

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §

**CAMERON COUNTY EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 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, February 17, 2021.

Present:

Board Members: Mario Prado (President),
Video Conference: Bill Aston (Vice-President), and Henry Etheridge
Board Members Absent: Domingo Diaz, Sam Ortega, and Gabriel Moreno
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), Eric Garza, Sheriff, Tom Hushen and Charles (Chuck) Hoskins with Cameron County Emergency Management.

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".)

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Item 1. 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 16th, 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.

Item 2. Establishment of a Quorum.
After confirmation of a voting quorum (3 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 3.

Item 3. 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 Mr. Aston to close public comment. Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motion carried unanimously. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 14.

Item 4. Approval of January 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (as written). January's board meeting minutes were corrected to reflect two misspelled words on item #7 and #11. Signature obtained from Mr. Prado, President, and document to be forwarded to Gabriel Moreno, Secretary, for the same purpose. Motion made by Mr. Aston to approve the said corrected Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motions carried unanimously.

Item 5. Approval of Bills (& Cash Flow)

Mrs. Barajas presented the February 2021 Expense Report pertaining to regular monthly bills, after discussion by Board. Motion made by Mr. Prado to approve the said bills (& cash flow). Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 6. Financial Report (& Banking Report)

Ms. Barajas provided an update on financial banking and investment reports. Motion made by Mr. Aston to acknowledge the financial report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously. (The amounts of these reports were presented at the CCECD Board Meeting as with previous meetings.)

Item 7. Director's Report

Motion made by Mr. Prado to acknowledge and approve the said Director's Report as presented by Mrs. Barajas, which included no major system problems reported by PSAPs prior to yesterday's outages, on January 27 met with Motorola, Southwestern Bell and Intrado regarding deployment of TXT29-1-1, which would send text directly to PSAPS, similar to cell phone SMS texts. Currently, using TTY to route texts to 9-1-1. January 28th TELCO virtual meeting (with South Texas Districts and Council of Governments) provided an overview of what they are working on. LRGVDC (Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council) estimates their ESInet completion during May – June 2021. At which time, CCECD will see how it is working and implementation. Attended on February 3rd, the Texas Alliance Director's Meeting by Zoom conference which included discussion on Sprint Wireless Recovery invoice. Mike Tomsu, Alliance Attorney, informed districts to pay invoice for this year. The statute states 'Sprint can recover cost if

they are using a CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) network'. It's expected that in April 2021 Sprint will be using the 'T-Mobile's Long Term Evolution' network since they have merged, which the service is faster and global. Districts will quit paying the wireless recovery cost next year. Also discussed were the 'Wireless Reliability Fee Legislative Bills'. AT&T has three local control options with different fee range that districts can select for a three-year period to meet the district's needs. The options are; \$0.75 up to \$1.25, stay at \$0.50, and/or for Greater Harris County to go on their own. CCECD has selected the first range of \$0.75 up to \$1.25 (see Item 11). A new cost analysis will be calculated using this fee range. Safety measures (disinfecting) continue every day in our building. 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 Mr. Aston. The motion carried unanimously.

- Item 8. AT&T Report
In the absence of Mr. Moreno, no report was available and this item was tabled. Motion made by Mr. Prado to table item. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 9. Board Committee Report
Mr. Aston commended staff for working on the generators and that they are a true reflection of those working at the district. Mr. Prado made a motion to acknowledge the board committee report. Seconded by Mr. Aston. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 10. 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 that the CodeRed PSAP Agreement signatures have been acquired with the exception of City of Harlingen. Mr. Pequeno communicated with Mr. Hushen, Cameron County Emergency Management, regarding FCC (Federal Communications Commission) and will review the contents of any documents forwarded to his office. Mr. Pequeno mentioned that are different guidance on fee diversion and FCC is cracking down on this issue. If a clear definition on 'what is and what is not' a fee diversion is not received, might need to communicate directly with FCC and obtain something in writing to protect the district in case of an audit. A motion and acknowledgment of the legal counsel's report was made by Mr. Aston. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 11. Consideration and Approval for 9-1-1 Reliability Fee Legislation for local fee control from \$0.75 to \$1.25 for 3 years. Mr. Aston requested to amend this Item to state 'Consideration and Approval for 9-1-1 Reliability Fee Legislation for local

fee control, a range from \$0.75 up to \$1.25 for 3 years' for clarification of request. A motion was made by Mr. Etheridge to approve amendment of this item as stated by Mr. Aston. Second by Mr. Prado. After brief discussion of the amended item, a motion was made by Mr. Prado to approve amended item as stated above. Second by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

- Item 12. Consideration and Approval for Directors and Staff Services Officer to attend Texas Association of Counties "2021 Basics of County Investment Course in San Marcos, Texas" on March 8-12, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Etheridge to approve attendance. Second by Mr. Prado. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 13. Consideration and approval to not renew Satellite phone contract. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aston to cancel satellite phone contract. Second by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 14. Presentation by Sheriff Eric Garza's regarding request for Nice Recorder. Comment was made that there may be issues with the FCC and fee diversion. Mr. Hushens indicated that he was in communication with the FCC and they indicated this was not a fee diversion issue and he communicated he would forward that correspondence to counsel for the district for review and consideration. Mr. Garza was informed that legal counsel would inquire with the FCC and if they indicated in writing it was not a fee diversion issue, the Board would place the item on the agenda for a vote at a subsequent meeting. After the presentation and discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Prado to acknowledge the presentation. Second by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 15. Consideration and approval of Resolution pertaining to COVID 19 Sick Leave Policy. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aston the approval of resolution pertaining to COVID 19 Sick Leave Policy for the district. Second by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 16. 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 17. Adjournment
At 11:32 A.M., a motion was made by Mr. Etheridge to adjourn this meeting. Seconded by Mr. Aston. The motion carried unanimously.

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Approved this 17th day of March, 2021.

Approved: Mario M. Prado
Mario M. Prado, President of the Board of Managers

Approved: Gabriel Moreno
Gabriel Moreno, Secretary of the Board of Managers

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