

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 10**

A special Meeting was duly called of the **FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 10**, which was held on January 28, 2025, at Fairchild Fire Station, located at 8715 Fairchilds Rd., Richmond, Texas 77469.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Commissioner **BRIAN SATSKY**, president.

1. A roll call of commissioners was made under Agenda Item 1, and a quorum was confirmed, with Commissioners **BRIAN SATSKY, RUSSELL STRATMAN, RICHARD BREWER, MATT CYRUS** being present (the fifth position is vacant). Also present were Josh Shed, Fire Chief of the Fairchild Fire Department, members of the Department, Howard Katz, attorney for the District, and Brian Desilets, Clarity Consulting, the ESD bookkeeper.

(a) The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited.

2. Review District Financial Matters.

Brian Desilets, with Clarity Consulting, the ESD bookkeeper, discussed financial matters and guidelines regarding public funds and financial planning. He said that the current proposed District funding and reserves were not optimum. He noted that the Department 2025 budget requested \$343,370 from the District. Mr. Desilets and Mr. Katz said that the District would have inadequate funds to budget that amount and would leave very little in reserve. Mr. Desilets said the 2024 Compilation from the auditor may determine that the reserves were not sufficient, especially under GASB 34, which is the AICPA guideline for proper public finances. Mr. Desilets said that auditors usually want to see 3-6 months reserves in the beginning years, and ultimately a full 12 month reserve. He said that was not possible in the first year, but if no reserve is built up it will become very difficult to achieve that reserve level.

Mr. Katz said that the current formula of funding the Department where the Department prepares its budget without direct input from the District was not working, despite best efforts in prior meetings and workshops. He said it is fine for the Department to prepare its financial goal, but the District needs to prepare its budget and set the amount that will be funded to the Department.

Mr. Katz also addressed future funding matters. He said that sales tax was a possibility, but that requires an election, so it could be disapproved. He also covered the effects of truth-in-taxation laws. He said the basic premise of TNT is that tax entities (ESDs, cities, counties,

etc.) can set a tax rate only as high as the rate that brings in the same amount of tax revenue as in the prior tax year, unless special hearings are held and in some cases a tax rate election.

3. **Review and take action on revisions to District 2025 budget, including approval of a line item funding amount to be paid to Fairchild Fire Department under District 2025 budget.**

Mr. **Stratman** asked the Chief why the Department's prior budget of \$100,000 has grown to almost \$500,000.00 for 2025. The Chief said that funding for the Department was to cover items that could not be included in prior budgets, and also to start planning for paid shifts. The Chief said he had spoken with Mr. Katz and board members about the District setting the funding amount and for the Department to put that amount into the Department budget spreadsheet. He said that the funding amount of \$292,000 would work. Mr. Stratman said that is still doubling the Department revenue.

Mr. Desilets said perhaps the 2024 budget year can be a short year because the 2024 funding was essentially utilizing the tax loan. He said he would review that, especially because the District is paying off that loan in 2025 from 2025 income.

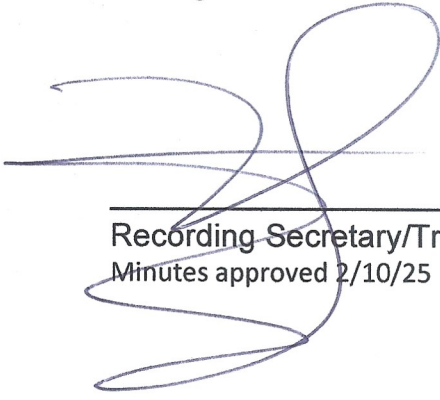
After review, Motion was made by Mr. **Brewer**, seconded by Mr. **Cyrus** to budget funding to the Department for 2025 of \$293,000.00. Mr. Katz reminded that under the Service Agreement, the District cannot fund any more than its income and cannot deficit borrow, and that amount could be subject to revision based on the District's actual cash position. After discussion, the Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

4. **Review and take action on proposed Fairchild Fire Department 2025 operating and capital budgets, and line item funding.** Item tabled.
5. **Discuss funding of paid and volunteer crews in the Fairchild Fire Department.** Item tabled.
6. **Receive a report from Fairchild Fire Department on planning for recruitment and of paid duty crew.**

The Chief said that a second paid firefighter will be looked at being implemented in June.

7. **Public comment.** None was offered.
8. **Executive Session.** None

9. There being no further business brought before the Board, upon Motion made the meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.



Recording Secretary/Transcriber
Minutes approved 2/10/25