



MINUTES

COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION

ROCKWALL HISTORIC COURTHOUSE . 101 EAST RUSK ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087 . 972-204-6000

Special Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 20, 2016 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

**Barry Brooks (Heath)
Steve Hatfield (McLendon Chisholm)
Dennis Lewis (Rockwall)
Lorne Megyesi (Fate)
Janet Nichol (Royse City)
Cliff Sevier (Rck. County)
David Sweet (Rck. County)**

Board Members Absent:

**Debby Bobbitt (Rowlett)
Dana Lawson (Mobile City)
Jim Pruitt (Rockwall)**

1. Call to order

David Sweet, President of the ES Corporation, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the above listed board members being present and absent.

2. Hold discussion regarding countywide ambulance service provision and associated contract, and take any action necessary.

Sweet began discussion of this agenda item. General comments were made by board members regarding whether or not Healthcare Visions, the current EMS-related consultant to the board, has a conflict of interest with AMR (ambulance service provider currently negotiating to purchase Medic Rescue (DBA Rockwall County EMS). Discussion took place as to whether or not the relationship between Healthcare Visions and AMR poses a problem concerning the current contract considerations.

Hatfield indicated that the board may encounter difficulty in locating a different consultant, one that may not have a conflict. Options for finding an alternate consultant for possible consideration were discussed, including TX Association of Counties (TAC), Texas Municipal League (TML), and Tarrant County.

Sweet discussed the process and associated elements that need attention regarding subsidy paid to the contract EMS company, reminding the board of the possibility that a subsidy payment may be able to become entirely obsolete through this process. Hatfield asked if the board should begin negotiations by suggesting a "zero" subsidy and no

49 exclusivity on the part of member cities (and the County). Sweet asked the various city's
50 board members their thoughts regarding exclusivity, and general comments ensued.
51 Michael Kovacs, City Manager of Fate, indicated that he recently made phone calls to other
52 cities to discuss exclusivity and franchise fee concepts, suggesting that this may be
53 handled through revenue capture with the ES Corporation.
54

55 Hatfield suggested that resolution to these issues is needed before moving forward. He
56 also suggested that now may be the time to look at this from a 911 (emergency calls) only
57 standpoint.
58

59 Brooks asked and Sweet confirmed that the current proposal indicates that subsidy
60 payments to the EMS provider would go away entirely over time. Brooks expressed
61 favorable sentiments concerning the elimination of the subsidy, wondering what it may take
62 for the board and the provider to get there.
63

64 Lewis suggested to the board that it should not feel pressure to act based on a private
65 business transaction that may occur (the potential merger that is currently in the works).
66

67 Rick Crowley, City Manager of Rockwall, suggested that as we move forward, the board may
68 wish to consider going back to some of the previous subcommittee's list of concerns /
69 considerations that were not pursued earlier due to high cost (i.e. medical director; rural vs.
70 urban response times; who 'stops the clock' upon arrival to the scene (the supervisor
71 vehicle or the actual ambulance), etc.).
72

73 Sweet shared that it is his understanding that there is significant cost associated with
74 having dispatch currently located within the city at Medic Rescue's offices.
75

76 Mr. Kovacs of Fate expressed interest in the salaries that a corporate company would pay
77 its employees versus the salaries which may be currently paid to Medic Rescue employees.
78

79 Hatfield made a motion to instruct Sweet to contact Medic Rescue to discuss the following:

- 80 • No subsidy
- 81 • No exclusivity
- 82 • And other items, including urban vs. rural response time standards; 'stopping the
83 clock' parameters, and medical director.

84 Brooks seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 against and 3 absent
85 (Bobbitt, Lawson, and Pruitt).
86

87 Brooks discussed his concerns related to long response times to Heath, explaining that this
88 has been a long-standing issue to both Heath and other remote areas within Rockwall
89 County. He suggested that perhaps geographically 'outlying' areas could be fixed by zones
90 based on population.
91

92 Hatfield shared that the board wants to pay less but will not accept any lesser level of care,
93 encouraging Sweet to be clear on this when speaking with Medic Rescue. Sweet shared
94 that it seems to him that the board should have greater expectations based on recent
95 discussions he has had.
96

97 Lewis made a motion to have the board begin researching a consultant to help the board by
98 assisting with contract negotiations. Brooks seconded the motion, which passed
99 unanimously of those present (7 to 0 with 3 absent).

Sweet indicated he will try to have updates ready for next week's regular board meeting and will then try to have a subsequent meeting thereafter as well. He shared that he will have the following documents (re)sent to board members: (1) current EMS contract; (2) bylaws of the ES Corporation; (3) agreement with Healthcare Visions; (4) legal services agreement.

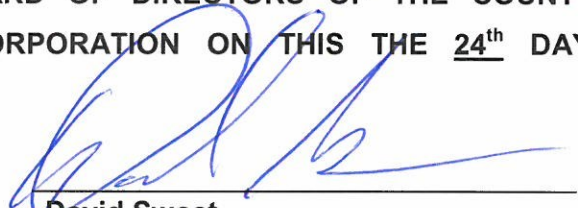
Jonathan Thatcher, legal counsel for Rockwall County, provided brief comments to the board, explaining that legal services for the Corporation have traditionally been provided by an outside law firm rather than by an attorney from one of the member cities or from Rockwall County itself.

Brooks asked if the board can discuss contract negotiations within the context of Executive Session. Thatcher explained that this depends on the specific circumstances at the time.

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS THE 24th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016.



David Sweet
County Judge and President, County of Rockwall
ESC Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Kristy Cole
Assistant Secretary, Board of Directors -
County of Rockwall ESC

