



MINUTES

Aransas County Commissioners Court Special Meeting

9:00 AM – Tuesday, January 3, 2023

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met in **Special Session** on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 9:00 AM, in the Aransas County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Texas.

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

Absent:

I. Call to Order

The meeting convened at 9:00 AM.

II. Roll Call was taken.

III. Quorum was declared, and the following proceedings were had and done, to wit:

IV. Items for deliberation and/or action

1. Nominating and appointing an Interim Emergency Management Coordinator – Judge Garza. Background – Rick McLester the current Emergency Management Coordinator has retired and an Emergency Management Coordinator is needed.

Motion: By Judge Garza – move to appoint and nominate Mike Geer as the Interim Emergency Coordinator, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

Commissioner Casterline inquired if the job needed to be posted prior to the appointment. Policy is to post the job opening prior to appointment per HR Director Linda Doane, referred to council Jennifer O'Steen, Assistant County Attorney, whether or not it is a legal requirement. Jennifer O'Steen stated it is not required for an Interim appointment but prior appointing a permanent position it would need to be posted. She questioned the time period of the appointment. Judge Garza stated it would be 1 year, and during this time period they will be trying to determine if Mike Geer could be a part-time Emergency Management Coordinator and still maintain his current position as the manager for Aransas County Airport. Linda Doane asked about the salary knowing he is already a full-time Aransas County Employee. Judge Garza stated it would be a \$20,000.00 per year stipend with approval from the Commissioner's Court. Jennifer O'Steen interjected the last Interim position in Aransas County was for 90 days, this

timeline would allow time for people who are interested in the position to apply and then select someone on a more permanent basis. To appoint someone for a full year is a bit unusual, Commissioner Rousseau stated that 90 days is a reasonable amount of time to assess the needs for this position. Mike Geer led some of Aransas County's response to Hurricane Harvey and will be able to assess the needs and time the position will require to meet the needs of Aransas County as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Commissioner Rousseau stated that she doesn't know if Aransas County needs a full-time Emergency Management Coordinator, but having someone with Mike Geer's experience would be beneficial. Commissioner Chaney does not have a problem with Mike Geer, but does have concerns about a 1 year appointment, he feels it should be 90 days and then bring it back to the Commissioners Court to re-assess and possibly re-appoint. He also recommends getting the position posted within about a month. He recommends that it go back on the agenda in 90 days to look at again. Commissioner Rousseau states if we amend this to 90 days and it is determined that more time is needed to fully assess the part-time position then we could extend the appointment.

Amended Motion by Judge Garza to nominating and appointing Mike Geer as the Interim Emergency Management Coordinator for a period of 90 days, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

Alma Cartwright, Aransas County Treasurer, asked what the budgeted salary is. Jacky Cockerham, Aransas County Auditor, stated it is around \$63,000.00 for a full-time employee. Commissioner Chaney would encourage Mike Geer to apply for the position when it is posted. Commissioner Rousseau questions if this needs to be a full-time position.

Vote: Amended Motions carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

2. Approve the 2023-2026 Appointment of Leslie "Bubba" Casterline as County Judge pro Tem to serve as presiding officer of the Court in all matters which require the action of the County Judge in the event of the County Judge's absence or recusal effective as of January 3, 2023 – Commissioners Court.

Motion: by Commissioner Chaney, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

Commissioner Rousseau asked Commissioner Casterline if he asked accepted, he stated yes he has already been doing it for a number of years and there is no use in changing. Commissioner Chaney called to question.

Vote: Amended Motions carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

3. Approve awarding a Grant Administration Services Contract to GrantWorks for services related to the Community Development Block Grant Regional County of Government (COG) Method of Distribution (CDBG-COG MOD) and Mitigation (MIT) grant in the approximate amount of \$10,291,500.00 administered through the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for the County of Aransas for the approximate cost of \$500,166.90 over the

life of the grant and authorize the County Judge to execute the Contract and sign additional documents if necessary.

Motion: Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

Commissioner Rousseau mentioned that in this amount a portion is set aside for the Town of Fulton. Jacky Cockerham, Aransas County Auditor, stated it is \$2,216,000.00, and \$8,075,000.00 fees and the Town of Fulton will pay their percentage of those fees for the administration. Aransas County will be the lead on the grant, but that we will be working closely with their projects and their invoices. Commissioner Casterline states the monies for the fees will be paid for by the grant and Jacky Cockerham confirmed that is true.

Vote: Motions carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

V. Adjournment

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:15 AM on a motion duly made by Judge Garza and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.



Misty Kimbrough

Misty Kimbrough, Ex-Officio Clerk
of the Commissioners Court

Ray A. Garza

Ray A. Garza, County Judge

