FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 7

Minutes for the regular Meeting of April 14, 2026

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER**. The meeting was called to order at 11:34 AM by Commissioner **Lopez** at the District Fire Station, 1834 W. Sycamore, Fresno, TX. The Commissioners in attendance were **Freddy Lopez, Ferrel Bonner, Brandon Gibson,** and **Barbara Hamilton.** Commissioner **Ruston Hughes** was absent. Also, present were Battalion Chief Saulo Palacios, Office Manager Esmeralda Mendez, and other staff from Fresno Fire Department, District Legal Counsel John Peeler of Coveler & Peeler, P.C., Jessica Adkins of Coveler & Peeler, P.C., Carol Morrison of Municipal Accounts and Consulting (remotely), and Auditor John Grinnel from McCall Gibson Swedlund Barfoot Ellis PLLC.

2. **TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT**. The Board opened the floor to public comment. None was forthcoming.

3. **TO REVIEW AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS.** A motion was made by **Commissioner Hamilton**, seconded by **Commissioner Gibson**, to approve the March 10, 2026, minutes as presented. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.

4. **TO REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION ON DISTRICT FY 2025 AUDIT.** Mr. John Grinnel with McCall Gibson Swedlund Barfoot Ellis PLLC presented the District FY 2025 audit noting that wages and benefits were $1.3 million over budget, revenue was $2.6 million over budget, but there were no issues or areas of concern. The Board reviewed some of the capital over budget noting the F550 purchase and land acquisition. Ms. Morrison also provided information on some of the items that contributed to exceed the expenditure amounts noted in the 2025 budget. A motion was made by **Commissioner Bonner**, seconded by **Commissioner Hamilton**, to accept the FY 2025 audit as presented and sign the representative letter. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.

5. **TO ACT ON FINANCIAL METTERS, INCLUDING FINANCIAL REPORT, INVOICES/BILLS, INVESTMENTS, INVESTMENT POLICY, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, CREDIT CARDS, REQUIRED REPORTS, AND REVISIONS TO BUDGET(S).** Carol Morrison (attending on behalf of Mark Miller) presented the monthly report noting that 92.95% of the Ad Valorem tax levy had been collected. A motion was made by **Commissioner Hamilton**, seconded by **Commissioner Bonner**, to approve the reports and pay District bills as presented. With a vote of 4 to 0, the motion carried.

6. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON DISTRICT WEBSITE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH MATTERS.** Esmeralda Mendez presented updates regarding website and community outreach. No action was needed on this item.

7. **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF, COMMAND STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REGARDING FRESNO FIRE AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES, TO REVIEW REQUESTS FROM THE FIRE**

DEPARTMENT ON OPERATIONAL EXPENSES. Battalion Chief Palacios and Mrs. Mendez presented on operations, administration and HR matters. Chief Palacios noted that the monthly quick drill was completed, they are reviewing department annual physicals and wellness program. He also noted that they attended the quarterly administrators meeting and multiple subcommittee and interdepartmental meetings, they have initiated preparation for the FY 2027 budget process, and they are working towards scheduling a stakeholder meeting for Firehouse 52. Captain Nowetner spoke on Logistics noting they attended the CFP meeting update, new gear orders were in process, and the yearly advance gear cleaning was completed. Mrs. Mendez noted that the part-time hiring process is completed with two new staff members on board; the 2026 medical benefits enrollment was completed, and there were 3 promotions. She also noted 1 injury for April, but no medical treatment was needed. Public Relations noted many career days at several area schools, attending the EMS Symposium, and that they participate in National Telecommunicators Week at WestCom.

8. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON MATTERS RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS TO DISTRICT FACILITIES AND REAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING ENGAGEMENT OF DESIGN PROFESSIONALS OR ENGINEERING SERVICES, SELECTION OF BUILDERS/CONTRACTORS AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTY ENTITIES REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATIONS, INCLUDING ACTION ON CONSTRUCTION FINANCING.** There was no discussion on this item.

9. **TO ACT ON REAL ESTATE, INCLUDING SALES, PURCHASES, LEASES, PERMITS, ENCUMBRANCES, PLATTING, SURVEYING, UTILITIES AND ACQUISITION FINANCING.** There was no discussion on this item.

10. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES, INCLUDING APPROVAL OF ACQUISITION FINANCING FOR SAME AND TO DISCUSS AND ACT ON DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS OR SALVAGE PROPERTY PURSUANT TO TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE §775.0735.** There was no discussion on this item.

11. **TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE §551.071 TO CONSULT WITH LEGAL COUNSEL ON LITIGATION, SETTLEMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS UNDER TEXAS BAR RULES.** No Closed Session was held under Section 551.071.

12. **TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE §551.072 REGARDING REAL ESTATE MATTERS.** No Closed Session was held under Section 551.072.

13. **TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE §551.074 TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.** No Closed Session was held under Section 551.074.

14. **TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE §551.0761 TO DELIBERATE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY AND CYBER SECURITY.** No Closed Session was held under Section 551.0761.

15. **TO REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION ON PERSONNEL MATTERS, INCLUDING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, FIRE SUPPRESSION STAFF, COMMAND STAFF AND FIRE CHIEF, INCLUDING COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, JOB DUTIES, SCHEDULING, HIRING AND RETENTION.** There was no discussion on this item.

16. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON DISTRICT'S AI POLICY.** There was no action on this item, as the Board unanimously decided to hold until the next meeting when Fire Chief Bates would be in attendance.

17. **TO REVIEW AND ACT ON DISTRICT'S EMPLOYEE CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR POLICY.** There was no action on this item, as the Board unanimously decided to hold until the next meeting when Fire Chief Bates would be in attendance.

18. **TO DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SET FUTURE MEETING DATES.** The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2026.

19. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business brought before the Board; the meeting was adjourned at 12:13 PM.

Brandon Gibson
Fort Bend ESD No. 7
Secretary