Bastrop County Emergency Services District No. 2

Regular Meeting

Sept 15, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

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

MINUTES

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, Assistant Treasurer Larry Crabtree, and Secretary Doug Kelsay. Vice President James Bennett and Treasurer James Allen were absent.

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

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

2. **Invocation:** Larry Crabtree provided the invocation.

3. **Pledges of Allegiance:** Both Pledges of Allegiance were recited.

4. **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:** Larry Crabtree noted that in the previous board discussion on removal of a board member from the board, that he was assigned the duty of finding the statutes associated with this action. As he was not present at the last meeting he wanted us to know of his findings. He reported that Sec 775.042 clearly states the factors by which a board member may be removed from the board. That item was submitted to be attached to these minutes.

5. **Public Comments on Agenda Items:** No comments were presented.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

6. **Approval of minutes –**
   a. Aug 18, 2026 Regular Meeting.
   The minutes of the Aug 18, 2026 Regular Meeting were previously distributed.
   The minutes were approved as distributed.

FINANCIAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7. **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 August, 2026.
      i. FYTD Property Tax collections were $3,334,357.30 or 95% of the current year total. This number is still not fully indicative as the Tax Collector report is being updated.

   The bank balance was reviewed.

   b. **Report on Sales Tax Analysis:**
      i. FYTD Sales Tax collections were $2,446.328.16 with $232,312.69 collected this month.
      ii. The monthly analysis provided by Office Manager Lisa Eller was reviewed.

c. **Report on monthly financial reports and issues:**
Monthly financial reports and issues were presented.
The financial reports were accepted as presented.

d. **Approval of unbudgeted expense items in excess of $2,000;**
There were no unbudgeted expense items presented.

e. **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.
Larry Crabtree seconded.
The motion passed.

f. **Approval of Auditor Contract.**
This item was concluded last month and included in this month's agenda by mistake. No action was taken.

g. **Discussion and possible action on a GL Line item of for Capital Planning items;**
This item was concluded last month and included in this month's agenda by mistake. No action was taken.

OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

8. **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	107
Average Response Time – Min	12:09
Overlapping calls – %	25%
Hours at Calls – hrs	323.8
Hours of Training – hrs	173.8
Hours at Other; Events (PR) hrs	0.0
Total Hours – hrs	497.5
% Total Hours from Volunteers	6%
Value of Volunteer support	$739.96

b. **Report on Monthly Operations:**
- Training - Brush truck operations, river operations.
- Management activities-
  - Station 2 bay construction is complete and T223 has put in service there,
  - Attended a Safe-D seminar on legislative issues facing ESDs,
  - Met with ISO supervisor,
  - Met with the city manager and assistant city manager several times,
  - Met with the Hutto assistant fire chief on city annexation issues,
  - Had several meetings with ESD#3,
  - Met with all the fire chiefs to discuss dispatch issues and options
  - Sent 3 people to south Texas on TIFMAS request from the state.
- Personnel- Full staff.
- Equipment maintenance report-
  - B246 - New tires.
  - T233 - Several lights replaced along with the back-up alarm.

- E251 - New brakes, replaced the air drier.
- E221 - Replaced the coolant cap on the reservoir
- Command 201 - oil change.
- Support 201 - Oil change.

- Ems calls – Responded to 40 of 73 Ems calls.
- Developments in the district – truck stop in Paige

c. Approval of Disposal Log

No Disposal Log was presented.

POLICY DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS

General:

9. Discussion and possible action regarding adopting budget for FY27 (October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027) [budget must be adopted before tax rate].

Tommy Chalmers moved to adopt as final budget the proposed budget adopted in the August meeting.
Larry Crabtree seconded.
The motion passed.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding the District's 2026 tax rate, including

a. adopt Order Levying Taxes, and

Larry Crabtree moved to adopt the order levying taxes as presented.
Doug Kelsay seconded.
The motion passed and the order was signed.

b. authorize filing the Order with the County Tax Assessor/Collector.

Doug Kelsay moved to authorize filing the Order with the County Tax Assessor / Collector.
Tommy Chalmers seconded.
The motion passed.

11. Acknowledge and approve posting of statement regarding adopted tax rate to home page of District webpage.

Doug Kelsay moved to acknowledge and approve the posting of the statement regarding Adopted Tax rate to home page of the Districts website.
Larry Crabtree seconded
The motion passed

12. Update, discussion and possible action on the November Annexation Election.

Doug Kelsay reported that the ballot information had been approved and was with the Elections Administrator. That should be all that needs to be done before the election.

13. Discussion on our Legal's interpretation of legislation that went into effect on Sept. 1st of 2025 regarding the annexation process for Cities in the state of Texas.

Tommy Chalmers reported that SB2965 that went into effect Sept 1 2025 changed a lot of the annexation rules. One of the key factors of consideration was the "level of service" which includes Location, Deployment, and Response Times.

This item is postponed until the October meeting.

14. Discussion and possible action on the impact to Bastrop ESD#2's future budgets due to annexations by the City of Bastrop.

The board discussed this topic. Tommy Chalmers agreed to research the impact of Sales Tax on the Lovers Lane annexation, specifically if ESD2 can re-claim the sales taxes associated with this land after annexation.

15. Discussion and possible action on a Subcommittee for annexation and taxation issues. - Chief Gill

The board discussed this topic at length. The City of Bastrop did not formally create the subcommittee. President Tommy Chalmers and Chief Gill met with City of Bastrop officials to discuss the annexation.

Doug Kelsay moved that we acknowledge that "The ESD2 Board does not see the benefit to ESD2 district, nor to the constituents of ESD2, in de-annexing the property known as 'Bastrop West'."
Larry Crabtree seconded.
The motion passed.

16. Discussion and possible action authorizing Chef Gill to investigate support requirements and options for the west side of the District.

Tommy Chalmers moved to authorize Chief Gill to investigate support requirements and options for the west side of the District.

17. Discussion and possible action on recent memo on Open Meetings Act.

Doug Kelsay noted that the recent memo clearly outlines requirements for Open Meetings Act and that we needed to be aware of those factors.

18. 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.

19. Update, discussion and possible action on implementation of opting out of social security. – Larry Crabtree.

Larry Crabtree reported that he is working with TCDRS and Texas State Social Security Administration to obtain written verifications of the assumptions that have been noted in email communications with these agencies.

This item will stay on the agenda.

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

Tommy Chalmers reported that the committee had met. And that Highway 71 is they focus of the renumbering from the Travis county border to the Fayette Country border and that the county, City of Bastrop, and City of Smithville must all approve the changes for it to take effect.

This will significantly improve first responder responses as today the street numbers are currently not in order.

This item will stay on the agenda.

Other:

21. Call for Comments and Requests –

Lisa Eller requested we put a review of a memo from our legal council concerning HB 103 new reporting requirements to Comptroller on bond, tax. project.

Consideration and action on approval and signing Contract with Accounting firm

22. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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

ITEM #4

Sec. 775.042. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBER BY BOARD. (a) A board may remove a member if:

(1) the member is absent from more than half of the regularly scheduled board meetings that the member is eligible to attend during a calendar year without an excuse approved by a majority vote of the board; and

(2) the other members of the board unanimously vote to remove that member.

(b) Not later than the 30th day after the date of a vote to remove a member under Subsection (a), that member may file a written appeal for reinstatement to the commissioners court of the county in which a single-county district is located or, if the district is located in more than one county, the commissioners court of the county where the member resides. The court may reinstate the member if it finds the removal unwarranted after considering:

(1) a reason for an absence;

(2) the time and place of a missed meeting;

(3) the business conducted at a missed meeting; and

(4) any other factors or circumstances the court considers relevant.

(c) The validity of a board action is not affected because it is taken when a ground for removal of a board member exists.

Added by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 496, Sec. 10, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.
Amended by:
Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 308 (H.B. 527), Sec. 3, eff. June 19, 2009.