

MINUTES

Aransas County Commissioners Court



9:00 AM – Monday, January 8, 2024

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 9:00 AM, in the Aransas County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Texas. Aransas County Commissioner's Court meeting video recordings are available by following this link: [Commissioners Court Minutes and Agendas \(aransascountytx.gov\)](https://aransascourtminutesandagendas.aransascountytx.gov), then scroll to the bottom of the page and select the date you wish to view.

Present: **Ray A. Garza**, County Judge
Jack Chaney, Commissioner Precinct 1-1A
Leslie Casterline, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Pat Rousseau, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Robert Dupnik, Commissioner, Precinct 4

I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGES

II. INVOCATION

III. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

IV. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Blanche Dean – Things have improved that last three days. I think he's kind of getting the message. But, I'm not going to let up. I'm talking about the gentleman across the street. After I left here the last time, I started journaling everything, every day because it is consistently. I will start with Dec. 15th, I didn't get to have a Christmas, at 10:30 PM the music, it's loud again with the bass so loud it is reverberating through my house. 11:40 PM the bass is thumping again. Dec. 16th at 5:30 AM, he's busting the windows out of the cars of his drug dealers. I mean he literally busted all his friends' windows out with a pipe at 5:30 in the morning. When I called the Police somebody had already called. I know he is habitual and has been for quite a few years is what all the neighbors have told me. I'm standing up for the neighborhood. There are some neighbors that don't want to come forward because they can't, they have a business, there's kids involved. So, I'm speaking for the neighborhood. Dec. 18th gunshots. Dec. 20th an explosion at 2:00 AM, the Police were called and "he said he didn't know the can was in the barrel. How many times has the Police department been out there? I'm just learning the law and how the law works out there. He's not supposed to be burning after dark. Even before this started he was burning after dark and I think he's throwing bullets into the fire because you're hearing all this popping. Dec. 20th 10:00 AM the music's loud. Dec. 21st 12:30 AM, I called the Police. There was another gentleman that came by that afternoon on a bicycle and he stops in front of my house and he's preparing himself to go past that property because of the dogs. The gentleman has a baseball bat in his backpack. Anytime that there's a confrontation with that gentleman he comes out and threatens to kill anybody that comes by there. I've heard him, I've seen him. There's two gentlemen that come by there and another man that walks his dog that is terrified to go be there so he stops at the trash place to find a stick to defend himself from the dogs. Dec. 21st 9:30 PM the blonde girl coming down from the other end of the street to buy drugs. This happens all the time, but has slowed down since

the article was printed in the paper. Dec. 31st 4:00 in the morning, he's up making noise. He come to the corner of the fence banging on a hammer, then he barks like a dog to get my dogs riled up. 4:30 in the morning I don't know what he's using, gunpowder or something, that he lights and it sounds like thunder. 5:30 in the morning that gold Tahoe shows up that has major mechanical problems, it sounds like he was dragging a transmission. Jan. 2nd the banging, the electric saw at 5:30 AM, walking back and forth between Fourth Street and his house and the neighbors dogs hear him and see him and so there is no peace. During the day a black truck pulls out of there without state plates, he's there to buy drugs. Jan. 3 1:30 AM making noise and at 3:00 AM. Jan. 4th 2:00 AM making noise again at the corner of the yard. The neighbors next to me and across from him took the dogs in because he's outside so much because he never sleeps, he's on drugs 24/7, the guy never sleeps.

Judge Garza – Ma'am I'm sorry your times up.

Blanche Dean – I would like to say one thing, that on Dec. 29th before the Oxy chemical spill, he was burning something so toxic that I could not even go outside. I called the Police and they said they were too busy to get out there and then another officer called back about 15 minutes later and asked if I still smelled it, I went back out and I could still smell it. It was so bad that it gave me a headache.

V. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Presentation from the Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group – Long Term Recovery and Disaster Management – Christopher Brandt

Item was read by Judge Garza – See attachments or video for the presentation.

Presented by Christopher Brandt – I'm going around to the area counties letting them know what we do and what we have done.

Commissioner Rousseau – What is the number of staff members that you have?

Christopher Brandt – Myself

Commissioner Rousseau – And you are the Executive Director?

Christopher Brandt – Yes.

Commissioner Rousseau – How do people, if they currently need help, how do they know about your organization? So they can access you?

Christopher Brandt – We only respond to disasters. And we have exhausted all of our funding for all the current disasters. If a person has a need, house burned down, can't pay an electric bill or anything and they don't know what to do, I always tell them to call 2 1 1. 2 1 1 is a service that's provided to the area that will try to help them match the service to the need. During Harvey or the Freeze you could call 2 1 1 and they would direct you to us. If it's something like your electric bill they might refer you to another agency. They keep the most current list of who is providing services in the area.

Commissioner Rousseau – So there is not much going on at your facility now.

Christopher Brandt – No we've actually completed all of our disaster recover. We've exhausted all of those funds.

Commissioner Rousseau – Looking at the Board of Directors in the handout, I don't see where Aransas County is represented.

Christopher Brandt – That was during Harvey. Right now John Jackson is on the Board and

he was on our Board at the time of Harvey.

Commissioner Rousseau – I know he was but I didn't see him on your list.

Christopher Brandt – This is the list at the time that it was published, but he was on our Board of Directors through most of Harvey recovery. Danielle Hale, she's the Emergency Manager but she also lives in Rockport.

Commissioner Rousseau – I know Ms. Hale but she is there as a representative of the Port of Corpus Christi.

Christopher Brandt – No, I think she'll fight you on that. She'll say she's actually there as a representative of Aransas, she has really deep roots here in Rockport. We help individuals, the Port is not really an individual so they are there to represent the people, residences that they live in.

Commissioner Dupnik – What type of funding do you have now to operate? You're an Executive Director, are you a full-time director or is that idol?

Christopher Brandt – I'm in the process of winding down. We're hoping to some funding to keep the position available. Most of our disaster recovery money came from multiple sources. It came from outside the area. Some came from generous donors from the area that provided us funding. We are in the process of trying to find funding to sustain the organization into the future. If we should go without funding and without a disaster I would probably have to go from one person to volunteer. That's the challenge, we don't receive any federal, state, county money, it's all through donations.

Commissioner Dupnik – Thank you and we appreciate what ya'll have done.

Christopher Brandt- Our organization is only a symbol of the area. The City of Rockport and the County of Aransas and the other counties all played major roles in our success.

Everybody has been working well together and our community should take great pride in the fact that we don't squabble about whose getting and not getting help. When we have people from outside the area they always say they are amazed at how well you folks work together. I want to thank the communities for being so supportive.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

2. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Minutes from the December 27, 2023 Regular Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
3. Discuss, approve or disapprove the re-appointment of County Judge nominee Debbie Griffith for a three (3) year term and the appointment of County Judge nominee Lonnie Matthews for a three (3) year term, both to serve as members of the Aransas County Tree Committee – Judge Garza

Motion to accept the consent agenda: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau

Discussion followed: Debbie Griffith – Thank you for approving the Tree Ordinance. We have rounded out our committee again and going forward our focus will be on some administrative issues with the Environmental Department, getting their forms and data up to date. The other focus is on publicity and promotion of the Tree Ordinance to get ahead of the game instead of behind. That is going to be our focus for this next year.

Commissioner Chaney – The Tree Ordinances, they have been very diligent trying to make this better, it's been a year or two on getting everything done. I am anxious to see how Ms.

Lonnie does, she is a very gracious lady. I want to thank Debbie for all the work that ya'll have done. I want to thank the legal department, Jen spent a lot of time on that and we looking forward to a bright future.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

Debbie Griffith – The new member representing Precinct 1 of the committee Ms. Lonnie Matthews, she has been deeply involved in community matters since 1995. I think she is going to have a lot of good input to help us spread the word and get the Tree Ordinance enforced better.

Lonnie Matthews – Thank you for the opportunity. I have been very involved in the environmental issues in the County. This is another chance to get on with it.

VII. COUNTY REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

4. Discuss, approve or disapprove the motion to repeal/replace Resolution #R-24-2011 “Resolution to Establish an Aransas Pathways Steering Committee” with Resolution #R-30-2023-A (Amended), “Revised Resolution to Establish Aransas Pathways Steering Committee”; to amend definitions and procedures; to provide for severability; repealer, and to establish an effective date [Tabled 12/27/2023]- Commissioner Rousseau

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik

Discussion followed: Commissioner Casterline – On the back page, there is a list of voting members and the first two, the Chair and the Vice-Chair states at large. It gives an impression that those officers are picked from at large members. I really think on that list you should just strike the Chair and Vice-Chair. It appears that there are two positions there that are at large positions but those two officers would not necessarily be built from only at large. My assumption is that makes a total of three at large positions, but the way it's typed on there with #1 being the Chair, # 2 being the Vice-Chair.

Judge Garza – so you want to take out the at large?

Commissioner Rousseau – I think he wants to take out the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Casterline – Apparently there are three at large members on it, so I would say just strike the Chair and Vice-Chair off. You have three at large members plus the other named sources where the members come from.

Commissioner Rousseau – Then they'll just pick the Chair and Vice-Chair from whomever?

Commissioner Casterline – It says in there that the committee picks the Chair and the Vice-Chair. It gave me the perception that those two officers would be picked from only the at large members of the committee.

Judge Garza – Would you like to amend? Do you have to amend your motion for that?

Commissioner Rousseau – I will amend the proposed Resolution #R-30-2023-A so it shows the voting members on the third page, it will show that there are three separate at large positions and then representatives from the County, the City of Rockport, the town of Fulton, and specialists in marketing outreach, History trails and Kayaking.

Amended proposal: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik

Vote on motion and amended proposal: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

5. Discuss the Five Star Award, acknowledging Vital Statistics Partners who understand the importance of vital statistics and their impact on the citizens of Texas. This award honors Partners who go above and beyond the duties of birth and death registration by attending training and keeping up with the latest legislation and trends. Present the Five Star Award to Crystal Powell, Deputy County Clerk, Vital Statistics and the other Official Public Record Clerks, Nita Solis, Chief Deputy County Clerk, and Angela Picarazzi, Deputy County Clerk, who contributed to this award as well – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza

Motion to discuss: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau

Discussion followed: Misty Kimbrough – This award is given by the Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics Section. The Aransas County Clerk’s office has only received this award six other times. Only 52 of the 254 counties received this award, that is 4.9%, met the requirements to receive the award this year. Crystal Powell our Vital Statistics Clerk is mostly responsible for this award, as with everything, nothing is accomplished alone. There are two other clerks Nita Solis, Chief Deputy and Angela Picarazzi, who can’t be here today due to her son getting tubes in his ears. I have an awesome staff that gives amazing customer service, every single day. Our jobs are not simple or easy and they all do a great job every day with every customer. I just wanted to take a moment to publicly thank them for that.

Commissioner Rousseau – Well done.

Judge Garza – Well done.

Commissioner Dupnik – Congratulations.

6. Discuss the budget savings recognized by revisions to the Detention Center meal menus, all while retaining the daily nutritional objectives, resulting in a \$0.24 reduction in costs per tray (17,958 average number of trays per month) with a possible savings of \$4,309.00 per month and nearly \$50,000 per year. No action needed – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza

Motion to discuss: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik

Discussion followed: Sheriff Mills – During budget discussions we go over all these lines looking at costs. I got with the Jail staff and decided to look at the menu again because when you look back over the historical data back to 2013, we were in the .85¢ - .95¢ range. We did see an increase in 2022 and the first eight months of this year we were at \$1.09 per tray. I held off until we had three months of data to look at but we have cut that cost back to an .85¢ range per tray and that’s an average cost, barring crop failure or something that would drive prices up this next year, it will equate to about a \$50,000 savings. As budget conscious as the court has been I thought I would bring it to your attention. We did have to get it approved by the Jail Commissioner and by a dietician. It was not popular in the jail but we’ve done it a couple of times over the fifteen years and continue to keep it in check.

Commissioner Casterline – I’m curious Sheriff what’s on a plate for that little bit of money?

Sheriff Mills – There’s a set menu that rotates daily. We buy beef patties, chicken patties, can range from cold sandwiches to hot meals two out of the three days if not all three days. I believe they should have a meal that is not a hot meal, the sandwiches and such. That’s what we do at home and what the school does, I don’t think they should be eating better than the

average person in the community that pays that bill.

Commissioner Dupnik – This is impressive with the cost of food now days. So, thank you for what you did.

Judge Garza – I appreciate it Sheriff, thank you.

7. Discuss the Intoxilyzer equipment graphs and numbers. No action needed – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza

Motion to discuss: by Commissioner Rousseau, Judge Garza – This is just informational.

Discussion followed: Sheriff Mills – This is in response to the discussion we had a couple of meeting ago when we were approving the cost that we share with San Patricio County. At that time there were some questions raised about who all used it and what percentage. We average around 126-130 test a year. I think there are five agencies they show that utilize it. I will clarify that the officers for the school district were probably when they were with Rockport PD. This is just to share some statistical information.

Commissioner Rousseau – I was very interested. I appreciate you sending it and I believe you said that we bear the sum for the whole county.

Sheriff Mills – Correct.

Commissioner Rousseau – So looking at this ours apparently is about 4% of the total use, DPS is 40%, Rockport PD is about 28%, the School District and Park and Wildlife each come in about 8%. So I would say if there's some way for us to look at sharing this cost with the agencies that are using this more than we are using it would be a good thing to do.

Sheriff Mills – I think one avenue would be MOUs that we have with Rockport and Fulton for the jail use and the contract we have there.

Commissioner Rousseau – So we'll take that to the County Attorney?

Sheriff Mills – You can, working into those when the MOUs come due for renewal.

Commissioner Rousseau – Thank you Sheriff.

VIII. COUNTY ROADS AND FLOODPLAIN

8. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Final Plat proposed by Metropol, LLC to re-plat 2582- R FM 1069 and 2502-2560 FM 1069 into the Lucas Ranch Subdivision, Lots 1-124 – Katherine Comeaux/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Discussion followed: David Reid – This is the subdivision at the intersection of Cape Velero Rd. and 1069. It has complied with our subdivision regulations and they're ready for final approval, the staff recommends approval.

Commissioner Rousseau - After this combination, 124 lots, does that mean 124 households?

David Reid – I would assume if they sell that, yes.

Commissioner Rousseau – The developer extended the water service to the development, does that mean there will be no OSSF?

David Reid – Asked the developer “do you have sewer for everything?” he said yes off mic.

Commissioner Casterline – It gives an impression when you read it that the sewer only goes to the smaller lots.

David Reid – I also thought the same thing.

Commissioner Casterline – I’m sure Mr. Krueger is ready to get on to his next project.

David Reid – I’m sure he is.

Commissioner Casterline – He’s had a lot of bumps in the road.

Commissioner Rousseau – So are they going to begin the actual construction soon?

David Reid – of the infrastructure?

Commissioner Rousseau – I’ve seen the roads going up out there.

David Reid – They are pretty close to finished with the infrastructure, pretty close to wanting to build houses. David asked if they had lots sold yet, they are waiting on this.

Commissioner Casterline – An interesting thing about this subdivision, all of the streets in this subdivision are named after men who lost their lives in war that were from Aransas County.

Commissioner Rousseau – That’s a very nice gesture. Does Mr. Krueger want to speak to the court?

Mr. Krueger – I have to say that David and Kat and everybody, from Road & Bridge have always been very supportive. We’ve been welcome here, we did our best to do a good job. The City has inspected everything, we have passed all of our bacteria tests and everything. The water is live and we’ve already got neighbors tying into the water system. We have the possibility of the neighbors to tie into the sewer system. The reimbursement agreement is in place with the City. Everything is ready to go, we are only waiting for a little of hot weather so we can put asphalt on the roads. That may be a couple of weeks or months, David wants 80 degrees. We did increase the lift station it is very big, so we have the possibility to tie in almost double what we’ve got on site. It is a long-term development for the county. We’ve tied all of our ponds into the drainage system and have a lot of retention capacity. Also we didn’t cut down any trees, they’re all still there. I think it opens up a lot of possibilities for people around us.

Commissioner Rousseau – I’m very appreciative of the work that you have done to date. As a member of the Tree Committee I’m appreciative of the fact that you didn’t cut down any trees.

Mr. Krueger – Thank you to David and everybody else that has been very supportive. I can’t have asked for better partners, it’s been a good experience.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

IX. CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

9. Discuss, approve or disapprove a request to Solicit a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Disaster Recovery company to coordinate with County staff to oversee the recovery efforts in the immediate aftermath of a catastrophic event [Tabled 12:27:2023]– Mike Geer/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau

Discussion followed: Judge Garza – This was a holdover from last meeting because we had a little typo.

Mike Geer – I was out for that meeting. Are there any questions as to why we are doing this?

Commissioner Rousseau – Jacky explained last time that the contract we approved a year or

so ago, was never finalized.

Jacky Cockerham – Exactly. It was last year. The Commissioner’s approve to the contractor but they never signed the contract.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

10. Discuss, approve, or disapprove authorizing the Airport Manager to publish a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a bulk aviation fuel provider – Mike Geer/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau

Discussion followed: Mike Geer – Currently we don’t have a contract for bulk fuel provisions at the airport. The ten years or so that I’ve been here and before that we’ve been buying our fuel exclusively from AvFuel. They are the Exxon/Mobile of aviation fuel and are pretty much on every airport, but there are other providers. The reason I brought this forward is we are getting to the end of the expected life of one of our fuel trucks. Those are pretty expensive if you buy them outright. We are not currently eligible to broker a deal for a fuel truck through our fuel provider without having a contract in place. All the contract does is ensure that we’re going to buy our fuel only from that one supplier. I follow fuel prices from other suppliers, Shell, Phillip 66, and EPIC, and they’re all within a couple cents of each other every single week. Usually our current supplier is the cheapest but there is no big difference that would make me go with one supplier over another. We would be branded under whatever fuel supplier we choose through this RFP process. The main thing it gets us is the ability to purchase a fuel truck either through lease, lease to purchase or purchase outright with them finding us a fuel truck. I think that’s important because those are expensive if you just go out and buy one. There are other benefits being under contract with a fuel supplier, not the least is the ability to process credit cards, training opportunities, currently with AvFuel we get some high level training for our airport attendants. So, I’m asking for permission to go out for an RFP, get bids then through a scoring system ask for permission to sign a contract, the one we feel is best.

Commissioner Dupnik – To clarify this all comes out of airport funds, it doesn’t come out of the County’s General Fund.

Mike Geer – There is no cost for the RFP. But all of the fuel is purchased from the airport fund.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

11. Discuss, approve or disapprove hiring M&M Asphalt & Paving to perform airport paving repairs at a cost of \$17,500.00 – Mike Geer/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Discussion followed: Mike Geer – I brought this to the Commissioners and asked to allow me to take quotes, I felt like this would come in under the RFP threshold and it did. All of the quotes were about \$25,000 or less. M&M were the cheapest. I am asking for permission to move forward with M&M for the repairs. There are more repairs that need to happen, but this is just one thing that we’re doing because Commissioner Casterline a few months back asked

me to take a look into what it would take to get these hangers that are built, but just sitting there unused, to get the ramp so we could start using them. It doesn't mean we can use the hangers but it means on day one of their availability we will be able to use the hangers. The larger scope of work for pavement we will come back for an RFP at a later date.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

12. Discuss, approve or disapprove authorizing Environmental Health – Transfer Station to re-seek bids for a 2024 Brush Grinding contract; only two bids were received in December and both bids were more than double the cost of the previous year's awarded contract – Elle Morales/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Discussion followed: Judge Garza – Ms. Morales couldn't be here today. This is self-explanatory. We are going to seek re-bids.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

13. Discuss, approve or disapprove Change Order No. 2 for construction contract for Loop 1781 Road Improvements – Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) Contract #20-065-098-C270, to LCR Total Transport, LLC; Change Order increases the contract time by sixty (60) days with no increase in the dollar amount – David Reid/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Discussion followed: Commissioner Chaney – Why does this need to be extended?

David Reid – They're not finished yet. The real issue is the ride ability of 1781 is not at a point that I'm willing to accept the road, for our County Road. They're working towards getting it that way but it takes time, it's a specialized contractor to help with the smoothness.

Commissioner Chaney – That's a Farm to Market road right?

David Reid – No it is a County Road, Loop 1781, the section from Airport Road back to 35.

Judge Garza – This is only time, they're not going to come back say they need money for overhead?

David Reid – This is not money.

Commissioner Rousseau – this is from Business 35 past Camp Aranzazu to a certain location.

David Reid – Yes. Around Aranzazu past the airport tying into Airport Road.

Commissioner Dupnik – They also did end up do additional work as far as putting safety and treatments on the culvert, right?

David Reid – Yes, there were some other change orders that we've already approved. Safety and treatments was probably the big one.

Commissioner Rousseau – Is this going to cause them to put down, I don't know what the correct term is, like the spray concrete because there were complaints from the folks who lived out there about damage to their vehicles.

David Reid – They have hot mix asphalt now.

Commissioner Rousseau – They are not going pull that up and put down that other material?

Commissioner Dupnik – That was part of the road base they were putting in.

Commissioner Casterline – That complaint was when they were cement stabilized.

David Reid – We’ve passed that. Now how they are going to fix it I can’t tell you exactly yet. They’re still trying to get a contractor that does this type of work. My guess is they’ll mill it and take the bumps out to make the road smoother. Probably not go down to base or anything like that.

Judge Garza – Commissioners have ya’ll been on that road yet?

Commissioner Rousseau – Yes.

Judge Garza – So ya’ll know what we are talking about. It’s not as smooth as we would like it to be.

Commissioner Rousseau – It’s not as smooth as the other part that was repaired.

David Reid – It is smoother than it was.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

14. Discuss, approve or disapprove accepting and approving as-built drawings for Copano Heights Road Improvements, in the County’s General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) Contract #20-065-098-C270 and authorize County Judge to sign a letter of as-built approval – David Reid/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik

Discussion followed: Commissioner Rousseau – would you explain this David? These drawings are very technical.

David Reid – We had drawings that were bid and during the project there were changes, we added this and that. There may have been a change order that was brought to the Court, I’m sure there was. The as built is taking those original plans and then modifying them to include things that changed during the contract and during the construction. That’s what these as built are. They were prepared by Mott McDonald based on the changes that we made and sent back to us for review and we’re happy with them.

Commissioner Rousseau – So they’re showing the improvements that we approved with previous change orders.

David Reid – Yes, so the plans are showing exactly what was built.

Commissioner Dupnik – This is just an engineering standard practice.

David Reid – it is.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

15. Discuss, approve or disapprove accepting Copano Heights Road Improvements, in the County’s General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR) Contract #20-065-098-C270, as complete and authorize County Judge to sign a Certificate of Construction Completion – David Reid/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

Discussion followed: David Reid – This is the last step, it is complete, just need the Judge to put his signature on it to say it is complete.

Judge Garza – You’ve been out there and checked everything, and it’s all good to go?

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

X. PLANNING AND BUDGET

16. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the December 2023 Indigent Health Care Report – Alma Cartwright/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau

Discussion followed: Commissioner Rousseau – I don't know if this is correct but for the month drugs 93 for the month correct for inmates?

Alma Cartwright – Hector Martinez is still trying to find a different pharmacy provider in the jail because they've gotten extremely high.

Commissioner Rousseau – That is what I was going to ask.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

17. Discuss, approve or disapprove changes to the job descriptions for the Executive Assistant and Records Clerk for the Sheriff's Office, adding supervisory duties to Executive Assistant to oversee Records Clerk – Desiree Upton/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

Discussion followed: Desiree Upton – This is just minor changes to the job description but I'll let the Sheriff speak on the reasoning.

Michael Brooks – This is just giving our Executive Assistant supervisory over our records clerk so she can keep track to make sure that our records are being maintained and updated in the system and we're getting our reports done.

Commissioner Chaney – Any additional changes in salary or step?

Michael Brooks - No

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

18. Discuss, approve or disapprove a proposed job description for Construction/Maintenance Inspector II at Pay Group 21 – David Reid/Desiree Upton/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney

Discussion followed: Desiree Upton – This is just a minor change. We added a new job position. It's copying the first job description and adding just a couple of changes, and I'll let David speak to the reasoning.

David Reid – I'm asking for a new position called inspector two. We have inspector one, I'd like to have some flexibility to promote our inspector as we move forward.

Commissioner Rousseau – When you changed the job description did you add additional certifications?

David Reid – There's not certifications that have changed but there is more duties based on having more control over what is going on in the field, making changes as needed.

Commissioner Dupnik – It appears if he's on site and he sees something he can get it corrected without having to make a bunch of phone calls.

David Reid – Right.

Judge Garza – Is this a new FTE?

David Reid – It is a new position in that it is a promotion for an old position. Right now we

have Inspector One and it has no place to go other than regular step raises.
Judge Garza – If Inspector One gets promoted are you going to fill Inspector One after that?
David Reid – No. There will probably be a time we don't use this position, it is largely a function of all the construction projects we've got under way.
Commissioner Rousseau – I think it's a good idea to have some sort of career track.
Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

19. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Budget Line Item - Transfers for the 2024 Budget – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline
Discussion followed: none at this time.
Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

20. Discuss, approve, or disapprove Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

Motion to approve: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney
Discussion followed: Commissioner Rousseau – I didn't receive a list of the accounts payable.
Jacky Cockerham – I'll have to check on that. Did anybody receive them? I know it was done late Friday afternoon. I will get ya'll a copy of it.
Capital projects:
PGAL \$4,801.97 new courthouse
Scott Electric \$6,500 Detention Center that will have a request with insurance reimbursement
Mott McDonald \$72,196.66 Road and drainage projects
Anderson Columbia \$1,954,314.12 Ruby Allen street project approved through GrantWorks
Dell Computers \$1,063.73 computer for a Juvenile Case Manager under a grant
GrantWorks \$3,729.83 Bayshore Drive will be reimbursed by the City
T Baker \$1,567.00 will be paid through ARPA funds, water tank at the Det. Ctr.
Teal Construction \$317,608.53 new courthouse
Other 1 time payment for 2024:
TAC \$189,000+ for liability and auto physical damage and liability insurance
Fire Departments (times 3) \$39,956 each for operational and maintenance fund
Multiple Software Licenses renewals \$175,083
Commissioner Chaney – We're not paying them out over the year. We pay them once a year.
Jacky Cockerham – We pay the full amount in January, so when you see the financials you will see we spent 100% in January on these line items.
Commissioner Dupnik – You put out that budget on the page we'll be getting that in our email?
Jacky Cockerham – I have not done it yet because we're still waiting for the final invoices for December to come through. We have to keep everything open through February because anything dated that was ordered or purchased in December, we have to put those back into the

current year.

Commissioner Chaney – We are probably looking at March before its ready?

Jacky Cockerham – Before I can give you an accurate one. That’s why I’m waiting to give you something that’s very accurate. My plan is to give you a report to keep you up to date on it.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

XI. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND DEPARTMENT HEADS – NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

- Mike Geer – The airport Advisory Board met last week for the first meeting of 2024. We had a couple of new members appointed at the end of 2023. Elections were held and nominations were made. Mr. Jerry Brown was appointed the Chairman, Betty Stiles was elected Vice-Chair, I was voted Secretary but I am not a voting member of the board, the board bylaws allow a non-member to be the secretary.
- Commissioner Dupnik – I would like to recognize our Road and Bridge Department. There was a letter to the editor in the Rockport Pilot a few weeks ago about a gentleman from Refugio had a flat tire and was having issues. According to his letter the County Road and Bridge crew stopped and helped the gentleman and he was very appreciative of that. He tried to give them compensation but they were just glad to help. David who were those gentlemen? I think it’s important to recognize, the public doesn’t realize our employees are out there helping the public in a lot of different ways.
David Reid – Richard Martin was the Crew Chief that made the decision to help. This was his drainage crew, I’m not sure who all is on it. Denny, Donald, and somebody else.
Commissioner Dupnik – pass on our thanks, we appreciate them doing that.
David Reid – I will do that. When Richard told me he had done it, he asked if was ok if he did that. David said absolutely, please help the public anytime you can. I was proud of him.
Commissioner Chaney – I want to recognize the folks doing the drainage in my precinct in one of my most interesting areas. It really does have a drainage issue and I’m really excited about the time they are taking with each of the individual land owners to handle their entrances. It’s gotten to a point with that development it’s getting more difficult to get into a property and our guys are doing a bang up job.
David Reid – This is under the CDBGR grants and LCR is the contractor for it. David Morgan is the inspector for it. They are doing a good job.
- Commissioner Rousseau – I received this letter over the weekend from Gulf Shore Seniors. They were letting me know because it’s in my precinct that there will be new construction for senior apartments going up at 1400 FM 3036 and there will be an opportunity for the public to provide written comments or to attend hearings coming in the spring. It is under jurisdiction of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, public comment on multifamily finance division. I will give this information to Tracy with the Judge’s office so if anyone is interested in weighing in on the project they can do so. Approximately 49 apartments for low-income tenants.
Commissioner Chaney – is that the same people that built Salt Grass Apartments

Commissioner Rousseau – I don't believe so. They don't refer to that group.

XII. REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST – NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

- Judge Garza – This weekend on Saturday we had a kickball tournament to raise money for Project Graduation. Project Graduation is an organization of parents of seniors. This is an event after graduation. They go to the commons and they lock the doors, they are there all night playing games and eating food. They also raise money to give scholarships, and to buy door prizes to give away. At the kickball tournament we were able to raise over \$3,600 and we will have a lot of events throughout the year. I think Oysterfest we raise money selling gumbo. There were six teams, the seniors had a team but they didn't win the old folks won. It was a lot of fun and I'm still sore.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

Did not go into closed session

21. Convene into a Closed Session to consult with counsel and receive legal advice about insurance matters related to Aransas County's projects and insurance claims from Hurricane Harvey, including the following pending litigation:

- Aransas County Texas v. Endurance American Specialty Insurance Company, et al, Aransas County District Court Cause No. 23-0021; and*
- Northstar Recovery Service, Inc. v. Aransas County Independent School District and Aransas County, Aransas County, District Court Cause No. 23-0066 consolidated with Northstar Recovery Services, Inc. v. HR&R, LLC, et al, Aransas County District Court Cause No. 20-0159; and*
- Aransas County v. Kathleen Hicks, in her official capacity as Director of the Regional Pool Alliance, Aransas County District Court Cause No. 23-0069.*

pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, which authorizes closed sessions for a governmental body to consult with its attorney(s) regarding advice on legal matters pertaining to "Pending or Contemplated Litigation; or a Settlement Offer; or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with" the Open Meetings Act – Amanda Oster/Judge Garza

XIV. OPEN SESSION

22. Reconvene into Open Session

Did not go into closed session


23. Discuss and take action on matters discussed in closed session – Amanda Oster/ Judge Garza

Did not go into closed session

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik
Vote: Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered
Meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM

ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT


Misty Kimbrough

Misty Kimbrough,
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court



Ray A. Garza, County Judge

