

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

WORKSHOP MEETING - JULY 29, 2019

On the 29th day of July, 2019, there was a Workshop Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners Courtroom, 2840 Hwy 35 N, 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; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Jeri Cox**, Tax Assessor-Collector; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Linda Garcia Haynes**, Executive Assistant to the County Judge; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Rene Butler**, Maintenance Director; **Jacky Cockerham**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Anna Marshall**, Chief Deputy Tax Assessor-Collector; **Ronell Burke**, Animal Control Supervisor; **Iris Sanchez**, County Librarian;

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present:

City of Rockport Council Members: **Barbara Gurtner**, Ward 4;

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

ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION

1. Report on Calculation of 2019 Effective, Rollback, and Debt Tax Rates using Certified Values from Chief Appraiser.

Jeri Cox: The Effective Tax Rate is currently .415315, that the Rollback Rate is .451563, and that the Effective Rate is 13.32 % less than the adopted rate last year. Next year there will be a 3.5% maximum Rollback limit due to legislation.

Next year you will have a Voter Approval Rate

Commissioner Smith: What about the values of new properties?

Jeri Cox: Values increased 18.25% over last year's values.

Commissioner Smith: I think it's a great opportunity at this point and time, you can spend a little bit more and save 80-85% of what that project would cost because of the participation by the Feds and the State, more so by the Feds, so that's part of the thought process of adopting the Tax Rate and as Jeri points out, next year we are not going to be able to depend on a higher rate than 3 ½%. Now I will point out, in talking with our County Auditor, we continue to see unfunded mandates flowing down and it's just amazing to me that those fellows in Austin on the one hand take credit for cutting down taxes and on the other hand continue to lock additional expense on taxpayers.

Judge Mills: A lot of it being the pay raise they authorized for the District Judges, the County Court at Law Judge, and the County and District Judge, they gave them a nice raise but it's unfunded.

Commissioner Casterline: What is the number with the 2 ½% COLA?

Suzy Wallace: This budget that you are looking at on the screen factors in 2019 Adopted Budget and a 2 ½% COLA.

Commissioner Smith: There are some departments that we did not hold to the 2019 Budget because of large capital improvement type budgets.

2. General Discussion of 2020 Budget with elected officials and department heads as scheduled.

Judge Mills: Any comments? Any additions from the Auditors? If there are no comments I guess we're through.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:10 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith.



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

Valerie K. Amason

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