

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §

**CAMERON COUNTY EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2023**

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, April 19, 2023.

Present:

Board Members: Mario Prado (President), Bill Aston (Vice-President), Henry Etheridge, Charles Hoskins, Jr., and Gabriel Garza

Board Members Absent: Gabriel Moreno

Executive Directors: J. Davila, and A.

Chavez Corporate Counsel: Juan M.

Pequeno, Jr.

Others: R. Cruz, J. Garcia, E. Espitia, and Michael Torres (CCECD Staff)

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 10:00 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 (5 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.
Mario Prado, Board 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. Prado closed the public comment section and no action was needed.

- Item 4. Approval of March (15, 2023) Regular 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. Aston to approve the said Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Hoskins. The motion carried unanimously.

- Item 5. Approval of Bills (& Cash Flow)
Mr. Davila presented the April Expense Report pertaining to regular monthly bills, after discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Hoskins to approve the said bills (& cash flow). Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 6. Financial Report (& Banking Report)
Mr. Davila provided an update on the financial banking report. Motion made by Mr. Aston to acknowledge the financial reports as presented. Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motion carried unanimously. (The amounts of these reports were presented at the CCECD Board Meeting as with previous meetings.)
- Item 7. Executive Director's Report
Motion made by Mr. Prado to acknowledge the said Director's Report as presented by Mr. Davila. Alma Linda Chavez and myself attended the 9-1-1 Goes To Washington Conference Spectrum with Board Member, Charles Hoskins, Jr from Sunday, February 26, 2023 and returned on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. We met with Congressman Vicente Gonzalez and discussed with him and his staff members National 9-1-1 issues. The two main issues we focused on was Extending America's Spectrum Auction Leadership Act" in the 118th Congress. This is the bill that will provide funding at the National level for Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) by providing a portion of the FCC Spectrum auction revenues (nearly \$15 Billion) to be set aside for NG9-1-1. The other issue was the Telecommunicator's Reclassification. This reclassifies at the national level the Public Safety Telecommunicator as a "Protective Service" under the Bureau of Labor Statistics" Standard Occupational Classification System (SOCS). Currently, they are classified as Clerks which is not the proper classification for the Public Safety functions they perform. We spent time with Representative Gonzalez and his staff and are keeping in contact with them to make sure that when anything that has to do with 9-1-1 in Cameron County comes up we are the persons they need to contact. Alma Linda Chavez, Rafael Cruz, Jr. and myself attended the Texas 911 Alliance Operations Meeting in Houston on March 7, 2023. Discussed during this meeting were topics pertaining to GIS/Database for the ESINET, Call Handling Equipment Cybersecurity using IP, addressing models and practices, and other Operational and Public Safety issues as they relate to NG911 and its ongoing implementation. We also had two vendors do a presentation on their 9-1-1 products, Rave Mobile Safety and Carbyne Cloud Based 9-1-1 Service. Alma Linda Chavez and myself attended the Texas 911 Alliance Directors Meeting in Houston on March 8, 2023. Subjects presented were Legal updates by Texas Alliance Attorneys Mike Tomsu and Richard Muscat regarding a Wireless reseller asking for a 9-1-1 Fee refund on an overpayment. This reseller was directed to deal with the wireless company and if appropriate Texas Comptroller would determine what the refund amount should be and if any Districts have to

refund the money. This is not a large amount of money if the reseller prevails in their request. Lauren Fairbanks with Moontower Public Affairs, has been sending out weekly reports regarding 9-1-1 Bill Tracking that might affect 9-1-1 directly or indirectly. The Alliance is not looking at filing a bill with a Wireless Fee increase this legislative session as no legislator is willing to sponsor our bill and go against Governor Abbott with his no fee increase policy. However, two bills were filed last week that would affect 9-1-1 funding. HB9/HJR125 by Rep. Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) establishes the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund through a joint resolution and dedicates \$5B from the Economic Stabilization Fund, also known as the "Rainy Day Fund". \$2B would be immediately available to distribute over the next biennium. The bill as filed would "fully fund the universal service fund"; "fund the 9-1-1 and next generation 9-1-1 services under Chapter 771, Health and Safety Code"; "deposit money to the credit of the next generation 9-1-1 service fund to be expended as provided by Section 771.0713, Health and Safety Code"; and also fund broadband pole replacement, costs associated with the Broadband Development Office and federal broadband matching grants, as well as public and school safety components. It would also repeal the current TUSF statute and suspend existing 9-1-1 fees in statute until the fund expires in 10 years. There was more discussion in regards to the HB2911/SB 8 NG9-1-1 Funding Implementation Process and Factors. The Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) has come up with recommendations in consultation with State of Texas Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC) for the proposed \$7,441,591.09 surplus for the 2nd round. CSEC will prioritize funding to entities that have Grant contracts with them. All interested 9-1-1 entities had until February 23, 2023 to apply for these funds. The Total Supplemental Funds applied for by 14 entities was \$15,062,199.00. CSEC is supposed to announce at their March 22, 2023 meeting in Austin who and how much each entity that applied for this 2nd round of funding gets. HB 3290 filed by Rep. Guillen/SB 1858 filed by Sen. Hancock, relating to the NG 9-1-1 service fund was filed. This is the Alliance's date extension bill. It would extend the deadline to spend the HB2911/SB 8 NG9-1-1 Grant Funding from December 31, 2024 to December 31, 2026. Our RFP ranking committee met on Thursday, April 13, 2023 and has reviewed all 4 RFP's. Committee consisted of Lt. Henry Etheridge, Charles Hoskins, Jr., Juan Pequeno, Alma Linda Chavez, and Joel Davila. This will be discussed in more detail as Item 12 on today's Agenda. We had 13 Telecommunicators from 7 PSAPS attend the Texas Public Safety Conference this year and they earned TCOLE credits while attending courses offered from Sunday through Wednesday morning. This is the final year the Texas Public Safety Conference is being held in Galveston and next year this conference will be held in Denton, Texas. We have received our new 2023 Ford F150 STX 4 Wheel Drive truck from Boswell Ford in San Benito last week. Cost for the truck was \$49,682.00. We have ordered CCECD Logo decals for both the front driver and passenger side doors. We are in the process of obtaining LED lights, front and back, so when our GIS employees stop our truck on the side of the road to collect GIS data vehicular traffic can see that they are stopped. The diesel generator arrived this morning, electrician will work this

week to connect both generators. Two more weeks, to the completion of the building addition by Peacock Construction. This concludes my report. GIS Report was presented by Rafael Cruz (GIS Department), and the Public Education/ Training Report by Jose Garcia. Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.

- Item 8. AT&T Report
Mr. Moreno was not present. A motion to table was made by Mr. Aston. Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Item 9. Board Committee
Board members had nothing to report, and therefore, a motion to table was made by Mr. Prado. Seconded by Mr. Hoskins. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 10. Legal Counsel Report
Mr. Pequeno had nothing to report for this item, aside from the review of items #11 and #12 on the agenda. A motion to table was made by Mr. Prado. Seconded by Mr. Hoskins. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 11. Consideration and approval of Amendment No. 1 to Commission of State Emergency Communications (CSEC) Texas 9-1-1 Entity Subrecipient Subaward Grant Contract adding \$2,393,448.49 in additional grant funds, as awarded by CSEC in response to the supplemental application submitted by CCECD for the SB 8 CSFRF Grant (Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund) (Second Round Allocation). Mr. Pequeno reviewed the details of the original subaward grant contract and amendment for the supplemental application with the Board of Managers. Mr. Pequeno provided an explanation and use of the additional funds and timeframe to expend the funds. A motion to approve the supplemental grant funding was made by Mr. Hoskins. Seconded by Mr. Etheridge. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 12. Consideration, discussion, and possible action on the selection of a vendor for PSAP 9-1-1 Call Handling Equipment and Software Upgrade in response to CCECD's solicitation (Solicitation for Competitive Proposals, NG911 CHE; Project No: SB8-CSFRF-2), as proposed by the CCECD Ranking Committee, and approval to enter into contract negotiation and/or enter into a contract with selected vendor, subject to legal counsel review and approval. Mr. Pequeno presented the RFP CHE criteria for upgrading all PSAPs to the Board of Managers. Four timely RFPs responses were reviewed and ranked by a five member ranking committee which met on April 13, 2023, at 10:00 am. The ranking committee's recommendation was to select AT&T based on a higher ranking value, and awarding of the contract. The ranking committee compared pricing from vendors, services and ranking value, and is recommending to Board of Managers to award the NG9-1-1 Call Handling System and Applications contract to AT&T. After consideration of the information presented and recommendations, a motion was made to approve the recommended vendor, AT&T, and to authorize legal counsel and staff to

commence negotiations for an agreement/contract for those services suggested by the ranking committee within the parameters of the RFP, by Mr. Aston. Second by Mr. Hoskins. 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 14. Adjournment.
At 11:17 A.M., a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Etheridge. Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.

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Approved this 17th day of May, 2023.

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

Approved: 
Gabriel Moreno, Secretary of the Board of Managers

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