

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

WORKSHOP MEETING - JULY 19, 2011

On the 19th day of July, 2011, there was a Workshop Meeting of the Commissioners' Court held in the Commissioners' Court, 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; Russel Cole, Commissioner Precinct 4; and Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk.

Other County Official present was Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor.

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:

Judge Mills stated the purpose of the workshop was to review the "wish list" of each department prior to finalizing the 2012 budget. County Auditor Kirk set up the schedule.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Jackie Shaw representing the Historical Commission presented their budget requests. An increase of \$1,700.00 over the 2011 budget was requested. Commissioner Smith suggested their request was low and some of their requests might be funded through the Pathways venue tax.

(Request inserted)

DPS

There was no one present to discuss the DPS budget request. Commissioner Smith suggested lowering Office Supplies to \$500.00 from the \$1,500.00 requested. Commissioner Chaney suggested \$750.00 and Judge Mills recommended \$1,000.00 which was the 2011 request. They had \$1,500.00 in Office Furniture and Equipment for a chair and television. This was cut to \$0.00. All Office Furniture and Equipment will be budgeted under non-departmental with the department submitting a request to Judge Mills for approval. Miscellaneous repairs and maintenance was also cut from the request \$1,000.00 to \$200.00.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney Bianchi requested the Court to consider giving employees a raise and implement a step increase plan.

Commissioner Smith asked why the Court was having these workshops. Ms. Kirk said a few years ago a Commissioner requested to hear the requests before a final budget was approved.

COUNTY LIBRARY

Iris Sanchez, County Librarian, appeared before the Court; however, the Court had no questions except in regard to one of her employees who has run out of sick leave an vacation leave and is not getting paid for the days she does not work.

COMMISSIONERS

Capital outlay moved to non-departmental; increase in conferences and association dues (later lowered to \$10,000.00).

NON-DEPARTMENTAL

Line item 120-409-410 was reduced from requested \$95,000.00 to \$80,000.00.

AIRPORT

Gene Johnson, Airport Manager, had no new requests.

EXTENSION AGENTS

Amy O'Brien Glenn and Ginger Easton Smith, Extension Agents--increase in travel to \$4,000.00; lowered to \$1,500.00 for office furniture for new building when complete.

FLEET MAINTENANCE

Mike Gordon stated Fleet Maintenance was budget neutral. Discussion was had regarding all vehicle insurance being in his budget; the Court would like vehicle insurance charged to the departments the vehicles are in. Gordon requested his full-time employee's classification changed to mechanic.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Buck Kohl appeared before the Court representing the Rockport Fire Department. Three (3) fire departments are budgeted - Rockport, Lamar and Fulton; \$5,500.00 is included for the Aransas Pass Fire Department. Mr. Kohl stated the Court is getting a real bargain for their money. He informed the Court that both Lamar and Fulton need new stations. Commissioner Smith suggested it might be time for an Emergency Services District. Mr. Kohl was not really in favor of that since the Fire Departments report to no one at this time but an Emergency Services District changes everything.

FLOOD CONTROL FUND

David Reid, Drainage Engineer, stated his budget request is lower than last year. One of the main differences is the lower amount in Professional Services. The requested amount was increased from \$40,000.00 to \$115,000.00.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 1

Judge Diane Dupnik lowered some line items and increased some others including Conferences and Association Dues. Other items remained the same as the 2011 budget request.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2

Judge Daly and Diane Rinche-McGinnis asked the Court to consider a step increase for Danielle who has been here since 2007. Postage was lowered \$250.00 and telephone was lowered \$200.00.

COLLECTIONS

Ms. McGinnis stated this was the first year for the collections budget being separate. There was no history to compare it to.

JUVENILE CASE MANAGER

Ms. McGinnis stated this budget is revenue/expense neutral. County Auditor Kirk stated she bills the other entities on a quarterly basis.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

James Jackson, Director of Environmental Health, requested an increase in part-time help and a new vehicle. Commissioner Chaney suggested he spend his funds on a new vehicle and drop part-time help.

TRANSFER STATION

Mr. Jackson stated he needs a 6' fence around the Transfer Station to be in compliance with TCEQ. He also requested a cell phone for the supervisor. Consensus of the Court was to revisit this budget request after the Court has revenue projections.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Mr. Jackson reduced his request for mosquito chemicals from \$85,000.00 to \$70,000.00 and requested a new truck.

DISTRICT CLERK

Pam Heard took a break from District Court to appear before Commissioners' Court. The Court had no questions for Ms. Heard.

DISPATCH

Lee Zapata stated she budgeted a 3% increase in salaries since the City of Rockport is giving a 3% raise plus merit increases. Commissioner Smith suggested the Court needed to look at the budget split since the City of Rockport is receiving more dispatch calls than the County.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Roger Carriere, Maintenance Supervisor, told the Court Dispatch has added more equipment requiring larger capacity air conditioners. The current air conditions are getting old also; budget request actually lower than last year.

The Court recessed at 11:45 a.m. and returned to Open Session at 1:30 p.m. with all members present and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

COUNTY CLERK

County Clerk Friebele stated her budget is basically the same as the 2011 budget.

ELECTIONS

Friebele stated her elections budget always increases during a Presidential Election year. The budget presented was based on a look at the last Presidential election year - 2008.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Friebele reminded the Court this budget is paid by user fees and one of her deputies is paid from this fund. The records management reserve continues to decrease since filing is down and the Court took the interest away from the fund.

ARCHIVE FUND

Friebele stated this is budget is based on a user fee. Several years ago the Court approved the fee. Friebele has been savings these funds until she had enough to pay for imaging all her records. The Court recently approved this project. There will be funds in reserve after the project is completed.

VETERANS SERVICE

No change.

APPRAISAL DISTRICT

The amount budgeted in this line item will go up if there is an increase in the effective tax rate.

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Jeri Cox stated the funds requested under professional services were to scan old documents. The amount was lowered because her office is being used for training and Tyler is charging less. She does not have the certified property rolls so she cannot give the Court any tax figures.

IT DEPARTMENT

Justin Cook, IT Director, appeared before the Court to discuss his proposed 2012 budget. His request included \$429,000.00 in Office furniture and equipment. His number one priority was fifteen (15) new computers. Commissioner Chaney questioned the CID laptops. Chaney suggested these should be in the Sheriff's budget.

(List inserted)

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 1

Doc Thomas requested funds to purchase a GPS. He stated he oftentimes has problems finding places where papers need to be served.

COUNTY TREASURER

Chief Deputy, Alma Cartwright, presented her budget request with some proposed organizational changes after she take over August 1st.

(Request inserted)

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned was adjourned by
Commissioner Smith duly seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

PEGGY L. FRIEBELE, COUNTY CLERK &
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT