

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §

**CAMERON COUNTY EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2025**

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, March 19, 2025.

Present:

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

Board Members Absent: Jorge Martinez and Valentin Ramirez

Executive Directors: J. Davila and A. Chavez

Corporate Counsel: Juan M. Pequeno

Others: R. Cruz, J. Garcia, and A. Castillo (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 10:01 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. Then, the Board went to Item 3.
- Item 3. Public Comment.
 Mr. Prado, President of the Board Members 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.
- Item 4. Approval of February (19, 2025) Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Mr. De La Rosa to approve the said Regular Board Meeting Minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously. Signature will be obtained from Mr. Prado, President of the Board of Managers, and document to be forwarded to Mr. Aston, Vice President, for the same purpose.

- Item 5. Approval of Bills (& Cash Flow)
Mr. Davila presented the March 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 6. Financial Report (& Banking Report)
Mr. Davila provided an update on the financial banking reports. Motion made by Mr. Garza 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: Deputy Chief Gabriel Garza, Alma Linda Chavez and myself attended the 9-1-1 GTW (Goes-To-Washington) Conference from February 24 through February 26, 2025. In Washington, we met with Senator Ted Cruz and discussed with his staff members the Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services (SAVES) Act. This bill seeks to officially reclassify 9-1-1 dispatchers as first responders, giving these vital professionals the recognition they deserve. Currently, 9-1-1 dispatchers are excluded from the first responder designation, despite their critical role in saving lives during emergencies. At no cost to taxpayers, the 9-1-1 SAVES Act will correct this oversight by reclassifying 9-1-1 dispatchers as first responders, recognizing the crucial, often life-saving work they perform every day. Anyone who has dialed 9-1-1 in an emergency understands the critical role of the operator on the other end of the line—coordinating lifesaving assistance and offering a voice of calm reassurance in moments of crisis. Fortunately for the Dispatchers, Senator Cruz did signal his support for this piece of legislation on the Senate side of Congress. We also met with Congressman Vicente Gonzalez and his Legislative Director, Jocelyne Barajas, and Congressman Gonzalez stated he has supported the SAVES Act in the House of Representatives. He mentioned he was good friends with Congresswoman Norma Torres from California who is one of the original co-sponsors of this bill in the House. So hopefully this year the SAVES Act will become law. Also in our meeting with Congressman Gonzalez he pledged support for a grant submitted by the Brownsville Fire Department for Scrubbers for the Brownsville Fire Stations. He also committed to provide funding for a Brownsville Fire Department Training Center that would serve as a regional training center for the Rio Grande Valley. There is a particular firefighting training that is not offered in the RGV and the closest place it is offered is in Laredo, Texas. I will let Deputy Chief Garza elaborate some more on what this training covers. The Texas 9-1-1 Operations and Alliance Directors meeting was held on March 4 and 5, 2025. During the Operations Meeting Greater Harris County ECD discussed their 9-1-1 redundancy and they are duplicating what we are doing in using Motorola VESTA Call Handling Equipment with Vesta Laptops as portable backups that their staff delivers when requested or when a hurricane is out in the Gulf and heading toward the Texas coastline. Also discussed were other technical aspects of the ESINET to get the correct routing of calls if they need to be transferred outside any Districts' area. We met with the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District to schedule tests of transferring calls between their PSAP's and ours to make sure that the ANI and ALI information displays, plus that map location also displays on their monitors like they display on ours. Other miscellaneous technical aspects were discussed that is common to all Districts. We

also had a vendor presentation from RapidSOS and a technical presentation from Intrado. During the Director's Meeting a pending AI (Artificial Intelligence) bill that was introduced to the Texas State Legislature was discussed and we will wait to see if it becomes law and what specifically is included in the final version of the bill. A bill was also introduced that would require schools that award a contract to have the company providing maps of their campuses to relinquish those maps to the schools when their service contract ends. There was also discussion on the filing of a rate increase bill sponsored by State Senator Boris Miles from Houston and our lobbying firm will be working with his office to see if some sort of rate increase legislation makes it through the session this year. Our all new Fiber 9-1-1 network implementation is complete and the only location that is waiting for fiber is La Feria Police Department as it is in Frontier Telephone Company service area and not in AT&T service area. Gulf Coast Construction has already poured the cement slab for our new carport and we are waiting for the carport subcontractor to put up columns and roof for our carport.
This concludes my report.

The 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, Public Education, and the Training Reports. Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 8. AT&T Report

Mr. Davila provided a report that the fiber project for all PSAPs had been completed, except for La Feria PSAP which is in Frontier area. With Mr. Ramirez absence, a motion to table was made by Mr. De La Rosa. Seconded by Mr. Garza.

Item 9. Board Committee

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

Item 10. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Pequeno reported that all Federal Grant Funds have been obligated and had worked with Alma Chavez to meet the requirement of December 31, 2024. Reporting will continue with the procurement of the remaining funds as specified. An audit has been requested since it exceeded the spending threshold. A motion to acknowledge was made by Mr. De La Rosa. Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 11. Adjournment. At 10:31 A.M., a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Garza. Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously.


*

*

*

Approved this 16th day of April 2025.

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

Approved: 
Valentin Ramirez, Secretary of the Board of Managers

*

*

*