



# MINUTES

## Aransas County Commissioners Court

1:30 PM – Thursday, February 8, 2024

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 1:30 PM, 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 \(aransascourtytx.gov\)](https://www.aransascourtytx.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

### SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. DECLARE QUORUM
- IV. ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION

1. Discuss, approve or disapprove sending a Letter of Support from the Commissioners of Aransas County, Texas, for the Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Program’s proposal entitled *Accepting the Challenge: Equipping Community Action Teams to Strengthen Gulf Coast Resilience Through the Climate and Resilience Community of Practice* to be submitted to the NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge – Commissioner Rousseau

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

**Discussion followed:** Commissioner Rousseau begins to speak she has advised the Commissioners Court she brought this forward as a request from Storm water and Pathways Program and people that were active in the Arbor Day Celebration. This will allow the county to participate in requesting grants as they are available. This particular program that is sighted will be decided within the next week or two. That is why they asked for a letter of support quickly. They will be giving out 10 \$50,000 grants for the first one which comes out to \$500,000.00. There will be more programs and more grants that are available and this would be partnering with Texas A&M and few other universities along the Gulf Coast. They are not looking for any money from us.

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

2. Discuss, approve or disapprove a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U. S. Marshal Service in which the Marshal Service agrees to reimburse Aransas County for up to \$21,901 in overtime expenses related to Aransas County Deputies serving warrants – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

**Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau  
**Discussion followed: Commissioner Chaney** if this was a reimbursement.  
**Tana Taylor County Auditor** this is a reimbursement for only overtime expenses.  
**Commissioner Casterline** I am sure this is specifically for their warrants.  
**Tana Taylor County Auditor** yes.  
**Commissioner Rousseau** would you like to speak Mr. Brooks.  
**Michael Brooks Chief Deputy** this is just the services of that are deputy meet and assisted with the US Marshalls and executed warrants with outside sources the marshalls assisted with.  
**Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

3. Discuss Change Order #84 from Teal Construction to reduce county seal size and location – Elle Moralez/Judge Garza

**No motion needed for a discussion.**  
**Discussion followed: Mark Williams** the conversation we have had several change orders. This one is particularly interesting in that we are cutting the size of the seal down. It was intended to go on the floor but is a trip hazard. We sized the seal down and I believe it is going to be wall mounted instead. Paul with PGAL & I have reviewed the cost.  
**Commissioner Rousseau** thanks Rene Butler, Elle Moralez, and Mark Williams for bringing this to the counties attention before the seal was placed on the floor and a bigger issue happens.  
**Commissioner Chaney** is there a cost to the county to do this.  
**Commissioner Rousseau and Commissioner Dupnik** this will be a savings of \$4,000.00 plus or minus.  
**Mark Williams's** we will draft a formal change order to come before the judge at a later date.  
**No vote need for a discussion.**

4. Discuss Change Order #85 from Teal Construction to install light above Time Capsule – Elle Moralez/Judge Garza

**No motion needed for a discussion.**  
**Discussion followed: Mark Williams** I believes the cost for the light above the Time Capsule is a little extravagant the architectural plans show a light however the electrical drawings do not show a light so there was no circuit provided for the light. Teal wants \$4,500 to add the light which he thinks is absorbent. Mark thinks we do not need to approve the change order at this time.  
**Commissioner Rousseau** it is my understanding that the time capsule is more or less than a safe.  
**Mark Williams** that is right it's not something that is beautiful to look at its more utilitarian, and does not warrant an exhibit light over the time capsule.  
**Commissioner Chaney** how big is the time capsule.  
**Mike Geer** I can speak on that the capsule is currently at the airport. It's a Holland gun safe it doesn't have a digital combo just a hand dial. It is 59 inches tall 3 feet wide and 26 inches deep. The opening is about a 16<sup>th</sup> of an inch wide enough that we should be able to get the safe in the area designated. I spoke to Justin from Teal about the issue of the threshold. In order to get the safe into the designated area you can't have hands on the safe you have to slide it in.

As long as the floor is flushed with the threshold the safe will go in. Once the safe is in there it's not going to fill the entire void when you slide it in. The back wall will have 10 or 12 inches in front of safe. If you cover it with glass weather you have a light or not you are not going to keep the dust and dirt out of it. We should be able to open the glass to clean it and clean near the safe.

**Commissioner Chaney** are you going to be able to open the door with the 16<sup>th</sup> of inch.

**Commissioner Casterline** we are not supposed to open it for how many years?

**Mike Geer** the door should be fine to open once the safe is able to open. I do want to mention that Holland safe out of Corpus Christi wants to offer us a safe they do not want consideration for it other than there name will be on the safe. Elle and I have talked about the light. We can put an LED light in there until Teal's 1 year warranty is up on the building. Then Rene's department or with the Bicentennial funds we can hire a contractor to put the proper lighting in.

**Commissioner Rousseau** I would like to point out that Mark Williams said it would be \$4,500, but it says it is \$5,450 which is closer to \$5,500.

**Commissioner Chaney** where is the capsule going to be located.

**Mike Geer** as soon as you walk in the double doors about the 1 o'clock position.

**Commissioner Rousseau** we are not going to vote on this right now, we will need to vote on the thresh hold issue on another agenda.

**Skipp (Aransas County Citizen 122 Cedar Ridge)** who will keep the code to open the time capsule.

**Misty Kimbrough Aransas County Clerk** the code will be kept on file at the office of the County Clerk.

**No vote need for a discussion.**

5. Discuss verbiage, size and location of Time Capsule plaque – Elle Morales/Mike Geer/Judge Garza

**No motion needed for a discussion.**

**Discussion followed: Heaven Vazquez, Teal Rep** Judge if I can say something we also have a time capsule plaque already made and approved & paid for that was approved by the county.

**Mike Geer** I apologize that it is not accurate it says open Memorial Day 2071 and Memorial Day has no significance with the respect to the county. It's supposed to say September 2018. It's unfortunate that money has been spent on that before we had chance to approve the plaque. There is a silver lining that the Sesquicentennial fund has money to build the new plaque. The only change that needs to be changed on the plaque is the previous Judge's name which should be C.H. Burt Mills.

**Judge Garza** do you have a cost for the charges or is that going to be a change order?

**Mike Geer** we are going to buy the plaque but we will need someone to affix it to the wall. I talk to Justin from Teal about the plaque. There are some questions as to where the plaque will go.

**Commissioner Rousseau** do you know, Heaven, Teal Rep, what was the size the plaque that was previously ordered.

**Heaven Vazquez Teal Rep** the size of the previous plaque was 2ft x 1 ¼ inches.

**Paul Bonnett from PGAL** are we saying that this plaque has already been fabricated.

**Commissioner Rousseau** yes, that is what Heaven said.

**Mike Geer** we have a lot of words to put on the plaque we have to consider the font. The target size is 16 to 18 inches x 2ft. The question was where do they intended to affix the plaque?

**Heaven Vasquez Teal Rep** regarding the time capsule plaque the time capsule got bigger there was going to be a set place to the right of the time capsule where it was going to go. But the plaque that is created now does not fit, what they intended to do is put it on top.

**No vote need for a discussion.**

6. Update the Commissioners on the progress of the new Courthouse – Judge Garza

**No motion needed for a discussion.**

**Discussion followed: Mark Williams** I have notes Elle Moralez wrote. She and I have been in conversation about some of the things we like to report. One is the insulation in the attic. We have planned for the next week for 2 or 3 vendors to come in and review the site conditions for the attic installation. This meeting will shed some light on conditions and how that might affect their price. We are looking at 3 vendors or 2 depending on how many people show up. I don't think we have established a firm date at this time.

The other item is change order #86 which is the District's Clerks request for alternate power sources for their desk. I think the plans called for a short pony wall and the desk to be butted up to the wall which had power and data in them. However that has been requested to be deleted. Power poles will be installed in the areas that do not have public view and the areas that do have public view we are looking at under carpet data power source that runs over to the desk that are in view to the public. Two alternatives we are looking at a change order cost was discussed in the owners' meeting.

The other item is signage some of it is apparently incorrect and we have to work on that to get it changed.

The jail doors we did get the change directive sign so the shop drawings are being worked on. The shop drawings take about 2 weeks or maybe a week. Haven correct me if I'm wrong, but after that they go to PGAL for review and approval, then once they are approved the order actually takes place. I believe there is a lead time of 7 weeks or 7 months to get this actually built and back on to the jobsite.

**Commissioner Casterline** Mark has any one talk to the manufacture to see if there is a better alternative than the way you are going about it right now as far as ripping everything out and putting new ones in.

**Judge Garza** maybe they can do something to see how they can change the doors or make the doors compliant without having to rip everything out.

**Mark Williams** those doors do not meet the requirements that is set by the Texas Jail Commission. Paul you could probably speak to this a little more as to what type of door goes in there.

**Commissioner Casterline** I understand you, but the people who make the safes should know more about the doors then you all do. Why wouldn't you want to involve them in the conversation?

**Mark Williams** Oh they are deeply involved.

**Judge Garza** maybe getting the manufacture involved will us not have to do so much demo, then they can come in take a look at the issue and maybe say ho yeah we can work on what is there.

**Paul Bonnett** Commissioner Casterline there have been a lot of discussions behind the scenes we have spoken to the manufacture and have had conference calls with Teal and their sub-contractors to try to reduce the cost of this as much as possible. The frames that are in place right now are going to be cut out. The frame and the door in these four locations do need to be a detention grade doors according to the said standards. We did go down there a few months ago and meet with them to go over each of the situations that we are talking about. We did get them to back off on a few of them and not require as many as there initial letter indicated. The process now is to have the shop drawings hopefully here quickly as possible.

**Commissioner Chaney** speaks Paul didn't we know that when we first started that we had to have steel grade doors? Why are we so far in with these issues?

**Michael Brooks Chief Deputy of Aransas County Sheriff's Office** I was there at the meeting in Austin with the Jail Commission. It is not the question on the door it's the direction. They should have been detention grade from the start. The door I saw the other day it was a wooden door. Now the door down stairs if you're referring to coming into the side door has to be a solid metal door. So changing all the other doors to detention grade is not correct

**Commissioner Chaney** what are the estimated cost for these doors going to be?

**Paul Bonnett** the cost would be \$45,000 for the four doors and that is the sub-contractor cost. We are still working on those cost we did issue a construction change directive only on the detention grade doors so we could get moving and hopefully improve the delivery date.

**Commissioner Chaney** when we are going to change the doors and how long this is going to delay the opening of the courthouse, because I would assume that this needs to be fixed before the courthouse opens

**Haven Vasquez Teal Rep** the lead time on the doors are 16 weeks roughly (around 4 months).

**Commissioner Casterline** the installation time mentioned the last meeting was a little longer?

**Michael Brooks Chief Deputy of Aransas County Sheriff Office** again I'm going off of what the Jail Commission said needs to be corrected. Door E107 will be upgraded to a solid door with no window which is the entry door into the side door. The only other 2 doors mentioned are doors A144 & A150 which will be upgraded to a detention doors swinging out. Those are the only 3 doors that need to be corrected.

**Judge Garza** the doors that go down stairs into the elevator that is supposed to swing out they need to be changed also.

**Paul Bonnett** the Jail Commission required us to make the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor doors from the holding area to the courtroom detention grade also.

**Commissioner Rousseau** I'm concerned Chief Deputy Brooks has a list showing 3 doors and you are saying more, and I don't even know if you all are agreeing on the doors so this is scary we are talking about this, and we are not sure which doors are going to be replaced or what the cost might be.

**Judge Garza** to answer the commissioners question about the cost they are still negotiating there was a number thrown up it was upwards of \$200,000 to fix everything to be in compliance, but we are negotiating that cost. Do we want to tackle another issue?

**Mark Williams** there is another issue that has come up that Elle and I have been discussing it's the need to add 2 doors at JP1 & JP2 to close off the corner and also to add power for their printers. There is a problem because part of that has to be a bullet proof wall and possibly going to be expensive so that is 1 item that has not been sent to Teal at this time for pricing. We are looking at where these doors need to go and exactly how we can get power into these areas without expending too much cost. We are looking at above the ceiling J-Boxes and so forth to see if we can tap into some of this stuff and get a location that is satisfaction to the JP.

**Commissioner Chaney** in the JP Court room now has an exit door for the Judge is that not required now?

**Paul Bonnett** there are exit doors behind the judge bench.

**Judge Garza** lets stick to the item at hand right now we have a horseshoe shape so we have to add doors to it to secure each side.

**Paul Bonnett** this is something I need to review with you now Mark Williams and Elle.

**Mark Williams** a couple of other things as Broaddus reviewed construction schedule that Teal has put out. We have been in negotiation with Teal regarding the Delta with the Base stove and TJ's scope, and the completion date we made some headway I think Teal understands our position that is moving forward that involves that Texas Jail Standard item we mention earlier with the cost over \$200,000. Another thing is we have reviewed the change order for the extend general conditions we have taken the schedule an dissected it and reviewed it in terms of the basic scope and extend general conditions we have reviewed all the change orders and the request for additional time we sent comments back yesterday to Teal so they are digesting that we will get into another conversation with them once they have reviewed it.

**Commissioner Rousseau** do you have an estimate as to when that conversation will be (Teal conversation)?

**Paul Bonnett** I am sure it will be the first of next week because that is a hot topic for all of us.

**No vote need for a discussion.**

7. 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** speaks did we get a list?  
**Jacky Cockerham County Auditor** we did not list it because it is one check that we are going to transfer funds from our venue state tax to Ins 2011 venue tax to pay for our bonds they are due next week.  
**Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Chaney  
**Vote:** Motion carried 5-0: it was so ordered  
**Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM**

**ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT**



Misty Kimbrough,  
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

  
Ray A. Garza, County Judge

