



**Bell County Emergency Services District No. 1
Board of Commissioners
Regular Session Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2026**

1. Establish quorum/Call to Order

With a quorum present, a regular session meeting of Bell County ESD No. 1 was called to order by Toby Hatton at 6:34 p.m. on September 24, 2026.

Mark McGraw	Absent
Mark Huppert	Absent
Toby Hatton	Present
Jeff Kelley	Present
Melanie Kirchmeier	Present

2. Public Comment- none.

Presentation/Action Agenda

3. Approve the minutes of August 20, 2026, regular meeting.

Motion: Approve minutes as presented from August 20, 2026, regular meeting.

Result: Passed unanimously

Mover: Jeff Kelley

Second: Melanie Kirchmeier

Ayes: Toby Hatton, Melanie Kirchmeier, Jeff Kelley

4. Discuss and consider action on the Treasurer's report, outstanding bill obligation, and consolidated financial report, and invoiced payments made by ACH.

Motion: To approve treasurer's report.

Result: Passed unanimously

Mover: Jeff Kelley

Second: Melanie Kirchmeier

Ayes: Toby Hatton, Melanie Kirchmeier, Jeff Kelley

Motion: Approve invoiced payments made by ACH and Check

Result: Passed unanimously

Mover: Jeff Kelley

Second: Melanie Kirchmeier

Ayes: Toby Hatton, Melanie Kirchmeier, Jeff Kelley

5. Discuss Fire Chief and Lieutenant salaries.

Motion: Table agenda item until all Board members are present for discussion.

Result: Passed unanimously

Mover: Melanie Kirchmeier

Second: Jeff Kelley

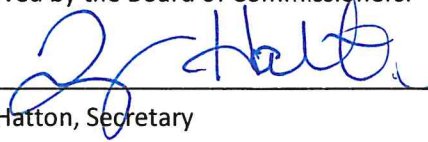
Ayes: Toby Hatton, Melanie Kirchmeier, Jeff Kelley

6. Discuss and take action to adopt the budget and a Resolution Adopting Budget for fiscal year October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027;
Motion: Adopt Budget of \$2,248,193
Result: Passed unanimously
Mover: Melanie Kirchmeier
Second: Jeff Kelley
Ayes: Toby Hatton, Melanie Kirchmeier, Jeff Kelley
7. Conduct a public hearing on the proposal to increase property taxes;
Floor opened for public comments. No comments presented.
8. Take a record vote on the District's 2026 tax rate, adopt an Order Levying Taxes, authorize filing the Order with the Bell County Tax Assessor/Collector;
Motion: Adopt 2026 tax rate of 0.10, adopt an Order Levying Taxes, and authorize filing the Order with the Bell County Tax Assessor/Collector.
Results: Passed Unanimously
Mover: Jeff Kelley
Second: Melanie Kirchmeier
Vote: Toby Hatton – Yes
Melanie Kirchmeier – Yes
Jeff Kelley – Yes
9. Acknowledge and approve posting of statement regarding adopted tax rate to home page District website;
Motion: Acknowledge and approve posting of statement regarding adopted tax rate to home page District website.
Results: Passed unanimously
Mover: Toby Hatton
Second: Melanie Kirchmeier
Ayes: Toby Hatton, Melanie Kirchmeier, Jeff Kelley
10. Receive monthly report from the Salado Fire Chief regarding emergency operations, response times, call volume, management activities, training, personnel, and public information.
Members heard from Chief Jim Franz.
Discussed was held with no action taken.
11. Receive report from the Salado Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors.
Discussed was held with no action taken.
12. Discuss and consider action to appoint 3 people to serve on the Fire Code Board of Appeals.
Motion: Appoint Alan Dillon, Jim Holder, Mark McGraw to the Board of Appeals with Mark Huppert serving as an alternate.
Results: Passed unanimously
Mover: Jeff Kelley
Second: Melanie Kirchmeier
Ayes: Toby Hatton, Melanie Kirchmeier, Jeff Kelley
13. Discuss and consider the next meeting date and future agenda items.
Next meeting date October 15, 2026.

Regular meeting to be on August 20th @ 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNED at 7:35 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Commissioners:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Toby Hatton', is written over a horizontal line.

Toby Hatton, Secretary

Bell County Emergency Services District No. 1