

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 21
Minutes of the Meeting Held on April 24, 2025

LOCATION: Fire Station No. 3, 19720 Becker Road, Hockley Texas 77447

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

James Oswalt
Nolan Butterfras
David Flower
Naomi Kleb
Hardy LeBlanc

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jason DeVries, District's Fire Chief
Christopher Reyes, District's Assistant Fire Chief
Dave Ferguson, EMS Chief of HCESD 3
Jenni Talley, the District's Chief of Administration
Lori Grogg, Office Manager
Scott Webb, District Chief - Safety
Angela Zacharias, HR
Krystine Ramon of Coveler & Peeler, P.C., District's Legal Counsel
Members of HCESD 21

- 1) Call meeting order. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Oswalt at 8:31am. James Oswalt, Nolan Butterfras, David Flower, Naomi Kleb and Hardy LeBlanc were all present and a quorum was established.
- 2) To receive public comment. Chief Dave Ferguson said that having gone through a similar ESD meeting, said that sometimes people don't always get it right the first time, but to give it time. Aaron Shinn said Chief DeVries has done a lot for the District and has changed the Department for the better. Trent Pokorny said that only some people are getting their opinions out there, but that the people in the field believe in the Chief DeVries and that he is moving the Department in the right direction. Brian Faught said he initially had concerns about the Chief DeVries taking over, however Chief has squashed all concerns and believes he is doing a great job. Dustin Stark said that he has heard comments around the area that the department now has a good reputation. David Saunder said Chief DeVries is doing a great job as the Fire Chief. Mr. Saunder said he was a part of the hiring committee and believes that Chief DeVries has helped the department out and that morale is up and that training has expanded.
- 3) To meet in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 551.074 to discuss District personnel. The Board convened in Closed Session to discuss personnel matters at 8:46 a.m., and reconvened in Open Session at 10:43 a.m.

- 4) To meet in Closed Session under Government Code Section 551.071 to consult with legal counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers or matters which require confidentiality under Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas. The Board went into Closed Session to consult with legal counsel at 8:46 a.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 10:43 a.m.
 - 5) To review and act on personnel matters, including policies, scheduling, evaluations, benefits, compensation, hiring, retention or termination of District employees, including District Fire Chief, command staff, administrative staff, and suppression personnel. No action was taken at this time.
 - 6) Adjournment. Commissioner Kleb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner LeBlanc. The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.