MONTGOMERY COUNTY ESD 1
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS

The Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County ESD 1, convened in open session on July 14, 2026, 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

Addressing item 1 of the agenda, the meeting of Montgomery County ESD 1 was called to order on July 14, 2026, at 6:06PM by President J. Steven Weisinger. All Board members were present, therefore constituting a quorum. Also present were Fire Chief Jason Oliphant, Assistant Chief Kirk Bailey, Office Administrator Crystal LaCaze, Deputy Chief Michael Romagus, Deputy Chief Eric Rodriguez, Office Administrative Assistants Staci Pennington, Sherry Ramsel, Yesenia Espinosa and Kayla Gibson, and District Legal Counsel John Peeler

Addressing item 2 of the agenda, no public comments were made.

Addressing item 3 of the agenda, no action was taken.

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 Frank and seconded by Commissioner Rozier, the Board voted unanimously to accept and approve the minutes as presented of the regular Board Meeting held on June 17, 2026.

Addressing item 5 of the agenda, Office Administrator, Crystal LaCaze presented the Board with the Monthly Financial Report.
Upon a motion made by Commissioner Frank and seconded by Commissioner Rozier, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Financial Report as presented and approve payment of the district monthly bills.

Addressing item 6a of the agenda, Fire Chief, Jason Oliphant provided a status update on Station 91/Admin construction. Office Administrator, Crystal LaCaze presented the Board with the Durotech Pay App No. 06 for Station 91/Admin. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cooper and Seconded by Commissioner Frank, the Board voted unanimously to approve Pay App No. 06 to Durotech Construction in the amount of $1,149,712.25.
Fire Chief Jason Oliphant provided an update on Station 92 and informed the Board that the Building Committee, architect, and contractor recently held a 50% construction document page-turn meeting. He also informed the Board that the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) is currently scheduled to be presented for consideration at the September Board meeting.

Addressing Item 6b of the agenda, Fire Chief Jason Oliphant informed the Board that staff is currently working with the City of Willis to have the alleyway through the current Station 91 property abandoned, a process that could take approximately three months. He also updated the Board that the District has closed on the Clint Parker Road property.

Addressing item 6c-h of the agenda, no action was taken.

Addressing Item 7a of the agenda, Office Administrator Crystal LaCaze presented the Board with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and Texas Emergency Management Assistance Teams (TEMAT). She explained that a single MOU was developed to cover multiple teams in an effort to streamline the process.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Frank, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas Division of Emergency Management and Texas Emergency Management Assistance Teams Participating Jurisdiction/Employer and authorized the Board President to execute the agreement.

Addressing Item 7b of the agenda, the Board was presented with the request to consider and accept excess collections for the 2025 debt service and certify the debt service collection rate for the 2026–2027 fiscal year.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Frank and seconded by Commissioner Carr, the Board voted unanimously to accept the excess collections for the 2025 debt service and certify the debt service collection rate for the 2026–2027 fiscal year.

Addressing Item 7c of the agenda, Fire Chief Jason Oliphant presented the District's proposed FY 2026–2027 Budget to the Board.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Frank, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed FY 2026–2027 Budget as presented.

Addressing Item 7d of the agenda, the Board discussed the proposed tax rate based on the presented budget.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Frank and seconded by Commissioner Carr, the Board voted unanimously to propose a 2026 tax rate of $0.10 per $100 of taxable valuation.

Addressing Item 7e of the agenda, upon a motion made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Frank, the Board voted unanimously to hold the required public hearing on August 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. during the Board meeting at the District Office, located at 310 N. Danville Street, Suite A, Willis, Texas 77378.

Addressing Item 7f of the agenda, Office Administrator Crystal LaCaze discussed the fully insured health insurance renewal rates and requested the Board authorize staff to transition to a self-funded health insurance model through Pareto Health, utilizing the selected Third-Party Administrator (TPA) and Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM), effective October 1, 2026. She also requested authorization for staff to execute all necessary agreements and related documents.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Frank and seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board voted unanimously to approve the transition to a self-funded health insurance model through Pareto Health, utilizing the selected Third-Party Administrator (TPA) and Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM), effective October 1, 2026, and authorized staff to execute all necessary agreements and related documents.

Addressing item 8-11 of the agenda, no action was taken.

Addressing Item 12 of the agenda, Assistant Fire Chief Kirk Bailey presented a proposed Sick Leave Buy-Back Program for retirement-eligible employees to the Board. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Frank and seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the motion was brought to a roll call vote and approved by a vote of 4-0, with Commissioner Weisinger abstaining, authorizing staff to move forward with implementing the presented Sick Leave Buy-Back Program effective October 1, 2026.

Addressing Item 13a of the agenda, Fire Chief Jason Oliphant presented the Board with the monthly call volume report. He also informed the Board of the higher-than-normal call volume related to Fourth of July and highlighted the Department's participation in multiple Fourth of July community outreach and public relations events.

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

Addressing item 14 of the agenda, Commissioner Cooper requested the top 20 employees' salaries for suppression members to include the base pay, overtime, and deployment pay.

Addressing item 15 of the agenda, there being no further business, upon a motion made by Commissioner Rozier and seconded by Commissioner Frank, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:13PM.

Crystal LaCaze
District Office Manager and Administrative Secretary
Montgomery County ESD 1