

**EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT No. 2
COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS
P. O. BOX 2140
Canyon Lake, Texas 78133**

**Minutes of ESD 2 Public Hearing and Regular Monthly Meeting
August 24th 2023**

Public Hearing

The hearing was called to order at 4:32 PM by Vice President Tom Crossan. There were two citizens present: Bob Slupik and Doug (he did not provide a last name).

Mr. Slupik was the only one to speak. He expressed concern that the Canyon Lake Fire/EMS received more money proportionally than Comal County government operations. He said he felt the Fire Department received large increases in funding without demonstrating the need. Chief Mikel showed him our budget and explained it was only a three and a half percent increase from our 2023 budget as required by Senate Bill 3. Mr. Slupik said that he still felt that the fire departments operational budget was too large and should be more frugal in spending for EMS services. Further discussion revolved around the largest item in the budget - personnel. Mr. Slupik stated that paramedic/firefighters should not expect such high salaries. In the end Mr Slupik thanked the board for out open discussion of his concerns; he appreciated the dialog even if he disagreed with the Board and Chief's explanations.

There were no further comments by citizens. The hearing was adjourned at 4:46 PM.

Regular Monthly Meeting:

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Call to order, establishment of a quorum, pledges, and prayer.

Recognition and welcome of citizens present and their comments (subject to a five-minute time limit).

No citizens were present.

Review minutes of July meeting and August Budget Workshop. **The August Budget Workshop minutes were not available yet.**

Department Operational Report:

Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action regarding EMS activity data including call volume, response times, training reports and personnel status: Grants (approved, pending and received), and additional Fire/EMS items of interest. **Chief Mikel reported adding additional personnel on the many recent red flag days. He said this has already been beneficial. He also mentioned that progress with dispatch issues has been delayed due to equipment programming issues. Also, new dispatch consoles are on the way. The Chief mentioned working on a mutual aid agreement with**

ESD 7/ New Braunfels Fire Department, and that New Braunfels FD donated radios worth approximately \$20,000 to CLF/EMS, which are much appreciated.

ACTION ITEM AGENDA

- 1. Consider discuss and take appropriate action on proposed Automatic Aid Agreement for Fire and Emergency Medical Services between Comal County ESD 2, Comal County ESD 2 and Comal County ESD 7 (City of New Braunfels Fire Department). This is a non-monetary automatic response agreement including a map of agreed end upon response areas. This agreement has been approved by ESD 3, with additional parties approving or intending to approve. Commissioner Whitcomb suggested 6 month and annual reviews to assess the agreements effectiveness in order to adjust the agreement as necessary. Whitcomb made a motion to approve this agreement, motion passed unanimously.**
- 2. Receive report from the treasurer and consider taking related actions including approval of monthly bills, invoices, financial report and current status of audit process. Commissioner Dishman mentioned our goal to have a year of operating reserves in reserve, and then reviewed his financial report. Dishman made a motion to approve the report, motion passed unanimously.**
- 3. Discuss status of audit, approve if completed. Commissioner Dishman said he was still getting about a question a day from the auditors, and that he is working with them. A motion was made by Commissioner Dishman that he will submit the audit to the County as soon as he gets it to hopefully meet the absolute deadline: September 1, 2023. Motion passed. Commissioner Whitcomb expressed his dissatisfaction with the tardiness of this report**
- 4. Discuss outcome of budget workshop and identify funding shortfalls. The budget workshop was discussed and all agreed the budget and tax rate were appropriate given current staffing and equipment needs. Chief Mikel mentioned that due to the long build times for new ambulances some money in the 2023 budget might need to carried over to 2024 because of delivery delays.**
- 5. Consider, discuss and take appropriate action/approval of the proposed FY 2024 Annual Maintenance & Operations Budget. Commissioner Dishman made a motion to approve the 2024 budget. Motion passed unanimously.**
- 6. Take a record vote on the District's 2023 Maintenance & Operations tax rate, adopt an Order Levying Taxes and authorize filing the Order with the Comal County Tax Assessor/Collector. A record vote was taken - Commissioner Crossan - Yes, Commissioner Schein - Yes, Commissioner Fran Hays – Yes.**

Presentation of communications received. **No communication was received.**

Identify agenda items for September meeting.

Commissioners Comments (will not be subject to discussion or voting).

Adjourn. **The regular monthly meeting adjourned at 5:28 PM.**