



COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - 5:00 PM

Rockwall Historic Courthouse - 101 East Rusk Rockwall, Texas 75087

PRESENT

David Billings (Fate)
James Branch (Royse City)
Heather Buegeler (Fate)
Trace Johannesen (Rockwall)
Dennis Lewis (Rockwall)
Dana Macalik (Rockwall County)
Bryan McNeal (McLendon Chisholm)
Frank New (Rockwall County)
Brandon Seery (Heath)
Deb Shinder (Rowlett)

ABSENT

Clay Ellis (Royse City)
Brandon Peterson (Heath)
Kenny Phillips (Mobile City)

I. General Board Meeting

1. Call public meeting to order

ESC President Frank New called the meeting to order with the above listed board members being present and absent.

2. Open Forum / Public Comments

No one came forth to speak during Open Forum.

3. Discuss / act on approval of minutes from the Jan. 17, 2024 regular ESC board meeting.

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

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

ESC Treasurer, David Peek verbally briefed the board on his monthly reports for the months of January and February. He also shared that the external audit firm recently submitted its report for fiscal year 2023, and the report will be sent to the board for its review and consideration soon. Board members indicated that it will not be necessary for the outside audit firm to come in person to address the board regarding the audit report / findings. Following brief, additional comments, Board Member Lewis moved to approve the monthly reports for January and February. Board Member Branch seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (10 ayes with 3 absences (Ellis, Petterson and Phillips)).

5. Discussion regarding Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) as related to Rockwall County's

infrastructure apportionment.

President New referenced Government Code 232.110 that deals with the apportionment of county infrastructure costs paid by developers. He shared that the state / the regulations are silent regarding how “infrastructure” is actually defined. So, the Rockwall County Commissioners Court recently passed a resolution providing the county’s definition, which he indicated includes things like 911 dispatch and ambulance services. He explained that the County will essentially consider developments in the county as “little, mini cities” for purposes of the Emergency Services Corporation. He indicated that doing so will possibly allow each of the ESC member entities to have their annual fees reduced. Mrs. Smith, Rockwall City Manager, reminded the board that currently the ESC is not paying any subsidy regarding the provision of countywide ambulance services. Brief comments were also made regarding existing ESC board representation and if MUDs (these ‘mini cities’) would have any representation on the board. The ESC board took no formal action as a result of these discussions.

6. Adjournment

This portion of the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

II. Emergency Management Board Meeting

1. Call public meeting to order

This portion of the meeting was called to order at 5:14 p.m. Board Member McNeal left the meeting at this point and was gone for its duration.

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

Jarod Rosson, County of Rockwall Emergency Management Coordinator updated the board on his department’s monthly reports. He showed a video and verbally updated the board regarding recent fires that have occurred in the Texas panhandle, explaining that many resources across the State of Texas have been deployed there to assist with the fires, which have burned many thousands of acres. He, along with one of his staff members, were among those who traveled to the panhandle to assist. He briefly spoke about some of the lessons learned as a result of being involved with this disastrous fire event, including the importance of tracking volunteer hours and donations, as local entities impacted by a declared disaster can utilize volunteer hours and donations to help with the 25% that they are responsible for when it comes to disaster-related financial assistance / reimbursement through FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Board Member Lewis expressed concerns related to automobile accidents that occurred this past weekend along IH-30 in Rockwall County, sharing that local dispatchers were unable to get in touch with staff at the Rockwall County Office of Emergency Management to request that NIXLE texts be sent out to alert the public of the wrecks / the traffic jams. Mr. Rosson shared that he is aware of the wrecks, and he apologized for his staff not being able to be reached, indicating that it will not happen again in the future.

The Board took no action related to this agenda item.

3. Adjournment

This portion of the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

III. Ambulance Services (EMS) Board Meeting

1. Call public meeting to order

This portion of the meeting was called to order at 5:22 p.m.

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

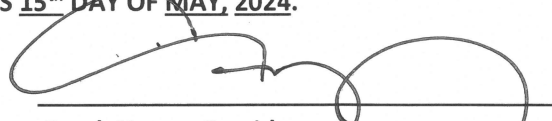
Mitch Ownby of Medic Rescue / Rockwall County EMS came forth and briefed the board on recent monthly reports, including response times, involvement in community-related events and company staffing. Board Member Branch expressed disagreement with the manner in which the granting of response time 'exemptions' or 'exceptions' are handled related to the ambulance services contract. Both Board Member Billings and Board Member Branch shared that they are aware of recent cardiac arrest emergency that ultimately resulted in the person's death, and they wonder if a sooner response time could have helped prevent that. Brief discussion took place related to the potential legalities associated with late responses to calls and potential, associated 'exemptions' or 'exceptions' being granted by the ESC (via its contract administrator, based on the contract in place). Mr. Rosson, whose staff serves as the 'contract administrator' over the ambulance services contract on behalf of the ESC explained to the board how exemptions to response times are requested by the contractor, considered (based on very specifically defined criteria within the contract language) and ultimately granted or denied. Mr. Ownby shared that his company operates with some protections, including 'indemnification' as well as insurance. President New requested that additional explanations related to late response time calls be provided by the contractor within its monthly reports to the ESC Board. Mr. Rosson clarified that all exemptions granted on 'late calls' for these reporting periods were associated with 'icy roads.'

The board took no action related to this agenda item.

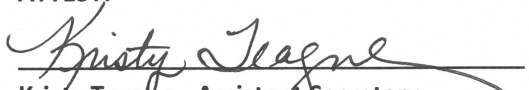
3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS 15th DAY OF MAY, 2024.


Frank New - President
County of Rockwall ESC Board of Directors

ATTEST:


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

