MINUTES

COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION

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

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	ABSENT:
David Billings	Dana Lawson
Debby Bobbitt	Cliff Sevier
Jim Bloom	
Trace Johannesen	
Lorne Megyesi	
Frank New	
Janet Nichol	
Jim Pruitt	
David Sweet	

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

1. Call to order

David Sweet called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Discuss / act on approval of the minutes from the Oct. 24, 2018 regular ES Corp. Board meeting.

Board Member Nichol moved to approve the October minutes. Board Member Bloom seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 8 ayes with 3 absences (Lawson, Sevier & Johannensen).

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

David Peek, ES Corp. Treasurer, briefed the Board on his October monthly report. He pointed out that a fiscal year audit of the ES Corp. will be conducted sometime in the coming months. Board Member Bobbitt moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Board Member Billings Seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 8 ayes with 3 absences (Lawson, Sevier & Johannensen).

4. Discuss / act on Emergency Management Program Report

Melanie Jensen from the Rockwall County Office of Emergency Management briefed the board on the department's monthly report. She mentioned that an "active shooter" training will occur in February as well as a "Stop the Bleed" training. A "SkyWarn" weather related training will also take place at the county library on March 9. Links related to the trainings will be placed online on her department's website.

Sweet then commented about outdoor warning sirens, stressing that they are a valuable service, but they cause a lot of discord on social media. Mr. Rick Crowley, Rockwall City Manager, briefed the board on the high points of the City of Rockwall's policy related to when the sounding of outdoor warning sirens in the City of Rockwall occurs. Board Member Johannesen joined the meeting at this juncture. Board Member Bobbitt commented on the City of Rowlett's history with regards to sounding of outdoor warning sirens, particularly when the tornado hit the city a few years ago. Mrs. Jensen provided information about the "Nixle" text warnings and encouraged the public to sign up by texting "RCOEM" to 888777.

5. Adjournment

David Sweet adjourned this portion of the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

AMBULANCE SERVICES BOARD MEETING

PRESENT:	ABSENT:
David Billings	Dana Lawson
Jim Bloom	Cliff Sevier
Trace Johannesen	
Lorne Megyesi	
Frank New	
Janet Nichol	
Jim Pruitt	
David Sweet	

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1. Call to order

Sweet called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

2. Discuss / act on expenditures related to $15,000 of previously collected funds from Medic Rescue under "Section 9. Liquidated Damages" of the ambulance services contract.

Sweet began discussion of this item, reminding that board that back in August, the ES Corp. board essentially approved a motion to purchase a "Lucas device" (for use in performing chest compressions during CPR) with this collected money with the stipulation that Medic Rescue would also be required to purchase a second Lucas device. He went on to share that there have been no purchases made on the part of either party because Medic Rescue does not have funds available / allocated that would allow them to purchase the device.

Board Member Pruitt brought up the need for indemnification of the ES Corp. and its members and member cities to ensure legal protection should Medic Rescue utilize this device incorrectly. Board Member Billings proposed the possibility of buying just one device and modifying the ambulance services contract to outline parameters regarding its use by Medic Rescue.

Board Member Billings then moved to approve the purchase of one (1) Lucas device to be owned by the ES Corp. Board Member Sweet seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 8 in favor with 1 against (Pruitt).

Board Member Megyesi wonders who will maintain the piece of equipment. Billings suggested that routine maintenance be Medic Rescue's responsibility.

3. Discuss / act on Medic Rescue's monthly EMS contract compliance reports, including any assessments under "Section 9. Liquidated Damages" of said contract and any update from the ESC's Contract Administrator.

Mitch Ownby of Medic Rescue came forth and briefed the board on the monthly ambulance service reports for October. Board Member Billings commented that routing issues pertaining to response times seem to have been worked out. Board Member Megyesi asked about a late call during the major phone outage, and Mr. Ownby indicated that he will research this. The board took no action related to this agenda item.

4. Discuss / act on resolution granting a one year contract extension to Medic Rescue pertaining to the 2017 ambulance services contract.

Sweet reminded the board of contract related provisions that outline how contract extension requests and approvals are to be handled. Board Member Billings expressed support for granting the one-year contract extension request received from Medic Rescue. Board Member Megyesi, however, expressed a desire to see one more year of continued service improvement before possibly granting the one-year extension. Board Member Billings then moved to approve the resolution granting the requested one-year contract extension to Medic Rescue. Board Member Bloom seconded the motion. Board Member Pruitt agrees that Medic Rescue is doing better, but ongoing dispatch-related concerns have just very recently been resolved. He prefers that more time pass before granting this one-year contract extension so that the board has more time to be sure that the concerns have truly been addressed. Board Member Megyesi indicated that he would like to see 100% success and improvement in dispatching and reporting. Board Member Billing stressed again that Medic Rescue's performance has improved and that robust EMS is needed. Board Member Pruitt reminded the board about a past meeting that was held with the PSAPs in the county a few months ago, and he and Sweet stressed that continued problems with call answering could not persist. Ultimatums caused solutions, and – for this reason – Pruitt expressed that he would like to wait another year before considering granting the one-year extension that has been requested. Board Member Johannesen sought and received clarification from Sweet regarding the contract expiration date and the reason Medic Rescue has made the one-year extension request. Sweet expressed hat he is not ready to support the extension request, but he wants there to be a good partnership between the ES Corp. and Medic Rescue. He believes they are a good ambulance service provider, and he hopes that lingering problems get worked out. Sweet stressed that his opinion on not desiring to grant the request at this time should not be viewed as a reflection of the service they are giving.

Board Member Billings shared that his preference is to lay out terms that will lead to passage of the one-year extension request (and associated resolution) rather than the motion resulting in a heavily divided vote.

Sweet expressed that he has ongoing concerns related to dispatching and call answering. Board Member Billings then withdrew his motion (for approval of the resolution granting the one-year contract extension), and Sweet accepted his request to withdraw. A request was made that this topic be place back on the next regular board meeting agenda for further consideration. Mr. Ownby affirmed that time will show that things have improved as far as concerns that have been expressed by board members this evening. No action was taken at this time.

5. Discuss internet security risks as related to EMS

Board Member Billings indicated that he requested this agenda item. He went on to explain his concerns, pointing out that step-by-step procedures for addressing ransomware and malware are needed. Mr. Ownby indicated that he will confirm with his dispatching company (AMR) the protocols and policies that are in place. Further discussions will be held regarding these concerns at future meetings.

Board Member New introduced the interim city manager of Heath, Bill Shipp. Councilmember Bloom introduced the new city administrator of McLendon Chisholm, Lisa Palomba.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS THE 23rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2019.

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