

# MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING AND BOARD MEETING OF TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 14

The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District 14 held a public meeting and regular board meeting at Volente Fire Hall located at  
15406 FM 2769, Volente, TX 78641

Meeting Date: Wednesday October 19, 2011 Time: 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Vice President Tanous called the meeting to order at 7:01PM. Four commissioners were present, forming a quorum: Brandon Tanous, Suellen Jordan, Al Blunt and Lonnie Moore. President Stevenson was absent.

VVFD Fire Chief Walter Groman and VVFD Board President Scott Spurlin also attended.

2. Citizen Comment

No comments were offered or received.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes of ESD 14 meeting of 9/21/2011

Motion to approve the 9/21/2011 minutes as presented by the Secretary was made by Blunt, seconded by Jordan, and approved by voice vote.

4. Review and Approval of Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Moore, seconded by Blunt, and approved by voice vote.

5. Receive and review reports from VFD Fire Chief and VFD Board

VVFD Chief Groman recapped the department's responses to the wildfires that occurred in September.

The department finished the fiscal year (Sept. 30) at approximately 10% under budget.

Station improvements in the last month included sealing off the conference room and living quarters from the truck bays with solid core doors, adding sheetrock and taking out the window between the conference room and bays.

The department acquired one new style AED. The existing AEDs will be gradually replaced with the new type.

Based on experiences during the wildfires, several departments are acquiring six-wheel ATVs especially equipped for firefighting. The ATVs proved very valuable in fighting wildland fires because they can go into areas the brush truck cannot reach directly. They can also be used to transport patients in rough terrain. Cost of the ATV with carry trailer is about \$30,000. The Chief is going to further investigate and will bring a recommendation to the ESD at a future meeting.

The VVFD had two vandalism problems recently. Someone damaged the monument sign in front of the building; an insurance claim has been submitted. After that, someone stole the Smokey Bear from the fire danger sign. The Chief is arranging to have it replaced.

The VVFD got another \$3K in grants during the last month.

The Chief will attend a meeting at Travis County this week and learn how to submit reimbursement requests for aid provided by VVFD during the wildland fires.

The fire chiefs of all Travis County ESDs have been working on a request from the ESD Commissioners Council to provide a recommendation on achieving a county-wide integrated fire service. Their report will be giving to the ESDCC on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Commissioner Moore will attend and will report to ESD 14 at the November meeting.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VVFD, which was incorporated in

October of 1961. A parade and big celebration are planned. The Travis County Commissioners Court passed a proclamation this week honoring VVFD and declaring that October 22, 2011 is Volente Fire Department Day in Travis County, Texas.

Commissioner Tanous asked that the Chief prepare a “wish list” of capital expenditure items, including a replacement/upgrade schedule for existing equipment.

VVFD President Spurlin reported on behalf of the board.

The Comanche Trail Community Association president contacted Spurlin with concerns about the zip line business and proposed marina for Cypress Creek Cove. The CTCA president will attend the next VVFD board meeting to discuss it.

The VVFD’s attorney, John Carlton, should finish his edits of the VVFD-ESD14 contract soon. When it is done, Spurlin would like to meet with two ESD commissioners to go over the proposed changes.

6. Receive and discuss updates on provision of emergency services to the District’s territory within Cedar Park ETJ, and possibly take action(s) regarding same; discussion of future annexations of District’s territory

Commissioner Tanous gave an update. City of Cedar Park will hold their second public hearing on the voluntary annexation of Deer Creek Ranch and Cypress Canyon this week. There were two recent articles in the Cedar Park Citizen regarding the annexation. Apparently the WCID is going to pay \$2M from reserves to pay down the \$12M district debt down to \$10M.

Regarding the proposed fire services agreement between the water districts representing Bella Vista and Twin Creeks, ESD 14 and Cedar Park Fire Department, the ESD’s attorney spoke to the attorney for the water districts and sent this update via email, which Tanous read, *”Legal counsel for Travis County Water Control and Improvement District Nos. 1F and 1G and Bella Vista Municipal Utility District has determined that the only way for these districts to participate in the agreement as presented is through TCEQ approval of a fire services plan and then a vote of the registered voters of those districts. Preliminary indications from these districts are that there may not be an interest by the residents for taking such action at this time, as reported by representatives of area homeowners associations and other entities and individuals. Both the ESD and the water districts are open to such further discussion as may be desired by their respective citizens.”*

Commissioner Moore noted that ESD 14 is ready to move forward with an agreement but it requires that the residents of that area want to make it happen. If they do, they need to let their water districts know it. Commissioner Tanous will ask President Stevenson to contact representatives of the homeowners associations.

7. Consideration and possible action regarding an agreement between ESD No. 14 and ESD No. 6

Commissioner Moore provided an update. At the last ESD meeting, it was determined that it was necessary to resolve the questions regarding service in the ETJ area (whether annexation would take place, whether a new fire services agreement with Cedar Park would happen, and the economic impacts of any changes) before tackling the question of a management services contract with ESD 6. Tanous and Moore met with Commissioner Karen Huber and Garry Brown to explain ESD 14’s position in this regard and to bring them up to date on related issues. Then Moore and Tanous prepared a letter from ESD 14 to ESD 6 thanking ESD 6 for providing the draft Interlocal management agreement and saying that ESD 14 wanted to table further consideration of it until the questions of annexation and possible new fire agreements were resolved. That letter was

delivered via email to Barker Keith, President of ESD 6, on Monday, October 17, 2011.

8. Public Hearing on the possible repeal of the exemption for goods-in-transit pursuant to Section 1-n(d), Article VIII, Texas Constitution and § 11.253, Texas Tax Code

Vice President Tanous opened the public hearing at 8:09PM. Moore reviewed the recommendation from the ESD's attorney that the ESD adopt an order to repeal the Goods In Transit exemption within the District.

There was discussion among the commissioners but no members of the public appeared to speak. When the discussion ended, Tanous closed the public hearing at 8:13PM.

9. Discussion and action on the repeal of the exemption for goods-in-transit pursuant to Section 1-n(d), Article VIII, Texas Constitution and § 11.253, Texas Tax Code

Commissioner Moore moved, "*I move that ESD 14 repeal the exemption for goods-in-transit pursuant to Section 1-n(d), Article VIII, Texas Constitution and § 11.253, Texas Tax Code by adopting Order No. 10-19-11-09, and authorizes Vice President Tanous to execute same.*"

The motion was seconded by Blunt. The vote was recorded as: In Favor: 4; Opposed: 0; Absent: 1; Abstaining: 0.

Secretary Moore will forward the signed order to Travis CAD.

10. Reimbursement and Payment Requests

Treasurer Jordan presented two requests for payment:

\$81,951.50 reimbursement to VVFD, per their written request

\$ 31.48 reimbursement to Lonnie Moore, for domain name renewals

A motion to approve and pay both requests was made by Blunt, seconded by Moore, and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer Jordan noted that there was recent attempt by someone to pass a fake and forged ESD 14 check. The attempt was unsuccessful and the ESD's attorney is involved in the investigation. For security, the current checking account is being closed and a new one opened at the same bank.

11. Adjournment

With no more business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Lonnie Moore, Secretary