



MINUTES

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

Regular Board Meeting **Wednesday, April 20, 2022 - 5:00 PM**

PRESENT

David Billings (Fate)
James Branch (Royse City)
Heather Buegeler (Fate)
Clay Ellis (Royse City)
Kevin Fowler (Rockwall)
Trace Johannesen (Rck)
Janet Nichol (Rockwall County)
Kenny Phillips (Mobile City)
Brownie Sherrill (Rowlett)
David Sweet (Rockwall County)

ABSENT

Brian Davis (McLendon Chisholm)
Frank New (Heath)

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 board members being present and absent.

2. Open Forum / Public Comments

No one came forth to speak during Open Forum.

3. Discuss / act on minutes from the March 16, 2022 regular ESC Board meeting

Vice President of the ESC, Nichol moved to approve the minutes, as presented. Sherrill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Davis, New absent).

4. Discuss / act on monthly ESC Treasurer's Report

Sweet indicated that the ESC Treasurer, Mr. David Peek, was not able to be present this evening; however, his monthly report was provided to board members in their informational meeting packet for review. Billings then made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Buegeler seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Davis, New absent).

5. Discuss / act on official audit of the ES Corp. for fiscal year 2021

The annual audit was provided in advance of the meeting for board members to review and consider. No one had questions about the audit, and no discussion took place. Billings made a motion to accept the official FY21 audit, as presented. Sherrill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Davis and New absent).

6. Discuss / act on monthly countywide Emergency Management Program Report

Jarod Rosson, County Emergency Management Coordinator, briefed the board on his departmental monthly report. He indicated that recent staff training took place related to use and staffing of the Emergency Operations Center at the Sheriff's Office. In addition, a somewhat minor tornado hit McLendon Chisholm recently and did damage to several homes and structures. The weather event took place late in the night, but by 7 AM the next morning, staff begun assessing the damage. By 8 AM, staff had a pretty good understanding of the damage, overall. So that response went smoothly and efficiently. In addition, larger countywide projects – such as the dam related 'emergency action plan' for the 26 dams within the county is going well. The conversation then turned back to the tornado event in McLendon-Chisholm. General discussion took place related to the various warning systems in place within the County and which ones may or may not have 'gone off' that night. Indication was given that the National Weather Service never issued a 'tornado warning' – only a 'severe thunderstorm warning' – because the rotation was so very small on their radar screens, and it happened so fast, that it essentially went undetected, and no warning transpired. General discussion continued about public education and warning systems such as iPAWS, NIXLE, outdoor warning sirens, personal weather radios, etc.

Sweet then moved to accept the monthly Emergency Management Program Report, as presented. Billings seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Davis and New absent).

7. Adjournment

Sweet adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

II. AMBULANCE SERVICES (EMS) BOARD MEETING

1. Call public meeting to order

Sweet called this portion of the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

2. Discuss / act on monthly ambulance service reports, associated contract provisions and compliance

Mitch Ownby of Rockwall County EMS (the ambulance contractor) came forth and briefed the ESC Board on his monthly reports for the month of March (public education that transpired, an update on vehicles that are on order (yet backordered), response time compliance, etc.). Sweet made a motion to accept Ownby's reports, as presented. Nichol seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Davis and New absent).

3. Discuss/ act on request from Medic Rescue/Rockwall County EMS on possible adoption of 'Amendment 2' to the current ambulance services contract (or a temporary waiver), specifically related to Section 21. 'Patient Care, Personnel Certifications' associated with staffing of ambulances with two paramedics

Mr. Ownby spoke about this agenda item, generally explaining that his company is having difficulty meeting the provisions of the existing ambulance services contract, particularly pertaining to the requirement that 9-11 ambulances be staffed by two paramedics. He explained that staffing with 2 paramedics is actually 'over and above' what most other ambulance services companies do. Usually there is one paramedic and an EMT(s) and/or EMT-Is ('intermediate'). There is a nationwide shortage of paramedics currently, most likely due to the COVID epidemic

and that having impacted public schools/universities. On an interim basis, Mr. Ownby explained, he would like to be able to hire EMTs or EMT-I's and then send them to paramedic school while working for his company. Then, once he gets some of them graduated as "paramedics," perhaps he can come back to the board and change the modified contract language back to what it originally required. He did indicate that his company will try – when possible – to continue staffing with two paramedics on each ambulance; however, he needs some leeway to the contract language for the unforeseeable future. Discussion about this possibility ensued, with the ESC's legal counsel, Craig Stoddart, indicating that the contract could be changed (temporarily) either by the ESC Board issuing a 'waiver' to the existing provisions or by the board signing a more formal 'contract amendment' with Medic Rescue (Mr. Ownby's company). He suggested that the board pursue the more formal option – an amendment – as he believes it provides the most protection for both the ESC Board and for the contractor, Medic Rescue. Following additional, brief comments, Billings then moved to amend Section 21. "Patient Care, Personnel Certifications" to reflect allowing the contractor to utilize one paramedic and one EMT or EMT-I on each ambulance for a period not to exceed 18 months and to authorize the ESC Board President, David Sweet to execute said contract amendment. Board Member Ellis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Davis and New absent).

4. Discuss / act on establishing a project to formally review and update the existing ambulance services contract, including possibly retaining a consultant and appointing a sub-committee of the ES Corp., to assist with said project

Discussion took place regarding this agenda item, with indication given that a sub-committee of the ESC, county emergency management staff, legal staff, etc. had previously held two or three meetings to review the existing ambulance services contract (signed in 2017) with the contractor (Mitch Ownby of Medic Rescue). The sub-committee of individuals who met concluded that it is likely in the best interest of both parties if the ESC Board will hire a professional, knowledgeable consultant to help navigate a formal, extensive review of the existing contract and provide recommendations for any possible, needed changes and/or updates. The ESC Board might want to consider hiring a consultant named Steve Athey of Healthcare Visions, who is a professional consultant who is well versed in this area and has provided consulting services to both the ESC and to Medic Rescue in the past. Or, the ESC board may want to do an RFQ ("request for qualifications") to try to identify a different consultant who may be able to assist. Following general discussion, it was decided that staff will move forward with seeing if Mr. Steve Athey is available, willing and interested in helping with said contract review and attempt to obtain a proposal and pricing from him. In addition, the ESC Board would like to appoint a subcommittee of representatives from the various entities in Rockwall County to work with the consultant and staff on this "contract review project." Numerous comments were made by board members and/or city administrators related to who their jurisdiction may want to have serve on said subcommittee.

Sweet then made a motion to appoint the following countywide subcommittee to work with staff and the EMS consultant (once one is 'hired') on extensive review of the existing ambulance services contract (signed in 2017):

- Rockwall County – Judge David Sweet / ESC President
- Royse City – Chief Tanner
- Rockwall – Kristy Teague and Chief Cullins
- Fate – Chief Lombard
- McLendon-Chisholm – Chief Simmons
- Rockwall County Emergency Management Office – Jarrod Rosson

- Rockwall County legal counsel – Craig Stoddart
- Rockwall County Sherriff's Office – Sheriff Garrett
- Heath – Chief Seery (or whomever Heath would like to designate)

Billings seconded Sweet's motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Davis and New absent).

On a formal basis, Billings then made a motion to instruct staff to start negotiations with consultant Steve Athey of Healthcare Visions and then come back to the ESC Board with information on expected costs and for associated approval(s). Branch seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Davis and New absent).

5. Adjournment

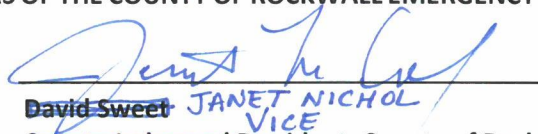
Sweet adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS 18th DAY OF MAY, 2022.

ATTEST:



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


~~David Sweet~~ JANET NICHOL
VICE

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

