

WILLIAMSON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – November 16, 2023

The Williamson County Emergency Services District #2 held a regular meeting on November 16, 2023 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, Russell Strahan, Tim Hunsberger, Darryl Pool, and Thom Nanninga.

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 October 19, 2023 as presented.

Motion: Strahan Second: Baltazor [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.*

No representative of Municipal Accounts & Consulting was available to attend. Commissioner Nanninga presented the District's monthly financial statements, bills, and invoices for October 2023 as prepared by MAC. He stated there was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

Motion to approve MAC reports as presented.

Motion: Baltazor Second: Hunsberger [Unanimous]

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

SBFD Captain Corby Bryan presented SBFD's monthly financial statements, bills, and invoices for October 2023 as prepared by MAC. He stated there was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

ITEM 7: *Discussion and take action relative to election of Sales and Use Tax.*

Commissioner Baltazor called for a canvass of the November 7, 2023 vote tally for Proposition A to authorize a sales and use tax up to 2% by Williamson County ESD #2. This election was held solely within the District and not by precinct. The county Elections office provided a tabulation of the votes, a copy of which had been provided to each Commissioner. The contest vote total was 3834, of which 3677 were cast on the measure including both early voting and election day voting. There were 157 under votes. The votes for the measure were 2428, and against the measure were 1249, meaning the measure passed.

Motion to canvass the votes on Williamson County ESD #2 Proposition A as final and accept the measure as passed.

Motion: Nanninga Second: Pool

In favor: Baltazor, Strahan, Hunsberger, Pool, Nanninga Opposed: none

Commissioner Baltazor stated the minutes of the board shall reflect the canvass has accepted the measure as passed, the tabulation document provided by the Williamson County Elections office will be part of these minutes, and that tomorrow he will send confirmation of the canvass to the Elections office.

Commissioner Baltazor thanked SBFD Chief James Shofner and all SBFD personnel for the effort they put into working for passage of this measure. Some other ESDs in the county also placed propositions on the ballot with mixed results. Of the other such measures which passed, none did so with the wide margin of approval as the one in ESD #2.

Commissioner Pool presented an email from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts detailing information they will require in order to collect a District sales and use tax. Their office will begin collecting the tax for the district beginning 4/1/2024 if the District provides the requested information no later than 12/31/2023. Commissioner Nanninga recommended Commissioner Pool be the one authorized to submit that information. Commissioner Pool agreed he could do so but said he thought it would be more appropriate for him to gather the information, forward it to Commissioner Baltazor for review, and then, as board President, submit the information to the Comptroller's office. Commissioners agreed to that process.

Commissioner Baltazor noted the election outcome had given the District authorization to enact a sales and use tax up to 2%, but that it would be necessary to set a specific tax rate at a future meeting with that action as a specific agenda item. Commissioners discussed whether a special meeting should be held for that purpose. It was decided setting a tax rate at the regular December meeting would allow adequate time to submit all necessary information by 12/31/2023.

ITEM 8: *Receive report and take action relative to the Emergency Services contract with Sam Bass Fire Department.*

Commissioner Strahan is continuing to work on drafting a new contract for SBFD to provide emergency services to the District. He will try to meet with Legal Counsel Mark Dietz to finalize a draft contract for consideration at the board's December meeting.

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

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

Captain Bryan presented abbreviated SBFD incident report data and activities for October 2023 plus comparison to prior years. He had previously emailed Commissioners the full report. He reported SBFD responded to the most incidents ever recorded in a single month. Commissioners also looked at the EMS incident data page and the attrition rate page from the full report and requested both be included in future summary reports.

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

SBFD Assistant Chief Amber Jordan said October is traditionally the busiest month for community outreach activities. Station 2 hosted open houses on October 1st and 14th with over 150 people attending each. Students from several schools and one Boy Scout troop toured the facility. SBFD participated in Brushy Creek MUD's Hairy Man Festival on October 21st and a Halloween Trunk or Treat event on October 31st at St. Philip's United Methodist Church.

c) Receive report & take action relative to Squad Concept.

Chief Shofner reported squad concept numbers look great, and he believes the experiment is proving to be a valuable supplement in responding to calls. Station 1 has responded to 59 calls since the 10/16/23 board meeting with an average response time of 4 minutes 55 seconds.

The experiment will end on 11/20/23 with an engine being returned to Station 1. Chief Shofner said additional personnel would be needed to fully implement a District-wide squad concept.

d) Discuss and take action relative to Station 1 & 2 Maintenance and Upgrades.

SBFD Battalion Chief Jared Rogers was not able to attend this meeting but had previously emailed Commissioners a report on station repairs. Station 1 is scheduled to have a heat pump installed the second week of December. Station 2 bay plugs have been replaced with GFCI plugs, bay heaters serviced, exhaust fan belts replaced, and bay lights replaced with LED motion lights. Replacement of all HVAC units has been completed. Station 3 had bay heaters and exhaust fan serviced, ceiling area cleaned, and internet hub lowered to improve connectivity.

Commissioner Strahan discussed the need to upgrade and expand Station 2 due to significant population growth coming to the southern end of the District. He suggested the board consider hiring an architect to prepare plans for adding a second story to the building in order to be prepared to proceed with expansion when funds become available. It was noted an alternative might be to build an additional station in the area of new growth. Chief Shofner discussed commercial and residential development plans for Pearson Ranch and that the city of Austin is considering establishing some public safety buildings that would incorporate EMS, fire, and law enforcement departments in one facility. Commissioner Baltazor said this topic should be discussed further at a future meeting when it can listed as a separate agenda item.

ITEM 10: *Discuss potential agenda items, location, time, and date(s) for future business meeting. (12/21/2023)*

Next regular meeting to be held December 14, 2023 beginning at 7:00pm at Sam Bass Fire Station 2.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made at 8:07pm.

Motion: Strahan Second: Baltazor [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

Summary Results Report
Constitutional Amendment and Special Elections of
November 7, 2023

Results Report
Final Unofficial Results
Williamson County

Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 2, Proposition A

Vote For 1

	TOTAL	VOTE %	Early Voting Mail	Early Voting In-Person	Election Day In- Person	Late / Provisional
For	2,428	66.03%	34	1,299	1,095	0
Against	1,249	33.97%	13	686	550	0
Total Votes Cast	3,677	100.00%	47	1,985	1,645	0
Overvotes	0		0	0	0	0
Undervotes	157		3	81	73	0
Contest Totals	3,834		50	2,066	1,718	0