

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
 COUNTY OF CAMERON §

**CAMERON COUNTY EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 January 17, 2024**

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, January 17, 2024.

Present:

- Board Members: Mario Prado (President), Bill Aston (Vice-President), and Gabriel Garza
- Board Members Absent: Charles Hoskins, Jr., Henry Etheridge and Gabriel Moreno
- Executive Directors: J. Davila and A. Chavez
- Corporate Counsel: Juan M. Pequeno
- Others: R. Cruz, J. Garcia, A. Castillo, and E. Espitia (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 (3 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 Resolution Honoring Lt. Henry Burr Etheridge, Jr., for his 4 years and 6 months of service to CCECD, the City of Brownsville, Cameron County, and the residents of those locales. In his absence, Alma Linda Chavez, Deputy Director,

presented the resolution to the board. Motion made by Mr. Aston to acknowledge the Resolution Honoring Lt. Henry Burr Etheridge, Jr. Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motion carried unanimously.

- Item 5. Approval of Resolution Honoring Gabriel Moreno, AT&T Principal Service Supplier, for his 6 years and 9 months of service to CCECD, the people of the Cameron County Area and South Texas. In his absence, Alma Linda Chavez, presented the resolution to the board. Motion made by Mr. Prado to acknowledge the Resolution Honoring Gabriel Moreno. Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 6. "Swearing-in" of (re-appointment) CCECD Board Members Mario M. Prado, Bill Aston, and new members, Albert De La Rosa, City of Brownsville, and Valentin Ramirez, representing AT&T Principal Service Supplier, pursuant to Tex. Const. Art. XVI, § 1 (Vernon Supp. 2016) (Official Oath). Alma Linda Chavez proceed to "swear-in" board members as listed above. No action nor motion was necessary for this item. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 7.
- Item 7. Approval of December (20, 2023) Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Signature will be obtained from Mr. Prado, President, and document to be forwarded to Valentin Ramirez, Secretary, for the same purpose. Motion made by Mr. Aston to approve the said Regular Board Meeting Minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 8. Approval of Bills (& Cash Flow)
Mr. Davila presented the January Expense Report pertaining to regular monthly bills, after discussion by the Board; a motion was made by Mr. Aston to approve the said bills (& cash flow). Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item 9. Financial Report (& Banking Report)
Mr. Davila provided an update on the financial banking. Motion made by Mr. Aston to acknowledge the financial reports as presented. Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously. (The amounts of these reports were presented at the CCECD Board Meeting as with previous meetings.)
- Item 10. Executive Director's Report
Alma Linda Chavez and myself attended the Texas 9-1-1 Alliance Directors Meeting on January 3, 2024 in Dallas Texas. Our new slate of Texas 9-1-1 Alliance Officers started their two-year term. We also have retained Attorney Michael J. Tomsu from the firm of Vinson and Elkins in Austin to continue their existing agreement with the Alliance and assist any District with legal work Richard Muscat had been involved in.
Texas State Senator Kelly Hancock representing District 19 (Tarrant County) attended our meeting where we honored him with a plaque for sponsoring our legislation for a wireless cell phone increase. The State opted instead to award us a one-time grant for the Biennium out of the Proposition 8 Broadband bill for our migration to Next Generation 9-1-1. In the meantime, CSEC and the State of Texas Comptroller's Office have been discussing how to distribute money to all recipients but they will probably not finalize anything until Governor Abbot

officially signs this bill into law.

We are implementing a Cybersecurity Solution with Seculore and they will be installing their solution on January 25, 2024. After that, we will also be implementing a Network Monitoring Solution. AT&T has assigned Project Manager, Cindy McVey, for the installation of the new AT&T Call Handling Equipment (CHE) with project start date of February 12, 2024. Completion of this project should be by the end of May 2024 based on Motorola's scheduling their on-site visits to our PSAP's. During this time, AT&T local Technicians will be installing computers, monitors, routers, and associated equipment for this project. The Training PSAP furniture to be added to our building's new addition is scheduled for the week of February 5, 2024. The project to replace the AT&T 9-1-1 Local network from a copper-based system to all Fiber based solution is still pending on construction needed at some PSAPs to bring fiber into their buildings. We also have Quality Electric doing identification of all electrical outlets throughout our building plus relocating and adding some outlets in our IT room. This concludes my report. GIS Report was presented by Rafael Cruz, the Public Education Report was presented by April Castillo, and Training Report by Joe Garcia. Motion was made by Mr. Aston to acknowledge the said Director's Report as presented by Mr. Davila, GIS Report, Public Education, and the Training Report. Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 11. AT&T Report

Mr. Ramirez informed the board that the deployment of equipment refresh is starting at Harlingen EMS. He also informed the board that the two computers that are down at Brownsville PD are to be replaced. A motion to acknowledge was made by Mr. Prado. Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 12. Board Committee

Mr. Aston expressed to the board his appreciation to CCECD staff for the support in the loss of personnel at STEC. A motion to acknowledge was made by Mr. Prado. Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 13. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Pequeno informed the Board of Managers that first reimbursement was received late December. He also mentioned that the grant money will be used up this year due to the cost of the Call Handling Equipment along with the cybersecurity. Majority of the funds are under contract and it is just a matter of time that funds will be expended. CSEC held a seminar to explain the process they will be using for monitoring the grant funds. A motion to acknowledge was made by Mr. Aston. Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 14 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. There were no items for discussion in closed meeting.

Item 15. Adjournment. At 10:58 A.M., a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Prado. Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.

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Approved this 21st day of February 2024.

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

Approved: 
Bill Aston, Vice-President of the Board of Managers

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