THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

## CAMERON COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES December 18, 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, December 18, 2024.

## Present:

Board Members: Mario Prado (President), Bill Aston (Vice-President), Albert De La Rosa,

Gabriel Garza, Jorge Martinez, and Valentin Ramirez

**Board Members Absent: None** 

Executive Directors: J. Davila and A. Chavez Corporate Counsel: Juan M. Pequeno

Others: R. Cruz, A. Castillo, and J. Garcia, (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".)

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. Then, 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. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 4.

- Approval of November (20, 2024) Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Mr. Aston to approve the said Regular Board Meeting Minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously. Signature will be obtained from Mr. Prado, President, and document to be forwarded to Valentin Ramirez, Secretary, for the same purpose.
- Item 5. Approval of Bills (& Cash Flow)

Mr. Davila presented the December 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. Prado. The motion carried unanimously.

## Item 6. Financial and Banking Reports

Mr. Davila provided an update on the financial banking reports. A motion was made by Mr. Prado 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 7. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Davila reported as follows: Alma Linda Chavez and myself attended the Texas 9-1-1 Operation's Meeting and Alliance Director's meeting held in Houston, Texas on December  $3^{rd}$  and  $4^{th}$  2024.

At the Operation's Meeting AT&T representatives presented the interoperability of their ESINET with other nationwide ESINET providers like Motorola and NGA911 to name a few companies. AT&T is working proactively to make sure that once all the Originating Service Providers(OSP's) start delivering their calls via the NENA I3 standard they can deliver and transfer calls between all PSAP's in the nation. All OSP's will have to route calls through their Point of Interface (POI) via the IP I3 standard per FCC orders. Also discussed again was the new Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) requirements. Our Alliance legal team will do further research into this and come up with a recommendation on CJIS for the Districts.

The Alliance received a copy of a study performed by Texas Tech University on whether the general public would support a fee increase for 9-1-1 wireless customers. The results of this public opinion survey indicates that Texans would be willing to support a wireless fee increase for 9-1-1. The results of this survey will be presented to CSEC at their monthly meeting next January 28, 2025 by the representative from Texas Tech University that authored the study. The Districts need a funding mechanism they can count on every year. Once the State runs through the surplus fund, then we would be back at having to look for funding for increased costs for everything. The Alliance has also signed a contract with Blakemore Public Affairs to help us in our efforts to get a rate increase so we do not have to depend on biannual grants from the State Legislature every session. Blakemore Public Affairs is one of the Chief Political Advisors to Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. On December 7, 2022, Governor Greg Abbott required all state agencies to ban the video-sharing application TikTok from all state-owned and stateissued devices and networks over the Chinese Communist Party's ability to use the application for surveilling Texans. Governor Abbott also directed the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) to develop a plan providing state agencies guidance on managing personal devices used to conduct state business. Following the issuance of the Governor's directive, the 88th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1893, which prohibits the use of covered applications on governmental entity devices. The Texas Alliance's law firm has come up with a policy for all Districts to use and we will include the policy for approval by our Board of Directors on our January 15, 2025 Agenda pending our Attorney's review and approval. AT&T has finished the AT&T Vesta Call Handling Equipment upgrade. Our all new Fiber 9-1-1 network implementation is in the works now and so far everything is going well. This concluded Mr. Davila's report.

The GIS Report was presented by Rafael Cruz, the Public Education Report was presented by April Castillo, and the Training Report by Joe Garcia. Motion was made by Mr. Prado to acknowledge the said Director's Report as presented by Mr. Davila, GIS, Public Education, and the Training Reports. Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 8. AT&T Report

Mr. Ramirez reported that AT&T has completed with installation of new equipment, and is working on fiber installs as they are arriving so that they can be available in the network for all PSAPS. A motion to acknowledge was made by Mr. Aston. Seconded by Mr. Prado. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 9. Board Committee

No report. Item was tabled. A motion to table was made by Mr. Prado. Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 10. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Pequeno provided an update on the expenditure of CSEC SB8 Grant Funds in the amount of \$5,275,636.56, with most of the funds already obligated. The biggest expenditures of the funds are for call handling equipment (CHE) and ESINET. There are a couple thousand dollars that were saved with the CHE project that will be allocated to GIS projects. Mr. Pequeno is currently working with Mrs. Chavez on contracts to obligate the remaining funds for GIS projects, and a Grant Application Amendment to submit to CSEC for their awareness and approval of the budget shifting. A motion to acknowledge legal counsel's report was made by Mr. Aston. Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously.

- Presentation of the Telecommunicator of the Year Awards, after the conclusion of this meeting (at which time, no action will be taken, but completion of "minutes" will be). A motion was made 10:49 A.M. by Mr. Aston to leave the meeting open for until the conclusion of the Awards Banquet. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously. At this time, presentation was made for Telecommunicator of the Year and awards were handed out to the recipients.
- Item 12. Adjournment. At 1:02 P.M., 4 of the 5 board members reconvened and a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Prado. Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved th	is 15 <sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.	
Approved: _	Mario M. Prado  Mario M. Prado, President of the Board of Managers	
Approved:	//w Mn	
_	Valentin Ramirez, Secretary of the Board of Managers	