

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
BEXAR COUNTY ESD 5 FIRE AND RESCUE
MAY 24, 2023

In compliance with the provision of Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, notice is hereby given of a REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Directors of Bexar County ESD 5 Fire and Rescue was held at 7120 East 6th Street, Somerset, TX 78069 on MAY 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

1) Call the meeting to order and establish a quorum.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm and a quorum was established. Board members in attendance were Herschel Postert, Howard Dalros, Andrew Flores, Becky Schneider, and Robert Pierce.

2) Invocation: Pledge of Allegiance and prayer

Director Dalros led the pledge and Director Pierce led the prayer.

3) Consent Agenda:

a) Review and approval of the Minutes for the April 20, 2023 Regular Meeting

Motion by Director Schneider to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Director Pierce. Motion carried.

b) Review and approval of financials

Director Postert wanted to clarify that the kitty litter referenced on the financials is absorbent used to clean up after car wrecks or other hazardous spills.

Motion by Director Flores to accept the financials as presented. Seconded by Director Dalros. Motion carried.

4) Chief's Report; including requests for funds, if any; and Department and Operations report with action taken as necessary.

Chief was not present for the report, however, a written copy was included in each board member's meeting packets.

Director Postert said he had a discussion with Chief Estep about a new reporting system and noted it was paid out of the non-tax account. He said the board might want to consider reimbursement of that cost. There was also a brief discussion about thank you gift for the County Commissioner and staff but Legal Counsel said he wanted to check and see about the value of gifts they are eligible to receive.

The Bexar County ESD 5 Fire and Rescue reserves the right to adjourn into closed session at any time during the course of the meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above should such action be necessary as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.074 (Personnel Matters) or 551.087 (Economic Development) and any other provision under Texas Law that permits this governmental body to discuss a matter in a closed session. Action, if any, will be taken in open session.

The Bexar County ESD 5 Fire and Rescue 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 the board president for Bexar County ESD 5 Fire and Rescue at (210) 259-5397.

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5) Action items:

- a) Discussion and possible action to review and approve the Department’s annual audit**

Robert Carter was in attendance to give his report but since it is a combined report, he opted to wait until the ESD meeting.

- b) Discussion with action taken as appropriate regarding the future fire station in the Montgomery Road area, including any action necessary regarding financing, bid process, status of platting, and resolution, if any, and any other matters related thereto**

Director Dalros said the legislation recently passed about lifting the debt cap from the City of San Antonio won’t go into effect until March 2024 so the board will proceed with trying to buy the property from the county in the Fire Rescue name. It is expected to be on the County’s agenda on June 6th.

Director Dalros also talked about meeting with San Antonio River Authority and their concern over stormwater runoff. He said they have submitted revised plans to them and are just waiting on their response. No action taken on this item.

- c) Discuss and consider opening a new “construction” bank account**

There was a brief discussion about opening a new bank account for funds used to pay bills once construction is underway for Station 153. There was a consensus that while this is a good idea, it is too early in the process. No action taken.

- d) Update and discussion regarding the acquisition of land for a future fire station and other related matters with action taken, if needed, including possibly hiring a real estate agent**

Director Postert talked about development around the Luckey and IH35 area and that land will skyrocket. He felt it would be a good idea to look into hiring a realtor. He said the largest realty firm in the area is Gahlm but that is Director Schneider;s daughter in law’s family’s firm. Legal Counsel said there would not be an issue as long as she is not the agent, not receiving commissions and Director Schneider abstains from any vote or discussions on matters.

Motion by Director Pierce to have legal counsel negotiate a contract with Gahlm Realty. Seconded by Director Flores. Motion carried.

Director Flores said the City of Von Ormy is still working with the Developer on the planned community in that area. Director Schneider said she heard they may offer the fire department 2 acres on Quintana Road. No further action taken.

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e) Discuss and consider a plaque for Art Martinez

Director Postert expressed his gratitude for Mr. Martinez' help in getting the legislation passed and would like to get a plaque for him. Director Dalros talked about the Association already recognizing several individuals. No action taken on this item.

f) Set a date for a budget meeting.

It was noted the budget workshop will be held separate from the regular meeting. Date was set for June 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

6) Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Director Schneider. Seconded by Director Dalros. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

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