"); Chief Troy Svatek, Fire Chief of the Needville Fire Department ("FD"); Sparky Anderson, Captain of the FD, and Brandon Ordoyne, Treasurer of the FD.

Pursuant to Agenda Item 2, Commissioner **Smolik** led the meeting attendees in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner **Smolik** stated that Agenda Items 3 and 4 will be postponed until the regular February Board meeting due to the absence of Commissioner **Havron**.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 5 regarding public comment; however, no public comments were offered.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 6 regarding review of the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 17, 2025. A motion was made by Commissioner **Thumann**, seconded by Commissioner **Norwood**, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 17, 2025, as presented. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 7 regarding review of the Financial Report. Ms. Dunmire reported that the District's general fund beginning balance was \$349,348.55 following the prior meeting, with subsequent receipt of tax revenue in the amount of \$241,889.48, sales tax revenue in the amount of \$54,471.40, and interest income in the amount of \$302.35. Ms. Dunmire went on to report that the current balance of the District's bank account at NewFirst Bank is \$438,877.92 and the balance of the TexPool account is \$1,311,120.87.

Ms. Dunmire then reviewed the invoices presented for approval at today's meeting, a copy of which is included in the Financial Report. Ms. Dunmire reported that the District's first payment to Community First National Bank is due February 1<sup>st</sup> for the Fouts Bros. pumper fire truck. It was the consensus of the Board that payment to Community

First National Bank be made via ACH transfer. Ms. Dunmire further reported that check no. 1119 is for the first disbursement to the FD for the fiscal year end (“FYE”) December 31, 2026.

Ms. Dunmire next reviewed with the Board the actual versus budgeted income and expenses for the FYE December 31, 2026. Ms. Dunmire stated that for the prior fiscal year, sales and use tax revenue was included with the District’s “other income;” however, for FYE December 31, 2026, such revenue has its own line item on the budget.

Ms. Dunmire then reviewed the Tax Collections Report for December, which is contained in the Financial Report, and stated that the District’s 2024 taxes are 98.63% collected, while the District’s 2025 taxes are 17.0% collected. Ms. Dunmire reported that \$22,586.21 remains outstanding for tax year 2024.

Discussion ensued regarding transferring funds from the District’s operating account to its TexPool investment account. Ms. Dunmire next reviewed the District’s investment report.

Commissioner **Reiser** entered the meeting at this time.

A motion was made by Commissioner **Norwood**, seconded by Commissioner **Thumann**, to approve the Financial Report, as presented. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 8 and Ms. Garza explained that pursuant to the terms of the lease, the District’s first payment to Community First National Bank is due February 1<sup>st</sup> for the Fouts Bros. pumper fire truck. Ms. Garza requested authorization to provide Community First National Bank and Community Leasing Partners with the financial information required per the District’s Lease Agreement. A motion was made by Commissioner **Thumann**, seconded by Commissioner **Norwood**, to approve payment to Community First National Bank and authorize PG to provide the required financial information. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 9 and Chief Svatek reviewed with the Board the monthly report from the FD, including the run-and-response report, manpower status, and equipment and apparatus reports. Chief Svatek reported that Fire Engine No. 73 has not yet been repaired and is waiting on certain replacement parts. Chief Svatek further reported that Rescue Engine No. 71 is also in need of various repairs.

Chief Svatek reported that as of January, the FD has 24 volunteer crew members and six (6) junior crew members.

Chief Svatek then reported that the installation of a boat shed at Fire Station No. 2 is complete. Chief Svatek next reported that the FD is working to obtain grant funds to obtain portable radios to communicate with neighboring fire departments.

Chief Svatek next presented to the Board a quote from Caldwell Country Chevrolet II LLC, via the BuyBoard Purchasing Cooperative (“BuyBoard”), in the amount of \$68,965.00 for the purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado to be used as the Chief’s vehicle. Chief Svatek stated that he will request authorization from the Board next month to purchase the vehicle through BuyBoard.

Discussion next ensued regarding burn bans in effect throughout Fort Bend County (the "County"). Chief Svatek stated that a member of the County's environmental health department will host a training session next week for the FD.

Mr. Ordoyne then reviewed with the Board the FD's financial report. Mr. Ordoyne noted a deposit of capital project funds from the District in the amount of \$18,909.22 for the installation of the boat shed at Fire Station No. 2.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 10, and Ms. Garza explained that pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code Section 775.036(a)(4), if requested by the County Commissioners Court, the District must file a report regarding budget, tax rate, and debt service for preceding fiscal year. Ms. Garza stated that the County has not made a request for such information at this time but requested authorization from the Board to file the report if a request is received. A motion was made by Commissioner **Thumann**, seconded by Commissioner **Norwood**, to authorize PG to file a report regarding budget, tax rate, and debt service for preceding fiscal year with the County, as necessary. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 11 and Ms. Garza reviewed with the Board the District's Per Diem and Expense Reimbursement Policy (the "Policy"). A motion was made by Commissioner **Thumann**, seconded by Commissioner **Norwood**, to amend the Policy to increase the reimbursement for meals that are eaten and paid for by a Commissioner during attendance at an approved conference to \$100 per day per Commissioner. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 12 and Commissioner **Reiser** reviewed data regarding the amount of sales and use tax revenue collected by the District.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 13; however, there was no update to report this month.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 14 regarding acquisition of facilities, equipment, vehicles and real estate. Commissioner **Smolik** stated that she sent an email to the Board regarding certain development within the District. Commissioner **Reiser** reported that the City of Needville (the "City") created a subcommittee to communicate with the District's real estate committee regarding the District's potential purchase of land for the expansion of District facilities. Commissioner **Reiser** further reported that the City is obtaining an appraisal of land that was previously discussed as a potential location for District facilities. Commissioner **Reiser** then requested authorization from the Board to engage Dustin Vacek, a local real estate agent, regarding land acquisition. The Board reviewed Mr. Vacek's qualifications. A motion was made by Commissioner **Norwood**, seconded by Commissioner **Thumann**, to engage Mr. Vacek regarding land acquisition matters. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Chief Svatek reported that he is in communication with an architect regarding suggestions for demolishing the existing building at 3323 Richmond Street and constructing a new fire station on the property. Chief Svatek stated that there is some concern regarding detention pond requirements, but he believes that the property may be exempt from certain drainage requirements due to the age of the property.

Ms. Garza then explained that Section 551.072, Texas Government Code, known as the Open Meetings Act, allows the Board to enter into a closed session for deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.

Ms. Dunmire exited the meeting at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, specifically Section 551.072 pertaining to real estate matters, Commissioner **Smolik** convened the Board in Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. to discuss the potential acquisition of 3323 Richmond Street. The persons participating in the Executive Session were all members of the Board present, Chief Svatek, Captain Anderson, Mr. Ordoyne, and Ms. Garza.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Commissioner **Smolik** then reconvened the meeting in open session at 8:14 p.m.

Commissioner **Smolik** revisited Agenda Item 4, and it was the consensus of the Board to maintain the current slate of officers.

There being no further business brought before the Board, upon motion made, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

  
*Asst.* Secretary of the Board

