HIDALGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 5
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 13, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT
Dr. Antonio Uresti
Maribel Galvan
Fausto Salinas
James Olivarez
Juan “Lino” Garza

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE
Jorge Arcaute
Krystine Ramon (via Zoom)
Gus Ramirez
Janie Flores
Cecilia Sanchez

1. **Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call and Establish a Quorum**
   The meeting was called to order by President Uresti at 6:30 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 April 8, 2026.**
   Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

6. **Old Business**
   a. **To receive a report from the District’s bookkeeper Luis Orozco regarding the District’s financial condition.**
   Luis Orozco provided a presentation on the financial statements for the district for the months of January through March 2026. Mr. Orozco stated and it was agreed, by the board, that he give a monthly report to the board treasurer and present a quarterly report to the board during a public meeting. Ms. Krystine Ramon recommended that a mid-year budget amendment be done so that to make sure that the boards budget matches up with the expenses. No action taken.

   b. **To receive a report from Consultant Gus Ramirez regarding EMS Services.**
   Gus Ramirez, Consultant reported on a meeting between Commissioner Garza, Commissioner Galvan, himself and Med Care EMS to ensure that all the district’s need were met. Mr. Ramirez also reported that the committee met with Border Affairs in reference to grant writing. Also, a meeting was held with the LRGVDC 911 to verify that

the coverage area by the contractor was reflected correctly on the map. It was determined that the areas not covered by the district contractor would continue to be covered by Skyline EMS. Mr. Ramirez congratulated the district and the committee members because now the district is able to live stream and know where the ambulances are within the district.

Mr. Ramirez continued with reporting regarding a meeting with the City of Palmview in reference to the MOU which has been fully executed. No action taken.

c. **To discuss and consider approval to pay District bills as presented.**
Commissioner Olivarez went over the list of bills to be paid by the District. Motion to approve was moved by Commissioner Galvan and seconded by Commissioner Garza. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

7. <u>**New Business**</u>

a. **To designate the Hidalgo County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office to prepare the District's No New Revenue Tax Rate and related tax rate calculations for 2026, and authorize District counsel to publish the necessary 2026 Tax Rate setting notices.**
Counsel Krystine Ramon stated this is a new for the newly created district. The district does not have to use the County to prepare the district's tax rate revenue, the voter approval and the de minimis rate. However, Ms. Ramon recommended that the District use the County to do those calculations and tax rates because you do have to use a tax assessor. Legally, the District is not required to use the County, but I would recommend that we designate the Hidalgo County Tax Assessor Collector's Office to prepare the no new revenue rate and other tax-related calculations.

Motion was moved by Commissioner Garza to approve the agenda item as it is written and was seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

b. **To review, discuss and take action regarding Sales Tax Election.**
Ms. Ramon stated that she sent out a memo about two months ago regarding the pros and cons of the sales tax election and whether the districts want to talk about a sales tax election and what that entails. More entities have had success in May elections rather than in November which seems to be the case with local political subdivisions, such as an ESD. Ms. Ramon suggested that a company be hired to conduct an evaluation of what areas have sales tax available because we want to make sure that the cost outweighs that benefit.

Commissioner Garza moved to authorize Counsel Ramon to obtain quotes from two entities for the evaluation as discussed and was seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

c. **To review, discuss and consider the approval to authorize the Board Treasurer to transfer funds.**
Commissioner Garza made a motion to authorize the board treasure to carry a fifty thousand dollars balance in the checking account and the rest of the funds be transferred to the money

market account. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

d. **To review, discuss and consider the approval of a Procurement Committee for the District.**
Commissioner Garza moved to nominate that member Fausto Salinas be a part of the committee. Consultant Ramirez recommended that Commissioner Garza be a second member of the committee. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

e. **To review, discuss and consider approving a Committee to meet with the City of Alton regarding Emergency Medical Services.**
Commissioner Garza made a motion to move this item into Executive Session and was seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. No vote was taken.

f. **To review, discuss and consider the approval to join the Federal Surplus Property Program.**
Gus Ramirez, Consultant, stated that as instructed he submitted an application to the Federal Surplus Program and the ESD's were accepted. Mr. Ramirez stated that he will be filing the signed application so the ESD's can formally become part of the program. Motion to approve was moved by Commissioner Garza and was seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

g. **To review, discuss and take action to establish an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committee.**
Commissioner Garza moved to approve and seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Commissioner Garza recommended that Commissioner Salinas serve in the committee to which he accepted. Commissioner Garza explained why an AI Committee was important due to AI becoming a dominant player in every industry. Motion passed 4-0.

h. **To review, discuss and consider the approval of a Facebook page for the District.**
Gus Ramirez, Consultant stated that a Facebook was created at the direction of the board for the District. Krystine Ramon, Counsel stated that with a Facebook page, she stresses that records need to be kept as per TSLAC. There are outside retention companies that can take care of it if it gets very big. Motion to approve was moved by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

i. **To review, discuss and consider the approval to establish a Legal Oversight and Special Council Committee.**
Motion to approve was moved by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Commissioner Garza stated that he would like to serve on this committee and nominated Commissioner Olivarez to serve as well. Counsel Ramon asked for information regarding what the parameters of this committee were. Commissioner Garza answered with stating that this was basically to protect the attorney client privilege section and Ms. Ramon's services and law firm would be needed to work with the ESD on special issues. Commissioner Garza stated that further discussion would take place in executive session. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

j. **To review, discuss and consider the approval to purchase IT equipment to support meeting operations.**
Gus Ramirez, Consultant stated that in order to minimize paper use and for operational efficiency, each commissioner would get a laptop that can be used during the meetings to log in through Zoom. Motion to approve was moved by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

k. **To receive a report from the Committee in reference to the meeting with the grant service writer.**
Commissioner Garza stated that he and Commissioner Olivarez met with Humberto Garza with the purpose to outline our priorities and funding strategies with the grant writer. Mr. Humberto Garza was given the ESD's strategic approach and a demonstration of the need of the ESD since the District is just starting. Mr. Humberto Garza feels that we can certainly get some grants. There will not be a charge unless he gets us a grant where he will charge an administrative fee once the grant is received.

8. **Executive Session: Pursuant to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code Section 551.071**
a. **To consult with Legal Counsel.**
Motion to move into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. was moved by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Galvan. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

9. **Return to Open Session for Possible Action**
Following the return from Executive Session, administrative staff was not present during the Board's vote and decision.

10. **Adjournment**
Administrative staff was also not present at the time the meeting was adjourned.