

HIDALGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1
Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 20, 2025

The following Commissioners were present: James A. Vos, Mark McCaleb and Ramon “Monse” Montalvo.

In addition, the following people were present: Richard S. Talbert, Attorney, Commissioner David Fuentes for Hidalgo County Precinct 1, Mayor Adrian Gonzalez for City of Weslaco and City Manager Martin Garza for City of Weslaco

- I. Meeting was called to order and quorum established at 12:05 p.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2024, meeting – After review and discussion, Commissioner Vos moved to approve the Minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Motion carried unanimously.
- III. Public Comments – None were presented.
- IV. New Business – discussion and possible action
 - A. Oath of Office for Newly Appointed Commissioners – No action taken as the County Commissioners Court has yet to take action.
 - B. Election of Officers – After review and discussion, Commissioner Vos moved to keep the same officers as the prior year being President – Mark McCaleb, Vice-President – Ramon Montalvo and Secretary/Treasurer – Jennifer Rektorik. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Motion carried unanimously.
 - C. Approval of signatories on District Operating Account at Rio Bank and other deposits at Freedom Bank – After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken since the officers remained the same and existing signatory authority will remain the same.
 - D. Financial Report for December 2024 – After review and discussion, Commissioner Montalvo moved to accept the Financial Report as presented and file it for audit, seconded by Commissioner Vos. Motion carried unanimously.
 - E. Bills to be Paid – After review and discussion, Commissioner Montalvo moved to pay the bills as follows: (1) \$94.81 to Richard Talbert for reimbursement of Food Supplies for meeting on January 20, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Vos. Motion carried unanimously.
- V. Other Business - discussion and possible action
 - A. Correspondence

1. Paul Villarreal, Jr., Tax Assessor-Collector – Monthly Collection Report – After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken.
 2. Hidalgo County Appraisal District – Surplus Equipment – After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken.
 3. Hidalgo County Appraisal District – 2025 Entity Assessment – After review and discussion, Commissioner Vos moved to pay the entire annual assessment of \$6,898.00 in one payment rather than quarterly payments, seconded by Commissioner Vos. Motion carried unanimously.
 4. Montalvo Insurance – Old Republic Surety Company – Continuation Certificate on Treasurer Bond for period 1/20/2025 to 1/20/2026 – After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken.
- B. City of Weslaco – Interlocal Governmental Agreement – Ambulance Services (IGAAS) - Status report on current IGAAS from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2026; Approval of quarterly contract payment for period October, November and December 2024 – After review and discussion, Commissioner Montalvo moved to authorize the quarterly payment for October, November and December 2024 in the amount of \$80,625.00 to the City, seconded by Commissioner Vos. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Hidalgo County Precinct 1 – discussion and possible action on potential interlocal governmental agreement relating to provision of emergency services and related funding mechanisms within the District and the Precinct – After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken.
- D. Hidalgo County Ad Hoc Committee on Emergency Services – discussion and possible action on proceedings related to county-wide review of provision of emergency services vis a vis existing Emergency Service Districts, potential new Emergency Service District for western Hidalgo County, and possible unification of all Emergency Service Districts on a county-wide basis and other possible matters related to relating to provision of emergency services and related funding mechanisms within the District and Hidalgo County – After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken.
- E. Increase in Authorized Tax Rate - discussion and possible action on ordering an election to be held May 3, 2025, in association with the Hidalgo County Elections Office to seek an increase in the maximum authorized tax rate for the District in accordance with the provisions of Section 775.0745 of the Texas Health & Safety Code and authorizing the President and/or Vice President and Secretary to execute all necessary documents related thereto – After review and discussion, Commissioner Montalvo moved to adopt the Election Order of Hidalgo County Emergency Services District No. 1 to be held May 3, 2025, on the proposition of authorizing the maximum tax rate for the District from \$0.03/\$100 to \$0.10/\$100 as provided under Health & Safety Code Section 775.0745, seconded by

Commissioner Vos. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Talbert was instructed to forward such Order to the Hidalgo County Election Department and take all the other actions necessary to comply with the requirements of the Order and the law regarding such election.

- F. Increase in Authorized Tax Rate - discussion and possible action on authorizing the President and/or Vice-President to take necessary action and commit the necessary funds to assist in the education of the residents of the District regarding the election to be held May 3, 2025, seeking an increase in the maximum authorized tax rate for the District and authorizing the President and/or Vice President and Secretary to execute all necessary documents related thereto – After review and discussion, Commissioner Montalvo moved to authorize up to \$15,000.00 to be expensed to assist in the education of residents of the District regarding election, seconded by Commissioner Vos. Motion carried unanimously.
- G. Designated Bank Depositories – Review of status of accounts and possible restructuring/renewal of accounts and designation of District depositories – After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken.
- H. Attorney’s Fees for collection of delinquent property taxes - Status Report and authorization to pay current attorney’s fees on delinquent tax collection accounts as per collection reports from Hidalgo County Tax Office and statements from Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, LLP – After review and discussion, Commissioner Vos moved to pay \$281.50 for December 2024, seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Motion carried unanimously.
- I. Texas State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts/SAFE-D – membership, training requirements available, reporting requirements and related matters – After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken other than noting that Commissioners McCaleb and Montalvo intend to attend the SAFE-D conference being held in Round Rock, Texas, in February.
- J. Website – status on establishment of website – After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken.
- K. Process of selection and/or selection of Auditor for the 2024 Audit – After review and discussion, Commissioner Montalvo moved to authorize Mr. Talbert to request a proposed engagement letter from Garcia & Pena, CPAs for the 2024 Audit to be considered by the Board at a later meeting, seconded by Commissioner Vos. Motion carried unanimously.
- L. Publication of required legal notices as provided in Chapter 775 of the Texas Health & Safety Code – Mr. Talbert advised the Commissioners that the District was required to publish a notice in January of each year identifying the address of the District’s administrative office being 612 S. Texas Blvd., Weslaco, TX, and confirmed that he would be taking the necessary steps to do so. After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken.

- M. 2024 Budget – Status Report – After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken.
 - N. 2025 Budget – Status Report – After review and discussion, no further action was required or taken.
- VI. Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the announcement that the next regular meeting scheduled would be February 17, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD S. TALBERT, Attorney for Hidalgo
County Emergency Services District No. 1

APPROVED:

JENNIFER REKTORIK, Secretary / Treasurer

Date: February _____, 2025