

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
BEXAR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 5
AUGUST 21, 2025

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, the Board of Commissioners of Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 5 had a REGULAR MEETING at 7120 E. 6th Street, Somerset, TX 78069 on AUGUST 21, 2025 immediately following the meeting of the Board of Directors of Bexar County ESD5 Fire and Rescue scheduled for 6:00 pm.

- 1) Call the Bexar County Emergency Services District 5 meeting to order and establish a quorum.**

Meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm. Board members in attendance were Herschel Postert, Howard Dalros, Andrew Flores, Becky Schneider, and Robert Pierce.

- 2) Invocation: Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.**

Pledge recited.

- 3) Citizens to be heard: This item will be open for a maximum of 30 minutes with 3 minutes per speaker. (If there are more than 10 speakers, each will be given 2 minutes.)**

There were no citizens to be heard.

- 4) Presentation from TXN Bank**

In attendance were Greg Sorrels, Senior Vice President Commercial Loan Officer, Zachery Duron, Treasury Management Officer, and Pam Fugate, Vice President Mortgage Loan Officer. Mr. Sorrels gave a little history of the bank saying TXN Bank resulted from combining Hondo National Bank and Community National Bank. He said they are big on supporting the community. There are locations in Hondo, Castroville, Lytle, Bandera, Leakey, and Uvalde. Commissioner Postert asked about refinancing current loans in the approximate amount of \$5 million dollars. Mr. Sorrels said they would be comfortable with that. They discussed the current interest rates of over 5% but said they expect a lower interest rate coming in September.

- 5) Report from General Manager**

It was noted there was a public information request from a firm asking for all vendor invoices paid since January 2022. Legal Counsel called them and got the request changed to January of 2024. Mr. Wilson said he would like to discuss further in closed session.

- 6) Report from investment officer, Commissioner Pierce, with action taken, if needed.**

Commissioner Pierce reported the current interest earnings this fiscal year are at \$78,577.

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The Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 5 is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modification and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Requests for accommodation or interpretive services at meetings should be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 5 at 830-429-7119.

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7) Report on the ESD Association meeting and legislative topics, with action taken, if necessary

Commissioner Dalros advised the board of Chris Herrera, previously the ESD Liaison, has been promoted to a new position. Chief Estep said they are worried about SB10 that takes the rate multiplier for ESDs from 3.5 to 2.5%. He said this would significantly reduce the amount of tax revenue for ESDs. He urged the Commissioners to contact their representative to voice their concerns and noted how fast things are moving in this 2nd session. There was also discussion about having a swift water training facility in Harris County. No action was taken.

8) Consent Agenda:

a) Review and approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting on July 17, 2025 and the August 5, 2025 Special Meeting and Budget Workshop

Motion by Commissioner Dalros to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Schneider. Motion carried.

b) Review and approval of financials

Motion by Commissioner Flores to accept the financials as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pierce. Motion carried.

9) Report and presentation from the Fire Chief, including funding requests, trainings, public relations, and station maintenance, with action taken as appropriate:

Chief gave his report including trainings saying the crews have completed the Advanced EMT coursework, status of apparatus, report on septic at Station 150, and call volumes. Chief presented a report on the board including all permits from the City of Somerset and the findings from Canco Construction determining the septic line is too small to handle the volume of the 3 businesses (Fire Station, Dairy Queen, and Dollar General). Legal Counsel will review the report and make a recommendation at a later date.

Call volumes reported were 69 calls from Station 150 with an average response time of 5:17; 120 calls from Station 151 with an average response time of 8:18; 59 calls from Station 152 with an average response time of 6:12; and 146 calls from Station 153 with an average response time of 7:21.

Motion by Commissioner Flores to accept the Chief's report as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pierce. Motion carried.

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10) Action items:

Re: Station 153 (Montgomery Road):

- a) Progress report from AGCM, with action taken as necessary, for completion and close out of the project**

Mark Price of AGCM said they will ask TDLR for a waiver on ADA compliance for the door going into the bay. He said there are just 2 items left – the shower and the testing on the septic. He said they have the warranty log put together. Chief is working on a digital marquee sign and the awning once all the other items are complete. There was also a discussion about keeping the gates closed to keep people from dumping inside the property. No action taken.

Re: Future fire station at IH35 and Luckey Road

- b) Discussion and possible action regarding update of the contract with the architect/Beaty Palmer, maintenance of the property, and request for proposals, construction methods and any other matters related thereto**

Commissioner Postert noted that Mike Desalme cut the grass. There was a discussion about the lock being cut and it was unclear as to whether that was CPS or Tiger Sanitation. No action taken.

Re: Future fire station at 9310 Mechler Lane:

- c) Discussion and action taken as necessary, regarding maintenance of the property, and any other related matters**

Chief Estep noted that the sign is down again. He will reinforce it and also wants to put a game camera out there to see what is happening. No action taken.

Other items:

- d) Review and ratify the tax calculation worksheet as provided by the County**

It was noted that this is the worksheet that displays the NNR rate and the VAR.

It was signed by Commissioner Postert and returned to the county on 8/12/2025.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce to ratify the tax calculation worksheet as provided.

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Seconded by Commissioner Flores. Motion carried.

- e) **Discussion and action to propose the 2025-2026 District Budget**
Motion by Commissioner Dalros to approve the proposed 2025-2026 budget as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pierce. Motion carried.
- f) **Discussion and action to propose a tax rate to fund the 2025-2026 budget**
Motion by Commissioner Dalros to propose a tax rate of 10 cents per \$100 of property value. Seconded by Commissioner Schneider. Motion carried with a vote as follows: Commissioner Postert, aye; Commissioner Dalros, aye; Commissioner Flores, aye; Commissioner Schneider, aye; Commissioner Pierce, aye. No Commissioners voting nay and no commissioners absent or abstaining.
- g) **Set a date in September for a Public Hearing / Regular Meeting**
Due the timelines for publications and adopting the tax rate, the board will have the Public Hearing and next Regular Meeting on September 11, 2025.
- h) **Personnel issues: Including but not limited to hiring, terminations, discipline, suspensions, compensation, employee evaluations, and hiring of General Manager/Administrator any other related matters .**
The committee comprised of Commissioners Flores and Pierce, Chief Estep, and current GM Sheila Staggs held interviews for the applicants on 8/20/2025. Of the four scheduled, only 1 showed up. She had been the frontrunner for the committee and did very well in the interview. The committee recommended going forward with making a job offer. Commissioner Schneider would like to ask more questions in closed session. This item was taken in Executive Session.
- i) **Discussion and action regarding the annual performance and salary review of the Fire Chief**
Commissioner Postert asked Commissioners Flores and Pierce to set up a time with Chief Estep to do the evaluation.
- j) **Discussion and possible action regarding a grievance policy for the public.**
It was noted that the corrections to the Grievance Policy had been made from the last meeting. Motion to accept the Grievance Policy as presented by Commissioner Schneider. Seconded by Commissioner Dalros. Motion carried.
- k) **Discussion regarding the 2026 Safe-D Conference, with action taken, if necessary**
There was a brief discussion about hotel rooms for the 2026 Conference since it will be held in San Antonio this year. Legal Counsel said it was up the board to make that decision and noted the usual evening events. Motion by Commissioner Pierce to book the hotel rooms for the Commissioners for the Safe-D Conference in 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Schneider. Motion carried.

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Meeting was called into Executive Session at 7:12 pm citing Texas Government Code 551.074 and 551.071 for agenda items 5 and 10h.

Meeting resumed in Open Session at 7:45 pm.

Item 5 – No action taken.

Item 10h – There will be a Special Meeting set for 8/26/2025 at Station 153 at 6:00 pm for a 2nd interview and for the board to meeting the GM candidate.

11) Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Schneider to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Dalros. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

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