

MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2018 WORKSHOP
HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 48

A special workshop was called of Harris County Emergency Services District No. 48, which was held at the District Administrative Building located at 21201 Morton Road, Katy, Texas 77449 on Thursday, August 2, 2018.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM.

The workshop was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by **Bret Fossum**, Vice President, who announced that a quorum was present. Those Commissioners present were:

Marshall Kramer	Absent
Sam Henderson	Present
Bret Fossum	Present
Russell Solomon	Present
Michael Fleming	Present

Also present at the meeting were Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director, Jeff Hevey, Assistant Chief of Administration, Tommy Westall, Assistant Chief of Operations, Les Fulgham, Assistant Chief of EMS, Eric Bank, Division Chief of Logistics, Ray Sidwell, HR Office Manager, Walla Mourad and Assistant Office Manager, Jackie Tobar. Other HCESD No. 48 Members present were: Lou Fabricant, Jonel Sawyer, Jacob Daily, Edward Montgomery, Vincent Moreno, Brett Ellis, Josh McCormack, Glen Trahan, Aaron Shinn, Ernie Velasquez, Phil Dickinson, David Raupp, Josh Cousin, Dwain Ustynik, Cody Armstrong, Chris Denman, Jason Tharp, Kevin Leverance, Jay Shepard, Jeff DeSanty, Monica Wagers, Matt Weber, and Scott Strait.

TO REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND TAKE ACTION REGARDING THE LONG TERM STRATEGIC PLANS FOR THE DISTRICT.

Chief Hevey and HCESD No. 48 Members discussed the long term Strategic Plans for the District:

Chief Westall discussed the following:

- Changes in Legislature might affect future Sales Tax.
- Station 1
- Working budget is around 17.5 million for 2019.

Chief Hevey discussed the following:

- The HCESD No. 48 Department is 3 years old this month.
- Everything we do has a cost attached to it.
- We will discuss Staffing Suppression and what it costs.
- When we open Station 6, we will need to hire more people.
- We are working on maintaining Full/Part/Volunteer combination Department.
- We are not a collective bargaining department.

Chief Fulgham discussed Staff Suppression for 2019-2020:

- Choose what type of model suites the budget based on community's needs.
- ISO: analysis of the District/analysis of deployment.
- As we continue to evolve and grow it will cause us to establish more apparatus.
- Costs \$900,000.00 a year, to staff a truck.

Chief Bank discussed the following:

- Evaluate call volume by the end of the year to determine future needs.
- Fifth (5th) peak truck will be posted at Station 3.
- Community Paramedic: will be a multi-division position when we get it up and running. Goal is to reduce frequent visitor calls to the hospitals.
- An annual 20% to 30% call volume increase is extremely challenging to manage and plan for
- The EMS Department's biggest challenge: is acquiring medication and the skyrocketing costs of medications and supplies.

Chief Leverance discussed the following:

- Working on simulation training
- Proper procedures on how we respond
- Develop clinical procedures and delegate tasks to crews
- Integrate what and how we do things.
- Philosophy of learning by doing.

Chief Hevey presented important questions for Members:

- What are we going to look like in 10 to 15 years from now in the EMS Division?
- Where is the Community Paramedic Division going to go?

Lieutenant Shepard discussed PPE:

- The cost of one (1) PPE set is \$3,911.00.
- PPE takes sixty (60) days to arrive.
- A second set of PPE gear for every department member costs \$475,000 for the entire department.
- Twenty (20) set will cost around \$78,000.
- Repairs cost \$195 a coat for complete trim alone.
- Another reason for the high cost is because we are making everyone turn in their gear which made for more inspections and also made us 100% compliant.
- PPE Decon on fires.
- Vendor LION has the red cancer gear line that we will be testing (wristlets are tighter, so carcinogens don't go up the sleeves).

Lieutenant Ustynik discussed SCBA:

- Air pack assessments are conducted to meet NFPA regulations.
- We transitioned to X3 model to meet NFPA standards.

- Purchasing air bottles.
- Having our technicians in house is substantially cheaper than contracting with an outside vendor.
- We manage roughly 85 air packs at 220 cylinders.
- We make sure to stay in compliance and follow NFPA standards.
- Metering equipment: will need to transition to another platform, due to technology changing.
- SCBA compressor to be located south of Interstate 10, to place them more strategically.
- We are facing limitations of how the radios work out in the field.

Chief Sidwell discussed Future Station 1:

- The Board approved *Martinez Architects* to work on the building of Station 1.
- The Building Committee will be meeting tomorrow; we have a lot of work, ahead of us, we will be discussing wants vs. needs vs. wishes.
- We will have to bid contractors.
- Signs will be going up on Station 1 property.
- The building committee will be extremely busy in the next 6 to 9 months.

Chief Hevey discussed current Apparatus Committee:

- We will need to purchase a new apparatus truck for Rehab.
- We will be purchasing an Engine every 2 to 3 years.

Mr. Fossum: “Are there any trends that we are not capturing? Neighborhoods are getting more mature. Also, now there are more and more electric cars. Are we prepared for that change in technology? I encourage people to be on top of some of those trends.”

Chief Hevey: “We are conscious of the older and newer homes due to their building construction. We are aware of the contents of the older homes and furniture in those homes. The electric cars are hard to figure out because the wiring is not consistent across all models, but we have information out regarding electric cars.”

- Our oldest engine is Engine 6 (2000).
- Engine 3 (2003).
- Every engine hour is equivalent to twenty-five (25) miles.

Chief Hevey discussed Health and Safety Committee:

- Would like for the Health and Safety Committee to meet twice a year.
- *Life Scan* will be provided for the entire department. It is a 3 to 4 hour evaluation. The cost for Life Scan for the department is \$150,000.
- The EAP program we purchased, is known and based around understanding firefighters, EMTs, and cops.

Chief Ellis:

- Studies show we lose more Firefighters to suicide than line of duty deaths.

- If someone ever needs assistance, we have EAP, but it's not the outlet firefighters use.
- We want to train our people to look at the trends and signs.
- I will be leading this aspect of the health and safety committee. We want to be able to respond to the needs of our people.

Chief Hevey:

- Would like for someone to establish exercise protocol.
- We are a non-smoking department.
- Would like to get a smoking and eating habit classes established.
- Texas Fire Chiefs Best Practices:
 - (1) This will be our next step in getting credentialing.
 - (2) We have to take a look at everything we do, how we train, our SOGS, etc.
 - (3) This process will take 12 to 18 months.

Captain Fabricant discussed REHAB:

- The Rehab group has evolved.
- Rehab offers fluids, food, cleaning products, to firefighters to help decontaminate.
- Part of the Decon process requires a cultural change.

Lieutenant Tharp discussed Community Risk Reduction:

- Vacation fire school for kids from 9 a.m., to 12:00 p.m. (noon)
- Safe sitter for baby sitters at the stations.
- We have thirty (30) home surveys scheduled.
- Need to educate our crews and the community for how we word things when we go out to home safety.

Chief Hevey discussed 3 to 5-year plan:

- Future Station 6 project.
- Training Center (9 acres available).
- Future Station 2: Depends on ISO requirements. We are running out of land in the East side and need to act fast.

Please email Chief Hevey what committee you would like to be a part of. Members are allowed to sign up for two committees only.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. **Henderson** made a motion to adjourn the workshop. Mr. **Solomon** seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 0. The workshop adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Russell Solomon
District Secretary