

FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 7

Minutes for the special Meeting of August 7, 2024

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order at 11:41 AM by Commissioner Lopez at the District Fire Station, 1834 W. Sycamore, Fresno, TX. The Commissioners in attendance were **Freddy Lopez, Sr., Barbara Hamilton, Janet McClain,** and **Ruston Hughes.** Additional person present were: Fire Chief Anthony Bates; Battalion Chief Palacios; and District Bookkeeper Mark Miller of Municipal Accounts & Consulting, L.P. (via phone).
2. **TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT.** The Board opened the floor to public comment, but no comments were offered.
3. **TO PROPOSE THE DISTRICT FY 2025 BUDGET.** Chief Bates presented the proposed 2025 budget. Chief Bates noted: prior to the meeting the proposed budget was reviewed by Municipal Accounts and the Finance Subcommittee (Hughes & McClain); the operating expenses factor in the assumption that the south station will become operational at some point in 2025, and increased staffing to support a squad vehicle in addition to two heavy apparatus for each shift. The Board unanimously approved the proposed budget, noting that it may be revised at the August 20, 2024 meeting when final action is required on the budget and tax rate.
4. **TO PROPOSE THE 2024 AD VALOREM TAX RATE.** Chief Bates and Commissioner Hughes presented the 2025 tax rate scenarios prepared by Coveler & Peeler. After a brief discussion Commissioner Hamilton made a motion to adopt a tax rate of \$0.10/\$100. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez and the vote to approve was unanimous with all present voting for the proposed rate. The Board noted that the \$0.10/\$100 rate was comprised of a maintenance and operations rate of \$0.085145/\$100 and debt rate of \$0.014855/\$100.
5. **TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING AND DATE OF ACTION TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT 2024 AD VALOREM TAX RATE.** The Board set the public hearing date for August 20, 2024 at 11:30 AM at the current meeting location. The Board approved legal counsel to coordinate the required notice of public hearing with the Fort Bend County Tax Office.
6. **TO TAKE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATING TO AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024.** The Board noted that the proposed rate did not trigger an election under the Tax Code. No action was taken on item 6.
7. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON ANY MATTERS REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF DISTRICT FACILITIES.** Chief Bates provided an update on the south station project: the out of district service agreement with FB MUD 189 for water and wastewater services is moving forward. Chief Bates reported the storage building at our FM 521 location was damaged by a fallen tree during Hurricane Beryl, and an insurance claim has been filed

with VFIS while the Fire Department is reviewing options to replace the storage building with one of higher quality.

8. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON ANY MATTERS REGARDING REAL ESTATE, INCLUDING PLATTING, PURCHASE, PERMITS AND ENCUMBRANCES.** No action was taken on this item.
9. **ADJOURNMENT.** The Board noted the next meetings will be held on August 20, 2024 and September 10, 2024. There being no further business brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:29 PM.


Janet McClain, Secretary