



BLANCO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2  
P.O. BOX 972, BLANCO, TX 78606

**Minutes Regular Meeting and Public Hearing  
Board of Commissioners  
August 23, 2021**

**Attendees:**

<b>Ann Hall, President (AH)</b>	<b>Caroline Richardson, Auxiliary President</b>
<b>Todd Rogers, Vice President (TR)</b>	<b>Theresa Turner, Auxiliary Treasurer</b>
<b>Steve Scheffe, Treasurer (SS)</b>	<b>Steve Petrick</b>
<b>Carl Struck, Assistant Treasurer (CS)</b>	<b>D'Anne Welch</b>
<b>Lynne McKirdy, Secretary (LM)</b>	<b>Kenneth Welch</b>
<b>Ben Oakley, EMS Chief/Administrator</b>	<b>FF Peterson</b>
<b>Matt McMain, Fire Chief</b>	<b>FF Berry</b>
<b>David Hall</b>	<b>Rayma Stassen</b>
<b>Matt Herden, Citizen Advisor</b>	

1. **Call to Order/Announcements – Quorum established; meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.**
2. **Adjourn to Public Hearing –Request and consider citizen input on proposed tax increase. Adjourned to Public Hearing at 3:01 pm. Public Hearing Information sheet, “The Proposal” distributed to all attendees. President Hall provided a detailed explanation of the proposed tax rate by highlighting M&O and I&S, their meaning and the impact to taxpayers. One question regarding the station loan was asked by Steve Petrick. AH provided an explanation on the Station Loan. No other questions. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 3:15 pm.**
3. **Return to Regular Meeting, at 3:15 pm.**
4. **Public Comment - No action may be taken on these items unless on agenda. Please limit comments to 2 minutes per person. No public comment at this time, attendees will comment as agenda items are presented.**
5. **Consent Agenda – Items will be approved with a single vote. Items can be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Motion to approve consent agenda by SS, seconded by TR. Motion approved.**
  - a. Approval of the July 20 Regular Meeting & August 12, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
  - b. Financial Report as of 7/31/2021
    - i. Monthly Financials:
      1. Texas Regional Checking \$1,516,061.66
      2. Texas Regional CD \$132,476.67
      3. Lone Star Money Market \$218,368.37
6. **Fire & EMS Auxiliary**
  - a. Consider requests / actions submitted to ESD. Reports distributed prior to the meeting via email. Caroline reported that the Childhood Immunization effort is on hold.
7. **Chiefs’ Report**
  - a. COVID-19 Update – Significant wave with 84 positive cases and rising. Testing is way up. As an example, 41 tests were performed by noon. Positivity rate is very high. Vaccinations were not really increasing. Caroline and Theresa offered to assist with social media announcement regarding vaccine availability. Chief Oakley explained that

turn-around delays are occurring at all hospitals as no emergency room beds are available to transfer patients. When this happens, the service area is covered by a modified service delivery plan. The Supervisor on duty and, if required, fire will respond to medical calls. Oakley stated that full inpatient admissions are being held in the ER. On average the delay is approximately 30 minutes. AH stated that all career fire personnel are also EMTs whereby expanding our ability to provide medical call coverage if a return from transport is delayed. Kenneth Welch asked about a recent KXAN report that indicated two counties, Llano and Blanco, had not vaccinated prisoners. Chief Oakley indicated that he recently became aware of this report and would personally look into this matter.

- b. Operations Reports Fire & EMS. Reports distributed prior to the meeting. Kenneth Welch offered that County Commissioner Chris Liesmann will be updating the County Emergency Plan. Chief Oakley is already aware of the pending update.
- c. Interlocal Agreement with Blanco County for Fire Inspections. Kenneth Welch asked about adequate staffing, if the fee schedule contained in the Fire Inspection document was sufficient and if the agreement covers all areas in the county. Chief McMMain responded that ESD 2 had two inspectors on staff currently, he stated that he believes this is adequate. Both the City of Blanco and Johnson City are excluded from the agreement. McMMain also explained that the fee schedule was in use in Kendall County and that the first year would be a 'test' year with modifications made as data and experience are examined.
- d. Water storage Tank – Chief Oakley stated that ESD 2 had two water supply interruptions so far this year. Oakley suggested that ESD 2 secure a 30,000-gallon rainwater collection system for firefighting and essential services. Oakley is gathering pricing information and will work with the Auxiliary once all information is available. Kenneth Welch suggested that Grant funds might be available for mitigation. AH asked if there was a list of property owners with collection tanks that fire might access. Chief McMMain stated that GIS mapping will include credible water sources in the future.
- e. BCBS class action suit. Informational.

#### 8. Finance Matters

- a. Set Tax Rate for 2021 by adopting Order 08-23-2021. CS made a motion to set the tax rate for 2021 -2022 at \$0.10 per \$100 valuation. \$0.0853/\$100 is the Maintenance and Operations tax rate. \$0.0147/\$100 is the Interest and Sinking (debt) tax rate. Seconded by LM. Motion approved. Roll call vote below.

**Recorded Vote: (60% must vote affirmative)**

**For: Ann Hall, Todd Rogers, Steve Scheffe, Carl Struck, Lynne McKirdy**

**Against: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Absent: 0**

- b. Select Auditor and authorize signing of Letter of Engagement. Chief Oakley reported that the new range for the independent auditor, Charity Tabor, would be between \$8,500 and \$9,000. Tabor's work is high quality, timely and superior to the prior auditor. Oakley to sign new Letter of Engagement. LM made a motion to approve Charity Tabor as the auditor and also for Chief Oakley to sign the letter of Engagement. Seconded by SS. Motion approved.
- c. Approval Surplus Equipment. Thanks to the Auxiliary's efforts the new full-size washer and dryer has been delivered and installed. Chief Oakley is authorized to donate the former ADA compliant machines to a non-profit or surplus them as he determines best.
- d. Select ESD Attorney - AH recused herself due to a conflict of interest, leaving the

**room with Attorney Hall. TR led this portion of the meeting. After a brief discussion, CS made a motion to retain Attorney Hall, SS seconded. Motion approved.**

- 9. Executive Session** - Discuss personnel matters, meet with attorney as authorized by Texas Government Code. **Adjourned to Executive Session at 4:04 pm.**
- 10. Return to Open Session:** Discuss and consider action on matters discussed in Executive Session. **Returned to Open Session at 4:53 pm. No Action taken.**
- 11. Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at **4:54 pm.** Next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 3:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne McKirdy