



COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION
Rockwall Historic Courthouse 101 East Rusk Rockwall, Texas 75087 972-204-6000

Regular Board Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, July 15, 2020 - 5:00 PM

PRESENT

Jim Bloom (McLendon-Chisholm)
Joe Burger (Fate)
Frank New (Heath)
Janet Nichol (Royse City)
Kenny Phillips (Mobile City)
Jim Pruitt (Rck)
Cliff Sevier (Rck. Co.)
Brownie Sherrill (Rowlett)
David Sweet (Rck. Co.)

ABSENT

David Billings (Fate)
Trace Johannesen (Rck)

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

1. Call public meeting to order

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

2. Open Forum / Public Comments

Sweet asked if anyone would like to speak at this time. No one indicated such.

3. Discuss / act on approval of the minutes from the June 17, 2020 Regular Board Mtg.

Board Member New moved to approve the minutes as presented. Board Member Sherrill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present.

4. Discuss / act on monthly Treasurer's Reports

David Peek, Treasurer of the ESC, gave a briefing to the board on his monthly report. Board Member Nichol then moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Board Member Phillips seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present.

5. Discuss / act on Fiscal Year 2019 Audit of the ES Corp.

Peek indicated that the audit was conducted by an independent firm, and there were no significant or concerning findings – it was a 'clean' audit overall. Board Member Sherrill thanked Peek for his work, and he then made a motion to approve the audit as presented. Board Member Nichol seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present.

6. Discuss / act on monthly Emergency Mgmt. Program report

Sweet introduced Dr. Kelly, a local physician who has agreed to step into the role of "County Health Authority," as Dr. Gary Bonaquisti has recently stepped down. Dr. Kelly will serve in this role at least until the end of this fiscal year.

Barbara Neville, County Emergency Management Coordinator, then briefed the board on her monthly program reports. (Note: Board Member (Mayor) Jim Pruitt of Rockwall arrived at this juncture (5:08 p.m.). Sweet spoke about tracking of COVID-19 (pandemic) related cases and associated reporting, explaining that the overall goal is to have accurate, reliable and timely reporting. Neville went on to report on COVID-19 related activities. She indicated that recent updates to the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) are almost completed. There were some recent, successful activations of the EOC. Neville further shared that Jarod Rosson in her office recently finished creating a good plan that all jurisdictions will sign off on pertaining to regional interoperability of the countywide radio system.

7. Discuss / act on possible addition of Emergency Management Specialist staff position

Sweet began this discussion, generally indicating that he knows entity budgets, countywide, are going to be difficult for this coming fiscal year. So he is not sure if this new position is one that will be able to be accommodated or not. Mrs. Neville, County Emergency Management Coordinator, indicated that an additional staff position is definitely needed and would be welcomed in her office. Sweet shared that Billings (who was absent from the meeting) sent word, in advance, that he is definitely in favor of adding a staff position to the County Emergency Management office. Board Member Sevier acknowledged that the county itself is exponentially growing, and he knows there is a lot of work to be done pertaining to Emergency Management. He generally spoke in favor of adding a staff position to that office. Board Member Pruitt asked for a general idea of how much this staff person would cost, budget wise "all in." Mrs. Smith, Asst. City Manager/Finance Director for Rockwall, indicated that (off the top of her head) she believes it would be around \$55k/annually (all in).

Board Member Burger made a motion to move forward with adding an "Emergency Management Specialist" position to the county's Emergency Management Office and to adjust the proposed FY21 budget accordingly. Board Member New seconded the motion.

Board Member Phillips asked for clarification regarding what this staff person would be working on. Mrs. Neville briefed the board on a draft job description that was recently created for the Emergency Management Specialist staff position, explaining that it will mostly be an administrative role. It is an entry-level Emergency Management position. Also, the new staff person would get added into the "on call" rotation with her and Jarod Rosson, so that there would be a total of three (3) staff persons involved in said rotation. This will help greatly. The new staffing would begin Oct. 1, 2020.

Following the brief dialogue, the motion made passed unanimously of those present (9 ayes with 2 absences (Billings, Johannesen)).

8. Discuss / act on update related to COVID-19

Chief Geron of Rockwall Police Department thanked everyone for their prayers and support for Officer Tracy Gaines who continues to be hospitalized in critical condition associated with COVID-19.

Sweet called upon Cindy Paris from Rockwall Presbyterian Hospital, who indicated that the hospital continues to see an increase in COVID patients. Their ICU has six beds, and they continue to be full over the last few weeks, so they are transferring patients accordingly. Brief, general discussion ensued pertaining to patient transfers, hospital capacities and hospital collaboration. Sweet thanked hospital personnel and first responders for all their work related to the ongoing pandemic.

9. Discuss / act on possible formation of or partnership related to a countywide Health Department

Sweet pointed out the recent change from Dr. Bonaquisti to (now) Dr. Kelly as far as the county's Health Authority is concerned. Board Member New expressed the opinion that a full-time person who focuses on 'public health' is definitely something that is needed in Rockwall County. Sweet briefly explained that there a lot of options regarding how this role could be structured / accommodated.

Although he is not totally prepared to move forward on this discussion at this time, he would like for this to be a discussion item on the August ESC board meeting agenda. No action was taken at this point.

10. Discuss / act on the following preliminary ES Corporation budgets for Fiscal Year 2021:

- a) Administrative / Operating Budget**
- b) Law Enforcement Training Facility Operating Budget**
- c) Emergency Management Program Budget**
- d) Ambulance Services Program Budget**

Budget proposals have been sent out to each entity for consideration and inclusion in their own budgets. An updated budget regarding Emergency Management will be distributed, likely early next week, to reflect the addition of the new "Emergency Management Specialist" position.

11. Adjournment

Sweet adjourned the General Board Meeting at 6:01 p.m.

AMBULANCE SERVICES (EMS) BOARD MEETING

1. Call public meeting to order

Sweet called this meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

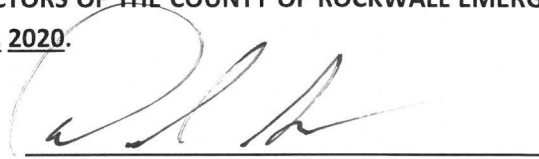
2. Discuss / act on Medic Rescue's monthly EMS/ambulance contract compliance reports

Mitch Ownby of Medic Rescue updated the board on his June monthly reports, including recent community events, call volumes, response times, etc. Sweet moved to approve the report(s) as presented. Pruitt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present.

3. Adjournment

Sweet adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS THE 19th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.



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

