

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ESD 1
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS

The Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County ESD 1, convened in session on July 14, 2021 with the following Board Members to-wit:

Members Present: J. Steven Weisinger, President
 Chuck Frank, Vice President
 Tom Rozier, Secretary
 Sharene Carr, Treasurer
 David Cooper, Assistant Treasurer

Members Absent: NONE

The regular meeting of Montgomery County ESD 1 was called to order on July 14, 2021 at 6:07 P.M. by President J. Steven Weisinger. All members were present, therefore constituting a quorum. Also, present were Fire Chief Jason Oliphant, Office Administrator Crystal LaCaze, Administrative Assistants Andrea Meek, District Legal Counsel John Peeler, and bookkeeper Brian Desilets & Santos Acuna.

No Public Comments were offered.

Addressing item 3 of the agenda, Crystal LaCaze, presented the Promotional Ceremony Video to the board.

Addressing item 4 of the agenda regarding minutes from the prior meeting, the Board took action on the following:

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Rozier and seconded by Commissioner Carr, the Board voted unanimously to accept and approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on June 16, 2021.

Addressing item 5 of the agenda, the Board took action on the following:

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Frank and seconded by Commissioner Carr, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bookkeepers report as presented by Bookkeeper Brian Desilets and to approve payment of the district's monthly bills. Crystal LaCaze notified the board that the First Financial Bank switched their payroll platform from Gold Leaf to another ACH platform. First Financial Bank is requiring a Conversion Authorization form to be signed. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Frank, the Board voted unanimously to accept and approve the conversion payroll program through First Financial Bank and authorize the users, Steve Weisinger, to sign the form.

Addressing items 6a of the agenda, Chief Oliphant presented L' Squared concerns for Station 97 and would like to have L' Squared oversee and bid the project. To accept their proposal to do a technical survey. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Frank and seconded by Commissioner Rozier, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Chief Oliphant to approve and authorize each line item of proposal to engage engineering services.

Chief Houser updated the Board on Station 97 repairs: septic has been installed; there are remaining electrical system items to be completed; as soon as it dries up, the dirt will be spread out; regarding the installation of the new generator, the transfer switch was not replaced, so the insurer is re-opening the claim to address this item.

Chief Houser and Crystal LaCaze updated the Board on Station 95 which was struck by lightning again: the claim has been filed with insurer; it was the SW corner of the property; it might only be the firewall affected but will not know until everything gets back up and running; we are going to have a lightning Company to come out and give us the best option.

Regarding the Logistic Building, Chief Houser reports that the first phase of all the drawings is almost complete, and ESD1 can move forward with the next phase when they are completed.

Addressing items 6b of the agenda, John Peeler recommended that the board approve the contract to accept the donated property for Republic Grand Ranch as presented by counsel, subject to review by Republic Ranch Counsel.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Frank and seconded by Commissioner Carr, the Board voted unanimously to accept and approve the contract for the donated property, subject to review by Republic Grand Ranch Counsel.

Addressing items 6h of the agenda, staff reported that the SCBA's are in, and will be in our possession the beginning of next week. We have not received the bill as of yet, but we have received funds from the Bank.

Addressing item 7a of the agenda, John Peeler notified the Board that he is still waiting on information from the Tax Office regarding the timing of tax adoption, noting that we may need a special meeting on the budget and tax proposal sometime in the next two weeks.

Addressing items 7b of the agenda, no action was taken.

Addressing items 8-11 of the agenda, under Government Code sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074 and 551.087 related to closed sessions, the Board convened into Closed Session at 7:17 PM.

Under item 12 of the agenda, The Board reconvened into Open Session at 8:33 PM.

Addressing item 13 of the agenda, no action was taken.

Addressing item 14a & 14b of the agenda, Chief Houser updated the board about the status of the fireboat: our plan of limping the boat through the summer was going good until this past week. On the way back after answering a call the lower end blew up on the starboard motor. This was not the motor that we just replaced, it was the other motor. The power head is in and waiting at the boat repair shop. In the meantime, we have been talking to the constables and they have a boat that we could potentially use under an interlocal agreement with the County, in order to utilize the boat while our fireboat is getting repaired. Chief Houser is asking the board to grant Chief Oliphant permission to work with the Constables office and come up with an agreement. John Peeler, recommendation is to do so, but we need to discuss the insurance. Crystal states that we already spoke to the insurance agent, and they said it would be no problem to put insurance on the boat while it is in our possession. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Frank, the Board voted unanimously to delegate authority to Chief Oliphant to negotiate and execute an interlocal agreement with Montgomery County for the use of a County owned boat.

Crystal states that the District should see a new contract for the Woodlands dispatching services soon. She noted that it may include a new pay scale.

Chief Houser advised the Board on matters regarding the use of the Department's unmanned aerial vehicle ("drone"): as an ESD we can secure permission from the FAA to fly the Drone without a flight plan; among the requirements is a statement that this will only be used for emergency situations; the FAA requirements include a letter from District Legal Counsel John Peeler. John Peeler states that he will review this, however it might take

some time to get all the information he needs in order to write the proper letter, as his office is not very experienced with the FAA's requirements.

Crystal LaCaze presented the call volume was at 551 for the month of June.

Addressing item 15 on the agenda, no action was taken.

There being no further business, upon a motion made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Rozier, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:52 P.M.

Crystal LaCaze

District Office Manager and Administrative Secretary
Montgomery County ESD 1