

**HIDALGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 5
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Dr. Antonio Uresti
Maribel Galvan
Fausto Salinas
James Olivarez
Juan "Lino" Garza

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jorge Arcaute
Krystine Ramon
Gus Ramirez
Arturo Galvan Jr.
Janie Flores
Gerado Alaniz
Leroy Salinas
Vanessa Trevino
Daniel Tuttle
Ernest Hernandez
Luis Chavez
Jesse Hammon
Isaac Guerra
Zacharay Tamayo
Veronica Olivarez

- 1. Call meeting to order. The meeting was called to order by President Uresti at 5:33 p.m. A quorum was established.**
- 2. Invocation**
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4. To receive public comments.**
There were no public comments given.
- 5. To approve the February 11, 2026 meeting minutes.**
Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Commissioner Garza and was seconded by Commissioner Salinas. Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.
- 6. To review, discuss and take action regarding any District financial institution matters including resolutions and pay District bills.**

Attorney, Ramon stated that an invoice for reimbursement for EMS services to the City of Alton for the period of July 22, 2025 to February 1, 2026. Jeff Underwood, Alton City Manager provided an invoice listing those costs and how they were added up. The invoice is for a total of \$385,640. Alton is a unique city since services are provided both inside city limits and the ETJ. Motion to approve the City of Alton reimbursement invoice was moved by Commissioner Garza and was seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

Attorney, Ramon apologized for not having an invoice included in the packet which was for legal services for the month of January in the amount of \$12,614.33 for Coveler & Peeler, P.C. Motion to approve the invoice subject to receipt and verification of the detailed invoice from Coveler & Peeler, P.C. was moved by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining. .

7. To review, discuss and take action on a grant proposal from Border Affairs.

No action was taken on this item.

8. To review, discuss and take action on proposals for 2025 auditing services.

Attorney, Ramon stated that two proposals for auditing services were received. One from Guillermo Reyna, CPA and Carr, Riggs & Ingram firm. Ms. Ramon explained that the RFP's were due the day before therefore they were not provided to the boards with more time to review, she added that the boards could request to have a Special Meeting to allow them time to review the proposals. Ms. Ramon also stated that if the boards wished she could have a representative for each of the two companies present at the next meeting to explain their qualifications.

Commissioner Garza motioned to recommended that we refer to committee the RFPs for the auditing services and recommended to the board that all RFPs also be referred to committee for further expedite the recommendation to the board. President Uresti asked if the motion would include RFQ's as well, Commissioner Garza responded yes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

President Uresti requested volunteers to serve in the RFP and RFQ committee. Commissioner Garza, Galvan and Olivarez volunteered to serve in the committee for a term of six months. President Uresti approved the appointment of Commissioner Garza and Commissioner Galvan with Commissioner Olivarez as an alternate to the RFP and RFQ committee.

9. To review and discuss annual conflicts of interest requirements under Local Government Code §176.003 (Conflicts Disclosure Statement Required) and §171.004 (Affidavit and Abstention from Voting Required).

Attorney Krystine Ramon explained the Conflicts Disclosure Statement and how it would work if there was a conflict on any annual contracts. Ms. Ramon added that there could be a case by

case Conflict Disclosure Statement issued, if a service by the ESD's was provided and a Commissioner had a family member involved then a conflict disclosure would be done for the item. Commissioner Janie Gaytan inquired on how close of a relation is considered to be a conflict of interest. Ms. Ramon stated that it would be for a direct relative, such as a spouse, a son or daughter, or in-laws. For second or third cousin or similar, it would not be considered as a conflict of interest but it would be a best practice to provide a conflict of interest statement and abstain from any vote. No action is required for this item.

10. To review and discuss access to personal information under the Public Information Act, including review of sections 552.024, 552.117 and 552.1175.

Attorney Krystine Ramon stated that the form was to allow for personal information to be withheld for a Commissioner in the case that a request of public information is received. The form is only required to be submitted one time as long as each Commissioner continues in their term of office. No action is required for this item.

11. To review, discuss and take action on Commissioner Compensation Resolution.

Attorney Krystine Ramon, stated that under the Texas Health and Safety Code, Commissioners are allowed to collect a compensation. It is dictated through the Water Code and the daily rate under the Texas Ethics Commission. The compensation cannot exceed seventy two hundred dollars per year and the daily rate limit is up to two hundred twenty five dollars per day. Ms. Ramon stated that under the Texas Health and Safety Code, a resolution must be adopted in order to receive any compensation. Motion to approve was moved by Commissioner Galvan and seconded by Commissioner Garza. Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

12. To review, discuss and take action on the District's Investment Policy.

Attorney Krystine Ramon stated that the law changed in 2020, where it is required that an emergency services district and other political subdivisions have an investment policy. Ms. Ramon stated that the investment policy provided is very basic but will but the Board in compliance with the requirement, changes can be made at any time. Ms. Ramon stated that the standard person to designate as the Investment Officer is the Board Treasurer because they would work with the Bookkeeper. Motion to approve the Investment Policy and appoint Treasurer James Olivarez as the Investment Officer was moved by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Uresti and Commissioner Olivarez abstaining.

13. To review, discuss and take action on RFQ/RFP for EMS/Ambulance Services.

Attorney Krystine Ramon presented to the Board that the District received four (4) submittals for the District's RFQ/RFP for EMS/Ambulance Services. The four (4) submittals were from Medcare, the City of La Joya, Lonestar Ambulance and Skyline. Daniel Tuttle presented from Medcare, Chief Leroy Salinas presented from the City of La Joya, Ernesto Hernandez from Lonestar Ambulance and Juan Cordova from Skyline. Commissioner Garza informed the Board the RFQ/RFP committee which included himself, Commissioner Galvan and Chief Gus Ramirez met to rank the proposals submitted. Attorney Krystine Ramon informed the Board that the County has extended their contract with Skyline for Precinct three (3) until the end of 2026. Ms. Ramon informed the Board the City of Palmview did not make the submission

deadline due. The committee recommended not to consider the City of Palmview's proposal as their proposal was submitted past the deadline. After the Board met in closed session, the Board re-opened the agenda item. Commissioner Garza stated that the RFQ/RFP committee recommended approving the proposal from Medicare. Motion to approve the proposal for EMS/Ambulance services from Medicare was moved by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

14. To review, discuss and take action regarding the provision of Emergency Services to the District territory, strategic planning, proposals and approve emergency services contract with providers, including transitions. Gus Ramirez, Consultant, provided a presentation regarding a 5-year Strategic Plan.

15. To meet in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code §551.071 to consult with legal Attorney.

The Board went into closed session at 7:56pm and came out of closed session at 8:54pm.

16. To review and act on scheduling District meetings and items to be added to meeting agendas.

Next District meeting was scheduled for March 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

17. Adjournment.

There being no further business, Commissioner Garza made a motion seconded by Commissioner Galvan to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining. The meeting was concluded at 9:51pm.