



MINUTES

COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION

Rockwall Historic Courthouse 101 East Rusk Rockwall, Texas 75087 972-204-6000

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 - 5:00 PM

PRESENT

Lorna Kipphut (McLendon-Chisholm)
David Billings (Fate)
Trace Johannesen (Rck) (arrived at 5:11 p.m.)
Frank New (Heath)
Janet Nichol (Royse City)
Kenny Phillips (Mobile City)
Christopher Ash (Fate)
Cliff Sevier (Rck. Co.)
Brownie Sherrill (Rowlett)
David Sweet (Rck. Co.)

ABSENT

Jim Pruitt (Rockwall)

I. 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 come forth and speak at this time. There being no one indicating such, he then closed this portion of the meeting. He briefly introduced newly appointed ESC Board Member, Christopher Ash from the City of Fate as well as a soon-to-be-appointed board member, Brian Davis, of the City of McLendon-Chisholm. Sweet also acknowledged the upcoming retirement of long-tenured Rockwall City Manager, Rick Crowley, generally thanking him for his years of service and leadership within the community. Mr. Crowley said a few, brief words, expressing gratitude for having been given the opportunity to serve the Rockwall community for the last 37 years.

3. Discuss / act on approval of the minutes from the Dec. 2, 2020 regular ES Corp. Board meeting

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

4. Discuss / act on the logistics and plan for mass vaccinations (COVID-19) in the county, including defining "next steps" and associated public communication plan

Sweet gave a detailed update on recent events related to the COVID-19 vaccine, generally indicating that it has been challenging for “approved providers” (i.e. local physicians, Rockwall Co. EMS, Helping Hands, local pharmacies, etc.) to actually obtain vaccine doses within the County of Rockwall. Rockwall County will be partnering with Helping Hands to administer vaccinations at the Rockwall County Library (only a quantity of 400 vaccination doses for Category 1A recipients only). He acknowledged that he knows this is not near enough quantity to meet the need within the County; however, he pointed out that the County has been working closely with the TX Department of Health and Human Services related to vaccine allocation. Barbara Neville, Rockwall County Emergency Management Coordinator, indicated that Helping Hands will soon issue a press release that explains how they will handle administering the 400 doses of vaccine to those who are “1A eligible” to receive it.

Board Member Johannesen of Rockwall interjected, indicating that the State of TX decides which entities will receive vaccination doses. The problem is a nationwide lack of vaccine supply. He expressed that the County of Rockwall does have a plan in place to accommodate mass distribution of the vaccine if and when large quantities of the vaccine become available from the State within our county. Sweet indicated that Rockwall County has requested to have a vaccine “hub” within the county; however, the State has not yet approved us for one. He furthermore indicated that the County’s new “health authority,” Dr. Perritt, along with Rockwall County Office of Emergency Management, have both applied to be registered “providers” for receiving and administering the vaccine. Neville indicated that the County has activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at a ‘low level’ activation – the “Public Information” section of the EOC has been activated, and there is a need to activate the “Finance” section too. Neville stressed that there is COVID-19 vaccine related information posted and available on the County’s website, and two press releases went out today. Emergency Management staff is working on finalizing FAQs for distribution and website posting as well, and those will be published very soon.

5. Discuss / act on possible formation of a Rockwall County Health Dept. and potential willingness of member cities to participate

Board Members New, Johannesen and Billings all expressed a desire to discuss this possibility further. Indication was given that Sweet may call a “special meeting” of the ESC board to further discuss this topic. Craig Stoddart, legal counsel for the ESC, briefly mentioned that Chapter 121 of the Government Code allows for the joint formation of a “Public Health District” within Rockwall County. Billings would also like to discuss the possibility of adding more staff to the County Emergency Management office. No formal action was taken concerning this agenda item.

6. Discuss / act on executing an engagement letter with Rutherford, Taylor & Co, PC to conduct the FY20 audit of the ES Corp.

David Peek, ESC Treasurer, briefly explained that this is a routine audit that has already been budgeted in the FY21 budget. Board Member New moved to authorize the execution of the engagement letter, as presented. Board Member Billings seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Pruitt absent).

7. Discuss / act on monthly ES Corp. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Peek provided brief comments to the board concerning the ESC’s monthly treasurer’s report. Board Member Nichol moved to accept the report, as presented. Board Member Kipphut seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Pruitt absent).

8. Discuss / act on monthly Emergency Management program report

Barbara Neville, Rockwall County Emergency Management Coordinator, came forth and briefed the board on her department's monthly reports, mainly focusing on COVID-19 pandemic-related numbers and statistics. She also shared that her office recently gained access to the North Texas Fusion Center, which allows access to State and Federal "intelligence" (law enforcement / police related information). The County's new "health authority," Dr. Perritt, will attend ESC board meetings when he is not performing emergency room duties (he is an ER doctor). Emergency Management staff will meet with consultants, Freese and Nichols, next week regarding the Lake Wallace Emergency Response Plan, which will soon be submitted to the State for review / approval. No action was taken regarding this agenda item.

9. Adjournment

Sweet recessed the General Board Meeting at 5:07 p.m. and called it back to order at 5:12 p.m. to discuss item numbers 4, 5, and 8 above.

Sweet adjourned the meeting (as a whole) at 6:08 p.m.

II. AMBULANCE SERVICES (EMS) BOARD MEETING

1. Call public meeting to order

Sweet called this board meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

2. Discuss / act on monthly ambulance services reports and associated contract compliance

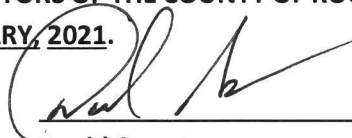
Mitch Ownby of Rockwall County EMS (ambulance contractor) came forth and briefed the board on monthly reports for both November and December of 2020. Sweet moved to accept the monthly reports, as presented. Board Member Phillips seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Pruitt absent).

3. Adjournment

Sweet adjourned this portion of the meeting and called the General Board Meeting back to order at 5:12 p.m. (after Board Member Johannesen's arrival).

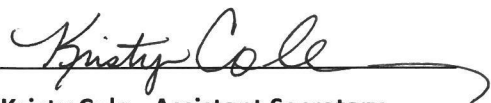
Sweet adjourned the meeting (as a whole) at 6:08 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS THE 27th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.



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

