

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING OF
TRAVIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 14
15406 FM 2769, Volente, TX 78641
Meeting Date: Thursday, April 07, 2011 Time: 7:00 PM**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

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

President Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:07PM. All five commissioners were present: Stevenson, Tanous, Jordan, Blunt and Moore, forming a quorum.

2. Citizen Comment

President Stevenson asked those who signed citizen comment cards if they wanted to comment now or wait until after the committee report in agenda item 3. All indicated they preferred to speak after the report was heard.

3. Receive and accept report(s) and recommendations from Planning Committee and take appropriate action on same

Each commissioner was given a final copy of the Planning Committee report dated April 07, 2011. Wiley McMinn, a member of the Planning Committee and a resident of Twin Creeks, spoke for the Committee, narrating an overhead presentation which summarized the written report, which is attached by reference.

The four options considered by the committee were:

1. Maintain status quo with Cedar Park contract; cut ESD budget for the rest of the service area as required.

2. Negotiate a new contract with Cedar Park that provides a cost basis tied to property values instead of the current CPFD costs. Support the referendum for an additional one cent sales tax increase in the unincorporated areas of ESD No.14. Participate in a Travis/Williamson County wide auto aid agreement.

3. Activate a second fire station in ESD No. 14 along Volente Road in the vicinity of King Monument Lane to cover the areas of the ESD previously serviced by Cedar Park. This option would allow the ESD to partner with adjacent Travis County providers.

4. Eliminate Cedar Park as an emergency services provider and rely only on Travis County providers.

The Planning Committee's recommendation is Option 2, with Option 3 being the fallback recommendation. Option 1 was eliminated as either financially unsustainable or creating an unacceptable level of service outside of the CP ETJ area. The Committee felt Option 4 was less desirable than either 2 or 3 as it created increased response times in portions of the CP ETJ area.

At the conclusion of the presentation, President Stevenson opened up the meeting to questions and comments from the audience.

Jay Carnegie, a resident of the CP ETJ area, expressed concerns that Cedar Park would be reluctant or unwilling to negotiate a revised contract formula and that if ESD "lowballed an offer" it could stymie any possible negotiations.

Wylie McMinn responded that a contract formula based on property values offered an upside to Cedar Park if values increase; ESD 14, unlike the other ETJ areas, has alternatives to provide services; and ESD 14 can offer value-added services to Cedar Park by providing support response by VVFD and its Travis County partners.

Howard Levy, a resident of the CP ETJ area and representative of the Cedar Park Neighborhood Action Network, thanked the Committee for their work and stated he also felt that Option 2 was the best alternative for all. Levy expressed concern that there are only nine weeks left before the current contract with Cedar Park expires in mid-June and time to negotiate a new agreement is growing short.

Commissioner Tanous agreed and stated that he feels we need to have at least a tentative agreement in place by mid-May. Wiley McMinn stated that we should know within 10 days or so how likely Cedar Park is to negotiate a contract acceptable to ESD 14.

Stevenson stated that the fire chiefs, including CP Chief Connealy, are meeting on Monday, April 11th. Stevenson has sent an email to Brenda Eivens requesting a meeting on Wednesday April 13th to discuss a new contract.

At this point Wiley McMinn brought up the sales tax election on May 14th and said that the Committee feels that obtaining the one cent sales tax in the non-incorporated areas of the District is important to providing additional revenue and will help make ESD 14 more stable.

The next speaker was Uwe Nahuina, representing Deer Creek Ranch. Nahuina thanked the Committee and said he was worried about the deadline for negotiating a contract. He asked about additional meetings. Commissioner Tanous responded that the regular ESD meeting is scheduled for April 21st, and that April 27th has been reserved in case an additional meeting is needed.

The final speaker was Gary Potts, Vice-President of the VVFD board and a member of the Planning Committee. Potts said he is worried about how a management contract with ESD 6 might impact Volente and the fire hall / community center. He expressed concern about the fire station just becoming a part of another fire department and losing its own identity and control.

At this point the public comment portion ended and Stevenson asked the commissioners if they had questions or comments.

Commissioner Blunt asked questions about Appendix B of the report and commented that it shows that response times for most of the CP ETJ area are considerably delayed if CP station #2 is not available. In that situation, there are several Travis County fire stations that can respond more quickly than the next nearest CP fire station.

Commissioner Blunt stated he wanted to be sure that if a new contract is negotiated with CP, that it is not just a "band aid" approach and that the contract costs are sustainable for the long term.

Commissioner Jordan commented on report Option 4 (Eliminate Cedar Park as an emergency service provider and rely only on Travis County providers) and asked if it didn't generally provide a higher level of service in many cases.

Commissioner Tanous said he also sees the deadline looming. He wants to see ESD 14 in the best possible fiscal shape for the future, including after future annexations. He feels Station B is a very viable option, though it does have some drawbacks. Tanous feels that the CP ETJ area should be able to have the advantage of both service providers, with VVFD and its partners providing some service to the CP ETJ area as well as Cedar Park.

The following motion was made by Commissioner Tanous:

"I move that ESD 14 give President Stevenson the authority to prepare the facts, figures and methodology to support a proposal for a revised contract with Cedar Park and to go into

negotiations with Cedar Park beginning next week and continuing from that point.”
The motion was seconded by Blunt and approved by voice vote with no dissent noted.

Commissioner Blunt thanked the committee for preparing a great presentation and for all the time the members put in. In response to a question by Moore, Stevenson stated that the Planning Committee has not been disbanded at this point but there are currently no more scheduled meetings.

4. Reimbursement and Payment Requests

Treasurer Jordan presented three requests for payment:

\$40,067.20 reimbursement to VVFD, per their written request;

\$ 660.00 to SAFE-D, for attendance at the annual meeting in Austin;

\$ 993.00 to Travis County Elections Division; 75% of the cost of the sales tax election

Moore moved to approve payment of the three payment requests. The motion was seconded by Blunt and approved by voice vote.

5. Adjournment

The next scheduled ESD meeting is Thursday, April 21st. Moore stated that he would like to add an agenda item to that meeting for the election of ESD officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). The ESD normally elects officers each year after the appointments and reappointments are made by the Commissioners Court. Moore will also put an agenda item for a possible closed session in case the board needs to go into consultation with its attorney regarding negotiations with Cedar Park or other matters.

With no more business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lonnie Moore, Secretary