THE STATE OF TEXAS

§ §

COUNTY OF CAMERON

§

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

Present:

Board Members: Mario Prado (President),

Video Conference: Bill Aston (Vice-President), Domingo Diaz, Sam Ortega, Henry

Etheridge and Gabriel Moreno Board Members Absent: None 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 (Video Conference)

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".)

Item 1. Call to order (Pledge of Allegiance)

Call to order by Mr. Prado at 10:04 A.M. to open the meeting. Mr. Prado informed attendees that on March 16, 2020, 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 (5 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 video conference. 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 video conference, Mr. Prado closed public comment section. Motion made by Mr. Prado to close public comment. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 12.

Item 4. Approval of February 17, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (as written). Motion made by Mr. Etheridge to approve the said Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Diaz. The motions carried unanimously. Signature obtained from Mr. Prado, President, and document to be forwarded to Gabriel Moreno, Secretary, for the same purpose.

Item 5. Approval of Bills (& Cash Flow)

Mrs. Barajas presented the March 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. Diaz. 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. Etheridge to acknowledge the financial report as presented. Seconded by Mr. Diaz. 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. Aston to acknowledge and approve the said Director's Report as presented by Mrs. Barajas, which included no major system problems reported by PSAPs. On March 3rd, Mrs. Barajas attended the Texas Alliance Director's Meeting by Zoom conference which included discussion on the freeze, Frontier power loss affecting 20 counties and its impact on 9-1-1, no internet affected the PSAPs, and laptops not connecting to the hosts sites. State Representatives are aware of how critical the wireless service fee is for 9-1-1 upgrades. Chairman White filed House Bill 2911, regarding statewide legislation of "Next Generation 9-1-1" addressing 9-1-1 funding issues. Mrs. Barajas also reported on her attendance of the TAC Public Fund Investment Course to satisfy the TPIF Act. Also, additional information will be forthcoming on HB1089 regarding 'Telecommunicator Negligence' and ESINet quote was received. Safety measures (disinfecting) continue every day in our building. This concludes the Director's Report. Also the Building Report was presented by Mr. Davila which included a

follow-up on 'Lessons Learned and Possible Solutions', the GIS Report was presented by Alfonso Garrido (GIS Department), and the Public Education/Training Report was presented by Jose Garcia. Seconded by Mr. Diaz. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 8. AT&T Report

Mr. Moreno mentioned the techs have been working on VPN issues, reported both host sites were restored, however are very old and need to be considered for replacement. Motion made by Mr. Prado to acknowledge the AT&T Report. Seconded by Mr. Diaz. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 9. Board Committee Report

Mr. Prado made a motion to table the Board Committee Report since there was no report available. Seconded by Mr. Diaz. 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 expressed a need to have guidance from Board addressing the Sheriff's request and whether they wanted to wait for the rule making process, placing on agenda, and/or further research. Board expressed prior to a decision they need to be on the right side, solid ground, not stumble in the wrong direction by trying to help. With that being said, Mr. Pequeno confirmed continuation of research and the need to obtain a clear answer on the fee diversion issue before putting the matter to a vote. A motion and acknowledgment of the legal counsel's report was made by Mr. Aston. Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 11. Presentation by Sheriff Eric Garza and EMC Tom Hushen regarding FCC findings as to purchase of Nice Recorder and whether it constitutes fee diversion. Thereafter a continuation of open session, presentation of question and answer session by Sheriff Garza, Mr. Pequeno acknowledged receiving a document from Mr. Hoskins on Friday (3/12/2021) and will review so the Board can determine how they would like to proceed. Sheriff Garza continued to express the current recorders were at "end of life", they have been like this for a year, needed to be replaced soon, currently operational however described the extent of retrieving data from the unit and needed emergency replacement so that they can provide service to the community. After a request for funding approval by Sheriff Garza, Mr. Pequeno stated that this item was placed as a presentation only and not as an action item, and that the document received was a "proposed rule-making information". Depending on FCC determinations or the providing of documentation by the Sheriff's Department that the purchase of the recorder was not fee Diversion, the Board could place the purchase of a recorder on the agenda at a later time as an

action item if it's clear that it's not a fee diversion issue. A motion to acknowledge

the presentation was made by Mr. Prado. Seconded by Mr. Diaz. The motion carried unanimously. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 4.

Closed Meeting for Discussion of Any Item on the Agenda as may be permitted by Subchapter D of Chapter 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, attorney consultation and advisement in regards to Item 11. A motion was made at 10:11 A.M. by Mr. Diaz to go into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously. After board discussion in executive session, at 11:00 A.M., motion was made by Mr. Prado to end executive session. Second by Mr. Diaz. The Board exited executive session, went back into the general meeting and Thereafter, the Board went to Item 11.

Item 13. Adjournment.

At 11:45 A.M., a motion was made by Mr. Etheridge to adjourn this meeting. Seconded by Mr. Diaz. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 21st day of April, 2021.

Approved: Mars M. Iral

Mario M. Prado, President of the Board of Managers

Approved:

Gabriel Moreno, Secretary of the Board of Managers