

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 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 September 17, 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 except **Commissioner Thumann**, 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"); 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** 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 August 20, 2025. The Board informed Ms. Garza that a draft of such minutes was not provided to the Board prior to the meeting. The Board concurred to table consideration of the minutes of the August 20, 2025 meeting until the next regular Board meeting.

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 \$440,833.86 following the prior meeting, with subsequent receipt of tax revenue in the amount of \$10,675.79 and interest income in the amount of \$1,212.49. Ms. Dunmire further reported that the current balance of the District's bank account at NewFirst Bank is \$360,663.83 and the balance of the TexPool account is \$1,293,516.13.

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. 1091 payable to the FD in the amount of \$5,000.00 was for certain capital improvement items approved at the prior Board meeting. Ms. Dunmire further noted that check no. 1093 payable to WinStar Insurance Group LLC in the amount of \$400.00 is payment for the renewal of Commissioner **Norwood's** Treasurer's Bond.

Ms. Dunmire next reviewed the Tax Collections Report for August, which is contained in the Financial Report, and stated that the District's 2024 taxes are 98.29% collected. Ms. Dunmire reported that \$28,181.14 remains outstanding for tax year 2024.

Ms. Dunmire then reviewed with the Board the actual versus budgeted income and expenses for the fiscal year ending ("FYE") December 31, 2025. Ms. Dunmire next presented the final budget for the FYE December 31, 2026, which was adopted by the Board at the prior meeting.

Discussion next ensued regarding the pending collection of sales and use tax and the FD's requests for funds for capital improvement items.

A motion was made by Commissioner **Havron**, seconded by Commissioner **Norwood**, 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 4 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 6 regarding consideration of the District's 2025 tax rate. Ms. Garza reminded the Board that it previously authorized publication of a proposed tax rate for 2025 of \$0.096725 per \$100 assessed valuation. Commissioner **Smolik** then declared the public hearing open to discuss the District's proposed tax rate for 2025 and invited any members of the public to address the Board concerning same. No members of the public addressed the Board, and the public hearing was then closed.

Ms. Garza next presented for the Board's approval, the Order Setting Rate and Levying Tax for 2025 (the "Order"), which reflects the levy of a 2025 tax rate of \$0.096725 per \$100 of assessed valuation. A motion was made by Commissioner **Norwood**, seconded by Commissioner **Havron**, to adopt the Order, thereby levying a 2025 tax rate of \$0.096725 per \$100 of assessed valuation. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 7 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 and updated the Board on additional minor repairs needed for certain other fire trucks owned by the FD.

Chief Svatek reported that five (5) crew members are currently going through a certification program. Chief Svatek further reported that one (1) paid-duty crew member is retiring at the end of the month and added that interviews have been scheduled with new applicants. Chief Svatek next discussed the FD's response to a recent hazardous materials call.

Mr. Ordoyne then reviewed with the Board the FD's financial report, including certain expenses paid by the FD last month.

Discussion next ensued regarding the District's Strategic Plan prepared by Michael Montgomery LLC and the progress made toward reaching the objectives in such plan. Commissioner **Reiser** stated he believes the District and FD are successfully applying and meeting the goals of the plan.

Ms. Garza stated that she had nothing to report under Agenda Item 8.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 9 and Commissioner **Reiser** reported that the Texas Comptroller requested information so that the District may receive sales and use tax revenue via direct deposit. Commissioner **Reiser** stated that the District will begin receiving such revenue in December.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 10 regarding community matters and noted that the FD's recent touch-a-truck event was well attended.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 11 and the Board considered renewal of Commissioner **Norwood's** Treasurer's Bond for the term of September 30, 2025, through September 30, 2026. A motion was made by Commissioner **Reiser**, seconded by Commissioner **Havron**, to approve the renewal of the Treasurer's Bond in the amount of \$400.00. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 12 regarding matters related to the acquisition of facilities, equipment and/or vehicles. Commissioner **Smolik** reported that she and Chief Svatek met with Mr. Hugo Sanchez, the Fort Bend County Development Services Manager. Commissioner **Smolik** stated that Mr. Sanchez met with Fort Bend County Emergency Services District No. 4 regarding providing the local special districts with information regarding the progress of community developments.

Commissioner **Smolik** called up Agenda Item 13 and reported that she coordinated with real estate appraisers to obtain proposals to perform an appraisal of the building at 3323 Richmond Street. Commissioner **Smolik** further reported that pursuant to prior authorization from the Board, she engaged Gary Brown & Associates, Inc. to perform such appraisal, which should be complete in two (2) to three (3) weeks.

There being no further business brought before the Board, upon motion made, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.


Secretary of the Board

