

HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 47

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

September 17, 2020

The Board of Directors of Harris County Emergency Service District No. 47 (“the District”) met in regular session, open to the public, on the 17th day of September, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Westlake Fire Department, 19636 Saums Rd., Houston, TX 77084, a designated meeting place of the Board and via telephone conference due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The Commissioners and members of the general public may participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference (using the video provisions of Section 551.127 of the Texas Government Code). The designated and primary method for participation is by telephone conference call pursuant to Chapter 551.125 of the Texas Government Code. The roll was called of the duly constituted members of the Board, to-wit:

Brian Havran	President
John P. Blanke	Vice-President
Sonia Yost	Treasurer
Gilberto Porras	Secretary and Records Retention Officer
Mitchell Copeland	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer

Commissioner Havran and Commissioner Copeland were present at the Fire Station. Commissioner Yost and Commissioner Porras were present via electronic device. Commissioner Blanke was not in attendance. The meeting was recorded via zoom.

Also present at the fire station were W.A. “Butch” Callegari, Jr. of Callegari Law Firm, PC, Attorney for the District (“Attorney”); Brian Desilets and Santos Acuna of Precision Utility, LLC, the District’s Bookkeeper (“Bookkeeper”); Mark Palmer, Fire Chief of Westlake Volunteer Fire Department, and Ginny Valls, Fire Department bookkeeper (“bookkeeper”). Mike Hancock and Glen Klimek of Consolidated Traffic Controls and Global Traffic Technology were also present.

Commissioner Havran called the meeting to order at 7:22p.m., and the following business was transacted.

Attorney Callegari confirmed that COVID emergency still exists and explained the protocol for electronic meetings and in person meetings.

Public comment was deferred.

The approval of prior minutes was then given consideration. The minutes from the August 2020 meeting were reviewed. **Comm. Copeland made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 2020 meeting. Comm. Yost seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously accepted by the District.**

The sales and use tax report was not available and the matter was deferred. The Sales and use tax contract with Sales Revenue Inc. was also deferred.

Commissioner Havran then recognized Brian Desilets and Santos Acura for consideration of the Bookkeeper’s report for the month of August. The report was emailed prior to the meeting. The report

was reviewed by the commissioners.

After review, Comm. Copeland’s motion, seconded by Comm. Yost to approve the Bookkeeper’s report, the District’s Financial Report, the Investment Report and payment of the bills as presented, received unanimous consent of the Board.

Commissioner Havran recognized Mr. Hancock and Mr. Klimek of Consolidated Traffic Controls and Global Traffic Technology for discussion on the traffic signal pre-emption system. Chief Palmer asked about the failure rate and discussed his experience years ago with HFD. They will need to know how many intersections the District is interested in for the service.

Commissioner Havran recognized Chief Palmer for consideration of the Fire Department report for the month of August. Chief Palmer emailed and presented copies of the written monthly report detailing the number of calls by category and the overall response times. The Department is still waiting on the 800 radio for the utility vehicle. They are using it to go to Hackberry this weekend to help with hurricane relief. We do not know when the badge ceremony will be at this time due to COVID. The inspection of the new squad went well. It should be in Houston soon. We are working on an equipment list. We will be doing Life Scan again. Please let Ms. Valls know if you are interested. Chief Palmer discussed the recent removals of officers and members for inappropriate behavior. We lost two officers and two members. Comm. Center and ESD 11 are in a dispute. Chief Palmer stated if Comm. Center gets locked out, we can dispatch from here if needed but it is a process. Attorney Callegari will find out more information on the situation. Chief Palmer asked about plans for the next fire chief after he retires. The District feels the fire department should make that determination. Attorney Callegari stated that the District should prefer the candidate but not select them. All agree the next chief should be able to get along with the Commissioners. Chief Palmer also discussed decreased income from the MUD districts. We are working to get with the MUD districts to assess the situation. Chief Palmer will get Comm. Havran a list. **Upon motion by Comm. Copeland and seconded by Comm. Yost, the Board unanimously approved the Fire Department report.**

The sale of fire apparatus was then discussed. The 2005 Pierce was discussed. Attorney Callegari explained the provisions about vehicle sales. The District discusses trading the apparatus in or selling at fair market value and other options. Attorney Callegari will get more information but explained the District could trade it in with no issues. **Comm. Copeland made a motion to authorize Chief Palmer to work with Attorney Callegari and restructure the purchase of the new fire apparatus such that the transaction trades in the existing apparatus at fair market value in exchange for equipment that will be used to outfit the new apparatus. Comm. Havran seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by the District.**

2020 tax levy and setting of the tax rate was discussed. Attorney Callegari reviewed the previously published Truth in Taxation notices and asked the Commissioners to recall public comments, if any, from the Truth in Taxation Hearing held earlier in the evening. Commissioner Porras made the following motions: “I move that the property tax be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.084 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is effectively a 6.82 percent increase in the tax rate;” and Commissioner Havran seconded the motion. The vote on this motion was accomplished via roll call and record vote as required by and in compliance with all applicable laws governing the setting of tax rates, with the Commissioners voting as follows:

Brian Havran	FOR
John Blanke	NOT PRESENT
Sonia Yost	FOR
Gilberto Porras	FOR
Mitchell Copeland	AGAINST

Safety Fest 2020 was discussed. They are holding the event online. Commissioner Havran and J. Driver will get together for completion of the video for the event. A virtual tour was also discusses in lieu of the annual open house.

Amending the budget was deferred.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS TO CONDUCT, Comm. Copeland's motioned for adjournment at 9:24 p.m. Comm. Porras seconded the motion, which received the Board's unanimous consent.

Passed and approved (date)

Gilberto Porras, Secretary