

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19, 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 August 19, 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 Commissioner **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" or "Artesian"); Chief Troy Svatek, Fire Chief of the Needville Fire Department ("FD"); Brandon Ordoyne, Treasurer of the FD; and Amy Murphy, member of the public. Commissioner **Thumann** was also in attendance as Administrator of the FD.

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

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 3 regarding public comment; however, no public comments were offered.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 4 regarding review of the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 15, 2026. A motion was made by Commissioner **Havron**, seconded by Commissioner **Thumann**, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 15, 2026, as presented. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 5 regarding review of the Financial Report. Ms. Dunmire reported that the District's general fund beginning balance was \$19,060.95 following the prior meeting, with subsequent receipt of tax revenue in the amount of \$13,019.05, interest in the amount of \$27.42, and sales tax revenue in the amount of \$59,521.28. Ms. Dunmire stated that \$60,000.00 was transferred from the District's TexPool account to the District's operating account. Ms. Dunmire further reported that the balance of the District's bank account at NewFirst Bank after payment of checks presented today is \$20,740.93 and the balance of the TexPool account is \$2,734,678.19.

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 noted that check no. 1158 payable to the Fort Bend Central Appraisal District ("FBCAD") in the amount of

\$20,803.97 is higher than normal because the receipt of several FBCAD invoices were delayed and that such check includes payment of four (4) separate FBCAD invoices.

Ms. Dunmire next reviewed with the Board the actual versus budgeted income and expenses for the fiscal year ending ("FYE") December 31, 2026. Ms. Rickert then presented the proposed budget for the FYE December 31, 2027.

Ms. Dunmire then reviewed the Tax Collections Report for July, which is contained in the Financial Report, and stated that the District's 2025 taxes are 97.0% collected. Ms. Dunmire reported that \$52,211.13 remains outstanding for tax year 2025. Ms. Dunmire next reviewed the sales tax revenue report.

A motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser**, seconded by Commissioner **Thumann**, to approve the Financial Report, as presented, including payment of bills and issuance of checks, except for check no. 1160 payable to the FD. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser**, seconded by Commissioner **Havron**, to approve payment of check no. 1160 to the FD. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 3 votes in favor and 1 vote in abstention, with Commissioner **Thumann** abstaining.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 6 and the Board concurred to postpone adoption of the FYE December 31, 2027 budget until the next regular Board meeting.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 7 regarding consideration of the District's 2026 tax rate. Ms. Garza reviewed with the Board the Fort Bend County Tax Office's 2026 tax rate worksheets. Ms. Garza reminded the Board that the District's 2025 tax rate was \$0.096725 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Ms. Garza then stated that the 2026 voter-approval tax rate is \$0.106038 per \$100 of assessed valuation but stated that the District is limited to a maximum tax rate of \$0.10 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Discussion ensued regarding the District's proposed 2026 tax rate and the impact on residents' tax bills.

A motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser**, seconded by Commissioner **Thumann**, to: 1) authorize the Fort Bend County Tax Office to publish in the *Fort Bend Herald* a proposed 2026 tax rate of \$0.096725 per \$100 assessed valuation; and 2) hold the public hearing on the 2026 tax rate at the Board's next regular meeting scheduled for September 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 8 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.

Mr. Ordoyne then reviewed with the Board the FD's financial report, including the FD's budget for the FYE December 31, 2027. Discussion ensued regarding various budgeted expenses including salaries of paid-duty crew members, costs related to vehicle maintenance, and professional fees. A motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser**, seconded by Commissioner **Havron**, to approve the FD's budget for the FYE

December 31, 2027 as presented. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 3 votes in favor and 1 vote in abstention, with Commissioner **Thumann** abstaining.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 9 and Ms. Garza reported that the District received one (1) Public Information Act request in the last month and stated that PG responded timely. A brief discussion ensued regarding certain requests for public information that may be more appropriately answered by the FD.

Ms. Garza reminded the Board that the District's insurance coverage is expiring on September 20, 2026, and presented VFIS' proposal for renewal of the District's insurance coverages for the term of September 30, 2026, through September 30, 2027. Ms. Garza stated that VFIS will automatically renew the District's insurance upon receipt of payment of the premium. The Board next considered renewal of Commissioner **Norwood's** Treasurer's Bond for the term of October 1, 2026, through October 1, 2027.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 10 relating to community matters and Chief Svatek stated that the FD hosted a barbecue fundraiser last week. Chief Svatek further stated that the FD will be hosting a touch-a-truck event in September and an open house in October.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 11 and Commissioner **Reiser** reported that he is waiting to receive appraisals commissioned by the City of Needville (the "City") for certain properties owned by the City that the District could potentially acquire to expand the District's facilities.

Ms. Rickert then requested an opportunity to present a proposed amendment to Artesian's Agreement with the District at the next regular meeting. Ms. Rickert explained that Artesian is proposing an eight percent (8%) rate increase due to increased costs associated with maintaining cybersecurity insurance.

Ms. Dunmire, Ms. Rickert, Chief Svatek, Mr. Ordoyne, and Ms. Murphy exited the meeting at this time.

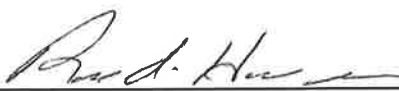
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, specifically Section 551.074 pertaining to personnel matters, Commissioner **Smolik** convened the Board in Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. to discuss the FD's report and the District's service agreement with the FD. The persons participating in the Executive Session were all members of the Board present and Ms. Garza.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Commissioner **Smolik** then reconvened the meeting in open session at 9:20 p.m. at which time no action was taken.

There being no further business brought before the Board, upon motion made, the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.


Secretary of the Board

