

**EL PASO COUNTY 9-1-1 DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING**

MINUTES May 19, 2023

MEETING NO. 301

The Board of Managers' meeting of the EL PASO COUNTY 911 DISTRICT was held on Friday, May 19, 2023. Kris Menendez, Board Member, called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. in the El Paso Regional Communications Center located at 6055 Threadgill, El Paso, TX 79924.

- PRESENT** Board members present at the meeting: Kris Menendez (At-Large Representative), Ryan Urrutia (County of El Paso), David Burton (City of Socorro), Pete Pacillas (City of El Paso), Mario D'Agostino (City of El Paso), Gilbert Sanchez (Attorney) and Monica Ballesteros (AT&T). There were sufficient members present to constitute a quorum.
- ABSENT** None
- OTHERS PRESENT** Scott Calderwood (Director), Rachel Sarabia-Duarte (Operations Director), Mariza Martinez (Administrative Director), Andrea Espinoza (Administrative Analyst), Thelma Marron (GIS Mgr.), Jennifer Aguilar (Sr. Network Admin), David Hernandez (Network Admin), Brian Odell (CAD/MCT Admin), Erik Aveitia (Network Admin), Jose Balderrama (Database Reporting Analyst), Jairo Villarreal (CAD-MPS Data Specialist), Alex Medina (Customer Support Mgr.), Steven Villa (Public Safety Coordinator), Oscar Gomez (Building Maint. Manager), Hector Santiago (EPFD), Phillip Strickler (Auditor)
- CALL TO ORDER** 1. 9:13 a.m. Kris Menedez, Board Member, called the meeting to order.
- ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM** 2. A quorum was recognized at 9:13 a.m.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** 3. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance
- DISCUSSION & ACTION** 4. Approve meeting minutes from February 3, 2023.
Motion was made by David Burton, seconded by Pete Pacillas and unanimously carried to approve the meeting minutes.
5. Special Guests & Presentations
None presented.
- DISCUSSION & ACTION** 6. Approve Financial Audit for FY2022. Phillip Strickler, Strickler & Prieto Firm, presented the audit.
Motion was made by Ryan Urrutia, seconded by David Burton and unanimously carried to approve the FY2022 Financial Audit.
- DISCUSSION & ACTION** 7. Accept Financial Reports (2nd Quarter of FY23).
Motion was made by Pete Pacillas, seconded by David Burton and unanimously carried to approve the Financial Reports for the 2nd Quarter.

**DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

8. Director will discuss the report to the Board and highlight areas of particular interest.

Legislative update

Below is the list of bills that the District is tracking this legislative session. Passage of HB3290 is significant as it provides a vessel to directly fund Chapter 772 entities using appropriated funds. This marks a departure from the traditional method of funding using 9-1-1 fees, it is unknown what the long-term effect of this may be.

HB9 is the most important piece of legislation to affect the District and is changing almost daily. We will continue working with our legislative partners to secure the future of 9-1-1 funding.

ARPA Date Extension

HB 3290 by Ryan Guillen (R-Rio Grande City)/SB 1858 by Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) would allow state money to be transferred to the Next Generation 9-1-1 Service Fund and allow it to be distributed on a pro-rate basis to each emergency communication districts that do not participate in the state system. HB 3290 has been passed and signed by both chambers and has been sent to the Governor.

911/Telecom/Broadband Funding

HB 9 by Rep. Ashby (R-Lufkin)/Sen. Huffman (R-Houston) relating to the development and funding of broadband and telecommunications services, creates the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund and asks for \$5 billion from the Rainy-Day Fund to fund USF, 9-1-1 and broadband. It was passed by the House and referred to the Senate Finance committee and is scheduled for a hearing on Monday. A committee substitute is anticipated.

HB 3 by Rep. Burrows (R-Lubbock) was given final approval by the House on Tuesday by a vote of 119-25. The legislation calls for significant investments to beef up schools' safety, including hiring at least one, armed security officer at every campus, providing incentives for school employees to get certified to carry a weapon and requires installing silent panic alert buttons in every classroom. The bill was considered in a public hearing in the Senate Education committee on Thursday with public testimony taken. It was left pending.

Shared Intrastate Access Tariffs

HB 1597 by Rep. Andy Murr (R-Junction), relating to tariff filings of telecommunications providers, was passed in the House April 28. It was referred to Senate Business & Commerce on May 2.

Public Funds for Lobbying

SB 175 by Mayes Middleton relating to the use by a political subdivision of public funds for lobbying and certain other activities. The bill would put an end to taxpayer-funded lobbying. The bill was passed by the Senate and referred to House State Affairs on April 13. The House companion, HB 3538 by Rep. Ellen Troxclair (R-Lakeway) was referred to House State Affairs on March 16 and has not yet had a hearing.

Promotion

Andrea Espinoza has been promoted from Administrative Assistant to Administrative Analyst. This promotion not only recognizes her exceptional work skills and dedication, but also is more commensurate with the actual work that she is now performing.

Texas 911 Alliance Meetings

El Paso will host the Texas 911 Alliance Operations Meeting as well as the Director's Meeting at the EPRCC June 6th, and 7th. This is the first time that El Paso will host Alliance meetings. El Paso's

reputation for doing innovative things in 9-1-1 is growing and is a large part of the reason to host the meetings here. The Operations Meeting will be June 6th at 2pm and the Director's Meeting will be June 7th at 10am. The District will host a networking event the evening of June 6th, at Southwest University Park.

EHN/988

EHN Crisis Mental Health Clinicians were successfully located on the call floor and began taking direct 9-1-1 call diversions on February 2nd, 2023. On May 8th the County formalized a MOU with EHN to begin 9-1-1 call diversions for County residents, the District is currently working with the County to develop policy and procedures needed to begin MH call diversion. Additionally, the District will engage Socorro, Horizon City, and Anthony to develop similar agreements.

EHN and the District will jointly host a press conference touting the success of the EHN/911 integration, highlighting the unique role that the CAD Consortium plays in 9-1-1 and Mental Health. The Press Conference is scheduled for June 15th at 10am at the EPRCC. Additionally, the District and EHN are co-authoring a white paper touting best practices in 911/988 integration using technology.

OPERATIONS REPORT

9. Director will discuss the report to the board with regard toward meeting its operational goals.

Phone

Potential project to upgrade Vesta to a later version to correct an issue with COS; 7.8 to 7.9 with real time text.

Provide an option to 9-1-1 callers to select 1 for English and 2 for Spanish; this will allow the Spanish speakers to be transferred to an available Spanish speaker from the start. Looking into Voice to Text translation and built in staffing module is also available in real time. Exploring Rapid Deploy's Eclipse as a replacement to ECATs analytics for phone reporting. 4G LTE backup project is still in the process.

Network

Palo Alto Cortex XDR deployment was successful. Firewall monitors outside traffic. Allowed for integration of technologies to the CAD computer for streamlined telecommunicator access and use.

Rounding out the FY23 with projects that further strengthen our security posture, refreshes aged technology, brings us up to the latest technologies and that are fully supported by way of maintenance and support.

For the upcoming year we will seek to continue this work by making additional purchases to bring aging technology up to the latest such as: Palo Alto Firewalls -KS, Core Switches upgraded, VDX upgrades, upgrading WIFI to version 6, and other potential upgrades to routers for our administrative and phone networks. Continuation to work on Cyber Security.

Application

Contract for Mapping was awarded to GeoComm, the project is underway with a projected go-live date of 09/01/2023.

Prepared Live/Responder Link integration to CAD is complete; pending policy to deploy to field personnel. Go-live for integration to CAD expected by no later than the end of the May 2023.

Prepared Live/ AI Project is being evaluated as a new partnership with Prepared Live for a potential live QA process. For example: able to do live CPR in an emergency.

GIS / Training / Agency Assistance

Exploring the acquisition of addressing software to facilitate a consistent methodology across addressing authorities in our county. Renewing conversations with relevant parties on the integration of Airport Ops Dispatch; will follow up with El Paso Airport staff.

The 911 District Challenge Coins have arrived.

10. Public Comment

None presented.

DISCUSSION & ACTION

11. Correction on Board Meeting Minutes, Item #16, dated 9/16/22

The District is requesting to accept the correct amount for Item #16, a lump-sum of \$750,000 employer contribution to our retirement plan to address the actuarial liability underfunded status and an added 10% COLA benefit.

Motion was made by Mario D'Agostino and seconded by David Burton and unanimously carried to approve the corrected amount contribution for the District retirement.

DISCUSSION & ACTION

12. County RMS Hosting

The District is exploring the feasibility of hosting the City/County Law Enforcement RMS in its network and is uniquely positioned to provide hosting services to both. This will benefit many LE agencies within the El Paso County.

Motion was made by David Burton, seconded by Pete Pacillas and unanimously carried to approve the County RMS Hosting with a final approval of any proposed agreement to be presented to the Board at a later date.

DISCUSSION & ACTION

13. New reporting software

The District is requesting approval for the purchase of a new reporting software, Eclipse from Rapid Deploy and is available through BuyBoard through AT&T. The estimate cost is \$500,000 and not to exceed \$250,000 per year.

Motion was made by Mario D'Agostino and seconded by Pete Pacillas and unanimously carried to approve the new reporting software.

DISCUSSION & ACTION

14. TCDRS Proposed Plan Year 2024

The District is requesting to change the employer matching (250%) from "Future Only" to "Past & Future" and an additional lump sum to the retirement plan funding in the amount of \$811,984.00 to bring the funded ratio to 99.2%.

Motion was made by David Burton, seconded by Ryan Urrutia and unanimously carried to approve the TCDRS FY24 Plan.

DISCUSSION & ACTION

15. Presentation of the District FY2024 Budget

Motion was made by Pete Pacillas and seconded by David Burton and unanimously carried to approve the FY24 Budget for the 911 District.

**DISCUSSION &
ACTION**

16. Executive Session: Director's Contract

Motion was made by David Burton and seconded by Mario D'Agostino and unanimously carried to approve a 10% merit increase for the El Paso County 911 District Director.

NEXT MEETING

17. Next meeting is scheduled for possibly September 2023 to be determined by the Director.

**MEETING
ADJOURNED**

18. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Motion was made by Ryan Urrutia and seconded by David Burton.

Chairman and Secretary of the Board for El Paso County 911 District, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the proceedings dated above.



Kristian Menendez
Board Member / Chairman



Scott Calderwood
Director / Secretary