

**SPECIAL MEETING OF
TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT 14**

The Board of Commissioners of Travis County Emergency Services District 14 held a special board meeting at Volente Fire Hall located at

15406 FM 2769, Volente, TX 78641

Meeting Date: Friday, September 02, 2011 Time: 4:00 PM

MINUTES, Approved

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

President Stevenson called the meeting to order at 4:04PM. All five commissioners were present, forming a quorum: Tom Stevenson, Brandon Tanous, Al Blunt, Suellen Jordan and Lonnie Moore.

The ESD's attorney, Ken Campbell, and VVFD Fire Chief Groman were also in attendance.

2. Citizen Comment (All citizens who signed up indicated they wished to speak regarding Agenda Item 3)

Jan Yenawine stated he felt the proposed Interlocal agreement is a good beginning, but it is open ended and costs more than we are spending now for no additional benefit.

Yenawine feels ESD 14 is in a better financial state than any other central Texas department and is equal to others in capabilities. Yenawine expressed concern that it would turn out to be a bad contract over time like the Cedar Park contract turned out to be.

Gary Potts agreed with Jan Yenawine's points. Potts feels the ESD needs to consider the end game and what happens when annexation by Cedar Park reduces the revenue and the department's budget is cut back – would the department be in worse shape from having been under contract with ESD 6?

Brad Landi spoke, saying he has concerns about outsourcing to people outside the district who don't have the same knowledge or priorities. Landi feels the contract would provide the same service we already have but for more money.

3. Consideration and possible action regarding a management agreement between ESD No. 14 and ESD No. 6

The commissioners discussed their own opinions and questions about the proposed Interlocal agreement.

Moore read from a list of questions about the contract that he had made; he provided a copy of the list to the other commissioners. He also asked if it were possible to form a committee, to include local citizens, to consider what would need to be in such an agreement for it to be considered of benefit to Volente.

Tanous said he was concerned about the cost of the contract (\$75,000 annually) and mentioned other concerns.

Blunt asked if the prospective new contract with Cedar Park being worked on would cover all of the ETJ area or just certain neighborhoods. Stevenson addressed this and a

number of previous questions. He recapped the efforts of Twin Creeks HOA President Tom Moody to come up with a new agreement for Cedar Park service, to be partially paid for by the ETJ residents. That contract would cover any ETJ area not annexed. Stevenson said that the voluntary annexation of Ranch at Deer Creek was not certain to take place as there is \$10-12M of WCID debt that would have to be paid by Cedar Park from tax revenues if it annexes that area.

There was discussion of how a possible agreement with ESD 6 fit into the overall plan to achieve more integrated county-wide emergency service. Moore noted that that the ESD Commissioners Council is expecting a committee report towards the end of October 2011 as to what that service would look like and what the milestones and timeframes would be. Moore thinks any county-wide implantation would take 2-5 years to be in place. Moore noted that he was uncertain whether an Interlocal management agreement between ESDs 14 and 6 would make any difference one way or the other to the implementation of any county-wide plan.

At this point there were two citizens who wished to speak who had not been heard from. Moore made a motion to reopen Agenda Item 2, Citizen Comment, in order to hear from them. The motion was seconded by Stevenson and approved by voice vote.

Additional Citizen Comment:

Ken Beck, President of Volente Neighborhood Association, said he thinks the document is a starting point. He offered to serve on a committee if one is formed, and said the commission should consider four areas:

1) Auto –aid needs to be spelled out; 2) Spell out the issue of future annexation and how the agreement will be affected by annexation and decreased revenues; 3) Clarify how the ETJ areas are to be serviced; 4) Detail the management structure as it applies to the ESD 14 (Volente) fire department – who at ESD 6 would have responsibility over the Volente area, how much time will be dedicated to Volente, what happens with the VVFD board, etc.

Roger Shull said that such contracts should be looked at as costs versus benefits. He does not see any additional benefits coming from the contract as written. He said he could see no indication of how better service would come to the Volente area from the proposed contract.

At this point everyone who had signed up had spoken and so the public comment section was closed by President Stevenson.

The commissioners continued discussing the proposed Interlocal agreement. The question was asked – what happens if no agreement with ESD 6 is reached? Stevenson pointed out that ESD 6 had voluntarily extended full auto-aid to ESD 14 from the more limited auto-aid that was in place before. He mentioned that it is possible that ESD 6 might not wish to continue full auto-aid if no agreement takes place. Stevenson also mentioned that there are three of five commissioner positions coming up for reappointment or new appointments at the end of the year.

Adjournment To Go To Closed Session:

At 5:03PM President Stevenson announced that the open meeting would be suspended and the commissioners would immediately go into closed session to discuss Agenda Item 3 with the ESD's attorney, pursuant to Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

Return from Closed Session and Reconvening of Open Meeting:

At 5:53PM President Stevenson reconvened the open meeting.

Moore noted that the issue of whether to establish a committee to review the benefits and issues of a management agreement with ESD 6 will be discussed at the next regular meeting of the ESD. In the meantime, the ESD's attorney is being directed to draft a list of questions and concerns about the proposed Interlocal agreement, based on comments received tonight from commissioners and citizens, and to include the attorney's concerns on legal points. When the list is done, President Stevenson (and possibly one other commissioner) will contact ESD 6 to review the list and discuss the agreement.

4. Adjournment

With no more business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lonnie Moore, Secretary