



## MINUTES

# COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION

January 13, 2005 5:00 p.m. - Regular Board Meeting

ROCKWALL HISTORIC COURTHOUSE 101 EAST RUSK ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087

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### Board Members Present:

Bruce Beaty  
Bill Cecil  
Steve Hatfield  
Ken Jones  
Rob McCoy  
John Ratcliffe  
Cindy Rushing  
Scott Self

### Board Members Absent:

Wanda Cooper  
George McCain

### General Board Meeting

#### 1. Call to order

Bruce Beaty called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

#### 2. Discuss and consider approval of the minutes from the November 4, 2004 ESC Regular Board Meeting and the November 4, 2004 Worksession.

\* Scott Self made a motion to approve the minutes from both the November 4, 2004 ESC Board Meeting and the November 4, 2004 Worksession.

\*\* Cindy Rushing seconded the motion.

\*\*\*It passed unanimously

**3. Hear update from Julie Couch regarding the law enforcement gun range facility and take any action necessary.**

Julie Couch explained that the technical subcommittee is currently finalizing information and documents to send out to each entity for review. This information will probably be sent out next week.

**4. Here presentation from Chief Mark Poindexter on the proposed joint fire training facility and take any action necessary.**

Chief Mark Poindexter from the Rockwall Volunteer Fire Department made a short PowerPoint presentation on the justifications for and necessary components of a fire training facility. He explained that the facility could be combined with the proposed joint law enforcement gun range and built on land currently owned by the City of Rockwall. The rough cost estimate for the design and construction of this joint facility is roughly \$5 to \$6 million dollars.

Bruce Beaty expressed that the cost seemed high. Poindexter explained that the burn building was probably the most costly component, followed by the steel and concrete needed for its construction. He pointed out that water and sewer would not be high dollar requirements.

Beaty asked if there are any environmental considerations that need to be considered. Poindexter expressed that a very quick, preliminary study was done on this and that air scrubbers would reduce fuel emissions, the artificial smoke would be produced by machines and would be harmless to people as well as the environment.

Chief Wright from Rowlett Fire Rescue reemphasized that he and Poindexter were making a best guess estimate on the cost. They are seeking permission from the Emergency Services Corporation Board to conduct further research and acquire a preliminary design for the facility.

Connie Goodwin from Royse City asked if the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) still takes into consideration a department's distance from a fire training facility when awarding that City's ISO rating. Chief Wright explained that, yes, ISO does still consider this distance. He believed the distance is 5 miles. Poindexter further explained that a fire department cannot deplete its services less by less than 50% at any time without being penalized under ISO. This makes it very difficult for all fire departments in Rockwall County, including Rowlett, to send their firefighters and apparatus away to fire training facilities in Collin County and elsewhere. Building a fire training facility in Rockwall County would allow all jurisdictions to receive full credit from ISO in relation to this requirement.

Scott Self inquired about how the facility would be financed. Julie Couch explained that this has not yet been discussed in any great detail with the other jurisdictions. However, the first thought would be to finance it as the gun range facility would be financed by basing the cost distribution on numbers of personnel needing to be trained

from each participating jurisdiction. The Corporation could issue debt, and each entity would then pay its pro rata share and annual operating costs.

Sheriff Eavenson inquired about the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) component associated with the facility. He asked if the EOC room would be built to withstand tornado strength winds. Poindexter explained that grant funds would not cover the cost associated with building an EOC from the ground up. However, once it is built, there may be grant funding available to 'harden' the EOC and outfit it with necessary equipment. The cost estimates mentioned today are not reflective of costs associated with 'hardening' the EOC component of the facility. More research would need to be conducted in order to arrive at a more accurate cost estimate.

Couch explained that the gun range and fire training facility could most likely be combined at one location. She showed a preliminary site plan of where the facility could be built on a 63-acre plot of land located off Airport Road that is currently owned by the City of Rockwall. She explained that the City might also build a fire station and animal shelter on that same 63-acre area of land in the future. The police and fire facility could be combined on the same piece of land, and the project could be done in phases if needed.

Scott Self inquired about the next step. Couch explained that the board should probably appoint a subcommittee of board representatives to work with the technical representatives to research the facility more carefully and bring a recommendation back to the board.

\* Scott Self made a motion to create a subcommittee to study the proposed fire training facility and bring a proposal, including costs, back to the board for consideration.

\*\* Ken Jones seconded the motion.

\*\*\* The motion passed unanimously.

The subcommittee will be comprised of the following board members:

Cindy Rushing from Rowlett (Committee Chair)  
Bill Cecil from Rockwall  
George McCain from Royse City  
Rob McCoy from Fate, and  
John Ratcliffe from Heath.

Each city was asked to appoint an individual to assist these board members by serving as a technical representative on this subcommittee.

**5. Discuss and consider adopting a resolution to encourage each city in Rockwall County to appoint a representative to undertake joint Emergency Management/Preparedness initiatives.**

Kristy Ashberry, Emergency Management Coordinator from the City of Rockwall, spoke to the board on this item. She explained that this resolution will formalize the

recommendation Bruce Beaty made at the worksession on November 4, 2004 when he suggested that a committee of representatives from each city in the county be formed to undertake emergency management initiatives. She recommended to the board that an emergency management representative from each jurisdiction be appointed so that when Lt. Davis from the County, the recently hired emergency management intern, and herself are updating the county's emergency response plan, they can have points of contact to call when gathering important information. She also suggested that this committee be involved with future joint training and exercises. Ashberry explained that the resolution calls for each jurisdiction to appoint a representative to serve on this Emergency Management Committee by February 24, 2005, which is the date of the next Emergency Services Corporation Board Meeting.

\* Scott Self made a motion to pass the proposed resolution.

\*\* Steve Hatfield seconded the motion.

\*\*\*It passed unanimously.

**6. Discuss and consider the adoption of Tier I and Tier II Mutual Aid Agreements and take any action necessary.**

Dennis Watson from Heath presented this item to the board. He explained that the adoption of these mutual aid agreements derived from the 2002 Homeland Security Act and 2 additional presidential directives. These laws require that each jurisdiction adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as well as mutual aid agreements like the Tier I and Tier II agreements being proposed to the board. He further explained that jurisdictions that experience a disaster and want to seek public aid assistance and / or disaster reimbursement funding must have adopted NIMS and must have passed these mutual aid agreements. Otherwise, they will not be eligible for reimbursement funds. He let the board know that the federal government has not yet clearly defined what a jurisdiction must do in order to 'adopt' NIMS and meet their requirements, but a large part of NIMS is centered around the Incident Command System (ICS), which all of the fire departments in the county have already been using for years anyway. He also pointed out that the Incident Command System is already incorporated into the county's emergency response plan. He mentioned that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has an informational NIMS course on-line on FEMA's website under the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) link.

In order to satisfy these requirements in the near future, Watson advised that each city within the county and the county itself adopt the Tier I mutual aid agreements, and the County should adopt the Tier II mutual aid agreements with all surrounding counties (Collin, Dallas, Hunt, & Kaufman). He explained that the requirements surrounding NIMS and Tier I & II Mutual Aid Agreements have not yet been formalized and that no state or federal agency will review and approve these agreements at this time.

Watson cautioned that, in the future, once the federal government more clearly defines its requirements for NIMS, jurisdictions will likely be required to send their personnel to formal NIMS training. This will probably cost the jurisdictions a lot of time and money. For now, however, jurisdictions should become familiar with NIMS by taking the online course and know that this requirement could be costly to their jurisdiction in the future.

The bottom line is that if jurisdictions are not signed onto a Tier I or Tier II mutual aid agreement and do not 'adopt' NIMS, they will not be eligible for state or federal assistance if their jurisdiction experiences a disaster. For now, a jurisdiction's adoption of the Incident Command System will satisfy the federal government's requirement to "adopt NIMS." The deadline for adopting NIMS and passing Tier I and Tier II mutual aid agreements is September of 2005.

Julie Couch clarified that the following three things need to be done:

- 1) Adoption of ICS in order to meet their requirement to 'adopt NIMS'
- 2) Tier I Mutual Aid Agreements must be signed by the County and all cities within the County, and
- 3) Tier II Mutual Aid Agreements must be signed by Rockwall County and by all surrounding counties.

\* Scott Self made a motion for the County of Rockwall Emergency Services Corporation to recommend that (1) each member agency adopt the proposed Tier I Mutual Aid Agreements, (2) that the Tier II Mutual Aid Agreements be adopted by Rockwall County and all surrounding counties, and (3) that all jurisdictions adopt ICS and become familiar with NIMS.

\*\* Ken Jones seconded the motion.

\*\*\* It passed unanimously.

Bruce Beaty asked that a 'speakers bureau be formed in order to visit each jurisdiction's city council and explain the mutual aid and NIMS requirements. The speakers assigned include Dennis Watson from Heath, Matt Walling from Rowlett, and Kristy Ashberry from Rockwall.

Julie Couch suggested that an informational memo, along with the mutual aid agreements, be forwarded to the city secretary of each jurisdiction for consideration by those entities.

## **7. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

## **8. Adjournment**

\* Bruce Beaty made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 5:50 p.m.

\*\* Scott Self seconded the motion.

\*\*\* The regular board meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

## **Special Services Board Meeting**

### **1. Call to order**

Bruce Beaty called the Special Services Board Meeting to order at 5:51 p.m.

### **2. Hear update on EMS Service Contract and take any action necessary.**

Mitch Ownby from Medic Rescue/Rockwall County EMS gave the board a general update on response times, vehicles, community service outreach programs, and the CAD System that they are about to purchase. He let the board know that he, Tim Wolf, and Mark Leggett met with the technical committee earlier this week.

**3. Adjournment**

\* Scott Self made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

\*\* John Ratcliffe seconded the motion.

\*\*\* The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2005.

  
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Bruce Beaty  
President, Board of Directors  
County of Rockwall ESC

ATTEST:  
  
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Scott Self  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
County of Rockwall ESC