

# MINUTES

## COUNTY OF ROCKWALL EMERGENCY SERVICES CORPORATION

November 4, 2004, 5:30 p.m. - **Worksession**

ROCKWALL HISTORIC COURTHOUSE 101 EAST RUSK ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75087

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### **Board Members Present:**

Bruce Beaty  
Steve Hatfield  
Ken Jones  
George McCain  
Rob McCoy  
John Ratcliffe  
Cindy Rushing  
Scott Self

### **Board Members Absent:**

Bill Cecil  
Wanda Cooper

### **Worksession**

#### **1. Call to Order**

Bruce Beaty called the worksession to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### **2. Overview of the Emergency Services Corporation (history, authority) by Julie Couch**

Couch gave a quick, general overview of the Emergency Services Corporation, including its history and purpose. She explained that it was originally formed to allow for joint cooperation and cost sharing on the provision of a countywide ambulance service. The Corporation has also begun a new initiative and is currently researching a joint gun range for law enforcement agencies in the County. Five entities within the Corporation are currently in need of a new gun range.

Couch explained that the Corporation is permitted to consider a variety of programs as long as the program is related to public safety and as long as the Corporation stays within its legal guidelines.

Scott Self asked if the Corporation could consider a training facility for fire departments in the County. He explained that there is a real need for certification training.

Couch stated that the City of Rockwall held a bond election several years ago, and the bond package containing the fire training facility had not passed. She explained that the volunteer departments have unique needs because of the time and hours that volunteers are available to train. The Corporation could indeed look into a joint fire training facility.

Chief Wright, Rowlett Fire Chief, spoke and let the Corporation know that Rowlett currently sends its paid firefighters all the way to Collin County for training. He explained that he would be open to a joint fire training facility that would benefit both paid and non-paid departments. He suggested that the Corporation could charge fees for any outside agencies who might want to use it. Grant money might also be available for something like this. The facility could be designed to accommodate some Law Enforcement needs as well, such as classrooms, tactical training, etc.

Bruce Beaty asked if any logistical problems exist between volunteer and paid departments. Chief Wright indicated that no, no real differences exist. Bruce Beaty indicated that a fire training facility of this kind would allow volunteers to participate in after hours and weekend training. Wright agreed and indicated that it could be used during the daytime hours by outside, paid departments. Wright stated that the Sunnyvale Fire Department would probably use a facility like this too.

Rob McCoy suggested that having a facility that is used by both paid and volunteer fire departments would make mutual aid responses run smoother since they would have already been training together.

Connie Goodwin stated that Royse City volunteer firefighters currently have to take off work from their normal jobs and go to Collin County and/or College Station to train.

Chief Bruce Ure expressed his support for the facility but pointed out that it would be costly and would need to be properly managed.

Beaty asked that an item be placed on the next board meeting agenda to discuss a fire training facility. In the meantime, he wanted a technical committee of fire chiefs to research it.

Dennis Watson stated that it would be nice to combine the fire and law enforcement training facilities into one location.

Couch stated that she could bring a master plan of the land plot the City of Rockwall has looked at to the next meeting.

Beaty indicated that the county might also have some possibilities for land choices.

Chief Mark Poindexter indicated that about 49 acres is needed for law enforcement to have a driving track for pursuit training. This will take up most of the acreage.

Beaty asked that this item be placed on the next agenda.

**3. Discuss regional emergency preparedness and consider formulating a countywide planning council to address regional emergency management issues.**

Kristy Ashberry, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Rockwall, spoke briefly about Emergency Management in the City of Rockwall and in the County. She explained that the Emergency Response Plan, of which all entities in Rockwall County except for Rowlett are a part, is outdated and needs to be updated. She further expressed a desire to jointly plan, train, and exercise together, countywide.

Bruce Beaty explained that the Emergency Response Plan is indeed out-of-date and in need of updates. He expressed a desire to get serious about Emergency Management and asked that each City Manager appoint someone who has true technical expertise in this area to help with the plan.

Beaty asked that this item be placed on the Corporation's next agenda for discussion. In the meantime, he asked that Dennis Watson be appointed as Chairman of a new Emergency Preparedness Committee. City Managers and Kristy Ashberry will serve on the committee as well.

\*Rob McCoy made a motion to approve this appointment and committee.

\*\*Bruce Beaty seconded the motion.

\*\*\*It passed unanimously.

**4. Update from Medic Rescue on Emergency Medical Services**

This item was discussed during the General Board Meeting.

**5. General discussion on related matters**

No further discussion took place.

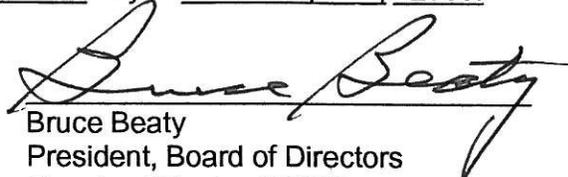
## 6. Adjournment

\*At 6:05 p.m. Scott Self made a motion to adjourn the Worksession

\*\*Rob McCoy seconded it

\*\*\*The worksession adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 13th day of January, 2005.

  
Bruce Beaty  
President, Board of Directors  
County of Rockwall ESC

ATTEST:

  
Scott Self  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
County of Rockwall ESC

