

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING – May 30, 2024**

Williamson County Emergency Services District #2 held a special meeting on May 30, 2024 at Sam Bass Fire Department Station 2, 16248 Great Oaks Drive, Round Rock, Texas.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Commissioners present: Jordan Baltazor, Russell Strahan, Tim Hunsberger, and Darryl Pool.
Commissioner absent: Thom Nanninga (vehicle temporarily inoperable due to storm while out of area).

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm 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: *Discuss and take action regarding retention/replacement of District legal council.*

Commissioner Pool reviewed the steps taken at the board's March, April, and May regular business meetings that led to Kenton P. "Ken" Campbell with the Austin law firm Burns Anderson Jury & Brenner LLP being invited to this special meeting to be interviewed as the sole applicant for the position of District Legal Counsel.

Campbell discussed his background as Travis County ESD #10 Commissioner and volunteer firefighter for a different Travis County ESD. He related his lengthy experience providing legal services to emergency services districts and fire departments including several in Williamson County. He was a founding member of SAFE-D. He has clients around the state, not just in central Texas.

Commissioners identified three main areas for which they need legal guidance: contract law, election law regarding sales and use tax elections, and real estate law. Campbell related his experience in all three areas.

Commissioners discussed the situation that led to the District's sales and use tax election results being invalidated. Campbell presented different options for how the District can handle another election in the future. He has done legal work for CapMetro and believes there may be a way to remove that agency from the District.

Campbell said he likes to stay aware of what his clients are doing. That includes reviewing meeting agendas and proposed contracts. He likes to be notified in advance if an executive session is to be held to ensure the Texas Open Meetings Act is followed. He does not see the need to attend board meetings unless specifically invited.

His rates are \$250/hour billed in 6-minute increments. That rate might increase to \$300/hour next year. Paralegal services are \$100/hour, and copies are \$0.10 per page.

Motion to replace current District Legal Counsel Mark Dietz with new Counsel Ken Campbell effective immediately.

Motion: Baltazor Second: Strahan [Unanimous]

Commissioner Baltazor will email Campbell confirming his new position and authorizing him to contact Dietz notifying him of his termination and requesting return of District files.

Commissioner Hunsberger recommended Campbell attend the next meeting to become familiar with Commissioners and observe how they conduct board business. Campbell agreed to do so.

ITEM 5: *Discuss and take action relative to Sales and Use Tax.*

Commissioner Baltazor said the wording of a statement to the public explaining why the District sales and use tax approved at the November 2023 election did not go into effect has been completed. He will email the proposed statement to Commissioners and Legal Counsel Ken Campbell for review.

ITEM 6: *Discuss potential agenda items for future business meeting. (06/20/2024)*

Commissioner Pool requested the executive session planned for the next regular meeting be postponed due to the need for Commissioners and the new Legal Counsel to become better acquainted first and because Commissioner Baltazor will not be able to attend the June meeting. Next regular meeting to be held June 20, 2024 beginning at 7:00pm at Sam Bass Fire Station 2.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made at 8:10pm.

Motion: Strahan Second: Hunsberger [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