**Bastrop County Emergency Services District No. 2**

**Regular Meeting**

**Aug 18, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

**Bastrop County ESD#2 Station 4; 1432 N. State Highway 95; Bastrop, Texas**

**MINUTES**

NOTE: These minutes were revised in the Oct 27 2026 Regular Meeting by motion. The change was to Item 7b and this copy reflects that change

## OPENING

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order by President Tommy Chalmers at 7:00 p.m.

   Those present included: President Tommy Chalmers, Vice President James Bennett, and Secretary Doug Kelsay. Treasurer James Allen and Assistant Treasurer Larry Crabtree were absent.

   a Roll Call and excused / non-excused absence vote.
   Tommy Chalmers moved to have James Allen and Larry Crabtree both indicated as excused absence.
   James Bennet seconded.
   The motion passed.

   Also in attendance were Chief Josh Gill, Office Manager Lisa Eller and Battalion Chiefs Greg Monroe and Marcus Kieschnick.

2. **Invocation:** Doug Kelsay provided the invocation.
3. **Pledges of Allegiance:** Both Pledges of Allegiance were recited.
4. **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:** Tommy Chalmers let the board know that he and Larry Crabtree had discussed TCDRS and opting out of Social Security and that Larry Crabtree would be getting involved in both aspects and will report on them at the next meeting.
5. **Public Comments on Agenda Items:** No comments were presented.

## SET PROPOSED TAX RATE

6. **Discuss and consider taking action regarding budget for fiscal year October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027.**
   After much discussion, Doug Kelsay moved to approve the budget as distributed.
   Tommy Chalmers seconded.
   The motion passed.
7. **Discuss and consider taking action regarding 2026 tax rate, including:**
   a. **establishing proposed tax rate;**
   Tommy Chalmers moved to adopt a proposed tax rate for the 2026-2027 year at 10c/$100 assessed value.
   James Bennett seconded.
   Doug Kelsay moved to amend the motion to 8 1/2c per $100.
   There being no second, Tommy Chalmers called for the vote.
   The motion passed. See item b below.

   b. **taking record vote on tax rate and scheduling public hearing;**
   The vote on the main motion in item 7a. above was as follows:

Tommy Chalmers – yea
James Bennett – yea
Doug Kelsay - nay

c. **authorizing expense and publication of "Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase" in the *Bastrop Advertiser*; and**

The "Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase" was not provided by counsel as expected.
Doug Kelsay moved to authorize the expense (as it is already in the approved budget); and to approve the "Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase" under the condition that the only changes to the Notice from last year's Notice are the correction of dates and no other changes of substance; and that Tommy Chalmers would verify all changes once the Notice is received from counsel and provide that information to Lisa Eller.
Tommy Chalmers seconded.
The motion passed.

d. **acknowledging and approving posting of "Notice About 2026 Tax Rates" and "Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase" to home page of District website.**

Doug Kelsay moved to acknowledge and approve the posting of the "Notice About 2026 Tax Rates" and "Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase" with the same condition as in item 7c. above.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

8. **Approval of minutes –**
   a. July 21, 2026 Regular Meeting.
      The minutes of the July 21, 2026 Regular Meeting were previously distributed.
      The minutes were approved as distributed.
   b. 26-07-25 Budget Workshop
      The minutes of the July 25, 2026 Budget Workshop were previously distributed.
      The minutes were approved as distributed.
   c. 26-08-04 Special Meeting - Set Tax Rate
      The minutes of the Aug 4, 2026 Special Meeting were previously distributed.
      The minutes were approved as distributed.

## FINANCIAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

9. **Discussion and possible action regarding monthly report from Treasurer, including:**
   a. **Report on payments from Tax Assessor-Collector and bank balance;**
      An update on payments from Tax Assessor-Collector and State Comptroller were presented for June, 2026.
      i. FYTD Property Tax collections were $3,334,357.30 or 95% of the current year total.
      The bank balance was reviewed.
   b. **Report on Sales Tax Analysis:**
      i. FYTD Sales Tax collections were $ $2,214,015.47 with $193,805.67 collected this month.
      ii. The monthly analysis provided by Office Manager Lisa Eller was reviewed.
   c. **Report on 3Q investment**
      The third quarter Investment Report was presented.
      Lisa Eller was asked to send the report to Jim Allen for signing.
   d. **Report on monthly financial reports and issues:**
      Monthly financial reports and issues were presented.

The financial reports were accepted as presented.

**e. Approval of unbudgeted expense items in excess of $2,000;**

There were no unbudgeted expense items presented.

**f. Approval of prior month disbursements**

The Report of Fire Chief on the prior month's budgeted disbursements was reviewed. Chief Gill presented the Prior months disbursements.

Doug Kelsay moved to approve the budgeted disbursements of the prior month.
Tommy Chalmers seconded.
The motion passed.

**g. Approval of Auditor Contract.**

The Auditor's contract was reviewed.

Doug Kelsay moved to approve the Auditor's Contract as presented.
James Bennett seconded.
The motion passed.

**h. Discussion and possible action on a GL Line item of for Capital Planning items;**

The presentation on Reserves was presented and discussed. How to model and handle the reserves will be an ongoing issue. This concludes this item until the end of the fiscal year.

## OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on Operations Reports from Bastrop County ESD #2 Fire Chief. Josh Gill, Including:**

**a. Report on Monthly Response Statistics:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Calls this month | 116 |
| Average Response Time – Min | 13:06 |
| Overlapping calls – % | 17% |
| Hours at Calls – hrs | 236.12 |
| Hours of Training – hrs | 58.0 |
| Hours at Other; Events (PR) hrs | 6.0 |
| Total Hours – hrs | 300.1 |
| % Total Hours from Volunteers | 13% |
| Value of Volunteer support | $824.54 |

**b. Report on Monthly Operations:**

- Training - Boat ops, TIMS (Traffic Incident Management System) and Cancer awareness.
- Management activities-
  - Station 2 bay construction is going well,
  - working on budget,
  - new engine is getting outfitted,
  - sold both UTV's,
  - attended several 4th of July events in the district,
  - met with ESD #3 about future items,
  - took delivery of skid steer and attachments,
  - attended a budget workshop.
- Personnel- Full staff.

- Equipment maintenance report-
    - Station 4 – worked on HVAC air flow (design flaw) issue and replaced air compressor.
    - Station 2 - addressed a mold issue.
    - Station 3 - generator had its annual PM.
    - C202 - replaced brakes.
- Ems calls – Responded to 52 of 79 Ems calls.
- Developments in the district –
    - Commercial kitchen on Hwy 95,
    - Substation on Pine Path
    - Substation on Sayers Road.

**c. Approval of Disposal Log**

No Disposal Log was presented.

## POLICY DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

**General:**

11. **Update, discussion and possible action on selling two surplus UTV's with trailers.**

Both UTV's were sold for a total of $37,066.49. This was considered a very good price for these items.

12. **Update, discussion and possible action on Elections Contract approval**

The Elections Contract and the ballot language were reviewed.

Doug Kelsay moved to approve the contract as presented.
James Bennett seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

The dates on last year's election language were the only change to the language for this year's election. There was no objection to the corrections and were accepted without amendment.

Doug Kelsay will forward the approved information to Kristin Miles, Elections Administrator.

13. **Update, discussion and possible action on negotiations with the City Of Bastrop to provide fire protection. – Chief Gill**

Chief Gill reported that the City of Bastrop is not advancing with the negotiations. We should table this item until further development.

14. **Update, discussion and possible action on payroll platforms – Lisa Eller.**

Lisa Eller reported that there were no problems with the new platform. This item will stay on the agenda.

15. **Update, discussion and possible action on implementation of opting out of social security. – Chief Gill.**

To date we have had low response from selected vendors. Larry Crabtree will report on any changes at the next meeting.

16. **Update, discussion and possible action on Address Change Committee – Tommy Chalmers.**

Tommy Chalmers reported that the committee had met. This item will stay on the agenda.

**Other:**

17. **Call for Comments and Requests –**

Discussion and possible action on a potential Subcommittee working on annexation and taxation issues.

18. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

28 Oct 25

Doug Kelsay,
Secretary for Bastrop County Emergency Services District No. 2