



**MEDINA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT 1  
PO BOX 1037  
CASTROVILLE, TEXAS 78009**

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, July 31, 2024 7:00PM

Meeting Location: Medina County Precinct 2 Bldg., Courtroom, 8366 FM 471 S, Castroville, TX 78009

**I. OPEN MEETING:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL:**

President Marvin Dziuk called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, and established a quorum with commissioners Tom Page, Jenny Ferren, Leroy Haby and Rodney Hitzfelder present. Also present were Fire Chief Clinton Cooke, District Administrator Polly Edlund and Assistant Fire Chief Sarah Windsor.

**1 – A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO UNITED STATES AND TEXAS FLAGS:**

President Dziuk requested all in attendance to rise, face the United States and Texas flags and pledge their allegiance to each. President Dziuk thanked all for their participation.

**1 – B. INVOCATION:**

At President Dziuk's request, Chief Cooke led the assembly in prayer giving thanks to God and asking for His guidance for the Board and members of the MCESD#1, and for His protection for all first responders.

**1 – C. INTRODUCTION OF ANY SPECIAL GUEST(S)/RECOGNITIONS:**

None.

**2. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

**3. ADMINISTRATION – DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTIONS/ACTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING:**

**3 - A. MINUTES, RESOLUTION OF ACCEPTANCE – (July 10th Minutes)**

Commissioner Page discussed the July 10th minutes. There had been one modification to the draft 1 minutes under section 3-E removing the word 'onus' and replacing it with 'responsibility'. Commissioner Page moved to accept the minutes as amended with the modification as discussed. Commissioner Hitzfelder seconded his motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED MEETING**

**The MCESD#1 Board of Commissioners will meet in closed session as authorized by Texas Government Code Chapter 551 under the following section: Texas Government Code 551.072, Deliberation about Real Property.**

**A. Discussion and action on the District's possible acquisition of real property and authorize the appropriate District officers and officials to take all necessary actions in relation to same.**

Commissioner Hitzfelder moved to meet in closed executive session as authorized by Texas Government Code Chapter 551 under §551.072, Deliberation about Real Property. Commissioner Page seconded his motion, and the motion was approved with a 4-0 vote. The MCESD1 Board of Commissioners, Chief Cooke, and Administrator Edlund went into executive session at 7:03pm.

Commissioner Hitzfelder moved to adjourn the executive session. Commissioner Page seconded his motion, the motion was approved with a 4-0 vote, President Dziuk concurred. President Dziuk adjourned the executive session at 7:23pm.

**III. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

President Dziuk reconvened the meeting in open session, established quorum with all Commissioners present and called the meeting to order at 7:24pm. Also present were Fire Chief Clinton Cooke, District Administrator Polly Edlund and Assistant Fire Chief Sarah Windsor.

**2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM A above.**

President Dziuk noted there was no action required following the executive session.



### **3. MCAD CERTIFIED VALUATIONS FOR 2024-2025 BUDGET YEAR – STATUS UPDATE**

The District had received the certified valuation numbers from the Medina County Appraisal District. Chief Cooke reviewed the information received in detail with the Board. Certified valuations were reported by the Medina County Appraisal District as 3,243,221,238. There were still 81,004,952 non-certified valuations still under ARB review. The guaranteed portion of those under ARB review was 73,444,262. The grand total of both certified valuations and the valuations still under ARB review was 3,324,226,190. Last year's total valuations were 2.9 billion. The new improvements portion of the valuation total was 473,813,785. Chief Cooke had seen the MCAD raise property valuations last year, but the increases were not as significant this year. Chief Cooke also reviewed details on new construction values, estimated number of new homes for the district and what those increases would represent in values, and when the property values would become property tax revenues for the MCESD#1. Only homes built and completed by year end, December 31, 2023 would be included in the current 2024 year's valuations. New commercial construction was also discussed, along with estimated completion dates and the projected values on personal property associated with construction projects. The increased valuations from completed construction and personal property would not be included in the district's valuation figures until the personal property occupied the buildings. The Board also discussed how the new exemptions for the homestead exemption and over sixty-five exemption affected the overall valuations of the District. The District had approved \$20,000 for each exemption in 2024. The maximum that could be approved in future years was 20% in exemptions on each one.

### **4. FINAL DISCUSSIONS ON MCESD1'S PROPOSED BUDGET & PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR**

Tax Rates: District Administrator Edlund noted the District had received the 2024 Tax Rate Calculation worksheet from the Medina County Tax Office. A copy was in the board's meeting materials for review. The rates came in as follows:

NNR – No-new revenue tax rate: 0.084

VAR – Voter approval tax rate: 0.093

DeMinimis tax rate: 0.105

She noted that the maximum rate allowed by State Statute for ESDs was .1000 per /\$100 valuation, and as such the maximum rate the board could approve was 10 cents per \$100 valuation. The Medina County ESD#1 could not use the maximum DeMinimis rate on the calculations worksheet; because it went over the 10-cent maximum rate allowed by the State for ESDs. Chief Cooke also discussed how the annual calculations worksheet could be affected by one-time increases in construction valuations. A large one-time jump in valuations could play a negative role on the following year's tax rate, forcing the overall tax rate to come in lower.

Chief Cooke gave a general overview of the July 31<sup>st</sup> proposed 2024-2025 budget. He had based the property tax revenue within the budget on a 98% collection rate of the total valuations provided by MCAD. As directed at the July 10<sup>th</sup> MCESD#1 meeting, he had made the requested adjustments to include two paid personnel staffing station #11 starting October 1, 2024 for the Board's consideration. This proposed budget draft included in the Board's meeting materials had those revisions included for the board's review. The Board discussed the increase in staffing costs which included new EMS personnel, station #11 staffing starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, and the addition of the new Battalion Chief position. Following the Board's discussions and answers to all their questions, President Dziuk moved the meeting to agenda item five to vote on the proposed tax rate.

### **5. APPROVE MCESD1'S PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR PUBLICATION FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL BUDGET YEAR**

Commissioner Ferren moved to approve the proposed tax rate of 0.1000 per one hundred dollars of assessed value. And further noted, the maximum DeMinimis rate could not be utilized due to State laws limiting ESDs to a maximum 10 cent rate cap. Commissioner Page seconded her motion. Discussion continued regarding the calendar for truth and taxation, the timeline for the hearing on the tax rate, and the deadline to adopt the official tax rate. Commissioner Hitzfelder requested Fire Chief Cooke present three budget options using three different tax rates to review for the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting: examples given were option one at the .094 tax rate, option two at the .097 tax rate, and option three at the 10-cent tax rate. President Dziuk called for the roll call vote on the 'proposed' tax rate at .1000 per one hundred dollars of assessed value. The motion passed with commissioners Ferren, Haby, Page and Hitzfelder voting in favor of the 10-cent rate, and President Dziuk voicing his opposition against it. The Board will discuss the proposed tax rate again during the August 14, 2024, public hearing to be held at 6:00pm. District Administrator Edlund will publish the required notice on the proposed tax rate in the local newspaper as required by the tax code.

### **6. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING**

Chief Windsor had wrapped up the paperwork portion of the State licensing process for the ALS services for the MCESD#1. The next step would be getting the State's approval and getting the medic units here. She would attend the pre-build on the

medic units in early August. The current ETA on the medic units from the manufacturer was late December or early January, but this projection was not a guarantee.

**7. NEW BUSINESS – INTRODUCTION OF ANY NEW BUSINESS**

**7 - A. Monthly Meeting – Discuss August Hearing, August 14th Meeting to Adopt the Budget & Tax Rate**

The Hearing on the tax rate was scheduled for August 14, 2024, at 6:00pm, in the Courtroom of the Medina County Precinct 2 building, 8366 FM 471 S, Castroville, TX. The next regular August meeting of MCESD1 was also scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at the same location. The 2024-2025 Budget and the vote to adopt the tax rate would be on the August meeting agenda.

**7 – B. MCESD#1 – MV Football game EMS coverage**

Chief Cooke notified the board that the Medina County ESD#1 had agreed to provide the EMS coverage at this coming year’s football games. This would provide public awareness for the MCESD#1.

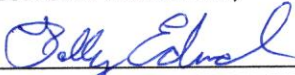
**7 – C. Division Chief of Training – Status update**

The Board asked Chief Cooke for an update on the Division Chief of Training posting. Chief Cooke reported the district had received thirteen candidates. Throughout the interviewing process the selection was taken to seven and then to the final top three candidates. All three of the final candidates had good qualities and very good resumes. The top candidate was offered the position, pending successful completion of the required drug test. The second and third candidates were offered lieutenant positions with MCESD#1.

**8. ADJOURN**

Commissioner Page moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hitzfelder seconded his motion, and the motion passed with a 4-0 vote. President Dziuk adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



POLLY EDLUND, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

MCESD1 PRESIDENT



MARVIN DZIUK, PRESIDENT