

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – September 19, 2024**

Williamson County Emergency Services District #2 held a regular meeting on September 19, 2024 at Sam Bass Fire Department Station 2, 16248 Great Oaks Drive, Round Rock, Texas and on-line at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/645098693> and by phone at 1-571-317-3129 or 1-877-309-2073.

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Commissioners present in person: Jordan Baltazor, President; Russell Strahan, Vice-President; Tim Hunsberger, Treasurer; Darryl Pool, Secretary; Thom Nanninga, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Commissioner Baltazor. A quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Baltazor.

Public Comment: No member of the public requested to speak.

**Action items**

ITEM 4: *Approve minutes of prior meeting(s).*

Motion to approve minutes of regular meeting held August 22, 2024 as presented.

Motion: Nanninga      Second: Strahan      [Unanimous]

ITEM 5: *Review bookkeeper's report from Municipal Accounts & Consulting and consent to:*  
*a) approval of payment of monthly bills and invoices, b) approval of monthly financial report.*

Municipal Accounts & Consulting representative Alexia Kolmodin presented the District's monthly financial statements, bills, and invoices for August 2024. She stated there was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

Kolmodin said MAC's investment team is not willing to place District funds in long-term investments at a rate earning less than 5% interest without approval of the board. Commissioner Nanninga inquired as to whether there would be any pre-payment penalty if the District pays off the loan for Station 3. Kolmodin will look into that question and report back. Paying off the loan early might save the District more than placing those funds in a low-yield investment.

Motion to approve MAC reports as presented.

Motion: Nanninga      Second: Baltazor      [Unanimous]

ITEM 6: *Review Sam Bass Fire Dept. bookkeeper's report from M.A.&C.*

Kolmodin presented SBFD's monthly financial statements, bills, and invoices for August 2024. She stated there was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

ITEM 7: *Discuss and Take action relative to Direct Deposit Agreement with HR&P.*

The agreement to have HR&P take over the task of processing the District's payroll as approved at the 4/18/24 board meeting has not gone into effect. Revisions to the proposed contract have not been submitted to HR&P for their consideration. Commissioners once again discussed advantages and disadvantages of transferring this responsibility to HR&P.

Motion to have MAC continue to process the District's payroll and immediately discontinue negotiations with HR&P to take over that responsibility.

Motion: Pool      Second: Hunsberger      [Unanimous]

ITEM 8: *Discuss and Take action to the adoption of a Sales and Use Tax.*

SBFD Firefighter Will Prescott said a Sales & Use Tax Committee has been formed composed of SBFD personnel and citizens. The Committee's first meeting was held in August. They recommend issuing a public statement prior to SBFD's October open house as to why the tax election approved by voters in November 2023 has not gone into effect.

A draft of such a public statement was presented to Commissioners at their 6/20/24 board meeting, but the board requested revisions be made to shorten the statement. Commissioners discussed a revised draft.

Motion to authorize public distribution of a statement [see Attachment A] explaining the facts behind why a District sales and use tax has not gone into effect.

Motion: Strahan    Second: Nanninga    [Unanimous]

ITEM 9: *Receive monthly operations report from Sam Bass Fire Department.*

a) *Receive monthly statistics report from Sam Bass Fire Department.*

SBFD Captain Corby Bryan revealed the department's new logo. It was designed by SBFD personnel at no charge to SBFD or the District.

Captain Bryan presented abbreviated SBFD incident report data and activities for August 2024 plus comparison to prior years. He had previously emailed Commissioners the full report. Projections for the remainder of 2024 indicate the department will likely respond to the largest number of calls in its history.

Commissioner Baltazor met with Williamson County Precinct 3 Commissioner Valerie Covey early this month regarding rapid development in the Pearson Ranch area of the District. She said the county is working with the developer and the city of Austin to try to have land reserved at no cost to the District that can be used for a future station. She believes a facility will be needed to house a fire department and ambulance service, but the county does not believe it necessary to include accommodations for law enforcement there.

b) *Receive update on Community Outreach Program at Sam Bass Fire Department.*

SBFD Assistant Chief Amber Jordan reported the department in August received a donation of over 8000 bottles of water from Aqua-Tots of Cedar Park and Round Rock to help keep personnel hydrated during the hot summer months.

August outreach events included SBFD participating in a back-to-school event hosted by HEB Grocery. Department personnel visited two different times with children at One World Montessori School. Children from a Hindu temple toured Station 2, plus several unscheduled tours for others in the community were held.

c) *Receive report and take action to station maintenance.*

Commissioner Strahan said roof repair at Station 1 is underway. He approved a change order for the contractor to make the attic over the dormitory area more properly functional. VFIS insurance will be asked to pay for that change, but it is not known if they will do so as insurance often pays only to restore property to its previous condition.

SBFD Chief James Shofner said he is searching for a remodeling contractor to work on Station 2 but has not secured anyone yet.

d) *Proposal to sell Engine 2.*

Chief Shofner reported Engine 2 has deteriorated even more since the August board meeting when he requested the board authorize selling the vehicle. He made inquiries as to who would be willing to purchase the engine and for approximately how much. The only interested buyer was Siddons-Martin Emergency Group who indicated they would pay \$5000 to use the vehicle

for spare parts. After that conversation, the vehicle experienced engine failure and will now need to be towed away. Engine 2 has accumulated over 100,000 miles, a lengthy record of service for fire engines.

Motion to authorize SBFD to sell Engine 2 for the best price possible.

Motion: Hunsberger    Second: Baltazor    [Unanimous]

ITEM 10: *Discuss potential agenda items, location, time, and date(s) for future business meetings. (10/17/2024)*

Next regular meeting to be held October 17, 2024 beginning at 7:00pm at Sam Bass Fire Station 2.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn made at 7:55pm.

Motion: Strahan    Second: Nanninga    [Unanimous]

**“I attest that all the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.”**

Submitted by Darryl Pool, Secretary, Williamson County ESD #2

## ATTACHMENT A

### Important Information Announcement:

Dear citizens of Williamson County Emergency Services District (ESD) #2 / Sam Bass Fire Department (SBFD) coverage area (see map),

We wanted to provide an update on the November 2023 vote for a Sales and Use Tax dedicated to supporting ESD #2 / SBFD by adding additional funding to ensure the highest standards of care and protection for the community. We regret to inform you that although the proposition passed the result was nullified by the State of Texas Comptroller's Office (see notice).

#### **What Happened?**

The ballot language was incorrect. The ballot read, "*The adoption of a local sales and use tax in Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 2 at the rate of two percent.*" The correct language should have been, "*The adoption of a local sales and use tax in Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 2 at the rate of up to two percent.*" The omission of "up to" meant that a small area in the district already collecting 1% would exceed the state allowed maximum of 8.25%.

#### **What's next?**

We are happy to announce that we are planning to have the Sales and Use Tax Proposition on the ballot for the citizens of ESD #2 in May 2025. We have engaged new legal council to aid us in this effort.

#### **Thank you!**

We want to express our gratitude to all those who voted in 2023. Rest assured that the safety and well-being of everyone in the SBFD district remain our top priority.

#### **Connect with us.**

- [www.sambassfd.com](http://www.sambassfd.com)
- [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [NextDoor](#)
- Open House at [SBFD Station #2](#) on Saturday, October 26th, 2024 from 10am-2pm
- Stop by SBFD Station #2 during business hours M-F 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sincerely,

Williamson County ESD #2 / Sam Bass Fire Department