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MINUTES

COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION
ROCKWALL HISTORIC COURTHOUSE 101 EAST RUSK ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087 972-204-6000

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Special Board Meeting
Thursday, March 3, 2016 5:00 p.m.

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AMBULANCE SERVICES (SPECIAL) BOARD MEETING

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Board Members Present:

Board Members Absent:

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- Barry Brooks (Heath)
- Steve Hatfield (McLendon Chisholm)
- Dennis Lewis (Rockwall)
- Lorne Megyesi (Fate)
- Janet Nichol (Royse City)
- David Sweet (Rck. County)

- Dana Lawson (Mobile City)
- Jim Pruitt (Rockwall)
- Cliff Sevier (Rck. County)

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1. Call to order

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David Sweet, President of the ES Corporation, called the meeting to order at 5:22 p.m. with the above named board members being present and absent.

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2. Discuss / act on legal representation for the ES Corporation

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Sweet indicated that a law firm based in McKinney has traditionally provided legal advice to the board, which has only occurred perhaps a couple of times in the past. He explained that this legal advice has been given through a contract with that law firm that is on an hourly basis, a contract which it is believed may be terminated at any time with written notice from the board. He explained that his desire is for the board to consider switching legal counsel to allow for the County District Attorney's Office to provide said counsel instead. He then read a letter from District Attorney, Kenda Culpepper, explaining to the board, in part, that there could possibly be instances when conflicts of interest may arise. In general, the letter that was read gave indication that as long as the board members were very aware of this possibility, then her office does not have a problem providing legal counsel to the ES Corporation Board moving forward.

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Following these comments, Rick Crowley, City Manager of Rockwall, asked if the County will bill the ES Corporation for its time related to rendering legal counsel. Mr. Thatcher of the DA's Office indicated that it is his understanding that any time would be considered an extension of his office such that no fees to the board would be incurred.

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50 **Board Member Brooks of Heath made a motion to utilize the Rockwall County District**
51 **Attorney's Office (Jonathan Thatcher) as the board's attorney. Board Member Nichol of**
52 **Royse City seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (3 absent**
53 **– Pruitt, Sevier and Lawson).**
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- 55 3. Recess public meeting to hold Executive Session under Section 551.071 of Texas
56 Government Code to discuss the following:

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58 Pursuant to Section 551.071(2) of the Open Meetings Act: Consultation
59 with attorney with regard to a matter that it is the duty of the attorney to
60 consult with the ES Corporation pursuant to the Attorney Client Privilege
61 under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State
62 Bar of Texas and regarding legal advice concerning the current and
63 proposed contract for EMS (ambulance) transportation services
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65 **Sweet read the above listed item into the record before recessing the public meeting into**
66 **Executive Session at 5:28 p.m.**
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- 68 4. Call public meeting back to order and take any action as a result of Executive Session
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70 **The board concluded Executive Session, with Sweet calling the public portion of the**
71 **meeting back to order at 6:35 p.m.**
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- 73 5. Hear update from Medic Rescue, the current emergency ambulance service provider on
74 contract with the ES Corporation, regarding possible sale of or partnership(s) associated
75 with the company, and take any action necessary
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77 **Representatives from AMR (ambulance company), including Leslie Mueller, CEO, and**
78 **Steve Ratton, Chief Strategic Officer of Envision, joined the meeting, as well as Tim**
79 **Wolfe, Mitch Ownby and Martin Ramirez, all of Medic Rescue.**
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81 **Sweet gave indication to the AMR and Medic Rescue representatives that the board**
82 **would like them to consider bringing back a business model that reflects the following:**
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- 84 • **no changes as far as non-emergency exclusivity (in other words, not including an**
85 **'exclusivity provision' concerning non-emergency transports/transfers);**
- 86 • **no subsidy paid by the ES Corp. board;**
- 87 • **details of the base rate that would be paid by residents/users;**
- 88 • **a single response time standard, eliminating the existing "rural" versus "urban"**
89 **standards (which are currently different from each other) and making all cities and**
90 **the county 'stand alone' with regards to response times and associated**
91 **compliance – Sweet indicated that the board is open to considering both**
92 **countywide and "zones" type response times**
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94 **In addition, Sweet indicated that the board would like to have some dialogue concerning**
95 **the EMS supervisor vehicle "stopping the clock," as far as response times are**
96 **concerned, versus the arrival of the ambulance itself being the trigger to 'stop the clock.'**
97 **Mr. Ratton explained that the idea behind the supervisor vehicle stopping the clock is**
98 **based on the desire to have someone there as soon as possible who is capable of**

99 providing paramedic level life support / lifesaving care. Explanation was given that the
100 supervisor has everything needed to administer care until the transport vehicle (the
101 ambulance / "the box") arrives, expect for a stretcher. Mr. Ramirez of Medic Rescue
102 explained that the American Heart Association has a lot of data available concerning this
103 topic, explaining that the EMS industry as a whole is actually moving towards "quick
104 response paramedic vehicles" (what the board and Medic Rescue currently refer to as
105 "the supervisor vehicle). Mr. Ownby shared that in fire departments, for example,
106 typically a fire engine staffed with a paramedic capable of administering BLS (basic life
107 support) arrives within four minutes with an ambulance capable of administering ALS
108 (advanced life support) arrives within eight minutes. Mr. Ownby clarified that ALS care is
109 currently being administered by and always provided by the "supervisor vehicle" that
110 has been stopping the clock in accordance with the current contract provisions.

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112 Dialogue then took place concerning dispatch, with Mr. Wolfe of Medic Rescue giving
113 indication that dispatch would likely not change. Mrs. Mueller indicated that AMR's
114 Dallas-based dispatch center would likely be used, but they can include some options in
115 the proposal.

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117 Mrs. Mueller indicated that AMR currently holds contracts with many entities, including
118 (but not limited to) the following: Hunt County, Collin County, Arlington, Amarillo,
119 Wichita Falls, Duncan, all of S. TX/Houston, San Antonio, Ellis County (new contract),
120 and Abilene.

121
122 Sweet explained that the board may possibly decide to hire its own medical director to
123 advise and consult on EMS related matters that may arise. Mrs. Mueller suggested that
124 the board may wish to consider forming an EMS review board of sorts that could review
125 protocols of the EMS company providing services and make associated determinations.
126 Discussions took place regarding patients' desires to dictate their own choice of hospital
127 upon transport. Mueller explained that if a patient has no preference, then the EMS
128 provider will make a determination regarding which facility would be best based on the
129 known capabilities of the facility. She explained that the provider would always transport
130 a patient to the closest appropriate facility, stressing that "appropriate" is key. General
131 discussion ensued regarding transport of patients and to which facilities those
132 transports go. Mrs. Mueller again stressed her suggestion of having a board that could
133 be made up of medical directors from all hospitals in the jurisdiction(s). She explained
134 that the board could establish protocols that could be agreed upon in advance and that
135 could clearly dictate to which facility a patient will be transported based on
136 circumstances and/or the patient's choice. Mrs. Mueller indicated that she believes
137 Presbyterian Hospital in Rockwall, for example, is very supportive of this idea. Mr.
138 Ramirez clarified that a hospital must be designated by the State of Texas as, for
139 example, a "Level 1, 2 or 3 'trauma center.'" Mr. Ratton assured board members that
140 Medic Rescue has been following proper transport protocols when choosing which
141 facility to transport a patient to, and if/when that decision has been questioned, they
142 have looked into those concerns.

143
144 Board Member Hatfield expressed general support regarding the idea of the ES
145 Corporation board having its own medical director on 'retainer,' so-to-speak, to call upon
146 him/her when the board has concerns arise for which that expert may be able to advise.

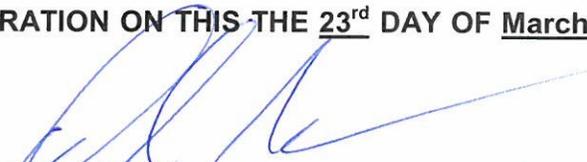
148 Mrs. Mueller explained that every county has a protocol in place regarding to which
149 facility a patient should be transported, expressing that some go as far as to draw
150 geographical lines; however, the protocols are always agreed upon in advance.

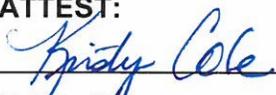
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152 The board took no formal action at the conclusion of this discussion item.

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154 6. Adjournment

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156 The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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159 PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF
160 ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS THE 23rd DAY OF March,
161 2016.

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165 **David Sweet**
166 County Judge and President, County of Rockwall
167 ESC Board of Directors

167 ATTEST:
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169 _____
170 **Kristy Cole**
171 Assistant Secretary, Board of Directors -
172 County of Rockwall ESC

