HIDALGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 5
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2026

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE
Krystine Ramon, Legal Counsel, (via Zoom)
Janie Flores
Cecilia Sanchez
Nathan Lopez, Med-Care EMS
Mathew Gonzalez, City of Palmview Fire/EMS
Other attendees as recorded

1. Call Meeting to Order
President Uresti called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. at Hidalgo County Precinct 3, 724 N. Breyfogle, Mission, Texas.

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

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag
An invocation was offered, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comment
No individuals signed up for public comment.

5. Consent Agenda
a. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2026.
Commissioner Garza moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Salinas seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining.

6. Old Business
a. To receive a report from the District Treasurer and approve financial transfers.
Commissioner Olivarez reported proposed expenditures of $6,621.65 for legal services, $79,500.00 for Med-Care Emergency Medical Services, and $868.50 for P&J Vinyl Shop. He reported a money market balance exceeding $2.3 million, interest exceeding $5,900, and a checking balance exceeding $135,000. The report was received.

b. To receive a report from Med-Care Emergency Services and City of Palmview EMS.
Nathan Lopez with Med-Care EMS reported 238 September 911 calls, including 183 emergency responses averaging 8 minutes 21 seconds and 55 priority-two transports averaging 11 minutes 2 seconds. Common calls included sick persons, vehicle accidents, and falls. Alicia Cruz proposed community outreach involving CPR, Narcan education,

injury prevention, and first responder recognition. An outreach committee involving Commissioner Galvan and Commissioner Garza was discussed, with Commissioner Salinas as alternate. Mathew Gonzalez with Palmview EMS reported 83 September calls and an average response time of 6 minutes 19 seconds, with 24 non-emergency transports, 49 emergency transports, 3 cancellations, and 7 refusals.

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

Commissioner Garza moved to approve payment of the three bills presented by the Treasurer; Commissioner Galvan seconded. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining. Later in the meeting, the Board returned to this item. Commissioner Olivarez moved to reimburse the City of Alton for Med-Care ambulance services rendered under the City's contract, covering the period discussed from February through October 2026, at approximately $22,000 per month, subject to the actual contractual amount and applicable months. Commissioner Salinas seconded. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining.

7. <u>New Business</u>

a. To review, discuss and consider the District's potential purchase of an ambulance, including vehicle specifications, estimated cost, funding, and procurement options; and take any necessary action to authorize staff to obtain pricing or prepare procurement documents.

The Board discussed ambulance specifications, demonstration units, potential specialized infectious-disease capabilities, estimated pricing, and procurement through HGACBuy. Commissioner Garza moved to authorize the purchasing committee to obtain pricing and prepare procurement documents; Commissioner Olivarez seconded. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining. The motion did not authorize an actual ambulance purchase.

b. To review, discuss and take action to renew the District's policy with VFIS.

The Board discussed increasing insurance coverage and requested that Counsel Ramon obtain a quote for higher coverage from the insurance representative. No action was taken on renewal.

c. To review, discuss and consider action to approve a District Purchasing Policy.

The Board reviewed a proposed purchasing policy based on a policy used by Hidalgo County ESD No. 6, with possible revisions to follow. Commissioner Garza moved to approve the purchasing policy, subject to amendments; Commissioner Olivarez seconded. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining.

d. To review, discuss and consider action regarding the proposed remodeling or construction of District facilities on property leased from Hidalgo County at 8320 W. Mile 7 Road, Mission, Texas including project scope and budget; determination of the construction delivery method providing the best value to the District, including construction manager-at-risk or design-build; and authorization to procure architectural, engineering, and construction services.

The Board discussed potential facility improvements and the possibility of using Hidalgo County maintenance resources for minor work. Members indicated there was no immediate need for major construction. No action was taken.

e. To review, discuss and consider action to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Alton and The District for EMS services.

The Board extensively discussed proposed reimbursement for EMS services, the need to identify and value specific eligible services and equipment, the first-responder program, potential mobile integrated health pilot services, dispatch, and existing ambulance expenses. Commissioner Galvan proposed moving forward with reimbursement up to 80 percent based on itemized costs; no second was made. Motion failed.

Counsel Ramon advised that a proposed agreement could not yet be approved without identifying services and associated costs. The Board directed Counsel Ramon to contact Alton City Manager, Jeff Underwood, request itemized information, and bring a preliminary proposal back for consideration, with a special meeting if needed. No interlocal agreement was approved.

f. To review, discuss and approve joining HGACBuy including approved resolution

Commissioner Olivarez moved to approve joining the HGACBuy cooperative purchasing program; Commissioner Garza seconded. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining. Counsel Ramon was asked to coordinate enrollment.

g. To review, discuss and consider purchasing District iPads or Surface Pros for District meetings.

The Board discussed electronic meeting packets and device options. Commissioner Salinas moved to authorize each commissioner to select a preferred device for District meeting use; Commissioner Galvan seconded. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining. Staff was asked to survey commissioner preferences.

8. Executive Session — Texas Government Code §551.071

No Executive Session was held.

9. Return to Open Session for Possible Action

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Galvan made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Salinas. Motion carried 4-0 with President Uresti abstaining. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.