

MINUTES



COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Rockwall Historic Courthouse - 101 East Rusk Rockwall, Texas 75087

PRESENT

James Branch (Royse City)
David Billings (Fate)
Jerry Brewer (McLendon Chisholm)
Trace Johannesen (Rockwall)
Scott Kelley (Fate)
Dennis Lewis (Rockwall)
Dana Macalik (Rockwall County)
Frank New (Rockwall County)
Brandon Peterson (Heath)
Brandon Seery (Heath)
Deb Shinder (Rowlett)

ABSENT

VACANT SEAT (Mobile City)
Clay Ellis (Royse City)

I. General Board Meeting

1. Call public meeting to order

ESC President, Frank New 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

No one came forth to speak during Open Forum.

3. Discuss / act on approval of minutes from the Nov. 20, 2024 ESC board meeting

Board Member Lewis moved to approve the minutes, as presented. Board Member Branch seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (11 ayes; 1 absence (Ellis); 1 vacant seat (Mobile City)).

4. Discuss / act on authorizing the ESC President to execute engagement letter with Rutherford, Taylor & Co., P.C. for conducting annual ESC audit for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2024.

David Peek, ESC Treasurer, provided brief comments pertaining to the need to hire a firm to conduct the ESC audit for the most recent fiscal year that has passed. Board Member Lewis moved to authorize the execution of the engagement letter. Board Member Branch seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (11 ayes; 1 absence (Ellis); 1 vacant seat (Mobile City)).

5. Discuss / act on monthly ESC Treasurer's report(s)

David Peek, ESC Treasurer verbally reported on reports for the month of December, indicating that written reports for both November and December have been provided in the informational meeting packet for board members to review. He indicated that both first quarter invoices and second quarter invoices have been sent to member entities. Most entities are current on their obligations to the Corporation. Mobile City has paid and is now current, and McLendon-Chisholm's payment is on its way.

Board Member Johannesen moved to accept the November and December monthly Treasurer's Reports. Board Member Shinder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (11 ayes; 1 absence (Ellis); 1 vacant seat (Mobile City)).

Board Member Billings asked Mr. Peek to send him the name and contact information of someone at Mobile City. President New indicated that Mobile City will be holding an election, so new officials in that jurisdiction will be forthcoming after the election is held.

6. Adjournment

President New adjourned this portion of the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

II. Emergency Management Board Meeting

1. Call public meeting to order

President New called this portion of the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

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

Jarod Rosson, County Emergency Management Coordinator, briefed the board on his department's monthly reports. He shared that \$40k in public assistance as well as other grant monies have been received. He pointed out some upcoming training and meetings, and discussed high hazard dams within the county, of which there are about thirty. A meeting will be held on January 31 to discuss what would happen if the dams were breached or failed. This will be the start of working towards creating a 'dams breach analysis.' He explained that the endeavors are especially challenging since most all the dams are on private property. For this reason, there likely is no public grant monies available to help with the analysis or with mitigation of the dams. The first step, though, is to do a dam breach analysis, which typically costs about \$100k per dam. So, they may focus on the one they suspect may pose the highest risk and evaluate that one first. Board Member Lewis asked who owns the various dams. Mr. Rosson shared that, for example, there is one in McClendon-Chisholm that is owned by a homeowners' association (HOA). Rockwall City Manager, Mary Smith indicated that the City of Rockwall owns one dam, and it is located within a city park.

Mr. Rosson went on to share details of some upcoming elected officials training that he will send out soon via the county's public information officer. This will be a higher-level course to enable elected officials better understand their roles in a disaster and what resources are available.

The board took no action as a result of Mr. Rosson's briefing.

3. Adjournment

This portion of the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

III. Ambulance Services (EMS) Board Meeting

1. Call public meeting to order

President New called this portion of the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

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

Matthew Hitt from the Rockwall County Emergency Management office, who serves as the ambulance contract administrator on behalf of the ESC, briefed the board on a memo he provided. He is seeking direction from the ESC board related to the granting of response time-related 'exceptions' that appear to be associated with traffic-related delays caused by construction. Mr. Kovacs, City Manager of Fate, pointed out that these sorts of delays do not appear to be adversely impacting response times to a large degree – at least not at this point / so far. Mr. Kovacs wonders if the contractor should perhaps be adding more units. Board Member Lewis of Rockwall pointed out that while road construction is a 'known' issue, things related to the construction change on any given day. Lewis expressed that he believes construction-related traffic delays should be considered reasonable exceptions pertaining to response time requirements within the contract. Mrs. Smith generally agrees; however, she believes the board should just keep an eye on this, watch for any trends, and reevaluate if/when it becomes prolific. Board Member Billings of Fate indicated he wants to hold a special meeting to discuss this topic more extensively with 'the experts' (i.e. firefighter first responders/fire chiefs and Mr. Hitt). Board Member Johannesen, Mayor of Rockwall, shared that he prefers to focus on the contract and to not pretend to be experts. Board Member Branch of Royse City expressed concern about current roadway construction and associated response time exceptions carrying on for the next seven + years. He pointed out that he has been asking to see construction related contingency plans from the ambulance contractor for years, but he has never seen said plans, nor has he seen a five-year plan, as he has asked for in the past. He firmly expressed that Royse City is not in favor of granting these sorts of exceptions to the response time requirements spelled out in the contract. Mr. Hitt pointed out contract language, asking the board members if they view construction related traffic to be something that is "beyond the contractor's control" or not. Board Member Branch does not want exceptions granted for these reasons. Board Member Johannesen suggested the board 'do nothing' for now and just keep an eye on things. Mr. Hitt shared that there are about 800 to 1,000 ambulance calls per year, and – so far – there has really only been one such delayed response time to a call. Mrs. Smith pointed out that fire chiefs, countywide, still regularly meet with one another. She suggested that the board let fire chiefs bring this forth as a concern if they'd like, if it truly becomes an issue. Board Member Brewer of McLendon-Chisholm pointed out that it is incumbent upon the contractor to stay informed of roadway construction, including closures, and to make adjustments accordingly. Board Member Lewis asked the contractor, Mr. Ownby, how it is that he is currently keeping informed of construction. Mr. Ownby shared that TXDOT and/or the countywide road consortium are the methods by which he stays informed currently. Mr. Ownby shared that this topic is not a common occurrence – more so 'one off' random things that may happen, typically during daytime hours.

Mr. Ownby went on to brief the board on his monthly reports for November and December. He indicated that he recently reached out to the various entities to ask for population / growth estimates so that he

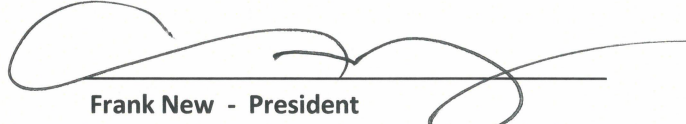
can utilizes that information to create five- and ten-year plans.

No action was taken as a result of this agenda item and associated discussions.

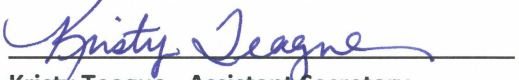
3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKWALL
EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS 19th DAY OF MARCH, 2025.


Frank New - President
County of Rockwall ESC Board of Directors

ATTEST:


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

