



MINUTES

COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION

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

Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 2009 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Bill Cecil
Lorie Grinnan
Steve Hatfield
Bob Hille
David Magness
Cindy Rushing

Board Members Absent:

Don Becknell
Bill Broderick
Wanda Cooper
Cliff Sevier

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

1. Call to order

Bill Cecil called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

2. Discuss and consider approval of the minutes from the March 25, 2009 regular ESC board meeting and take any action necessary.

Steve Hatfield made a motion to approve the minutes from March 25, 2009. Cindy Rushing seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes to 4 absent (Becknell, Broderick, Cooper and Sevier).

3. Hear update on law enforcement firing range facility and take any action necessary.

Rockwall Police Chief Mark Moeller provided a verbal update to the board, indicating that the construction work to repair the drainage problem has begun and should be finished soon. He stated that the attorneys are nearing completion of review of the lease agreement for leasing out the gun range to other law enforcement entities. Cindy Rushing asked for an estimated number of hours that the gun range might be available to be leased out. Moeller indicated that each agency used approximately one half to three fourths of its allotted time for the year this past year, resulting in a significant amount of unused time

50 that could be made available to other agencies for use in the future. After some additional,
51 brief discussion, no action was taken on this item.

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53 4. Hear update on Emergency Management Program activities and take any action
54 necessary.

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56 Rockwall County Emergency Management Coordinator, Joe DeLane, stated that his
57 department has been working on grants and finishing up the associated paperwork. He
58 also mentioned that they are working on the after action report for the POD ('point of
59 distribution') exercise that recently occurred. He further indicated that a mobile medical
60 unit mass casualty training has been scheduled for May and that first responders from
61 throughout the county have been invited to participate as well as EMS and hospital
62 personnel. Regarding the "Hazard Mitigation Annex," DeLane indicated that this annex
63 takes quite a bit of work in order to complete it and have it approved by the state,
64 including several public hearings and input. His department is currently working on this
65 annex and plans to finish it so that Rockwall County can become eligible for mitigation
66 grant funding opportunities in the future. Once the county's portion of this annex is
67 complete, his department then plans to assist the cities with their portion of the required
68 annex information.

69
70 Cecil asked if DeLane has any knowledge of any 'federal stimulus money' from FEMA.
71 DeLane indicated that there is none at this time that he is aware of, though he plans to
72 keep informed of any opportunities for such funding.

73
74 Regarding evacuation planning for the County jail, DeLane stated that he has been
75 working to identify alternate locations and has also been working with the school district
76 on development of a transportation agreement. He may be able to house evacuated
77 inmates in Limestone County, but he needs to work on obtaining a written agreement with
78 Limestone. He indicated that he has obtained a verbal agreement with RISD for use of its
79 multi-purpose facility, and although he has not gotten anything in writing yet, he is
80 currently working to do so.

81
82 No action was taken on this item.

- 83
84 5. Hear update on possible joint dispatch center and take any action necessary.

85
86 Rockwall City Manager, Julie Couch, indicated that she has met with Chief Moeller and
87 Sheriff Eavenson to discuss this issue. While it would be ideal to have just one radio
88 system throughout the entire county, Rockwall County does not currently have just one
89 system in place. Rockwall County operates on a different radio system than does the City
90 of Rockwall and Heath DPS who both operate on the same system. Because two different
91 systems are in place within the County, Couch indicated that forming a joint dispatch
92 center may not be a viable idea at this time. However, she suggested that there may be
93 benefit in evaluating a joint software program through the CAD (computer automated
94 dispatch) system, which would lead to enhanced communication among the various
95 entities.

96
97 Sheriff Eavenson spoke about the fact that one entity operates on a UHF system while the
98 other operates on a VHF system, resulting in limited ability to effectively communicate
99 with each other via radio. He expressed that this problem continues to exist nationwide,
100 not just here in Rockwall County. He further indicated that radio frequency availability is

101 virtually non-existent at this time. Regarding a possible joint software system, Eavenson
102 stated that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) out of the Governor's Office has a
103 lot of potential grant money available to use on software systems and upgrades. He
104 informed the board that he will be having a meeting with the DHS and TX DPS on May 4th
105 to discuss the possibility of meeting with various software providers to test their systems
106 and potentially narrow down the choices of software provider in hopes of everyone
107 eventually getting on one, uniform software system.
108

109 Couch indicated that the City of Rockwall will likely look at a new capital project proposal
110 in a few years because the city is in need of a new police station. She suggested that the
111 board may want to evaluate the possibility of funding a joint dispatch space at that time.
112

113 General discussion then took place regarding the benefits associated with the face-to-face
114 conversations that could take place among dispatchers if they were someday located
115 within a joint facility.
116

117 Eavenson further stated that a joint dispatch center is not financially viable at this time
118 because a facility like that would need to serve as both a joint dispatch center and a joint
119 Emergency Operations Center (EOC). It would need to be big enough for all entities
120 involved and be built such that it could withstand an F4 or F5 tornado, which would be
121 quite costly.
122

123 Couch then recommended that the technical subcommittee take the issues under
124 advisement at this time and keep evaluating the issues over time on a quarterly basis.
125

126 No board action was taken related to this item.
127

128 6. Hear treasurer's report and update and take any action necessary.
129

130 Treasurer Bill Sinclair was not present at the meeting. Cecil asked if anyone had any
131 concerns about the report(s) that Sinclair had issued for the month. No questions were
132 brought up, and no action was taken on this item.
133

134 7. Adjournment
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136 The regular board meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.
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138 SPECIAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING 139

140 1. Call to order
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142 Cecil called the Special Services Board Meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.
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144 2. Hear update from Medic Rescue regarding contract compliance, audit and reports and
145 take any action necessary.
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147 Mitch Ownby of Medic Rescue indicated that the company recently added a new MICU
148 (mobile intensive care unit) vehicle to its fleet. He stated that he has met with the hospital
149 regarding regional protocols associated with transporting trauma patients and heart attack
150 patients. Related to billing, Ownby indicated that there has been a significant amount of
151 billing activity over the last three months but that collections remain flat. He indicated that

152 response times remain in compliance. General discussion then ensued related to traffic
153 and road construction throughout the county. Ownby indicated that staging an
154 ambulance at Rockwall's new Fire Station #4 will help when FM-740 undergoes
155 construction.

156
157 No action was taken on this item.

158
159 3. Adjournment

160
161 The Special Services Board Meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

162
163 ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 27th day of May, 2009.

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165


William (Bill) R. Cecil
President, Board of Directors
County of Rockwall ESC

ATTEST:


Clifford Sevier
Secretary, Board of Directors
County of Rockwall ESC

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