

**MEDINA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE DISTRICT 1
POBOX1037
CASTROVILLE, TEXAS 78009**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27, 2025 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Medina County Precinct 2 Bldg. Courtroom, 8366 FM 471 S, Castroville, TX 78009

I. OPEN MEETING:

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL:

President Marvin Dziuk called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and established a quorum with commissioners Jenny Ferren, Leroy Haby, Rodney Hitzfelder, and Tom Page. Also present were Fire Chief Clinton Cooke, District Administrator Polly Edlund, Assistant Chief Sarah Windsor, Accounts Payable Associate Cynthia Stanukinos, and Stan Stanukinos.

1-A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO UNITED STATES AND TEXAS FLAGS:

President Dziuk requested all in attendance to rise, face the United States and Texas flags and pledge their allegiance to each. President Dziuk thanked all for their participation.

1 - B. INVOCATION:

President Dziuk called upon Fire Chief Cooke to do the invocation. Chief Cooke asked for guidance, safety, and continued support for the victims of the Kerrville area floods.

1 - C. INTRODUCTION OF ANY SPECIAL GUEST(S)/RECOGNITIONS:

No special guests were present.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. OPEN HEARING ON THE MCESD#1's PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR 2025-2026 BUDGET YEAR

1 - A. Welcome Citizens & Review Comment Procedures:

President Dziuk opened the public hearing at 7:02pm. He reviewed the hearing process for all present and explained that this is the time that citizens can speak their minds about the budget and tax rate for MCESD#1.

1 - B. Citizen Comments:

There were no additional citizens present to make comments at the district's public hearing.

President Dziuk noted that with no other citizens present for citizen comments, he wanted to put his comments on record. He was opposed to the continuation of setting the tax rate at the maximum ten cent rate every year. He understood that this year was a transitional year with the district adding EMS; however, at some point he wanted to see the tax rate lowered. In the future, this district needs to look at all the new revenues coming into the district and consider lowering the tax rate.

At this point, each commissioner took a turn adding their comments: Commissioner Page noted that there were two budgets presented for consideration, and if the board chose to go with the budget that encompassed reserves, he didn't think this was the year to reduce the tax rate. Commissioner Ferren noted that as the district grew, there would be an increase in sales tax in future years. She also reminded those present that other ESD's within Medina County have overlapping ESDs for both fire and ems services, and those tax rates are higher when combined than MCESD#1's, to provide both fire and ems services. The areas of Hondo were paying approximately 17 cents, the area of Devine was at approximately 17 cents, and the Natalia area was at approximately 17 cents when you combine both property tax rates for the fire ESD and the ems ESD. The MCESD#1 was at 10 cents and continues to provide both services on that lower rate. Commissioner Hitzfelder noted that while it looked to the board that the district was doing a lot, and adding new services to the district, he reminded the board that there were still improvements that needed to take place before they could say the district was done. The district still didn't have a hazmat service nor an advanced extrication program. Chief Cooke concurred with commissioner Hitzfelder and noted that the district still doesn't have three firefighters on engines. He further forecasted the district growing in the future and gave some estimated budgetary levels that might be reached in future years.

2. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:

Commissioner Hitzfelder moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Page seconded his motion. President Dziuk closed the public hearing at 7:11 pm. Marvin resumed the regular meeting with all still in attendance.

3. Consider and Approve MCESD#1's Budget for Fiscal year 2025-2026:

The discussion continued regarding the budget expenses for fiscal year 2025-2026. The Safer Grant had been submitted, and staff was waiting to hear back. If awarded, the grant had a multi-year match with a 75 / 25 split for the first two years, and the third year a 25 / 75 with the MCESD#1 responsible for the 75% on year three. The grant match was figured into this budget for consideration if the grant was to be awarded. This budget also contained the final payment on the apparatus loan for station #15 (the Broadway Loan), which would be paid off in December 2025. Other concerns discussed were the number of firefighters available to serve the LaCoste area, projected ems response billing expectations, and surplus reserves.

Commissioner Ferren moved to approve the MCESD#1's Draft 2 Budget with the Safer Grant included for fiscal year 2025-2026. Commissioner Hitzfelder seconded her motion. The motion passed 4-0.

4. Consider and Approve Resolution to adopt the MCESD#1's TAX RATE(S) for fiscal budget year 2025-2026:

It was noted that the district had 'no' debt rate, so no vote was needed on an I&S tax rate. Commissioner Page moved to approve the resolution on the tax rate for maintenance and operations at 10 cents. The DeMinimus tax rate was .1076; however, by statute the district could only go to the 10 cent statutory maximum. His motion followed with the required wording: I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 10 cents (.1000 per/\$100 valuation), which is effectively a 7.25% increase in the tax rate. (the percent by which the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate). This rate would raise taxes for maintenance and operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$14.84. The motion was seconded by commissioner Ferren. The motion passed 4-0 with President Dziuk concurring.

5. NEW BUSINESS – INTRODUCTION OF ANY NEW BUSINESS

5 - A. MONTHLY MEETING – SEPTEMBER:

The next MCESD1 meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 10thth, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Medina County Pct. 2 Bldg. Courtroom. The date and time would be confirmed when the agenda was posted.

5 - B. Fire Chief's Update:

Fire Chief Cooke updated the board on recent discussions with Medina County ESD#2 and ESD#4. The board authorized him to continue moving forward.

6. ADJOURN

Commissioner Ferren moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hitzfelder seconded her motion. The motion passed 4-0. President Dziuk closed the meeting at 8:13 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

THOMAS M. PAGE, JR. SECRETARY

MCESD1 PRESIDENT

MARVIN DZIUK, PRESIDENT