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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Dr. Antonio Uresti
Maribel Galvan
Fausto Salinas
James Olivares
Juan “Lino” Garza

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jorge Arcaute
Krystine Ramon (via Zoom)
Gus Ramirez
Janie Flores
Cecilia Sanchez
Other guests as recorded

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
   The meeting was called to order by President Uresti at approximately 6:02 p.m.

2. **Roll Call and Establish a Quorum**
   Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

3. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag**
   The invocation was led by Commissioner Galvan and those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **Public Comment**
   There were no public comments.

5. **Consent Agenda**
   a. **To approve meeting minutes of June 10, 2026.**
      Motion to approve was moved by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Commissioner Salinas. Motion carried 4-0, with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

6. **Old Business**
   a. **To receive a report from the Committee Treasurer and take necessary action regarding the District’s investments.**
      The Board received the Treasurer’s report by Commissioner Olivarez. The District’s money market account balance was reported as $2,568,579.45, with $6,337.71 in interest paid on June 30, 2026. The regular checking account balance was reported as $60,998.08. The money market interest rate was discussed as approximately 3%. The Board discussed maintaining sufficient operating funds for upcoming obligations while maximizing funds held in the interest-bearing account. No action was taken.

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

Consultant Gus Ramirez reported on efforts to explore rotor-wing air medical services for ESD No. 5. The discussion included prior meetings with South Texas Emergency Care Foundation. The Board discussed forming a working group to continue evaluating options. Commissioner Garza volunteered to participate, and Commissioner Galvan indicated willingness to serve as an alternate. No action was taken.

c. **To discuss and consider approval to pay District bills as presented.**
The Board reviewed bills including $3,000.00 for consulting services, $79,500.00 for Med-Care Emergency Services, $2,207.50 for legal services, $178.61 for meeting meals previously paid by credit card, and $181.12 for a Zoom Workplace annual membership previously paid by credit card. Commissioner Galvan moved to approve the District bills as presented. Commissioner Salinas seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Uresti abstaining.

d. **To receive a report from Med-Care Emergency Services and the City of Palmview EMS.**
Daniel Tuttle presented to the Board on behalf of Med-Care EMS a report of 201 calls for service during June and advised that response times remained within contractual compliance. The report included response-time data for concurrent calls, service-area distribution, transport destinations, treatment/no-transport calls, cancellations, and a reduction in cross-coverage occurrences. The Board also discussed deployment practices, hospital destination decisions, and rural emergency response challenges.

Battalion Chief Edward Ruiz with the City of Palmview EMS reported 112 calls within ESD No. 5 for June, including 89 transports, 7 refusals, and 4 canceled calls. The report included a breakdown of call types and discussion of recurring callers and resource utilization. The Board received both reports.

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

a. **To review and act regarding Truth and Taxation planning for the upcoming 2027 Budget adoption and 2026 Tax Rate adoption, including reviewing schedules for same.**
Counsel Krystine Ramon reviewed the Truth-in-Taxation calendar and statutory deadlines for certification of values, receipt of tax-rate worksheets, publication requirements, the public hearing process, and adoption of the District budget and tax rate. Counsel Ramon also advised that, under House Bill 1522, a budget to be discussed or approved must be posted with the meeting agenda. The Board discussed a goal of maintaining a tax rate of approximately ten cents, subject to certified values and applicable voter-approval calculations.

The Board discussed scheduling an ESD No. 5 budget workshop on July 29, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., followed by a meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m. to address the proposed tax rate. The Board also discussed August 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. for the tax-rate adoption/public hearing, subject to proper notice, publication, and final scheduling. Counsel Ramon agreed to coordinate the required agenda language. No action required.

b. **To discuss the 2025 Audit and pending items.**
The Board reviewed the status of the 2025 audit. Counsel Ramon reported that the auditor had been waiting on certain bank statements and liability information and that the statutory deadline was August 31, 2026 to get it to Commissioners Court. The Board discussed asking auditor Guillermo Reyna to present the audit at the July 29 meeting if the audit was ready.

Commissioner Olivarez and Ms. Ramon agreed to follow up on any outstanding documentation and to facilitate read-only access to the District's money market account if required by the auditor. No action required for this item.

c. **To review and act on scheduling District Meeting and items to be added to meeting agendas.**
The Board discussed standardizing commissioner meeting and reimbursement records by using an exhibit listing the meeting date, organization or city, general description, time, and commissioners in attendance. No action taken for this item.

8. **Executive Session: Pursuant to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code Sections 551.071, 551.072, and 551.074**
   a. To consult with Legal Counsel.
   There was no executive session.

9. **Return to Open Session for Possible Action**

10. **Adjournment**
There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Galvan made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Garza. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned.