THE STATE OF TEXAS §

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COUNTY OF CAMERON §

# CAMERON COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 20, 2021

The Board of Managers of the Cameron County Emergency Communication District (CCECD) met according to posted agenda, via Zoom, which meeting identification number and passcode was provided to Board Members and the public. The Zoom Video Conference was managed by Cameron County Emergency Communication (9-1-1) District (CCECD) Building Board Room, located at 501 Camelot Drive, Harlingen, Texas, at 10:00 A.M., for a Meeting of the Board of Managers, on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

#### Present:

Item 1.

Board Members: Mario Prado (President),

Video Conference: Bill Aston (Vice-President), Sam Ortega, Henry Etheridge, and Gabriel

Moreno

Board Members Absent: Domingo Diaz Directors: S. Barajas, and J. Davila

Corporate Counsel: Juan M. Pequeno, Jr. (Video Conference)

Others: A. Chavez, A. Garrido, and J. Garcia (CCECD- Video Conference).

However, pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, codified as Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 551.002 (Open Meetings Requirements) (Vernon 2017) ("Every regular, special, or called meeting of a governmental body shall be open to the public, except as provided by this chapter".)

Call to order (Pledge of Allegiance)

Call to order by Mr. Prado at 10:09 A.M. to open the meeting. Mr. Prado informed attendees that on March 16<sup>th</sup>, the Governor and General Paxton temporarily suspended and extended open meeting laws to allow telephonic and videoconference meeting due to the Coronavirus (Covid-19). CCECD meet all requirements of the open meeting laws. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 2.

"Swearing-in" of (re-appointment) CCECD Board Members Domingo Diaz, Sam Ortega, Henry Etheridge, pursuant to Tex. Const. Art. XVI, § 1 (Vernon Supp. 2016) (Official Oath). Official Oath administered individually to each board member by Alma Linda Chavez, a Notary of the State of Texas at CCECD in the presence of the Executive and Deputy Directors and noted in the Journal of Notarial Acts. Motion to acknowledge said information by Bill Aston. Seconded by Mario

Prado. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. Establishment of a Quorum.

After confirmation of a voting quorum (4 of 5 quorum) by Ms. Barajas though members of the board are not gathered in a central location and confirmation was attained by attendance through telephone conference call. Mr. Pequeno confirmed that neither action nor motion was necessary. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 4.

Item 4. Public Comment.

Mario Prado, Board President opened public comment on any agenda item to anyone attending the meeting by telephone conference call. After a brief time and with no attendees and no comments made and confirmation was made that there were no other attendees on the telephone conference call, Mr. Prado closed public comment section. Motion made by Henry Etheridge to close public comment. Seconded by Sam Ortega. The motion carried unanimously.

- Item 5. Approval of December 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (as written). Signature obtained from Mr. Prado, President, and document to be forwarded to Gabriel Moreno, Secretary, for the same purpose. Motion made by Bill Aston to approve the said Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Henry Etheridge. The motions carried unanimously.
- Item 6. Approval of Bills (& Cash Flow)

  Mrs. Barajas presented the January 2021 Expense Report pertaining to regular monthly bills, after discussion by Board. Motion made by Mario Prado to approve the said bills (& cash flow). Seconded by Sam Ortega. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 7. Financial Report (& Banking Report)

  Ms. Barajas provided an update on financial banking and investment reports.

  Motion made by Bill Aston to acknowledge the financial report as presented.

  Seconded by Mario Prado. The motion carried unanimously. (The amounts of these reports were presented at the CCECD Board Meeting as with previous meetings.)
- Item 8. Director's Report

Motion made by Mario Prado to acknowledge and approve the said Director's Report as presented by Mrs. Barajas, which included no major system problems reported by PSAPs, attended on January 6<sup>th</sup> the Texas Alliance Director's Meeting by Zoom conference, which included discussion on Covid-19 vaccine and some directors discussed issues on getting their 911 tele-communicators vaccinated since they are classified as first-responders, in our district the hospitals contacted the agencies directly. Also discussed was the FFCRA (Family First

Corona Virus Response Act) which expired December 31, 2020 and what each districts are doing regarding sick leave due to Covid-19. Some districts have continued to pay their employees through the FFCRA coverage and other district's employees are using sick-leave. Another discussion was on the wireless fee bill, AT&T has come on board to support the local control one, which allows districts to charge their own fees just like the landline bill. Safety measures (disinfecting) continue every day in our building. I placed Covid-19 sick leave to be discussed by the board as an agenda item. This concludes the Director's Report. Also the Building Report as presented by Mr. Davila, the GIS Report was presented by Alfonso Garrido (GIS Department), and the Public Education/Training Report was presented by Jose Garcia. Seconded by Henry Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

## Item 9. AT&T Report

Mr. Moreno reported that there are no major PSAP problems nor nothing additional to report. Motion made by Mario Prado to acknowledge the report. Seconded by Bill Aston. The motion carried unanimously.

## Item 10. Board Committee Report

Bill Aston mentioned that the district should look into a vaccination policy and if it's applicable to the District since we have direct public contact. Ms. Barajas will obtain information from other districts. Mr. Aston and Mr. Etheridge expressed thanks to the staff and continued safety. Mario Prado made a motion to acknowledge the board committee report. Seconded by Bill Aston. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Item 11. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Pequeno stated that the board meetings are being held in accordance with the disaster declaration, where the governor update did relax, extend, and allow the use of telephone conferencing in substitute of in-person meeting. That will remain in effect until further notice. Mr. Pequeno reported with the Covid-19 vaccination whether it will change or not, however will keep the Board abreast for next month's meeting. Mr. Pequeno has followed up with the City of Harlingen CodeRed PSAP Agreement which is the only entity that has not been submitted. Reviewed the FFCRA leave policy which will be discussed in Item 12. A motion and acknowledgment of the legal counsel's report was made by Mario Prado. Seconded by Henry Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 12. Consideration and Approval of COVID-19 sick leave for District Employees. After a brief discussion at 10:44 A.M. a motion was made by Henry Etheridge to move into executive session to discuss the Covid-19 sick leave for district employees and the legal requirements. Seconded by Bill Aston. After board discussion in executive session, at 11:30 A.M. motion was made by Bill Aston to end executive session. Second by Henry Etheridge. Thereafter a continuation of open session, whereas a motion was made by Bill Aston to approve the continuation of FFCRA

(Family First Corona Virus Response Act) Covid-19 sick leave coverage policy with an expiration date of March 31, 2021. Seconded by Henry Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 13. Closed Meeting for Discussion of Any Item on the Agenda as may be permitted by Subchapter D of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Item was tabled since there were items to be discussed that needed an executive session. No motion necessary.

Item 14. Adjournment

At 11:34 A.M., a motion was made by Bill Aston to adjourn this meeting. Seconded by Henry Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved this <u>17<sup>th</sup></u> day of February, 2021.

Approved: Mars M. Trado

Mario M. Prado, President of the Board of Managers

Approved: Sabril moreus

Gabriel Moreno, Secretary of the Board of Managers