



MINUTES

COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION

ROCKWALL HISTORIC COURTHOUSE 101 EAST RUSK ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087 972-882-2840

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2015 5:00 p.m.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Debby Bobbitt (Rowlett)
Dana Lawson (Mobile City)
Jim Pruitt (Rockwall)

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

1. Call to order

President of the board, David Sweet, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. with the above listed board members being present and absent.

2. Discuss / act on approval of the minutes from the June 24, 2015 regular ES Corporation Board meeting

Board Member Megyesi of Fate made a motion to approve the minutes. Board Member Sevier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously of those present (Bobbitt, Lawson and Pruitt absent).

3. Discuss / act on Emergency Management Program Report

Joe DeLane, County Emergency Management Coordinator, came forth and provided a brief verbal update to the board concerning recent Emergency Management related activities. He indicated that in August and September, he will begin meeting with various jurisdictions to begin planning a tabletop exercise for some time in the coming months. The radio system project is ongoing. No action was taken as a result of Mr. DeLane's report.

4. Discuss / act on the ES Corp. Treasurer's Report

ES Corp. Treasurer, David Peek, provided a verbal update to the board concerning his monthly report. He indicated that a large, principal and interest payment is coming due mid-August on the gun range training facility, and this will significantly draw down the bank account balance.

52 He shared that all bills of the Corporation have been paid, all member entities are current, and
53 they have been timely on their payments to the Corporation. Board Member Lewis made a
54 motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Board Member Hatfield seconded the motion, which
55 passed unanimously of those present (Bobbitt, Lawson and Pruitt absent).
56

- 57 5. Hear update from jurisdictions regarding the following preliminary budgets for Fiscal Year 2016
58 for the ES Corporation:
- 59 a) Administrative / Operating Budget
 - 60 b) Law Enforcement Training Facility Operating Budget
 - 61 c) Law Enforcement Training Facility Debt Service Budget
 - 62 d) Emergency Management Program Budget
 - 63 e) Ambulance (EMS) Budget
- 64

65 Mary Smith, Finance Director and Assistant City Manager for Rockwall, came forth and
66 indicated that the preliminary, proposed budgets have been distributed to each member entity
67 for review and incorporation into each of their own jurisdiction's budgets. She explained that
68 this item is an opportunity for any of the member entities to express any sort of concerns
69 related to the proposed budgets. There being no one expressing any, no action was taken
70 concerning this item. Mrs. Smith indicated that the board would take action to formally adopt
71 the budgets at its September board meeting.
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- 73 6. Adjournment

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75 The regular board meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.
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77 AMBULANCE SERVICES BOARD MEETING

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81 Board Members Present:

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83 Barry Brooks (Heath)
84 Steve Hatfield (McLendon Chisholm)
85 Dennis Lewis (Rockwall)
86 Lorne Megyesi (Fate)
87 Janet Nichol (Royse City)
88 Jim Pruitt (Rockwall)
89 Cliff Sevier (Rck. County)
90 David Sweet (Rck. County)

81 Board Members Absent:

82 Dana Lawson (Mobile City)

- 91
92 1. Call to order
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94 The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. with the above noted board members being
95 present and absent.
96

- 97 2. Discuss / act on update related to ambulance service related exclusivity provisions in place
98 among member cities
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100 Board Member Lewis provided an update to the board related to the Rockwall City Council's
101 recent discussion of this topic at their city council meeting this past Monday evening. He
102 explained that the Council heard comments from Presbyterian Hospital Rockwall as well as
103 Medic Rescue and that they both had submitted some material to the council for review. He
104 indicated that the Rockwall City Council would like some input from the ES Corp. regarding its

105 thoughts on Rockwall's current "exclusivity" ordinance related to ambulance service
106 provision. President Sweet and Board Member Sevier both generally indicated that the ES
107 Corp. is not in the business of writing or repealing city ordinances, so they do not have a
108 formal opinion to express in this regard. Board Member Brooks indicated that the City of
109 Heath does have an 'exclusivity' ordinance in place, but they are considering the possibility of
110 putting it on a city council agenda for possible revocation. Board Member Hatfield of
111 McLendon Chisholm expressed that he has concerns about the overall financial impact that
112 may result regarding subsidy cost increases if the City of Rockwall repeals its exclusivity
113 ordinance. EMS consultant to the board, Steve Athey of Healthcare Visions, indicated that he
114 has already advised the board that he believes the best thing is to keep exclusivity ordinances
115 in place, and he stands by that previously expressed opinion. Mr. Athey went on to explain
116 that revocation of such ordinance(s) would have an unknown financial impact – it could be
117 very little financial impact, or it could be quite large. He shared that, certainly if Rockwall does
118 repeal its ordinance, Medic Rescue would need to begin very closely monitoring any financial
119 impact. Board Member Lewis of Rockwall clarified that if Rockwall's ordinance is revoked, it
120 would only affect non-emergency transports and would not affect 911 emergency calls.

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122 President Sweet asked Medic Rescue if it had anything to say concerning the matter. Mitch
123 Ownby of Medic Rescue came forth and indicated that when the system was originally
124 designed in 2003 and a subsequent contract was signed in 2007, it was predicated on non-
125 emergency transports being factored into the equation as far as subsidy cost is concerned.
126 The goal in doing so was always to keep the cost low and make the best use of taxpayer
127 dollars. He explained that roughly \$900,000 of Medic Rescue's \$3 million dollar budget is
128 money generated from non-emergency transfers from hospitals, nursing homes and other
129 indigent care facilities. He expressed the belief that Presbyterian Hospital has not been a
130 good partner and that business-related matters have been immediately escalated to the
131 entities and to ES Corp. board members without first coming to the table with Medic Rescue to
132 discuss those matters and try to work them out. He shared that his company has offered to
133 park an ambulance at the door of the hospital, but they have not accepted this offer. They
134 instead have chosen to escalate complaints to cities and ESC board members. President
135 Sweet indicated that perhaps an offer to place an ambulance at their door was 'too little, too
136 late' at that point. At the request of Board Member Brooks, Ownby went on to explain that
137 about \$600,000 annually is attributed to funds coming in as a result of non-emergency
138 transports out of Presby (about 100 calls / month on average). Mr. Crowley, City Manager of
139 Rockwall, spoke, indicating that these problems are not ones which have just recently arisen.
140 Instead, they are problems that have been ongoing now for a number of years. He suggested
141 that perhaps the service contract between the EMS provider and the ESC board could be
142 evaluated to incorporate language that would help keep "big customers" such as Presbyterian
143 Hospital satisfied. Mr. Ownby went on to explain that Medic Rescue responds 90% of the time,
144 on average, within the time expectations delineated in its private contract with Presby and that
145 one out of four calls gets passed on, via Medic Rescue's coordination, to an alternate
146 ambulance service provider.

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148 Board Member Lewis clarified that Rockwall's ordinance makes it a criminal offense right now
149 for Presby to call someone else to perform non-emergency transfers. Right now, 'exclusivity'
150 related to Rockwall's ordinance means that the City of Rockwall is essentially handing Medic
151 Rescue all of its non-emergency transports as opposed to Medic Rescue having to go out and
152 secure contracts itself with those type of facilities.

153
154 Ownby restated that about \$600,000 annually is generated through Presby transfers, and about
155 \$250,000 annually comes from other, non-emergency facilities. He indicated that his company
156 does not currently have a contract with Baylor Rockwall.

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158 Discussion ensued related to Medic Rescue calling upon other ambulance service companies
159 to respond to non-emergency transfer requests when Medic Rescue is tied up and unable to
160 provide those services. Ownby generally expressed that Medic Rescue performs this service
161 on behalf of Presby so that Presby does not have to worry with it, something that he feels is of
162 benefit to Presby staff.

163
164 Ed Thatcher, City Manager of Heath, shared that a few years ago, he personally had a bad
165 experience waiting to be transported out of Presby Hospital to another hospital in Dallas, a
166 wait that lasted more than three long hours. Mr. Ownby shared that essentially what had
167 occurred in that instance was that Medic Rescue was never called until about 20 minutes
168 before they arrived at the hospital to transfer Mr. Thatcher. He explained that before a patient
169 can be transferred, the receiving hospital has to have a lot of coordination with the
170 transferring hospital to ensure they have a bed/room available for the patient being received,
171 that the patient's medical records and test results have been successfully transferred, etc. So,
172 all of those things apparently took place before the EMS company (Medic Rescue) was ever
173 even called by Presby Hospital to conduct the patient transfer. Mr. Ownby explained that it is
174 unfortunate that, in a situation like that one, the patient had no knowledge of the fact that EMS
175 was only called twenty minutes before, even though he or she has been "waiting on an
176 ambulance transfer for three plus hours."

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178 Mr. Crowley explained that he is unsure if the City of Rockwall will end up repealing its
179 ordinance or not. However, the ES Corporation needs to do everything it can to ensure that
180 Medic Rescue is getting as much non-emergency transport business as possible so as to keep
181 costs low. Having said that, he knows that everyone wants to be sure that service is good and
182 that "big customers" such as hospitals are satisfied with the provider's service.

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184 Board Member Hatfield pointed out that, even if Rockwall rescinds its ordinance, Presby still
185 has a contract in place with Medic Rescue. Mr. Ownby indicated that if Rockwall repeals its
186 ordinance, he suspects that Presbyterian Hospital will in turn immediately cancel its contract
187 with Medic Rescue. At the request of Board Member Brooks, Mr. Ownby went on to explain
188 that either party can cancel the contract at any time with, in some cases thirty days' notice,
189 and, in other cases, more like 60 or 90 days' notice. Mr. Ownby stressed that Medic Rescue
190 entered into the contract with Presby in an effort to be a good partner, and that the contract
191 allows Presby Hospital to have "prime vendor" (reduced) pricing. Furthermore, he explained,
192 that the contact was also established because it was in the best interest of the ES Corporation.
193 Mr. Ownby shared that the contract was entered into about one-and-a-half to two years ago,
194 and it is a year-to-year contract.

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196 Michael Kovacs, City Manager of Fate, shared that he believes ambulance provision in the
197 county is a great deal because Fate pays about \$45,000 annually to give 10,000 people a twelve
198 minute response time. He believes that this is a phenomenal value considering the services
199 provided.

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201 President Sweet asked Mr. Ownby how he thinks these problems may be able to be fixed. Mr.
202 Ownby shared that he is hoping that once Rockwall makes its decision on the ordinance, the
203 political presence will be removed from the situation, and hopefully both parties can then
204 come to the table to try and resolve the concerns. He shared that once Rockwall's decision is
205 made regarding its ordinance, Medic Rescue will go back to Presby to try and speak to them to
206 resolve their concerns and do whatever is needed to satisfy them.

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208 The board took no action concerning this discussion item.
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3. Discuss / act on reports from Medic Rescue related to EMS contract compliance, including road construction impacts

Medic Rescue provided an update to the board concerning its monthly reports. Mr. Ownby provided brief comments related to recent involvement in community-related events, billing and response times (which he reported are both doing ok and are as expected), and upcoming construction. No action was taken by the board as a result of this agenda item.

4. Adjournment

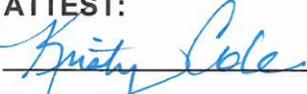
The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION ON THIS THE 16th DAY OF September, 2015.



David Sweet
County Judge and President, County of Rockwall ESC
Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Kristy Cole
Assistant Secretary, Board of Directors -
County of Rockwall ESC

