

ELLIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO.9

MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2025

Notice is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Ellis County Emergency Services District #9 will be held on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 7:00 PM at Huey Baron fire station located at 165 S. Sherman St. Palmer, TX for the following purposes:

1. Call meeting to order;

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm

2. Determination of quorum;

All members were present

3. Recognize any guest;

Ms. Jennifer Vaughn with Tripepi Smith & Associates, Laura Miller, Mayor elect and several members of the VFD were recognized.

4. Public Comment: Individual members of the public may address the Board for a maximum of three minutes on items not on the current agenda for a collective total of 15 minutes. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, any response to a public comment on items not on the published final agenda will be limited to a statement of factual information or a statement of existing policy. Any deliberation or decision by the Board will be limited to a proposal to place the subject on a future agenda.

N/A

5. Public Comment on agenda items: Members of the public may speak on an agenda item after comments on the item are called for by the presiding officer, but before Board discussion and consideration of the item. Individual members of the public may address the Board once per item for a maximum of three minutes per person per agenda item.

N/A

REPORTS

6. Receive monthly report from Treasurer and consider:

- (a) approval of payment of monthly bills and invoices:

The following invoices were presented: Gexa \$357.33/Palmer VFD \$676.02/Carlton \$297.00 N. Prewitt made motion to approve all bills and invoices presented. Z. Zett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- (b) approval of monthly financial report

G. Penny made motion to accept the financial report as presented. N. Prewitt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Receive monthly report from Palmer fire department personnel regarding emergency operations, response times, call volume, training, equipment, apparatus, and fire station, and take any related action:

Chief Medina reported that there were 32 calls: 8 Miscellaneous/1 Structure/3 MVA/2 MVA fire/13 EMS/3 Grass/ 2 Extraction and 4 fatalities. Chief also reported that there were 60 volunteers for training classes and the department participated in a Live Burn exercise in Waxahachie.

Due to the number of fatalities the department has encountered recently, R. Davis made a motion to approve \$250 as needed per session for grievance counselling. Z. Zett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

8. Discuss and consider approval of March 10, 2025, regular meeting minutes;

N. Prewitt made a motion to approve. Z. Zett seconded. Motion passed unanimously

9. Presentation by Jennifer Vaughn and discussion for possible action regarding ESD#9 placing a Sale Tax issue before the public as an upcoming ballot issue;

Jennifer Vaughn with Tripepi Smith & Associates made a presentation to the Board regarding how to conduct a sales tax ballot issue. Ms. Vaughn handles PR and communications with the public. She informed the board that we have until August to communicate about the issue, but then the board must refrain from public comment. Tripepi Smith will build off of our grassroots efforts including putting together talking points for us to use, putting together the communications for our website and all other forms of social media we may use/need. She explained that while the volunteer years are free to communicate about the issue board members can only educate the public as to what a vote for or a vote against actually means. Ms Vaughn's company will help do a PR campaign for ESD 9. She said she has a team of 65 or more to pull from but that she would assign a core team just for us should we decide to move forward. She estimated the cost for her part would be +/- \$35,000 plus we would incur attorney and accountant fees. T. Manning recommended that we consider utilizing Tripepi Smith because their strength is selling the issue to the public. R. Davis made a motion to spend up to \$50k for this project. Z. Zett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Discuss and consider for possible action approving the purchase of one or more thermal imagers and gas detectors for the fire department's use;

N. Prewitt found a Honeywell gas detector which will detect 4 gases. These devices will need to be calibrated every six months. He explained that to keep from putting our volunteers at risk, the Board should consider purchasing 2 of these at a cost of \$825 each. P. Burns informed the Board that he had identified thermal imagers from SEEK which come with 2 batteries and a charger. The cost is \$2995 per unit. The reason he preferred SEEK to the other brands is because the SEEK equipment is more user friendly. G. Penny made a motion to approve up to \$10k for the purchase of 2 gas detectors and 2 thermal imagers. N. Prewitt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Discuss and consider for possible action the establishment of a Fire Department Auxiliary Group for the purpose of conducting community awareness seminars;

A. Norman made a presentation as to what this group would hope to accomplish. She mentioned things like conducting a CPR class, awareness class, bullying, drug abuse classes, etc. The group would want to hold these community programs at the station or perhaps a church fellowship hall and are requesting monies for snacks and drinks. She will come back to the May 12th Board meeting with a formal request and budget. This item was Tabled until May 12th.

12. Discuss and receive updates on ESD#9 new website from Clicktunity;

G. Penny announced that the new website is now up and operating. The logon is
palmeresd9.com

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm

Ellis County Emergency Services District #9 is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Please call Greg Penny, Secretary for Ellis County Emergency Services District #9 at 469-855-7762 for information. Hearing impaired or speech disabled persons equipped with telecommunication devices for the deaf may utilize the statewide Relay Texas Program, 1-800-735-2988.

The Board may retire to Executive Session anytime between the meetings opening and adjournment for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel pursuant to Section 551. 071 of the Texas Government Code; discussing real estate acquisition pursuant to Section 551. 072 of the Texas Government Code; discussing gifts and donations pursuant to Section 551. 073 of the Texas Government Code; discussing personnel matters pursuant to Section 551. 074 of the Texas Government Code; discussing security personnel or devices pursuant to Section 551. 076 of the Texas Government Code. Action, if any, will be taken in open session.