



MINUTES

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

Regular Board Meeting **Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023 - 5:00 PM**

PRESENT

David Billings (Fate)
James Branch (Royse City)
Heather Beugeler (Fate)
Clay Ellis (Royse City)
Trace Johannesen (Rockwall)
Dennis Lewis (Rockwall)
Dana Macalik (Rockwall County)
Kenny Phillips (Mobile City)
Frank New (Rockwall County)
Brandon Peterson (Heath)
Brandon Seery (Heath)

ABSENT

Bryan McNeal (McLendon Chisholm)
Deb Shinder (Rowlett)

I. GENERAL BOARD MEETING

1. Call public meeting to order

ESC President, Frank New called the meeting to order at 5:00.

2. Open Forum / Public Comments

No one came forth to speak at this time.

3. Discuss / act on approving minutes of the July 19, 2023 regular ESC board meeting.

Board Member Lewis moved to approve the minutes. Board Member Branch seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (McNeal and Shinder absent).

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

David Peek, ESC Treasurer, briefly spoke to the board concerning these reports. Board Member Johannesen then moved to approve the reports for the months of July and August. Board Member Macalik seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (McNeal and Shinder absent).

5. Discuss / act on resolution approving ES Corporation budgets for Fiscal Year 2024:

Exhibit A) Administrative / Operating Budget

Exhibit B) Law Enforcement Gun Range Operating Budget

Exhibit C) Emergency Management Program Budget

Mrs. Smith, Rockwall City Manager, briefly spoke about the proposed budgets, indicating these were sent out to each of the ESC's member entities a couple of months ago. It is recommended that the board consider their approval through passage of the resolution.

Board Member Lewis then moved to approve the resolution adopting each of the FY2024 ESC budgets. Board Member New seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (McNeal and Shinder absent).

6. Adjournment

ESC President, New adjourned this portion of the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

6. Adjournment

This portion of the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

II. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

1. Call public meeting to order

This portion of the meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Discuss / act on monthly countywide Emergency Management Program report(s)

Matthew Hitt, Rockwall County Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, briefed the board on these monthly reports. He shared that the county's medical liaison, Dr. Perritt recently indicated that there has been a minor uptick in COVID-19 cases, but, overall, there are no major concerns in this regard. Efforts are now underway by emergency management staff to update the Hazard Mitigation plan. Waiting for word on a possible grant from the State for more than ten months now that would have allowed for the hiring of a consultant to assist with this project became futile. So, Lloyd Blaine has begun these efforts himself. In addition, indication was given that the county will actually keep NIXLE (countywide email and text notification system re: emergencies / disasters) after all. The board took no action as a result of Mr. Hitt's briefing and associated comments.

3. Adjournment

This portion was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

III. AMBULANCE SERVICES (EMS) BOARD MEETING

1. Call public meeting to order

This portion of the meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

2. Discuss / act on monthly countywide ambulance service report(s) and related contractual compliance

Mitch Ownby of Medic Rescue / Rockwall County EMS briefed the board on monthly reports for the month of July. Board Member Branch sought and received clarification pertaining to various statuses mentioned in the monthly report (i.e. "system overload;" "failure to post;" "distance too far;" "routing error;" "first crew diverted"). Mr. Ownby explained these various status designations in further detail. He went on to indicate that call volumes, overall, are 'up' countywide; however, the company is still maintaining contractual compliance in

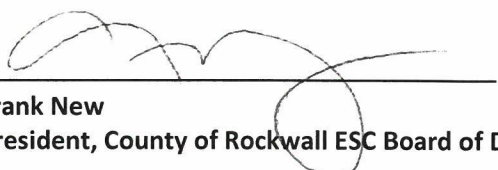
every response zone. Mr. Ownby explained that when the system gets overloaded, which goes in cycles, the company adds additional unit hours. President New reminded everyone that Matthew Hitt from the Emergency Management Office serves in the role of “contract administrator” on behalf of the ESC regarding the countywide ambulance services contract. He pointed out that part of the contract does allow for ‘exceptions’ to late calls. He then asked Mr. Hitt to provide a briefing on how exceptions are viewed and handled. Mr. Hitt explained that two scenarios allow for the contractor to request ‘exceptions.’ They are weather (i.e. ice on roads) and (2) “overload.” He went on to explain that, per the contract, “overload” is associated with a specific, mathematical calculation that is spelled out within the service contract. Board Member Billings indicated that he would like to see the data ‘by zone’ as well as by month, and he would like to have it mapped back to the matrix for the whole year (January 2023 to present). He also wants to see definitions on monthly reports to explain what the various status designations mean. Mr. Ownby indicated that he can do so on future monthly reports. Billings expressed concerns about plans related to construction, especially pertaining to the IH-30 reconstruction project. He is concerned that if good plans are not in place to deal with construction, then ‘system overloads’ may worsen. Board Member Branch pointed out that most late calls tend to occur in Fate and Royse City, so perhaps more unit hours are needed in those jurisdictions. Mr. Ownby shared that 1.5 new units (one 24 hour truck and a day car) have been added to the system. Billings wants to ensure we have a plan to address growth as well as how ‘exceptions’ are going to be handled by the ESC board. Branch shared that sometimes the contract administrator is granting ‘exceptions’ that Royse City and Fate do not agree with. Board Member Johannesen believes the ESC should rely on the contract and its contents, and that those things should be enforced as specified within the document. Also, he does not believe the ESC board needs to be involved in having a traffic plan or determining where and when ambulances should be moved around, pointing out that he personally is not qualified to do those sorts of things. Branch does not believe ‘overload’ is a valid exception that should be granted. New wonders if there is a way to totally avoid “system overload” on the part of the contractor. Mr. Hitt pointed out that, per the contract, only the most recent 20 weeks of current data is utilized to evaluate system overload exemptions, and – again – per the contract, those are either granted or denied based on a mathematical calculation that’s spelled out within the contract.

The board took no action following this discussion / on this agenda item.

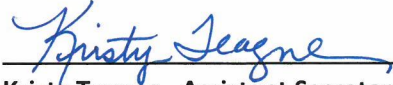
3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS 6th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023.


Frank New
President, County of Rockwall ESC Board of Directors

ATTEST:


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

