

HIDALGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 5
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jorge Arcaute
Krystine Ramon (via Google Meets)
Gus Ramirez
Arturo Galván Jr.
Janie Flores
Cecilia Sanchez
Kelly Salazar
Leroy Salinas

1. Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call and Establish a Quorum.

The meeting was called to order by President Uresti at 6:38 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. To receive Public comments.

There were no public comments

5. Consent Agenda

a. To approve meeting minutes of March 25, 2026.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda was moved by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

6. Old Business (posted as New Business)

Commissioner Garza requested that the format of the agenda be changed to include Old Business.

a. To receive a report from the District's bookkeeper Luis Orozco regarding the District's financial condition.

No action was taken on this item

b. To discuss and consider approval to pay District bills as presented.

Commissioner Olivarez made a motion to pay bills from Coveler & Peeler and Clicktunity and seconded by Commissioner Garza. Discussion followed regarding the Coveler invoice. Motion carried 4-0, with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

c. To receive a report from Consultant Gus Ramirez regarding EMS Services.

Gus Ramirez, Consultant provided a report for the Committee regarding his meetings with Med Care. The Committee had some questions that needed to be addressed based on our last meeting that had to do with the response area. The committee recommended

that the attorney send the agreement approved by the Board, which they did. Med Care had some edits. Chief Ramirez, Counselor and the board reviewed the edits and part of what they were recommending was to do a three year contract. The committee told them that as per the RFP, it had to be one year so it was changed back to one year. The other request was that they provide a report for the EMS billing could be given.

Mr. Jorge Arcaute reminded the board that the agreement with City of Palmview would be expiring in the first week of May. Mr. Ramirez confirmed that the City of Palmview agreement expires on the 6th of May, and therefore, the committee worked on the interlocal so that it's in effect before the expiration. No action was taken.

d. To review, discuss and consider the approval of District logo and District Commitment Statement.

Gus Ramirez presented the proposed logo and mission and vision statement for consideration by the board. Motion to approve was moved by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

e. To receive a Committee Report from District Committee.

Commissioner Garza reported that he along with James Olivarez, met with Med Care representatives several times and have come to the conclusion that we believe we have a contract that is ready to be signed by the Board President Uresti this evening and also by Med Care, should there be a representative present. Commissioner Garza continued by saying that Ms. Ramon can move forward and notify Skyline of our engagement and give them the required thirty days written notice for the termination of the county contract. Ms. Ramon stated that she would notify the County Attorney. Commissioner Garza stated that the he and Commissioner Galvan have reviewed and vetted the contract with the City of Palmview and can be voted on by the board for final approval.

f. To review, discuss and consider action regarding contract for EMS Services with Med Care.

Commissioner Garza stated that he and Commissioner Galvan have reviewed and vetted the contract with the City of Palmview and can be voted on by the board for final approval and possible signature. Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve and authorize the Board President to sign. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

g. To review, discuss and consider action to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Palmview for EMS Services in the District's territory.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement with Palmview and seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Attorney Ramon stated that the agreement had not yet been presented to Palmview and asked how she should respond should they have any changes to the agreement. Commissioner Garza stated clearly that the contract approved tonight would be the final contract and no changes would be made. If the City of Palmview would have any concerns regarding service area then that area would be assigned to Med Care. Mr. Jorge Arcaute recommended that this contract take effect upon the lapse of the County contract so that way there is seamless service. Motion carried with a vote of 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

h. To review, discuss and take action to approve under Texas Government Code 2254, for the District to provide a Written Statement and Finding of the District's Need for Specialized Contingent Fee Legal Services

Attorney Krystine Ramon stated that the contract drafted by Linebarger and also reviewed by her is included in the packet and is required by Texas Government Code

2254.1036 that the Board take action to approve the contract and stating the findings the need of a single service. Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining. Commissioner Galvan commented that the contract should be voted on yearly and should not be automatically extended.

i. To review, discuss and take action to approve Awarding a Contract for Delinquent Tax Collection Services to Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.

Commissioner Olivarez made a motion to approve the contract with Linebarger excluding Article 6.01, deleting “unless extended as here after provided” and 6.02. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

j. To review, discuss and take action to approve the Adoption of Resolution Modifying Penalties Imposed Under Texas Tax Code Sections 33.07 and 33.08.

Kelly Salazar, with Linebarger stated that Section 33.07 and 33.08 are in the Texas Property Tax Code, and they authorize an additional what's phrased as a penalty for attorney's fees for those collections. So, 33.07 is a more broad term that allows the penalty to be assessed to only that delinquent taxpayer. An additional penalty for the district doesn't have to pay for the attorney's fees in collecting it is that small portion of delinquent taxpayers. Section 33.08 is the penalty if the delinquent tax is in a lawsuit.

Commissioner Galvan made a motion to approve the adoption of resolution modifying penalties imposed under Texas Code Section 33.07 and 33.08. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Salinas. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

k. To review, discuss and take action to approve the Adoption of Resolution Setting Penalties Imposed Under Texas Tax Code Section 33.11.

Commissioner Salinas made a motion to approve the adoption of resolution and was seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

l. To discuss and take action on scheduling District meetings and items to be added to meeting agendas.

Commissioner Galvan moved to recommend scheduling the next board meeting on May 13 at 6:30 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Garza. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

Commissioner Olivarez requested approval to transfer \$700,000 to the Boards money market account. The three percent interest would help the board in paying bills. Commissioner Garza moved to approve and was seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

7. New Business (added as per Commissioner Garza)

- a.** Gus Ramirez, Consultant stated that one thing he would like to mention is to see if it's possible to assign a committee that can start looking at procurement as far as equipment and things of that nature. A committee for each board can be assigned and move forward with securing equipment such as a fire truck, an ambulance or other equipment.
- b.** Commissioner Garza stated that another item for new business for approval as an agenda item for our next meeting is to establish a committee to explore specific AI or software tools for ESD 5, to start building a platform for planning and forecasting EMS activities in our district.

8. Executive Session: Pursuant to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code Section 551.071

a. **To consult with Legal Counsel.** The Board chose not to go into closed session.

9. Return to Open Session for Possible Action

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Salinas. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.