



**TARRANT COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES
DISTRICT NO. 1**

Tarrant County Emergency Services District No. 1
Special Board Meeting
4900 River Oaks Blvd, River Oaks, Texas 76114
March 31, 2026, 6:00 pm
MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

- Donnie Davis, President
- Katheryn Moore, Vice President
- Richard Casarez, Treasurer/Secretary
- Anita Heiskell, Assistant Treasurer
- Fate Jones, Commissioner

Board Members Absent:

Staff Present:

- Russell Shelley, Executive Director/Fire Chief
- Kirt Mays, Assistant Chief - Fire
- James Brown, Assistant Chief - EMS
- Jeff Ballew, Battalion Chief- Fire
- Ryan Florence, Battalion Chief- EMS
- Jennifer Hilburn, Chief Financial Officer
- Alicia Johnson, Human Resources and Administrative Services Manager

I. CALL TO ORDER

The March 31, 2026, Special Tarrant County Emergency Services District No. 1 5-Year Strategic and Financial Plan Meeting, was called to order by President Davis at 06:04 pm.

II. INVOCATION

Executive Director/Fire Chief, Russell Shelley, provided the evening's invocation.

III. PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas Flags.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Executive Director Shelley presented the TCESD1 5-Year Strategic and Financial Plan

- Discussion:
 - Sales Tax & Property Tax
 - Donnie Davis: Is the 37% increased sales tax revenue due to new growth or something else? I have looked and looked and cannot find a reason for the large uptick in revenue.
 - There is concern that we have either been overpaid or underpaid in previous months.
 - Richard Casarez: Is there a statute of limitations on inquiring about past years tax revenues? 4-years.
 - Chief: Some Municipalities have professionals who make sure their city is receiving the appropriate sales tax.
 - ZacTax has a component that will assist with this.
 - Donnie Davis: A 2% property tax increase seems too conservative, I think we should be focusing more on Sales Tax and be looking more at 5-7%.
 - Donnie Davis: Do not focus on property tax, Gov. Abbott is trying to do away with property taxes.
 - Richard Casarez: I agree with DD, 2% is too conservative.
 - EMS Overlay was discussed at Safe D and is a possible avenue to take in the future. Chief Scott questions if that is allowed based on how the ESD was incorporated.
 - Service Contracts:
 - Richards Casarez: Have we received any feedback from our service providers on the newly implemented funding model?
 - Chief: Our Providers are experiencing the same fiscal challenges, and I am sure they would all like more revenue for services provided.
 - Lakeside
 - Katheryn Moore: She is questioning the facility implementation timeline. She referenced Chief Watson said there would be a 2-year window to build the station.
 - Donnie Davis, Richard Casarez, and Katheryn Moore believe Lakeside should be moved up to at least 2029.
 - Chief again reiterated that we could possibly get it done with the help of GovCap but the Pay as You Go plan would mean Lakeside would not be built for 5-10 years.
- Requests:
 - Richard Casarez: Would like to see Operational Increases by future station.
 - Donnie Davis: Would like to see detailed Sales Tax estimates and Personnel forecast through FY31 at the April 28th Budget Workshop.
- End of Presentation Guidance:
 - Richard Casarez: Would like to see more details of the Pay as You Go Plan vs. Borrow with personnel included.
 - Early payoff

- Different/faster options to Pay as You Go
- Run the numbers:
 - Property Tax at 2%
 - Sales Tax at 5%

V. **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

VI. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ORDER OF BUSINESS OR AGENDA ITEMS**

None

VII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

VIII. **CONSENT AGENDA**

None

IX. **PUBLIC HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS**

None

X. **CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, BID AWARDS AND OTHER RELATED ITEMS**

None

XI. **ACTION ITEMS**

None

XII. **BRIEFING ITEMS**

None

XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The TCESD1 Board reserves the right to convene into Executive Session at any time during the meeting in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, including, but not limited to, Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Real Property), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), or any other provision under the Texas Open Meetings Act, for any item posted on this agenda.

None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.