

THE STATE OF TEXAS                    X        KENEDY COUNTY FIRE AND  
COUNTY OF KENEDY                    X        EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1

On the 16th day of March, 2020, at 6:30 o'clock p.m. a Regular Meeting of the Kenedy County Fire & Emergency Services District No. 1 was held at the Kenedy County Fire & Emergency Services District #1 Fire Station, 350 N. Mallory Street, Sarita, Texas.

**Commissioners Present:**

Denise Recio, Commissioner  
Lonnie Allen Brown, Commissioner  
Michelle Alegria, Commissioner

**Also Present:**

Leo Villarreal  
Jose E. Mendieta, Fire Chief  
Ruben Hernandez  
Wendy Greet, HALO

**Absent:**

William Dieterle, Commissioner  
Mitchell Thomas, Commissioner

**1. Call the Meeting to Order**

Denise Recio called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Receive Public Comments**

Wendy Green with Halo Flight addressed the Commissioners regarding the Membership Contract. She informed the Commissioners that the membership number of 236 is the number of taxpayers in Kenedy County; that Kenedy County residents' hospital insurance pays Halo and the balance of the debt is forgiven; that those with no insurance to pay 50% of the cost; that anyone who is not a taxpayer may pay \$35.00 per year to become a Halo Flight member; that Medicare patients are not covered because they are not eligible to become members; that Medicare patients 65 and older are not part of the plan, but debt is forgiven; and that a third party billing company does the billing for Halo.

The 911 ambulance personnel make the calls for Halo assistance, not the individuals.

In major accidents, law enforcement or the Fire District may call and help land the helicopter. Kenedy County and ranch members can be flown to Dallas/Fort Worth, but not to San Antonio because San Antonio's Air Ambulance is a for-profit corporation. Halo members, upon receiving Halo's bill, must call Halo Flight and inform them that they are members by and through Kenedy County ESD and give their name, age and birthdate.



Grass Fires	8
Structure Fires	1
Medical Assistance	0
Total Calls in February:	16

EMS Calls in February:

Vehicle Accidents	5
Checkpoint calls	0
Medical Calls in Sarita	0
Medical Calls in Kleberg	0
Total Calls in February:	12

Commissioner Lonnie Allen Brown moved and Commissioner Michelle Alegria seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Fire Chief is authorized to purchase a brush guard for the new Brush 1 truck.

Commissioner Lonnie Allen Brown moved and Commissioner Michelle Alegria seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Fire Chief is authorized to purchase equipment necessary to address the coronavirus.

Commissioner Michelle Alegria moved and Commissioner Lonnie Allen Brown seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Fire Chief's report be accepted as presented.

**5. Discuss & Act on Standby Officer Command Pay for February**

Jose E. Mendieta, Fire Chief, informed the Fire Commissioners that the following standby officers were entitled to receive compensation for standby/response coverage:

Ruben Hernandez	\$150.00
Gilbert (Jay) Gonzalez	\$187.50
Brandan Rogers	\$137.50

Commissioner Lonnie Allen Brown moved and Commissioner Michelle Alegria seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Ruben Hernandez be paid \$150.00, Gilbert (Jay) Gonzales be paid \$187.50 and Brandan Rogers be paid \$137.50 for their standby officer pay.

**6. Receive Report on Senate Bill 2 Required Website**

Leo Villarreal informed the Commissioners that Senate Bill 2 required the following information on the Fire District's Website:

- a. The name of each member of the ESD Board;
- b. The mailing address, email address and telephone number of the ESD;
- c. The official contact information for each member of the ESD Board;
- d. The ESD's budget for the previous two years;
- e. The ESD's proposed or adopted budget for the current year;



- f. The change in the amount of the ESD's budget from the preceding year to the current year, by dollar amount and percentage;
- g. The amount of property tax revenue budgeted for maintenance and operations for the current year and previous two years;
- h. The tax rate for maintenance and operations adopted by the ESD for the current year and previous two years; and
- i. The most recent financial audit of the ESD.

Brian Birdwell has been previously authorized to develop and create a website for the Fire District in compliance with Senate Bill 2.

This is a report only, therefore no vote was needed and none was taken.

**7. Receive Report on Senate Bill 2 Budget Requirements**

Leo Villarreal informed the Commissioners that the Senate 2 Budget requirements were as follows:

- a. The ESD's budget for the previous two years;
- b. The ESD's proposed or adopted budget for the current year;
- c. The change in the amount of the ESD's budget from the preceding year to the current year, by dollar amount and percentage;
- d. The amount of property tax revenue budgeted for maintenance and operations for the current year and previous two years; and
- e. The tax rate for maintenance and operations adopted by the ESD for the current year and previous two years.

This being a report only, no vote was needed and none was taken.

**8. Receive Report on SAFE-D Conference**

Leo Villarreal informed the Fire Commissioners' that Leo Villarreal, Fire Chief Joey Mendieta, Commissioner Lonnie Allen Brown and Ruben Hernandez had attended the SAFE-D in Galveston, Texas on February 20-22, 2020 and that the conference had been very informative and successful and that the conference General Sessions and hourly sessions repeatedly emphasized the Senate Bill 2 requirements.

This being a report only, no vote was needed and none was taken.

**9. Receive Report on Coronavirus Policy**

Leo Villarreal informed the Commissioners that the Kenedy County Commissioners' Court, on March 23 would meet to consider a Coronavirus Policy for the County. Further, the Fire District had distributed pamphlets to the Kenedy County residents to make them aware on what to do to prevent the spread the coronavirus and guidance on what to do if they suspected they have the virus, for the EMS, is under the control of the County Judge's Declaration of Local Disaster due to COVID-19 during the coronavirus emergency.

This being a report only, no vote was needed and none was taken.

**10. Discuss & Act on Authorizing Signing of 2019 Audit Engagement Letter**

Leo Villarreal presented the Commissioners with John Womack & Co., P.C.'s 2019 Audit Engagement Letter for consideration and action.

Commissioner Michelle Alegria moved and Commissioner Lonnie Allen Brown seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that Joe Mendiotta, Fire Chief, and Leo Villarreal are authorized to sign the 2019 Audit Engagement Letter.

**11. Discuss & Act on Setting Date of Next Regular Meeting**

Denise Recio informed the Board of Directors that a date needed to be designated for the next meeting.

Commissioner Denise Recio moved and Commissioner Michelle Alegria seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed to hold the District's next meeting on April 13, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

**12. Discuss & Act on Payment of Bills and Receive Report on Tax Revenue Received and Bank Balance**

Denise Recio presented the bills for the month ending February 29, 2020, to the Fire Commissioners and informed the Fire Commissioners that the bills should be considered for payment.

Commissioner Michelle Alegria moved and Commissioner Lonnie Allen Brown seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the bills be paid as presented.

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, Commissioner Lonnie Allen Brown moved and Commissioner Michelle Alegria seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously passed that the Fire District's Commissioners' meeting be adjourned at 8:15 o'clock p.m.

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Denise Recio, Vice-President

ATTESTED TO:

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Michelle Alegria, Commissioner