HIDALGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 5
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 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
Luis Orozco
Janie Flores
Cecilia Sanchez
Other guests as recorded

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
The meeting was called to order by President Uresti at approximately 7:31 p.m. following the conclusion of the District No. 6 meeting held earlier that evening.

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

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

4. **Consent Agenda**
   a. **To approve Regular Meeting minutes of July 8, 2026.**
   Commissioner Galvan made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining.

   b. **To approve Special Meeting minutes of July 29, 2026.**
   Commissioner Salinas made a motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining.

5. **Old Business**
   a. **To receive a report from the District Treasurer and approve financial transfers.**
   Luis Orozco presented the District's financial statements through June 2026. He reported total assets of approximately $2.624 million, including approximately $55,524 in the checking account and approximately $2.569 million in the money market account. Total revenue for the first six months was approximately $2.064 million, expenditures were approximately $555,716, and excess revenues over expenditures were approximately $1.512 million. Mr. Orozco advised that an EMS-services payment of approximately $79,500 had been posted to the wrong expenditure category and would be reclassified on the next financial report. He also advised that he was awaiting information from the auditor regarding a prior-year audit adjustment and would make any necessary corrections.

b. **To receive a report from Consultant Gus Ramirez regarding EMS Services.**
Consultant Gus Ramirez reported that a typographical error in the budget workshop summary concerning commissioner compensation had been corrected. He also reported coordination with MedCare Emergency Services and the City of Palmview for their monthly reports and advised that the District will need to establish a SAM.gov account in connection with grant opportunities.

c. **To receive a report from MedCare Emergency Services and the City of Palmview EMS.**
Jaime Solis with MedCare Emergency Services presented the July service report. MedCare reported 153 Priority One calls and 67 Priority Two calls, for a total of 220 calls, and discussed response times, ambulance deployment, active-call levels, and emergency medical dispatch procedures. The Board discussed the increase in third-active calls and circumstances in which multiple ambulances may be committed to the same incident.

Edward Ruiz, representative from the City of Palmview EMS, reported 72 calls for July with an average response time of approximately 7 minutes and 36 seconds. The report included 36 transports with lights and sirens, 29 transports without lights and sirens, six refusals of transport, and other call-type information. The Board received the reports and no action was taken.

d. **To discuss and consider approval to pay District bills as presented.**
District bills were presented for review, including audit, legal, credit-card, and other District expenses. Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve the District bills as presented, and Commissioner Salinas seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining.

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

a. **To review, discuss and take action to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Alton for EMS Services.**
The Board discussed a potential interlocal agreement with the City of Alton for EMS-related services, including the City's existing MedCare ambulance contract, possible additional emergency-service support, and options for structuring reimbursement. The Board later considered this item following executive session. Commissioner Garza made a motion to authorize Legal Counsel and the designated committee to meet with the City of Alton to discuss a potential interlocal agreement for EMS services. Commissioner Olivarez seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining.

b. **To review, discuss and take action to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Alton for MedCare ambulance contract reimbursement.**
The Board discussed reimbursement related to the City of Alton's MedCare ambulance contract and determined that the matter should remain pending while the broader potential interlocal agreement under Item 6(a) is discussed. The Board agreed to table the item so it would remain on a future agenda.

c. **To review and discuss establishing District By-Laws and Policies.**
Legal Counsel, Krystine Ramon discussed establishing District bylaws and policies addressing meeting procedures, decorum, commissioner conduct, and other governance matters. Commissioner Garza discussed the possibility of random drug testing and the board further discussed whether a policy could address impairment by drugs or alcohol while conducting District business. Counsel advised that mandatory random drug testing for

commissioners would present legal concerns, while a code of conduct or voluntary testing provision could be considered. The Board requested sample bylaws and policies for further review and further discussion on the possibility of random drug testing. No action was taken.

d. To review, discuss and take action on approving the hiring of a Secretary and Consultant or Consultants for services needed by ESD No. 5, including related licenses and operational services.

The Board discussed the need for specialized consulting assistance to establish and obtain the licenses necessary for future District EMS operations. Legal Counsel recommended using a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the specialized EMS consultant and discussed alternatives for obtaining secretarial support such as having the consultant hire a secretary under their contract.

Commissioners Salinas and Galvan volunteered to serve on the committee reviewing the RFQ, with Commissioner Garza serving as alternate. Commissioner Garza made a motion to approve the committee members and alternate, and Commissioner Olivarez seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining.

Commissioner Garza then made a motion to authorize issuance of the RFQ subject to review and approval by the committee. Commissioner Olivarez seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining.

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

a. To consult with Legal Counsel.

Commissioner Garza made a motion to enter executive session to consult with Legal Counsel, and Commissioner Olivarez seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining. The Board entered executive session at 8:13 p.m.

8. Return to Open Session for Possible Action

The Board returned to open session at 9:40 p.m. Action on Items 6(a) and 6(b) was taken as reflected above.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Commissioner Galvan to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Olivarez. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.