

THE STATE OF TEXAS           §  
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COUNTY OF CAMERON       §

**CAMERON COUNTY EMERGENCY  
COMMUNICATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 21, 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, April 21, 2021.

Present:

Board Members: Mario Prado (President),  
Video Conference: Bill Aston (Vice-President), Henry Etheridge, Robert Gracia and Gabriel Moreno  
Board Members Absent: Sam Ortega  
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), Lt. Domingo Diaz (Guest)

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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 10:02 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 (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 video conference. Mr. Pequeno confirmed that neither action nor motion was necessary. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 3.

- Item 3. Presentation of Resolution and Plaque to Lt. Domingo Diaz for his years of service to the CCECD Board and to the residents of Cameron County. Lt. Domingo was presented a plaque for the years of service to the Cameron County Emergency Communication District Board of Managers by Mr. Prado, Board President and Mrs. Barajas, Executive Director. Board members participating in the meeting expressed their appreciation for his service. No action required for this item.
- Item 4. "Swearing-in of (appointed) CCECD Member Robert Gracia, pursuant to Tex. Const. Art. XVI, (Vernon Supp. 2014) (Official Oath). Official Oath administered to 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. No action required for this item.
- Item 5. 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. Aston to close public comment. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 6. Approval of March 17, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (as written). Motion made by Mr. Prado to approve the said Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Aston. The motions carried unanimously. Signature obtained from Mr. Prado, President, and document to be forwarded to Gabriel Moreno, Secretary, for the same purpose.
- Item 7. Approval of Bills (& Cash Flow)  
Mrs. Barajas presented the April 2021 Expense Report pertaining to regular monthly bills, after discussion by Board. Motion made by Mr. Etheridge to approve the said bills (& cash flow). Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 8. Financial Report (& Banking Report)  
Ms. Barajas provided an update on financial banking and investment reports. Motion made by Mr. Prado 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 9. 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 18<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Barajas attended a meeting with AT&T to discuss

the ESInet cost. On April 7th, Mrs. Barajas attended the Texas Alliance Director's Meeting by Zoom conference which included discussion of Texas Electrical Grid Critical Load issues with the freeze. Also took measures to designate our 9-1-1 infrastructure as a "Critical Load Public Safety (CLPS)" customer, in accordance with Texas Utility Code. The Districts also mentioned that they continue to follow CDC guidelines on Covid-19 and are still closed to the public. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Barajas attended an emergency Zoom director's meeting to discuss House Bill 2911 regarding the three service fees previously selected. CSEC, AT&T, the District's Lobbyist, and lawyer discussed with Representative White the three different fees. Representative White requested one service fee from the districts. After much discussion, our District settled on raising the 50 cent fee to 85 cents. CSEC agreed that 66 cents would provide enough funds to service their 9-1-1 agencies. CSEC has been drawing down the 50/50 fund balance of 41 million after funding upgrades of their 911 systems. Some of these funds were tied up in balancing the State's budget. Our District will perform scheduled testing of our upgraded Text to 9-1-1 on May 4, 5, and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Eagle View (Pictometry) wants to do a magazine interview with Alfonso Garrido, GIS Supervisor. A disclosure statement for signature has been forwarded to legal counsel. We are working on getting quotes for a larger diesel generator and two additional PSAP consoles to accommodate the larger PSAPs for training/back-up in case of a 9-1-1 emergency. Also there will be a need for more 9-1-1 laptops for the PSAPs for the continued practice of safe distancing at our agencies. 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', adding additional PSAP stations; expansion of the building; up-sizing the diesel generator so that it will maintain the entire building; and expanding the IT Room to accommodate the ESInet equipment, the GIS Report was presented by Alfonso Garrido (GIS Department), and the Public Education/Training Report was presented by Jose Garcia. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 10. AT&T Report

Mr. Moreno report included that he is working on the command post laptop warranty issues and believes they have been resolved. He is working with Billy (AT&T) and Motorola, waiting on more information and direct care for the unit. No other issues to report. Motion made by Mr. Prado to acknowledge the AT&T Report. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 11. Board Committee Report

Mr. Aston welcomed Chief Deputy Robert Gracia to the Board of Managers. Motion was made by Mr. Prado to acknowledge. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 12. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Pequeno stated that currently 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/zoom in substitute of in-person meeting. Mr. Pequeno stated that in Texas, at this point, its optional to have in person meetings and it would be an administrative decision, if the Governor change the rules, we can resume meetings in this manner. That will remain in effect until further notice. Mr. Pequeno will keep the board informed. It came to his attention that the District does not have a policy in placing items on the agenda and calling special meetings. So with that in mind, it was placed on this agenda as item #14. A motion and acknowledgment of the legal counsel's report was made by Mr. Prado. Seconded by Mr. Gracia. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 13. Consideration and Approval to replace routers at the host sites of Harlingen PD and South Texas Emergency Care Foundation and the back-up network (End of Life). After a detail discussion, that included cost, routers used by other districts, and back-up network with a better response to repairs. A motion to approve of replacement of routers and back-up network was made by Mr. Prado. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 14. Consideration and Approval of proposed policy regarding calling of meeting, calling of special and emergency meetings, and placing items on the agenda from Cameron County 911 Emergency District. A motion was made to table this item for further review and add definition of meetings was made by Mr. Gracia. Seconded by Mr. Aston. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 15. 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. No action needed for this item.

Item 16. Adjournment.  
At 11:10 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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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