MINUTES

COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION

ROCKWALL HISTORIC COURTHOUSE 101 EAST RUSK ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087 972-882-2840

Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2015 5:00 p.m.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Board Members Present:

Steve Hatfield (McLendon Chisholm)
Dana Lawson (Mobile City)
Lorne Megyesi (Fate)
Dennis Lewis (Rockwall)
Jim Pruitt (Rockwall)
Cliff Sevier (Rck. County)
David Sweet (Rck. County)

Board Members Absent:

Barry Brooks (Heath)
Debby Bobbitt (Rowlett)
Janet Nichol (Royse City)

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1. Call to order

President David Sweet called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. with the above named board members being present and absent from the meeting.

2. Discuss / act on approval of the minutes from the September 16, 2015 regular ES Corp. Board meeting

Board Member Lewis noted that the roll call on these minutes should have reflected that he was in fact in attendance. Board Member Pruitt moved to approve the minutes as amended. Board Member Lewis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Brooks, Bobbitt and Nichol absent).

3. Discuss / act on the ES Corp. Treasurer's Report(s)

Treasurer of the ES Corp., David Peek, came forth and briefed the board on his monthly report. Board Member Hatfield made a motion to accept the report as presented. Board Member Sevier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Brooks, Bobbitt and Nichol absent).

4. Discuss / act on Emergency Management Program Report(s)

Joe DeLane, County Emergency Management Coordinator, provided a brief update to the board, indicating that the Hazard Mitigation Planning efforts will be underway soon. He

has informational kick-off meetings as well as a public meeting scheduled. He asked if anyone had questions concerning his report. There being none, no action was taken concerning this agenda item.

5. Adjournment

The general board meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

AMBULANCE SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Board Members Present:	**Board Members Absent:**
Steve Hatfield (McLendon Chisholm)	**Barry Brooks (Heath)**
Dana Lawson (Mobile City)	**Janet Nichol (Royse City)**
Lorne Megyesi (Fate)	
Dennis Lewis (Rockwall)	
Jim Pruitt (Rockwall)	
Cliff Sevier (Rck. County)	
David Sweet (Rck. County)	

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1. Call to order

President Sweet called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. with the above named board members being present and absent.

2. Hear update regarding ambulance service related exclusivity provisions among member cities.

Board Member Pruitt updated the board, indicating that the City of Rockwall recently passed an ordinance to repeal exclusivity of non-emergency transport service providers. He added that the city will not be regulating or licensing these providers.

3. Discuss / act on reports from Medic Rescue related to EMS contract compliance, including road construction impacts

Mitch Ownby of Medic Rescue provided the board with a brief, verbal update on the company's August and September reports, indicating that he was available to answer any questions board members may have. There being no questions, no further discussion or action took place concerning this agenda item.

4. Hold an Executive Session to discuss participation in the contract for emergency transportation and ambulance services between Medic Rescue and the Rockwall County Emergency Services Corporation, and take any action necessary pursuant to Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney).

President Sweet indicated that this agenda item will be discussed in open session in lieu of Executive Session. He then called upon Mr. Ownby to brief the board on this matter. Mr. Ownby came forth and provided information to the board concerning a proposal for enhanced services associated with a new contract extension once the existing contract expires in 2016. Mr. Ownby then called forth Leslie Mueller with AMR (American Medical

Response), which is a larger ambulance service provider. Ms. Mueller came forth and explained that her company (AMR) has been evaluating a possible partnership arrangement between the ES Corporation and AMR. She explained that AMR is in forty states and about 2,800 communities nationwide and is the largest EMS service provider in the nation. She explained that AMR would work with local leadership to customize services to suit the needs of the Rockwall community. Mr. Ownby explained that AMR can help Medic Rescue with surge capabilities and related needs. Also, partnering with AMR could result in more ambulance units being in the community, and they could handle out-of-town and/or non-critical transports. Mr. Ownby explained that three potential 'partners,' including AMR were evaluated by Medic Rescue, starting about a year ago, and Medic Rescue feels like AMR has the best and most to offer in this regard. He explained that this model would include a contract with Medic Rescue. It would be "powered by AMR and backed by Envision Healthcare." He explained that the local branding associated with "Rockwall County EMS" would be retained (i.e. trucks, uniforms, etc.), and that local paramedics, dispatch and leadership would be maintained as well. Mr. Ownby went on to explain that he would like to have a dialogue with the ES Corporation regarding "sole source," explaining that he believes that through this partnership, subsidy paid to the contractor could be substantially reduced immediately and very likely eliminated entirely by year three (3).

Board Member Pruitt commented that all city ordinances get passed with penalties attached to them – otherwise, there would be no way to enforce violation of those ordinance provisions. So, he questioned how cities might pass "exclusivity" type ordinances, were that to be requested, yet not have any associated penalty provisions. Mr. Tim Wolfe of Medic Rescue came forth and suggested that maybe there could be a way that ordinances could be written such that they would allow Medic Rescue to have 'first right of refusal' in providing requested services before a facility then calls upon a different provider to meet its need(s).

Steve Athey, EMS consultant to the ES Corp. Board (Healthcare Visions), expressed that he has had some degree of a business relationship with AMR; however, he assured that it is within a different market elsewhere in the country, and he feels he is able to speak without there being a bias or conflict of interest. He went on to explain that the end of March, 2016 is the time when the ES Corp. should be deciding what will happen concerning a new, updated EMS contract because the current one is set to expire around October of 2017.

Brief comments were exchanged regarding how the ES Corporation might know about the subsidy / financials of Medic Rescue.

Mr. Wolfe indicated that his company would like the ES Corporation to institute another five year contract with the option to be granted one-year extensions for up to a total of ten years (like the existing contract in place now).

Board Member Hatfield commented that it sounds as though the ES Corporation has nothing but potentially better service to gain as well as a lower subsidy (or no subsidy) if it chooses to entertain these ideas and begin negotiations. He expressed that this model of retaining Medic Rescue while having AMR involved would potentially be advantageous for several reasons. If by March or April of next year, this potential deal does not seem viable, then the ES Corporation would still have time to initiate an RFP / bid process in time before the current contract expires.

Mr. Athey suggested that if a 'request for proposals' (RFP) went out, it could go out about March, which would allow sufficient time to receive those proposals and evaluate them before the current contract ends.

Mr. Michael Kovacs, City Manager of Fate, expressed a desire to have the company increase compensation and benefits for its EMS staff and paramedics. Mr. Athey commented that AMR likely has the best benefits package in the country, and it could be that these negotiations result in a very desirable, beneficial, easy fix for some past, expressed concerns. It could result in improved services for less expense.

Board Member Pruitt asked if we should have response time expectations in place for non-emergency transfers. Mr. Athey suggested that, yes, these should be in place. Pruitt expressed that he is unsure if all of the cities will buy into this idea.

Mr. Athey expressed that the idea of a 'joint venture' of sorts between Medic Rescue and AMR becomes substantially less attractive if the ES Corporation cannot guarantee the needed call volume, however that may happen, but he appreciates Pruitt's willingness to discuss this possibility further.

Mr. Rick Crowley, Rockwall City Manager, expressed that he feels the entities should go back to their own governing bodies to see how they feel about the ES Corporation pursuing these negotiations that have been presented this evening and then report back to the board. Pruitt indicated that Rockwall will discuss this at its next regular meeting.

5. Adjournment

President Sweet mentioned that there will likely be a combined Nov./Dec. board meeting in light of the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, and he will let everyone know once that date has been selected.

Sweet adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS THE 2nd DAY OF December, 2015.

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

County of Rockwall ES Corporation
TEXAS

ATTEST:

Kristy Cole

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