

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF CAMERON §

**CAMERON COUNTY EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 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 Conference Room, located at 501 Camelot Drive, Harlingen, Texas, at 10:00 A.M., for a Meeting of the Board of Managers, on Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

Present:

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

Non-Voting Member: Valentin Ramirez

Board Members Absent: Thomas Hushen

Executive Directors: J. Davila, A. Chavez

Corporate Counsel: Juan M. Pequeno

Others: R. Cruz, A. Castillo, I. Garcia

CONTRIBUTOR: M. CRUZ, M. CASTILLO, J. GARCIA, and J. BARRIENTOS (CECED 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 (4 of 5 quorum) by Mr. Davila, 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. Prior to moving on from Item 3, Mr. Aston publically recognized and introduced City of Primera Fire Department, Chief Mr. Tamayo and Assistant Chief of Police Department, Mr. Rosales, who were present at the meeting as spectators. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 11.

Item 4. Approval of September (17, 2025) Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Motion made by

Mr. Garza to approve the said Regular Board Meeting Minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously. Signature was obtained from Mr. Prado, President, and Valentin Ramirez, Secretary.

Item 5. Approval of Bills (& Cash Flow)

Mr. Davila presented the October Expense Report pertaining to regular monthly bills. After a discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Mr. Aston to approve said bills (& cash flow). Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 6. Financial, Banking & Quarterly Public Investment Reports

Mr. Davila provided an update on the financial, banking & quarterly public investment 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

Alma Linda Chavez and myself attended the Texas 9-1-1 Alliance Directors meetings on Wednesday, October 1, 2025 in Dallas, Texas. Discussed was the State of Texas Special Purpose District annual report which apparently not all Districts were filing. We have been filing this Special Purpose District report on an annual basis to the Texas Comptroller's Office ever since it was required by the State of Texas. The three items covered in this report are as follows:

Financial information: Includes gross receipts, cash and investments, and bonds outstanding.

Tax information: Ad valorem tax rates, sales and use tax rates, and property tax values are reported.

Debt information: Information on bonds and other debt obligations is included.

We were also notified by Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) that the Comptroller during their audit found an error in the reporting of 9-1-1 wireless fees that had been credited to the 9-1-1 Equalization Surcharge Fee fund. A telecom provider improperly designated amounts collected from April 2021 through August 2024 as Equalization Surcharge when they were actually 9-1-1 emergency service fees. The result was a \$5 million reduction to CSEC's Equalization Surcharge fund balance which was then apportioned out by population and added to the June 2025 payment. Our 9-1-1 wireless fee payment in June 2025 was \$254,740.82. The Senate did pass S. 725-Enhancing First Response Act on September 10, 2025 which categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification system. Now the House has to reconcile this with the Senate version and pass this bill into law. We are still working with Raptor Technologies who is a Panic Button/School Alerting Vendor and local school districts in connecting them through our PSAP's Rapid SOS portal to this vendor. Joe Garcia will elaborate on this partnership during his report. Our District is also looking at implementing a FirstNet Wireless backup to our 2 fiber networks (AT&T & SmartCom) for additional redundancy to the 9-1-1 network. AT&T did a site survey last week at each PSAP to get the final quote on this Wireless Backup network. All PSAP sites met the required signal strength to meet FirstNet Band 14 requirements and the distance to the cell towers were less a mile away from the PSAP's. The only equipment needed to add the wireless network is an external roof mounted antenna and Category 6

cable run to our existing 9-1-1 routers in place already at each PSAP. During AT&T's PSAP site survey's all locations had a suitable roof mounting place where the signal strength measurements were taken. As a final note we did include the required "Taxpayer Impact Statement: Because the District has no *ad valorem* taxing authority, any action taken regarding adoption of the proposed budget for the District will have no impact on the property tax bill for any person within the geographic jurisdiction of the District on our October 15, 2025 Agenda. This concludes my report.

The GIS report was presented by Rafael Cruz, the Public Education report was presented by April Castillo, and the Training report was presented by Joe Garcia. Motion was made by Mr. De La Rosa to acknowledge the Director's, GIS, Public Education, and Training reports. Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 8. AT&T Report

Mr. Ramirez reported to the board that the Harlingen EMS UPS experienced a thermal rundown on the batteries. Temporary batteries were installed, new batteries shipped and have been installed, and UPS is now working fine. A motion to acknowledge was made by Mr. Aston. Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 9. Board Committee

No report. No action required. Thereafter, the Board went to item 10.

Item 10. Legal Counsel Report

No report. No action required. Thereafter, the Board went to item 12.

Item 11. Consideration and Approval to change CCECD's elected rate for 2026, as presented by Erika Aguirre with Texas County & District Retirement System. After a presentation by Erika Aguirre, and discussion by the Board, a motion to approve the TCDRS elected rate of 12.24% was made by Mr. De La Rosa. Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 4.

Item 12. Consideration, Review, and Approval for employee salaries for 2026. This item was tabled temporarily so that Item 12 could be discussed in executive session since it may impact Item 13, 2025 Operational Budget and Capital Budget. At 11:03 A.M., a motion was made by Mr. Aston to move to Executive Session to discuss Items 12, to the extent required to discuss the evaluation, reassignment, or duties of any particular employee and the impact on salaries. (Pursuant to TX. GOVT CODE 551.071, 551.074) Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously. Thereafter, the Board went to Item 14, a. No action was taken in closed session. The closed session ended at 11:25, at which time the Board reconvened in open session in the Board room. A motion to return to open session was made at 11:25 A.M. by Mr. De La Rosa. Second by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously. After reconvening in open session, the Board of Managers briefly discussed this item, and Mr. De La Rosa made a motion to approve the salary adjustments as recommended

and discussed by administration in executive session, Item 14, a. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 13. Consideration and Approval for the 2026 Operational Budget and Capital Budget. After a discussion, a motion to approve was made by Mr. Aston. A second was made by Mr. Garza. 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.

A. Consultation with legal counsel and Board of Managers regarding Operational and Capital Budget, and Employee Salaries at CCECD, to the extent required to discuss the evaluation, reassignment, or duties of a particular employee (TX. GOV'T CODE 551.071, 551.074). Action to be taken, if any, in Open Meeting. As reflected in Item 12, at 11:03 A.M., a motion was made by Mr. Aston to move to Executive Session to discuss Items 12, to the extent required to discuss the evaluation, reassignment, or duties of any particular employee and the impact on salaries. (Pursuant to TX. GOVT CODE 551.071, 551.074) Seconded by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken in closed session. The closed session ended at 11:25, at which time the Board reconvened in open session in the Board room. After closed session, a motion to return to open session was made at 11:25 A.M. by Mr. De La Rosa. Second by Mr. Garza. The motion carried unanimously, at which time the Board voted in open session on Item 12.

Item 15. Open Meeting:

A. Possible action on Closed Meeting Items.

14, a. The Board of Managers returned to Item 12 after closed session, and voted in the open meeting on Item 12.

Item 16. Adjournment. At 11:33 A.M., a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Garza. Seconded by Mr. De La Rosa. The motion carried unanimously.

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Approved this 19th day of November, 2025

Approved: 

Mario M. Prado, President of the Board of Managers

Approved: 

Valentin Ramirez, Secretary of the Board of Managers

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