

AUSTIN COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

APRIL 8, 2025

The regular meeting of the Emergency Communications District of Austin County was held at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the Austin County Emergency Communications District Office, at 842 W. Main, Bellville, Texas, with the following present:

Roy Mercer – Vice - President
Walter Morrow – Treasurer
Bobby Rinn – Board Member
Jason Smalley – Board Member
David Watson – Board Member
Vicki Strieder – ACECD Administrative Assistant
Casey Lyde - LJA

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Quorum was declared by roll call. Jay Reeves and Jason Hammons were absent.

Consideration of Agenda – David Watson made a motion to accept the agenda; second made by Bobby Rinn – Motion carried.

Public Forum – None

Consideration of Minutes – David Watson made a motion to accept the March 11, 2025 minutes; second made by Jason Smalley – Motion carried.

Consideration of Treasurer's Report – David Watson made a motion to accept the March 2025 bank statement and accounts balance; second made by Jason Smalley – Motion carried. The Reconciliation Summary was not available at the time of the meeting. Per Treasurer Walter Morrow, we are still unable to pay bills online due to issues communicating with the bank.

Consideration of Invoices (Profit/Loss Reports) – David Watson made a motion to accept the March 2025 Profit/Loss reports; second made by Bobby Rinn – Motion carried.

Old business

- Update on progress from LJA – Casey Lyde continues to work on day-to-day mapping issues with ACECD since we are basically at a standstill until a new Executive Director is hired, and the handoff to GeoComm is completed. ACECD has signed up for the GeoComm service Contributor which will house/host everything required for GIS/mapping/addressing items as well as getting data pushed out to the PSAPs. They will provide a workspace showing the errors that need to be corrected. Possibly, Pictometry imagery will also be displayed. GeoComm will be reaching out soon to start the transition. No official date was given; therefore, we will reach out to them next month if nothing has been started.
- Update on AT&T equipment and fiber link – Jason Hammons, the AT&T representative, was not in attendance. No update.
- Update on next audit from Seidel Schroeder – Per Roy Mercer, we need to pick a date in conjunction with an item being discussed in the Executive Session to determine when Seidel Schroeder will present the audit report.
- Update on replacement of ceiling tiles – The stained tiles were replaced by Vicki Strieder, Administrative Assistant.
- Update on transferring dispatch services for County EMS & Fire to Westcom – This no longer involves ACECD, so it will be removed from future agendas.
- Update on setting up Starlink account/services and exterior dish mount – The exterior dish has been mounted, but we feel it needs more stabilization. Bobby Rinn will contact Daniel (contractor) to have him come determine what needs to be done to stabilize it. The account was set up as a non-business account, but that type doesn't have the ability to access the portal we need. It will have to be transferred over to a business account. David Watson made a motion to transfer the Starlink account over to a business account; second made by Bobby Rinn – Motion carried.

Report from rural addressing:

- New addresses for **MARCH 2025**: 41
- Existing address letter requests **MARCH 2025**: 25

New business

- Proposed redistricting map for Austin County Elections Department – Since Kim Rinn with the Elections Department thought the map was needed for a Commissioners’ Court meeting on April 7, Casey Lyde and LJA were given approval to create the map and charge ACECD for the services. The County will reimburse ACECD for the services provided by LJA. In the past, the ACECD Executive Director provided the map to the County at no charge to assist our community. LJA will be sending the invoice next month.
- Audit from Seidel Schroeder – The 2023 audit will be ready at the May 2025 meeting. Seidel Schroeder requested May 14, 2025 as the date for their audit presentation. Since our meeting would normally be scheduled on May 13, 2025, Bobby Rinn made a motion we move our meeting to Wednesday, May 14, 2025 to accommodate Seidel Schroeder’s representatives; second made by Jason Smalley – Motion carried. David Watson stated he will not be available on May 14, 2025.
- Issues with Industry State Bank – Since ACECD separated services with the accountant in February 2025, the Board members have had extreme difficulty in transferring access to the President and Treasurer and providing documents to Seidel Schroeder for the audits. The main complaint is dealing with multiple bank representatives who do not seem to be communicating with each other. David Watson and Roy Mercer asked if changing banks would make the situation any better. Treasurer, Walter Morrow, stated it would probably be just as difficult to start from scratch. He suggested he, Jay Reeves, and possibly Roy Mercer go to the bank together to discuss the situation with one ISB representative and have all required documents signed and submitted all at once. Since Jay Reeves is out of town, Roy Mercer volunteered to go to ISB today in an attempt to get the process started. It was suggested to revisit changing banks once an Executive Director is hired. Roy Mercer suggested Austin County State Bank be considered.

Report from AT&T – Jason Hammons was absent, but there were no issues reported.

Executive Session

A. Personnel Matters under Texas Government Code, Section 551.074 - To deliberate the appointment, employment, or duties of a public officer or employee. Executive Session started at 9:15am and reconvened at 9:23am.

- Executive Director – No action was taken during the Executive Session; therefore, the position will continue to be posted on Indeed.

Items/Announcements from Board Members –

- The May meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. David Watson stated he will not be available, but there should be a quorum with the remaining board members.
- Roy Mercer requested an Executive Session be on all agendas at least until the new Executive Director is hired.

Jason Smalley made a motion to adjourn meeting; second made by David Watson – Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

ATTEST:



Jay Reeves, President