THE STATE OF TEXAS §

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COUNTY OF CAMERON §

CAMERON COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES June 8, 2022

The Board of Managers of the Cameron County Emergency Communication District (CCECD) met at the 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, June 8, 2022.

Present:

Board Members: Bill Aston (Vice-President), Robert Gracia, Henry Etheridge, Gabriel

Garza, and Gabriel Moreno

Board Members Absent: Mario Prado (President)

Interim Director: J. Davila

Corporate Counsel: Juan M. Pequeno, Jr. and Ivan Perez

Others: A. Chavez, A. Garrido, and J. Garcia (CCECD Staff), John Shergold, Attorney At

Law, and Silbia Barajas

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. Aston at 10:00 A.M. to open the meeting, recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 2.

Item 2. Establishment of a Quorum.

After confirmation of a voting quorum (4 of 5 quorum) by Mr. Davila, Mr. Pequeno confirmed that neither action nor motion was necessary. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 3.

Item 3. Public Comment.

Bill Aston, Board Vice President opened public comment on any agenda item to anyone attending the meeting by approaching the podium. After a brief time, with no comments made, Mr. Aston closed the public comment section and no action was needed.

- Approval of May (18, 2022) Regular Board Meeting Minutes and May 26, 2022 Special Board Meeting Minutes. Signature will be obtained from Mr. Prado, President, and document to be forwarded to Gabriel Moreno, Secretary, for the same purpose. Motion made by Mr. Gracia to approve the said Regular Board Meeting Minutes and Special Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 5. Approval of Bills (& Cash Flow)
 Mr. Davila presented the June Expense Report pertaining to regular monthly bills, after discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Etheridge to approve the said bills (& cash flow). Seconded by Mr. Gracia. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 6. Financial Report (& Banking Report)
 Mr. Davila provided an update on the financial banking and investment reports.
 Motion made by Mr. Gracia to acknowledge the financial reports as presented.
 Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously. (The amounts of these reports were presented at the CCECD Board Meeting as with previous meetings.)
- Item 7. Interim Director's Report Motion made by Mr. Etheridge to acknowledge the said Interim Director's Report as presented by Mr. Davila. On Tuesday, May 31, 2022, Mr. Alfonso Garrido and myself attended Texas 9-1-1 Alliance Operations Meeting in Houston. The topics discussed had to do with routing of calls and associated equipment to route 911 calls through the ESINET (Emergency Services IP Network), NGCS (Next Generation Core Services), and GIS (Geographic Information System) systems and other technical challenges that Districts that are transitioning to NG911 are having. The bigger Districts are taking the lead on this transition to NG911 and are sharing their lessons learned so the rest of the districts don't make the same mistakes in transition to NG911. Some of the discussion including using Cloud based technology and the challenges encountered trying to ascertain whether the trouble is in the Cloud and whose responsibility it is to fix the issues in a Cloud based system. There was also some discussion of manufacturers of NG911 Systems throughout the State of Texas being used and Motorola Call Handling Equipment (which CCECD uses) has about 90% of the Districts using their equipment which bodes well for us as we share and learn at this Operations Meeting on what works well with the Motorola equipment. On Wednesday, June 1, 2022, I attended the Texas 9-1-1 Alliance Executive Directors Meeting also in Houston. One of the first topics discussed was the Uvalde Shootings and there was a request to provide the Uvalde PSAP with Texas based telecommunicators to give local telecommunicators some time off to grieve for the lives lost. The Uvalde PSAP also requested donations for better PSAP furniture to include PSAP chairs and regular office supplies (pens, pencils, notepads, etc.) for their PSAP. This PSAP falls under the jurisdiction of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Council of Governments based in Carrizo Springs, Texas and under the State of Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) jurisdiction. The other main topic discussed was the

HB2911/SB 8 NG9-1-1 Funding Implementation Process and Factors. We have been tentatively awarded a reimbursable grant of \$2,882,188.07. However, there are many questions and concerns regarding the Contract that has to be signed with CSEC to begin the grant reimbursement process. There are so many questions and concerns that a meeting with CSEC and all the Alliance Members was requested and is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2022 in Austin, Texas. Obviously we have a big challenge ahead of us to make sure we fill out all forms correctly to get reimbursed for any cost associated with transitioning to NG911. We also have to ensure that CCECD complies with all Federal Grant requirements. Mr. Pequeno and myself are planning to attend the June 22, 2022 meeting in Austin. Also Mr. Pequeno and myself will be meeting with Jim Goerke, Alliance CEO, and Richard Muscat, Alliance Attorney via Zoom this Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 2pm to try and get a clarification on the Grant application. This concludes my report. Safety measures (disinfecting) continue every day in our building. Also the Building Report as presented by Mr. Davila, informed the board the concrete has been poured. They are currently 4 days behind on construction. A check for the second draft of construction in the amount of \$69,492.50 is ready for Peacock General Contractors. Mr. Pequeno confirmed that payments approved by the architect are preapproved and part of the construction contract. GIS Report was presented by Alfonso Garrido (GIS Department), and the Public Education/Training Report was presented by Jose Garcia. Seconded by Mr. Gracia. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 8. AT&T Report

Mr. Moreno informed the board that they are about 90% complete on the hurricane preparedness safety checks for all of the PSAPs. Brownsville will be visited today and La Feria is pending. Majority of all sites have already been checked. All command centers have been checked to ensure they are connected to the network and updated. The three at the Sheriff's Office are field deployable ready, Harlingen PD and EMS will be checked next. The techs checked all of the UPS and batteries at the PSAPS and are testing okay for the UPS system. Majority of the batteries are dated 2018 from the manufacture and are reaching the 4-5 years' life span of the battery. Information was forwarded to Billy Blankenship (AT&T) for processing of quotes. Most of the UPS at the PSAPs will be requested for replacement. They spoke to the manufactures of the power safe UPS equipment and they are becoming obsolete. Once they get the information it will be presented to the District and then the Board. Billy Blankenship and Mr. Davila will discuss the funding and detail of the equipment. This year the equipment will be okay and replacement would be for the next year (late phase this year or early next year). Each PSAP has one tower that holds 12 batteries except for Sheriff's Office has 2 towers. A motion was made by Mr. Garza to acknowledge the AT&T report. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 9. Board Committee

No report was available and this item was tabled. A motion was made by Mr. Aston to table item. Seconded by Mr. Gracia. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 10. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Pequeno informed the board the biggest issue is the federal grant money and the process to obtain monies. What is pending right now is the CSEC application package due by June 30th, end of the month. Mr. Pequeno and Mr. Davila have a zoom meeting with Mr. Muscat tomorrow to review the application. We intend to fill it out and submit it subject to Board approval. Mr. Pequeno will present to the Board in the next meeting. Essentially some of the requirements of the submittal is what the District will do with the funds and what process will be in place for the procurement and reasons for the purchase. This is the major reason for confusion from a lot of the Districts since this is the first time they have had to use any procurement and/or federal procurement in this instance. For this reason, they have called a meeting in late June in Austin where Mr. Davila and Mr. Pequeno will attend and there will be representation from every district. There are a lot of questions because the districts have purchased from co-ops (like DIR) and whether using DIR will satisfy the federal procurement process is unclear. Based on the last email received, the contract with CSEC does not appear to be finalized but they are working on it and are requiring contracts to be signed by August 31st. The contract would state the conditions under which CSEC would be reimbursing the money to the District and will set out all the terms of what on the funds can be used on. After that, the District would move forward with implementing using the funds in accordance with the grant application, and following the appropriate procurement method. This is the initial timeline, if the District has to use a stand-alone procurement process outside of soliciting bids through DIR, the process could be long and we will want to get started sooner than later. By the end of June, we should have a lot more information based on the completed application, the meeting with the Alliance, and the meeting scheduled in Austin. Across the board, this has been a big issue with all the districts. After a small discussion, a motion to acknowledge the legal counsel's report was made by Mr. Gracia. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.

- 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. Mr. John Shergold, counsel for Silbia Barajas (Executive Director) requested that deliberation regarding his client for Item 11 C be made in open session. A motion was made at 10:34 A.M. by Mr. Gracia to move to executive session. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.
 - A. Deliberation regarding District employee(s).
 - B. Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding Executive Director (Tex. Gov't Code 551.071)
 - C. Deliberation regarding the employment, evaluation, duties, or discipline, reassignment, or termination of the Executive Director (Tex. Gov't code

551.074). At 11:18 A.M the Board of Manager returned to Open Session, after discussions of Item 11 A and 11 B. The Board of Managers at 11:18 A.M. returned to open session with Item 11 C.

Item 12. Open Meeting:

- A. Possible action on closed meeting items.
- B. Possible action regarding the employment, evaluation, duties, discipline, reassignment, or termination of the Executive Director (S. Barajas). A motion to approve a resolution of matter with Executive Director as discussed in closed meeting and authorize the Board President and/or Vice President to execute the documents necessary to effectuate the resolution, as read by Mr. Pequeno, was made by Mr. Garza. Seconded by Mr. Gracia. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 13. Adjournment.

At 11:21 A.M., a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Etheridge. Seconded by Mr. Gracia. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved this 20th day of July, 2022.

Approved:

Mario M. Prado, President of the Board of Managers

Approved:

Gabriel Moreno, Secretary of the Board of Managers