

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT
ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS**

AMENDED – AGENDA

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE ABOVE NAMED COMMISSIONERS' COURT *V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.001(4)*, WILL BE HELD ON THE 27th DAY OF **JULY, 2015** AT **9:00 A.M.** IN THE COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 301 N. LIVE OAK, ROCKPORT, TEXAS, AT WHICH TIME THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WILL BE DISCUSSED, TO-WIT:

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARE QUORUM

II. PLEDGES AND INVOCATION

III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

At this time, comments will be taken from the audience on any subject matter that is not on the agenda. To address the Commissioners, please sign the public Participation Form located on the table in front of the pews and deliver to the County Clerk before the meeting begins. Citizens who wish to speak on a matter included in this agenda will be invited to speak when that particular matter is being deliberated by the Commissioners' Court. Each member of the public who appears before the Commissioners' Court shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) minutes to make his/her remarks. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Commissioners may not discuss or take action on any item which has not been posted on the agenda.

IV. PRESENTATIONS:

Presentations are limited to fifteen (15) minutes unless other arrangements have been made with the Court.

1. **REPORT FROM ARANSAS COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (ACISD) SUPERINTENDENT OF DISTRICT'S UPCOMING TAX RATIFICATION ELECTION – JOSEPH PATEK**

V. ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

All Consent Agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the Commissioners' Court and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Commissioner or the County Judge so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

1. **DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 13, 2015 – VALERIE AMASON/JUDGE MILLS**
2. **DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE PUBLIC OFFICIAL BOND RIDER ON ALMA CARTWRIGHT, COUNTY TREASURER – JUDGE MILLS**
3. **ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF AND RECORD IN MINUTES OF COMMISSIONERS' COURT COMPLETION OF 20 HRS TREASURERS' CONTINUING EDUCATION AND 5 HRS PUBLIC FUNDS INVESTMENT ACT FOR TIMI LATHAM, COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE – BURT MILLS**
4. **DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE ORDER O-12-2015 APPOINTMENT OF THE 2015 TO 2017 ELECTION JUDGES AND ALTERNATES – MICHELE BENNETT/JUDGE MILLS**
5. **DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY EARLY VOTING CLERKS FOR THE AUGUST 18, 2015 ARANSAS COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (ACISD) TAX RATIFICATION ELECTION – MICHELE BENNETT/JUDGE MILLS**

COUNTY REPORTS

6. **DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE THE AQUARIUM AT ROCKPORT HARBOR SECOND QUARTER 2015 HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FUNDS EXPENDED – CHRISTOPHER MACE/JUDGE MILLS**

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS/LEASES

7. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE AND AUTHORIZE COUNTY JUDGE TO SIGN COASTAL BEND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH ARANSAS COUNTY FOR E9-1-1 PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT SERVICES – KRISTEN BARNEBEY/JUDGE MILLS

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE ITEMS

8. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE REQUEST OF THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR HOTEL-MOTEL TAX FUNDS OF UP TO \$5000 TO UNDERWRITE A PORTION OF THE ADVERTISING, PUBLICATION, AND PRINTING COSTS FOR THE ROCKPORT-FULTON 2015 SHOPPING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 2-3, 2015- KAREN MELLA-KRM CONSULTING/JUDGE MILLS
9. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE REQUEST FROM ROCKPORT-FULTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,750 FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (EDC) – DIANE PROBST/JUDGE MILLS
10. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE THE REVISED RENEWAL RATES AS PROPOSED BY THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES FOR EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE 2015-2016 PLAN YEAR. PLAN WAS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AT THE JULY 13, 2015 COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING, ONLY THE RATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED/REDUCED – PAT ROUSSEAU/JUDGE MILLS
11. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE THE ACCOUNT SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR THE SAGE COLLEGE TUITION BENEFIT PROGRAM WHICH IS OFFERED AT NO COST TO THE COUNTY OR ITS EMPLOYEES AS A BENEFIT TO ENCOURAGE LONGEVITY – PAT ROUSSEAU/JUDGE MILLS
12. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE AUTHORIZING IT DEPT. TO OBTAIN CONTRACT TO INCREASE INTERNET BANDWIDTH FOR THE REMAINING 2015 FISCAL YEAR UP TO \$12,000 – COLLIN JACKSON/JUDGE MILLS
13. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE TREASURER'S SECOND QUARTER 2015 INVESTMENT REPORT – ALMA CARTWRIGHT/JUDGE MILLS
14. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE BUDGET LINE ITEM TRANSFERS – LEZLIE KIRK/JUDGE MILLS
15. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – LEZLIE KIRK/JUDGE MILLS
16. DISCUSS THE 2016 PRELIMINARY BUDGET – LEZLIE KIRK/JUDGE MILLS

DRAINAGE EASEMENTS & STORM WATER ITEMS

17. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE AUTHORIZING COUNTY STAFF TO NOTIFY PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CLOSED SECTION OF LAMAR STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN MONKEY ROAD AND RUBY ALLEN STREET OF THE COUNTY'S INTENT TO CLEAR BLOCKAGE IN THE EXISTING LAMAR ST. DRAINAGE DITCH AS ALLOWED IN SECTION 254.008 OF THE STATE TRANSPORTATION CODE – DAVID REID/COMMISSIONER CASTERLINE
18. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE REVISION TO THE ARANSAS COUNTY ROAD IMPROVEMENT POLICY – DAVID REID/COMMISSIONER SMITH
19. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE FINAL PLAT FOR THE RESERVE AT ST. CHARLES BAY, PHASE I, A REPLAT 0.6814 ACRE OUT OF BOARDWALK AT ST. CHARLES BAY SUBDIVISION AND 4.389 ACRES OUT OF LAMAR OUTLOTS 60,61, AND 62, LAMAR TOWNSITE – DAVID REID/COMMISSIONER STILES

20. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE ACCEPTING AN AGREEMENT WITH FRANK AND ANGELA SANDOVAL TO CONVEY A DRAINAGE EASEMENT BY PLAT TO THE COUNTY FOR THE SUM OF \$10,560 – DAVID REID/JUDGE MILLS
21. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE FINAL PLAT FOR STALLION SANDS SUBDIVISION, A REPLAT OF LOT 9, UNIT 6 OF PENINSULA OAKS SUBDIVISION – DAVID REID/COMMISSIONER CHANEY
22. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE PETITION OF MARY TEDDER TO CLOSE, ABANDON, AND VACATE A 20' ALLEYWAY, AS PLATTED, LYING BETWEEN LOTS 1-8 AND 9-16, BLOCK 323, MANNING ADDITION, ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS – JERRY BRUNDRETT/COMMISSIONER CASTERLINE
23. DISCUSS, APPROVE, OR DISAPPROVE PETITION OF HAROLD HAYNES TO CLOSE, ABANDON, AND VACATE A 40-FOOT WIDE ROAD RECORDED IN VOL 1, PG. 24, D.R.A.C.T., LYING IN THE NORTH ONE-HALF OF LOT 2, BLOCK B, WHEELER SUBDIVISION SUBJECT TO ANY EXISTING UTILITIES THAT MAY BE IN TH RIGHT-OF-WAY AND HAVE RIGHT TO BEING IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY – DAVID REID/COMMISSIONER CHANEY

VI. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN: *“At this time, County Commissioners will report/update on all committee assignments which may include the following: Aransas Pathways Steering Committee; County Storm Water Advisory Committee; Coastal Bend Council of Governments; Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries; Economic Developments; Live Oak Tree Committee; Navigation District; Personnel Committee; Rural Rail District; and Rockport Community Park/Swimming Pool Committee. Elected Officials & Department Heads reports include but are not limited to the following: Airport Advisory Board Updates; County Auditor – Read Fee Reports of county & precinct offices.”*

VII. REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST REGARDING WHICH NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN: *“At this time, Commissioners’ Court will hear reports/updates from Commissioners or County Staff about items of community interest including (1) expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolence; (2) information regarding holiday schedules; (3) a honorary or salutary recognition of a public official, public employee, or other citizen; (4) a reminder about an upcoming event organized or sponsored by the Court; (5) information regarding a social, ceremonial, or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the Commissioners’ Court that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a Commissioner or an official or employee of the County; and (6) announcements involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of people in the County that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.”*

VIII. PRESS QUESTIONS: *At this time, the Commissioners’ Court will accept questions from the press on items related to Agenda items which need clarification or further response. This item is provided as a courtesy to keep the citizens of Aransas County informed.*

IX. CLOSED SESSION:

1. COMMISSIONERS’ COURT WILL MEET IN CLOSED SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.071 TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL LITIGATION AND OTHER MATTERS PROTECTED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE
2. COMMISSIONERS’ COURT WILL MEET IN CLOSED SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.072 TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING PATHWAYS PROJECTS, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, COUNTY LAND AND COUNTY LEASES
3. COMMISSIONERS’ COURT WILL MEET IN CLOSED SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.07A TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS AND OTHER ISSUES.

X. OPEN SESSION: COMMISSIONERS’ COURT WILL RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION AND CONSIDER ACTION, IF ANY, ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT

DATED THIS THE 23RD DAY OF JULY, 2015

NOTES TO THE AGENDA:

- 1) THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RETIRE INTO EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION CONCERNING ANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED ON THIS AGENDA, WHENEVER IT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY AND LEGALLY JUSTIFIED UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.
- 2) PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WHO PLAN TO ATTEND THIS MEETING AND WHO MAY NEED ASSISTANCE SHOULD CONTACT THE COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE AT 361-790-0100 TWO WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING SO THAT APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

Posted @ 4:37 PM

FILED
AT 4:30 P.M.

JUL 23 2015

VALERIE K. AMASON
COUNTY CLERK, ARANSAS CO., TEXAS

COMMISSIONERS' COURT, ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS

I, the undersigned, County Clerk, do hereby certify that the Notice of the above named Commissioners' Court, is a true and correct copy of said Notice, and that I posted a true and correct copy of said Notice on the bulletin board in the courthouse lobby of Aransas county, Texas on the 23rd day of July, 2015, and said Notice remained so posted continuously for at least seventy-two (72) hours preceding the scheduled time of said Meeting.

Valerie K. Amason

COUNTY CLERK, ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS

FILED
AT 8:05 A. M.

JUL 27 2015

VALERIE K. AMASON
COUNTY CLERK, ARANSAS CO., TEXAS

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING - JULY 27, 2015

On the 27th day of July, 2015, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Courthouse, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, with the following members present: C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., County Judge; Jack Chaney, Commissioner, Precinct 1; Leslie "Bubba" Casterline, Commissioner, Precinct 2; Charles Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 3; Betty Stiles, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and Valerie K. Amason, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Jerry Brundrett, County Surveyor; Pam Heard, District Clerk; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer; Timilu Latham, Chief Deputy County Treasurer; Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Suzy Wallace, 1st Assistant County Auditor; Linda Garcia, Executive Assistant to the County Judge; David Reid, Drainage Engineer; John Strothman, Pathways Project Manager; Collin Jackson, IT Director; Dave Colmer, Senior IT Technician; David Vyoral, Road Administrator; Michael Geer, Airport Manager; James Jackson, Environmental Health Director; Michelle Bennett, Elections Administrator; Joy Diaz, Voter Registrar; Pat Rousseau, Human Resources Director; Roman Cortez, Deputy Chief/Jail Operations and Grievance Officer; and C. J. Wax, Mayor - City of Rockport.

The Meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. at which time a quorum was declared by County Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Joseph Patek, Superintendent, addressed the court with a Report from the Aransas County Independent School District (ACISD) on the Upcoming Tax Ratification Election, stressing the importance of making the voters aware that the Ballot Proposition does not increase taxes. The proposition will raise the M&O by two cents and reduce the I&S by two cents resulting in the school being able to keep 100% of the "taxes raised" to remain in the school district and not requiring anything to be sent to the state.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve:

1. Minutes from the Regular Commissioners' Court Meeting and Workshop Meeting of July 13, 2015.
2. Public Official Bond Rider on Alma Cartwright, County Treasure.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of and Record in the Minutes of Commissioners' Court Completion Certificates - 20 Hours Continuing Education and Five Hours Public Funds Investment Act for Timilu Latham, Chief Deputy County Treasurer.
4. Number O-12-2015 - Order of Appointment for the 2015 to 2017 Election Judges and Alternates.
5. Appointment of Deputy Early Voting Clerks for the August 18, 2015 Aransas County Independent School District (ACISD) Tax Ratification Election.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

COUNTY REPORTS

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Second Quarter 2015 Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds Expended.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign the Coastal Bend Council of Governments Interlocal Agreement with Aransas County for E9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point Services.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE ITEMS

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to **TABLE** the request of the Education Foundation for Hotel-Motel Tax Funds of up to \$5,000.00 to underwrite a portion of the advertising, publication and printing costs for the Rockport-Fulton 2015 Shopping Tournament scheduled for October 2-3, 2015.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the request from Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce of funding in the amount of \$3,750.00 for the

(Inserts)

Economic Development Committee (EDC).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to **deny** the request of Pat Rousseau to accept the Revised Renewal Rates as proposed by the Texas Association of Counties for Employee Health Insurance for the 2015-2016 plan year and due to a rate reduction, asked that employees continue paying \$40.00 a month instead of the \$50.00 a month approved at the July 13, 2015 Commissioners' Court Meeting.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Account Service Agreement for the Sage College Tuition Benefit Program which is offered at no cost to the County or its employees as a benefit to encourage longevity.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to **TABLE** authorizing up to \$12,000.00 for the IT Department to obtain a contract to increase Internet Bandwidth for the remaining 2015 fiscal year.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Treasurer's Second Quarter

(Inserts)

2015 Investment Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Budget Line Item Transfers.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Accounts Payable.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Discussion only on the 2016 Preliminary Budget after Commissioner Smith made the motion and Commissioner Stiles seconded the motion to come back to this item after the other items had been addressed. After much discussion concerning the IT Budget, the decision was made to come back with more realistic numbers - discussion to be continued.

ROADS, DRAINAGE EASEMENTS & STORMWATER ITEMS

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve authorizing County Staff to notify property owners of the Closed Section of Lamar Street Right-of-Way between Monkey Road and Ruby Allen Street of the County's intent to clear blockage in the existing Lamar St. drainage ditch.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve a Revision to the Aransas County Road Improvement Policy.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

19. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the Final Plat for the Reserve at St. Charles Bay, Phase 1, a re-plat of 0.6814 acres out of the Boardwalk at St. Charles Bay Subdivision and 4.389 acres out of Lamar Outlots 60, 61 and 62, Lamar Townsite, subject to receiving receipt of the Cash Bond Deposit as required under the subdivision regulations for all improvements under all phases.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

20. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve accepting and agreement with Frank and Angela Sandoval to convey a drainage easement by plat to the county for the sum of \$10,560.00.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

21. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Final Plat for Stallion Sands Subdivision, a re-plat of Lot 9, Unit 6 of Peninsula Oaks Subdivision.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

22. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to **TABLE** this item concerning the Petition of Mary Tedder to close, abandon, and vacate a 20' alleyway, as platted, lying between Lots 1-8 and 9-16, Block 323, Manning Addition.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

23. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to **TABLE** this item concerning the petition of Harold Haynes to close, abandon and vacate a 40 foot wide road recorded in Vol. 1, Pg. 24, D.R.A.C.T., lying in the N ½ of Lot 2, Blk. B, Wheeler Subdivision subject to any existing utilities that may be in the right-of-way and have right to being in the right-of-way.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

The Court did not enter into closed session.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS &
DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

Commissioner Chaney, suggested that it would be helpful to the court if we could show on the agenda if the item at hand is something that had been approved in the previous year and whether the item on the agenda was included in the current budget or being discussed for the next year's budget.

Commissioner Smith, indicated that he did not think that Aransas County should continue to allocate \$5,000.00 to the Shopping Tournament; understanding that it is a good cause, the real purpose

for the HOT Funds does not include generating money to transfer funds from a HOT tag over to a school beneficiary type situation.

Commissioner Stiles: We had a wonderful event Saturday with the State Congressional Committee who put together a local event that brought people in from all over the state as a means to educate the public on so many different issues. Senator Lois Kolkhorst talked about the Legislative Session. Todd Hunter talked about Human Trafficking. Congressman Blake Fahrenthold was present. Bob got to go see the two gentlemen who rescued the two other Americans from Benghazi. One important thing I learned was that Ambassador Stevenson was not dragged through the streets. One of the gentlemen found him after he had been killed, his body still intact. A lot of rumors and things reported that were not true, it was shocking.

Judge Mills: Shocking thing to me is when we were told that those two gentlemen, because they were contract people for security, they had made it home and back in the United States after being..

Commissioner Stiles: ...after holding on for 13 hours over 40 something insurgents that they came into..

Judge Mills: ...one of them being wounded so bad that he is still going through operations to correct his problems, he was shot I think fourteen times.

Commissioner Stiles: There is going to be a movie and it will be called "13 Hours in Benghazi", this will be well worth seeing.

REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST
REGARDING WHICH NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Judge Mills: About two weeks ago Commissioner Casterline and I took the Sheriff's boat and went out to Cedar Bayou to take a ground look at it, the slough is still flowing and functioning well, the mouth is probably 200 feet wide, the deepest part is about 30-40 feet wide and anywhere from three feet to eight feet deep, so it's going well. The mouth to Vinson slough is somewhat different, it's pretty shallow but as long as the water is flowing through it, it's functional, so all the stories that you might hear, it's closed up, or its closing up, is false.

Commissioner Stiles: I got crab thumb, because we cleaned 45 crabs over the weekend. The Bayou being open is helping a bunch.

PRESS QUESTIONS

Norma Martinez, Managing Editor for The Rockport Pilot: Regarding Agenda Item #8, last year when the Court approved the \$5,000.00 for the Shopping Tournament, the question was raised that it is quite a bit of money to spend on 60 plus people coming from out of town. Will you be taking this into consideration as to how much you will be giving them? At this rate, that's more than \$70.00 per person to bring in 60 people here.

Commissioner Smith: This is the third year and it is off the ground now, we have provided seed money for it. My take on that is we should be scaling back on that at this point in time. We have other needs for money that would make a lot more sense. I know my commissioners would love to be looking for money to put in a disabled kayak ramp out in St. Charles Bay. When you start matching the benefits, these are the kind of issues we need to be putting money into in my opinion.

Norma: Regarding the budget, I was here when the discussion was made to put all the IT Service Agreements, to be considered, into an IT budget. Because the question at that point was with every department having their own IT budgeted item, whenever the court looked at it, then billed each department and worked it together to come out exactly, to try to figure out how put them back into It. The court then decided to take money from each of those budgets and put in the IT Department to create the Department itself. So, if you're going to go backwards and put IT into each budget, does that mean our IT Department funding will also go back to each of those departments?

Smith: The funding point is on the budget. I think we can have it both ways, I think having it in the department where those particular direct costs have been generated now that I'm looking at it, to measure per personnel policy. The Auditor can run a report and shift all of the IT costs onto one sheet. So we are not going keep giving up any information, we are going to be getting better information if we go with what we are talking about. It's a separate report to show what we are spending on the IT Department and spread it by costs, and she can do that.

Chaney: One of the issues, if I remember correctly now that we are talking about that, is the IT department at that time were having difficulty in getting control of who was billing and who was purchasing what. Originally, it was from a purchasing aspect, what we talked about today was leaving the purchasing with them, but to show a representative cost in the individual department as to what that particular maintenance agreement or official equipment is. Not to say we are going to change anything on the way we buy.

Casterline: I don't think we are really talking as much about putting the money back into each department's budget, as much as we have a schedule where each line shows how much is allocated out of each department's budget.

Smith: Norma, please keep in mind, this budget is an operating plan, and not set in stone. This is the point I was making today, when I found out that something had already been purchased without being approved yet. We have the responsibility of making sure that those things, as we go along, have more and more information. The fact that it's in the budget does not mean that it's your money and you can spend it any way you wish, it just does not work that way. As a matter of fact, maybe somewhere in the future, we ought to go back to a zero based budgeting, which means that we build a department from the floor up because, after a long time, what happens is, you'll find, "Ok, I'm just going to increase my budget by five percent". There is no real attempt to go in and determine if they really need it. I'm not suggesting we have people that are doing a bad job, but it would be a delightful action to take, to try to justify exactly where we are.

Norma: Concerning the combined County/District Attorney position, can you tell me where in the Budget that is and if it's going to cost \$170,000.00, but yet we were only paying \$135,000.00 previously.

Smith: There is a separate line item for District Court where it shows how much we were contributing.

Casterline: Plus you know the state will pay the District Attorney.

Smith: But that's not included in our Budget for the District Attorney for this year anyway, for 2016.

Lezlie Kirk: It will be County and District Attorney in next year's budget and right now is on Page eighteen. It still is a work in process, we are still working on salaries, decisions, costs, and so this one will be changing, but I put the numbers out here in red, that this is what was turned in.

Smith: Now keep in mind that that \$134,000.00 and some odd dollars that went to the DA last year; that number was going to go up this year. They have the same problem over in San Pat County in staffing, as everybody else does, that thing probably would have increased ten to fifteen thousand dollars this year or more, including staff. I guarantee you that if we had not been able to get it we would be paying probably close to \$150,000.00 this year for that DA fund.

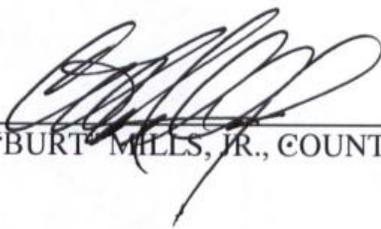
Norma: When you started paying management, did you still have to hire staff, court reporters and etc.

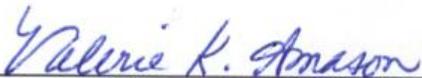
Smith: There will be added costs, probably about twenty five to thirty thousand dollars.

Norma: I think it will probably be more than that.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 11:20 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Smith duly seconded by Commissioner Casterline.




C. H. "BURT" MILLS, JR., COUNTY JUDGE


VALERIE K. AMASON,
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT