

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 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 February 18, 2026, at the Needville Fire Station, 3323 Richmond Street, Needville, Texas 77461.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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/Assistant Secretary

All members of the Board were present except Commissioners **Havron** and **Norwood**, thus constituting a quorum. Also present at the meeting were Monica A. Garza of Polley Garza PLLC, attorney for the District ("PG" or "Attorney"); Lisa Rickert and 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 Item 3 will be postponed until the regular March Board meeting due to the absence of Commissioner **Havron**.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 4 and Ms. Garza recommended that the Board appoint one (1) of the Commissioners to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Board so that such Commissioner may sign District documents when the Board Secretary is absent. A motion was made by Commissioner **Smolik**, seconded by Commissioner **Thumann**, to appoint Commissioner **Reiser** to serve as the Assistant Secretary of the Board. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

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 January 21, 2026. Ms. Garza noted that the minutes contain an error in that the amount stated as the cost of the 2026 Chevrolet Silverado proposed to be purchased by the FD is incorrect. A motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser**, seconded by Commissioner **Thumann**, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 21, 2026, subject to correction. 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. Rickert reported that the District's general fund beginning balance was \$438,877.92 following the prior meeting, with subsequent receipt of tax revenue in the

amount of \$1,071,510.86, sales tax revenue in the amount of \$75,045.30, special inventory tax revenue in the amount of \$9.09, interest income in the amount of \$798.18, and the return of funds in the amount of \$94,081.14 due to the voiding of a check payable to Community National Bank. Ms. Rickert stated that the payment to Community First National Bank for the pumper truck lease payment was submitted via ACH transfer instead. Ms. Rickert went on to report that the current balance of the District's bank account at NewFirst Bank is \$31,146.18 and the balance of the TexPool account is \$2,755,251.98.

Ms. Rickert next reviewed the invoices presented for approval at today's meeting, a copy of which is included in the Financial Report. Ms. Rickert stated that two (2) checks were issued to the United States Treasury for ADP payroll fees, one for year-end fees and one for the regular monthly fee. Ms. Rickert further stated that the charge from HdL Companies for sales tax consulting services is a one-time fee, unless additional sales taxpayers are identified.

Ms. Rickert next reviewed with the Board the actual versus budgeted income and expenses for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026. Discussion then ensued regarding sales tax revenue received year-to-date.

Ms. Rickert next stated that check no. 1127 payable to the Fort Bend County Tax Office in the amount of \$22.00 is being presented to the Board for approval but is not reflected in the Financial Report. Ms. Rickert further stated that such check is being issued for payment related to the vehicle registration renewal for the pumper truck.

Ms. Rickert then reviewed the Tax Collections Report for January, which is contained in the Financial Report, and stated that the District's 2024 taxes are 98.77% collected, while the District's 2025 taxes are 70.28% collected. Ms. Rickert reported that \$20,256.49 remains outstanding for tax year 2024 and \$513,317.56 remains outstanding for tax year 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser**, seconded by Commissioner **Thumann**, to approve the Financial Report, as presented. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 8 and Ms. Garza presented a Resolution Concerning Exemptions from Taxation for the 2026 Tax Year (the "Resolution"). Ms. Garza stated that the District currently grants a tax exemption of \$10,000 of the appraised value of residence homesteads of residents who are disabled or 65 years of age or older, and does not grant a general homestead exemption. A motion was made by Commissioner **Thumann**, seconded by Commissioner **Reiser**, to adopt the Resolution reflecting a tax exemption of \$10,000 of the appraised value of residence homesteads of residents who are disabled or 65 years of age or older but no general homestead exemption for the 2026 tax year.

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 several crew member applicants are completing their medical screenings as part of the application process.

Chief Svatek then reported that the FD met with the Fort Bend County (the "County") environmental health department regarding burn bans in effect throughout the County.

In response to a question from Commissioner **Smolik** regarding incentives for crew members who work on holidays, Chief Svatek stated that crew members are paid twice their normal pay rate when working on major holidays and 1.5 times their normal pay rate when working on minor holidays.

Mr. Ordoyne then reviewed with the Board the FD's financial report. Mr. Ordoyne noted a payment to the Beasley Fire Department in the amount of \$2,100.00 for grant writing expenses and explained that the FD is coordinating with two (2) other local fire departments to obtain grant funds to purchase portable radios to communicate with neighboring fire departments. Mr. Ordoyne then reviewed expenses relating to various repairs for Rescue Fire Truck No. 71. Mr. Ordoyne next noted that the FD has a balance of \$141,820.79 in insurance funds held in an account for capital expenses. Captain Anderson stated that the FD may request additional disbursements from the District in April and/or May due to several upcoming large expenses.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 10; however, Ms. Garza stated there was no update to report this month.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 11 relating to community matters and Chief Svatek stated that the FD has appointed a new events coordinator. Chief Svatek stated the FD will participate in the Fair in April.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 12 and Ms. Garza 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. Ms. Garza stated that the District does not need to solicit bids for the vehicle since it was acquired through BuyBoard and added that the funds for the purchase would be paid from the District's operating account. Discussion then ensued regarding placing a logo decal on the vehicle and on future vehicles purchased by the FD. A motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser**, seconded by Commissioner **Thumann**, to authorize the purchase of the vehicle through BuyBoard at the price of \$68,965.00. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

Discussion next ensued regarding the District's real estate committee, which consists of Commissioners **Reiser** and **Havron**, and an upcoming meeting with the City of Needville regarding the District's potential purchase of land for the expansion of District facilities. Commissioner **Reiser** then shared information provided to him by the Needville Independent School District regarding demographics and population growth within the District. Discussion ensued regarding potential locations for the future construction of a new fire station.

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. Rickert and 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 deliberation regarding real property, Commissioner **Smolik** convened the Board in Executive Session at 8:01 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 8:33 p.m.

There being no further business brought before the Board, upon motion made, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.


Secretary of the Board