Williamson County Emergency Services District #3

P.O. Box 175, Hutto, TX 78634-0175
Phone (512) 759-2616

Minutes for Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 27th, 2026, at 12:00pm

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Commissioner Robison called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm.

Commissioners Present: Todd Robison, MariClare Gaidsick, Henry Gideon (Zoom and left meeting at 2:40pm), Stephen Balderas, Morgan Hubbard

Guests: John Carlton, Jorge Delgado, Keith Hickman

Invocation – Drew Neal
Pledge of Allegiance

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment – none

III. PRESENTATIONS

1. Fire Chief Report regarding facilities, apparatus and equipment, emergency operations, training, management activities, personnel matters, property tax, sales tax, intergovernmental relations, including written report. Facility assessment meetings are ongoing. We will have our first meeting on the strategic plan that will take place next week. This room will be a voting site on November 3rd. We are beginning to go through the annual process of the Best Practices re-certification process. Would like to recognize Engine 2 C-shift with Lt. Olson, Garcia, Millerd, Reiner and Squad 1 with Smith and Garcia for a Phoenix Save Award for a CPR save on August 9th. Chief Kerwood read a statement correcting some false information/statements regarding Hutto Fire/WCESD #3 that are being made on social media.
2. Assistant Chief Report – written report.
3. Financial Report – written report. Andres presented some information the board requested regarding healthcare benefits for retirees.
4. Fire Marshal Report – written report. Cassie presented her communications impact report, and this will be a regular written report added to presentations moving forward.
5. Training Report – written report. New hire academy began August 3rd. New hires are here today and introduced themselves to the board. Graduation will take place on September 25th at 2pm here at headquarters.
6. Hutto Professional Firefighters Association Report – Annual golf tournament will be held on September 14th. Would like to investigate other investment options including opting out of social security. Honor guard will present colors at the freedom game.
7. Hutto Explorers Report –. We had eighteen interviews and accepted ten into the program. On August 31st we will hold an orientation, and the first class will begin in September.

8. Commissioners Report – Commissioner Hubbard attended the SAFE-D Regional meeting and there is another meeting coming up September 30th in Pflugerville. Hutto Senior Citizen Resource Fair will take place September 17th from 9-12pm at the Hutto Discovery Center and Hutto Fire will be there. Commissioner Robison stated they are continuing to meet with the City of Hutto. And to the staff: keep doing the good you are doing and know we have your back.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Consent Agenda items below are considered for approval by one vote unless a commissioner request that a particular item be pulled and given further consideration as a Regular Agenda item.

1. Discussion and possible approval of minutes from the regular meeting held July 16th, 2026
2. Discussion and possible approval of accounts paid and accounts payable.
3. Discussion and possible approval of third quarter investment report.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion with a second by Commissioner Gaidsick to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Commissioner Balderas abstained due to being absent from last meeting. Passed 4-0.

V. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on resolution adopting the proposed budget for fiscal year October 1st, 2026, through September 30th, 2027. (ESD #3 Vice President / ESD #3 Treasurer) Commissioner Gaidsick made a motion with a second by Commissioner Balderas to approve and adopt the 2026/2027 budget as presented. Passed 5-0.
2. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on the adoption of the District's 2026/2027 tax rate, including;
   a) take a record vote on the District's 2026/2027 tax rate and adopt an Order Levying Taxes;
   b) authorize filing the Order with Williamson County Tax Assessor/Collector;
   c) acknowledge and approve posting of statement regarding adopted tax rate to home page of District website. (ESD #3 Board President) Commissioner Robison made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of $0.10000, which is effectively a 2.79 percent increase in the tax rate and to adopt an Order Levying Taxes. Second was made by Commissioner Gaidsick. Record vote taken as follows: Commissioner Robison – yes; Commissioner Gaidsick – yes; Commissioner Gideon – yes; Commissioner Balderas – yes; Commissioner Hubbard – yes. Passed 5-0.
3. Discuss and consider action on a proposed resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Williamson County Emergency Services District No. 3 approving a loan agreement and authorizing the issuance of a Promissory Note for financing the Public Safety Equipment. (Fire Chief) No action.
4. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on the construction of the Fire Headquarters Complex. (Fire Chief) The TXDOT land is now ours and they Pfluger Builders should be able to have the drive completed in a month or so. No action.
5. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on engaging Donald L. Allman CPA for our 2025/2026 fiscal year audit. (Fire Chief) Commissioner Balderas made a motion with a second by Commissioner Gaidsick to engage Donald L. Allman CPA for the 2025/2026 audit. Passed 4-0. Commissioner Gideon did not vote.

6. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on Briefing Statement #26.04: Purchase of SCBA's and SCBA related equipment. (Assistant Fire Chief) Commissioner Gaidsick made a motion with a second by Commissioner Balderas to approve the purchase of SCBA equipment not to exceed $168,404. Passed 5-0.
7. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on City of Hutto SUT payment of $70,663.55 for June 2026 and July 2026. (Fire Chief) Commissioner Hubbard made a motion with a second by Commissioner Gaidsick to approve the City of Hutto SUT payment of $70,663.55 for June/July 2026. Passed 5-0.
8. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on City of Hutto SUT and ILA documents received via email on Friday, August 7, 2026, at 4:35 pm. (Fire Chief) Commissioner Gaidsick made a motion with a second by Commissioner Hubbard to allow the sub-committee to continue to engage with the City of Hutto in discussions regarding potential sales tax sharing and to provide services for the safety of our citizens providing that we maintain the same level of services both now and in the future. Passed 4-0. Chief Kerwood will draft a response letter to Mr. Earp as directed by the board.
9. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on ESD Board meetings. (ESD #3 Board Vice Treasurer) Commissioner Hubbard asked about the possibility of the board meetings being moved to the evenings and possibly on a different day of the week. No action.
10. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on current sales and use tax sharing agreements with the City of Hutto. (ESD #3 Attorney) No action.
11. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on the City of Round Rock annexations of WCESD #3. (ESD #3 Attorney) Commissioner Gaidsick made a motion with a second by Commissioner Hubbard to allow a sub-committee of Commissioners Gaidsick and Robison to engage in discussions with the City of Round Rock regarding the District's compensation for the annexations that have taken place. Passed 4-0.
12. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on a report from The Carlton Law Firm on Legislative items (ESD #3 Attorney). Mr. Carlton gave an update. Reminder of SAFE-D meeting in Pflugerville on September 30th.
13. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on fire chief's evaluation. (ESD #3 Board President) No action.
14. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on Briefing Statement #26.02: Purchase of land for Fire Station #6. (Fire Chief) No action.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM

The Williamson County Emergency Services District #3 Board of Commissioners will adjourn from its regular session and convene in closed/executive sessions pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 551:

The board convened to the executive session at 1:23 p.m.
The board consulted with the attorney on agenda items 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14.
The board ended the executive session at 2:47 p.m.
Commissioner Robison called the regular open meeting back to order at 2:47 p.m.
No action was taken while in executive session.

VII. ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

The Williamson County Emergency Services District #3 Board of Commissioners will reconvene in open session to take any necessary action(s).

See agenda items 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, September 24th, 2026
The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Submitted: _____ 9/24/2026
Henry Gideon, Secretary — Date

Approved: _____ 9/24/2026
Todd Robison, President — Date