MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20, 2025 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 20, 2025, 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

All members of the Board were present, 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"); Brandon Ordoyne, Treasurer of the FD; Bill Blitch of Blitch Associates, Inc.; and several members of the public.

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. Mr. Ordoyne introduced members of Boy Scout Troop 129 who were attending the Board meeting in order to obtain merit badges for citizenship and community service.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 4 regarding review of the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 16, 2025. After review of such minutes, a motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser,** seconded by Commissioner **Thumann,** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 16, 2025, as presented. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 5 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 $633,218.20 following the prior meeting, with subsequent receipt of tax revenue in the amount of $8,686.09 and interest income in the amount of $1,436.41. Ms. Dunmire further reported that the current balance of the District's bank account at NewFirst Bank is $440,833.86 and the balance of the TexPool account is $1,288,803.64.

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 the check payable to to the Fort Bend County Road & Bridge Department includes payment for four (4) months of the District's fuel usage. Ms. Dunmire then reminded the Board that check no. 1085 payable to the FD in the amount of $110,000.00 was for certain capital improvement items approved at the prior Board meeting.

Ms. Dunmire next reviewed with the Board the actual versus budgeted income and expenses for the fiscal year ending ("FYE") December 31, 2025. Discussion ensued regarding potentially amending the budget, and it was the consensus of the Board to take no action.

Ms. Dunmire then reviewed the Tax Collections Report for July, which is contained in the Financial Report, and stated that the District's 2024 taxes are 97.84% collected. Ms. Dunmire reported that $35,617.23 remains outstanding for tax year 2024.

Ms. Rickert next reviewed with the Board a draft of the District's budget for the FYE December 31, 2026, including anticipated sales tax revenue and various budgeted expenses. Ms. Rickert noted that the first payment on the lease for the new pumper fire truck will be due on February 1, 2026. Ms. Rickert further noted that HDL Companies' ("HDL") fees for sales tax consulting services are presently listed under "other expenses;" however, it was the consensus of the Board to include such expense as a separate line item under professional fees. Chief Svatek stated that the FD expects to incur operational expenditures of approximately $899,000.00 and capital expenditures of approximately $250,000.00 for FYE December 31, 2026. Next, Ms. Rickert suggested that the District work with a Financial Advisor to prepare a five (5)-year financial plan regarding anticipated revenues and expenditures. Discussion ensued regarding scheduling a workshop in the next few months to begin preparing such financial plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser,** seconded by Commissioner **Norwood,** to adopt the District's budget for the FYE December 31, 2026, as revised. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser,** seconded by Commissioner **Havron,** to: 1) approve the Financial Report, as presented; and 2) approve payment of the invoices presented. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 7 regarding consideration of the District's 2025 tax rate. Ms. Garza reviewed with the Board the Fort Bend County Tax Office's tax rate calculations. Mr. Blitch stated that he reviewed the analysis and explained the impact on the District's revenue and on residents' annual tax bill. Ms. Garza reminded the Board that the District's 2024 tax rate was $0.094565 per $100 of assessed valuation. Ms. Garza then stated that the 2025 voter-approval tax rate is $0.096725 per $100 of assessed valuation and explained that setting the District's 2025 tax rate at or below the voter-approval tax rate will prevent the District from being compelled to hold an election for voter approval of the District's 2025 tax rate.

A motion was made by Commissioner **Thumann**, seconded by Commissioner **Norwood**, to: 1) authorize the Fort Bend County Tax Office to publish in the *Fort Bend Herald* a proposed 2025 tax rate of $0.096725 per $100 assessed valuation; and 2) hold the public hearing on the 2025 tax rate at the Board's next regular meeting scheduled for September 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 5 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, equipment and apparatus reports, and the heat map of calls responded to. Chief Svatek then reminded the Board that the old Fire Engine No. 71 is being repaired so that it can be used as a reserve vehicle and added that minor repairs are being performed on the new Fire Engine No. 71. Chief Svatek next discussed additional minor repairs needed for certain other fire trucks owned by the FD.

Chief Svatek next discussed community events that the FD participated in and reviewed training opportunities that the FD held during the past month.

Mr. Ordoyne then reviewed with the Board the FD's financial report. Chief Svatek reminded the Board it previously approved payment to the FD of $110,000 for various capital items including $19,516.00 for a boat shed from Bal-Con Metal Buildings. Chief Svatek reported that the contractor recommends additional concrete be poured for the foundation of the boat shed, which will increase the cost for the boat shed by $5,000.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser,** seconded by Commissioner **Havron,** to approve issuance of a check to the FD in the amount of $5,000.00 for the additional concrete pour required for installation of a boat shed at Fire Station No. 2. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 9 and Ms. Garza reminded the Board that Chief Svatek previously requested that the District become a member of the local government purchasing cooperative called Texas BuyBoard. Ms. Garza presented an Interlocal Participation Agreement (the "Agreement") and Board Resolution for the Board's consideration. A motion was made by Commissioner **Thumann,** seconded by Commissioner **Norwood,** to approve the District's membership in Texas BuyBoard and authorize execution of the Agreement and Board Resolution. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0. It was the consensus of the Board that Commissioner **Smolik** shall be the point of contact named in the Agreement on behalf of the District.

Next, Mr. Blitch introduced himself to the Board and discussed his qualifications and the financial advisory services offered by Blitch Associates, Inc. Mr. Blitch reviewed with the Board the differences between short-term loans and lease purchase agreements versus long-term loans.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 10 and Commissioner **Reiser** reported that HDL reviewed the Texas Comptroller's commercial business list and identified 171 commercial sales tax payers within the District and submitted it to the Texas Comptroller so that the District can begin collecting sales and use tax effective October 1, 2025.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 11 regarding community matters and thanked the boy scouts for attending tonight's Board meeting. Commissioner **Smolik** next congratulated the FD on the success of a recent community appreciation event. The Board, consultants, and FD members then introduced themselves to the boy scouts and briefly explained their roles within the District.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 12 and the Board considered VFIS' proposal for renewal of the District's insurance coverages for the term of September 30, 2025, through September 30, 2026. A motion was made by Commissioner **Havron,** seconded by Commissioner **Thumann,** to approve the proposal from VFIS for the renewal of the District's insurance coverages with a premium amount of $1,449.00. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 13 regarding matters related to the acquisition of facilities, equipment and/or vehicles. Commissioner **Smolik** explained that the lienholder was inadvertently omitted from the title for the District's new brush truck, but the paperwork has been corrected. Commissioner **Smolik** reported that she spoke with an Assistant Fort Bend County Engineer regarding possible future development of a public safety facility. Commissioner **Smolik** further reported Fort Bend County met with Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 4 regarding a joint project.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 14 and reported that she is coordinating with real estate appraisers to obtain proposals to perform an appraisal of the building at 3323 Richmond Street. Commissioner **Smolik** requested authorization from the Board to engage a real estate appraiser for an amount not to exceed $3,000.00. A motion was made by Commissioner **Norwood,** seconded by Commissioner **Thumann,** to authorize Commissioner **Smolik** to engage a real estate appraiser to perform an appraisal of the building at 3323 Richmond Street in an amount not to exceed $3,000.00. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

There being no further business brought before the Board, upon motion made, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Secretary of the Board