



# MINUTES

## Aransas County Commissioners Court

9:00 AM – Monday, February 13, 2023

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met on Monday, February, 13, 2023, at 9:00 AM, in the Aransas County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Texas.

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

Absent: **Jack Chaney**, Commissioner Precinct 1-1A

### I. Call to Order & Pledges

The meeting convened at 9:00 AM.

### II. Invocation

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

### IV. Citizens to be heard

### V. Presentations

1. Presentation of Proclamation P-01-2023, recognizing February 2023 as Black History Month – Amanda Oster/Jennifer O’Steen/Judge Garza

### VI. Consent Agenda

2. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Minutes from the December 27, 2022 Regular Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
3. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Minutes from the January 9, 2023 Regular Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
4. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Minutes from the January 17, 2023 Special Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
5. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Minutes from the January 23, 2023 Regular Meeting – Misty Kimbrough/Judge Garza
6. Acknowledge receipt of, and record in the minutes of the Commissioners Court, a Certificate of Completion from the V.G. Young Institute of County Government for Commissioner Robert Dupnik for successfully completing 20.50 hours of educational training for the 2023 Seminar for Newly Elected Judges & Commissioners – Commissioner Dupnik/Judge Garza

7. Acknowledge and accept a donation of \$200.00 from Donna Sousa to Aransas County Animal Care Services – Lori Cesar/Judge Garza
8. Acknowledge and accept a donation of supplies valued at \$600.00 from Lisa Honeycutt’s birthday bash for Aransas County Animal Care Services – Lori Cesar/Judge Garza
9. Acknowledge and accept a donation of kennels and beds valued at \$80.00 from Carol Roth for Aransas County Animal Care Services – Lori Cesar/Judge Garza
10. Acknowledge and accept a donation of a Microchip Reader valued at \$300.00 from ACK Reunite for Aransas County Animal Care Services – Lori Cesar/Judge Garza
11. Acknowledge and accept a donation of \$100.00 from R.T. and Sara Krufft for Aransas County Animal Care Services –Lori Cesar/Judge Garza

**Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik to accept the Consent agenda  
**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

**VII. County Reports**

12. Discuss, approve or disapprove the 4th Quarter 2022 Report of the Aransas County Friends of the History Center – Pam Stranahan

**Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline  
**Power point presented**  
**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

**VII. County Roads and Floodplain**

13. Discuss, approve, or disapprove preliminary request to close and abandon that portion of an unimproved, platted, 40’ wide roadway lying west of and adjacent to Lot 1, Block A, J.D. Wheeler Subdivision, in Southern Aransas County near HWY 35– Commissioner Chaney/Judge Garza

**Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik  
**Discussion followed:** This is to start public notice process for the “The Island of Rockport”, abandoning this roadway that goes nowhere allows it to go back to the tax rolls  
**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

14. Discuss, approve or disapprove the Final Plat of Lot 1, Block 1, Pura Vida Palms, Phase 1, a manufactured home community at 501 Rattlesnake Point Road – Katherine Comeaux/Judge Garza

**Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik  
**Discussion followed**  
**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

## VIII. Contracts and Grants

15. Discuss, approve, or disapprove Resolution R-02-2023, designating County Judge, Ray Garza, as the Authorized Official for Aransas County's existing FY 2021 Homeland Security Operation Stonegarden Grant Program, Grant Number 3171807, with such designation being effective on March 1, 2023 – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

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

**No Discussion**

**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

16. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the 2023 Auditor's Office Grant and Financial Policies as presented: Code of Conduct; Fraud Detection; Fixed Asset Methodology; Aransas County Environmental Grant Policy; Fund Balance; Excessive Force; Aransas County Financial Policy and Procedures; Cash Handling; and GASB 34 Uncollectible Receivables Policies – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

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

**Discussion followed**

**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

17. Discuss, approve or disapprove a Memorandum of Understanding between Aransas County and the Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) establishing permissions and guidelines for use of interoperability or mutual aid radio channels – Sheriff Mills/Judge Garza

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

**Discussion followed:** Does Mike Geer as the Interim Emergency Management Coordinator need to have access?

**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

18. Discuss, approve or disapprove the renewal of the program agreement with Texas Association of Counties (TAC) for the Affordable Care Act Reporting and Tracking Service (ARTS) and authorizing the County Judge to execute necessary documents – Linda Doane/Judge Garza

**Motion T:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline

**No discussion**

**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

19. Discuss, approve or disapprove granting a 20 Foot Wide Gas Pipeline Easement to BESCO, L.P., comprising 0.222 acres of land adjacent to the Stellman Ranch and Northwest of FM 1069 in the Port Bay Club Road Right of Way in exchange for the Release of a 2019 Pipeline Easement granted by Aransas County and recorded in the County Clerk's records in File NO. 0000370526 – Jen O'Steen/David Reid/Judge Garza

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

**Discussion followed:** There should be no downside to approving this motion, the benefits would be additional tax base

**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

20. Discuss and consider accepting a Release of Pipeline Easement from BESCO, L.P. releasing a 20 Foot Wide Pipeline Easement of approximately 0.222 acres in the Port Bay Club Road Right of Way granted by Aransas County in 2019 and recorded in the County Clerk's records in File No. 0000370526 – Jen O'Steen/ David Reid/Judge Garza

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

**No discussion**

**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

21. Discuss and consider authorizing the submission of a letter to the Texas General Land Office to request an extension of 90 days to submit the grant application for the Council of Governments Method of Distribution and Mitigation Grant (COG-MOD MIT) – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

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

**Discussion followed:** Natalie Eckstron with Grant Works will be the grant writer and was on hand to answer any questions

**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

22. Discuss, approve or disapprove entering into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of Fulton for Aransas County to administer any grant funds allocated to Fulton in the Council of Governments Method of Distribution and Mitigation (COG-MOD MIT) Grant and to assist with the Town's Projects – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

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

**No discussion followed**

**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

## **X. Planning and Budget**

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

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

**No discussion followed**

**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

24. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the December 2022 Auditor's Monthly Report – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

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

**Discussion followed**

**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

25. Discuss, approve, or disapprove the Budget Line Item - Transfers for the 2022 Budget – Jacky Cockerham/Judge Garza

**Motion to approve:** by Commissioner Casterline, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik  
**Discussion followed**  
**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

26. 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 Dupnik  
**No discussion followed**  
**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

**X. Reports from Commissioners, Elected Officials, and Department Heads – NO action will be taken**

**XI. Reports about items of community interest – NO action will be taken**

**XII. Closed Session – 9:40 AM**

27. Consider convening into a Closed Session to consult with and receive advice from legal counsel about insurance matters related to Aransas County’s projects and insurance claims from Hurricane Harvey, 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/Jennifer O’Steen/Judge Garza

**Motion to go into closed session:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Dupnik  
**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

**XIII. Open Session - 10:16 AM**

28. Reconvene into Open Session at AM

**Motion to go back into open session:** by Commissioner Rousseau, motion was seconded by Commissioner Casterline  
**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered

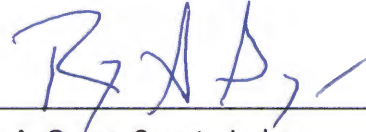
29. Discuss and take action on matters discussed in closed session – Amanda Oster/Jennifer O’Steen/ Judge Garza

**No action taken**

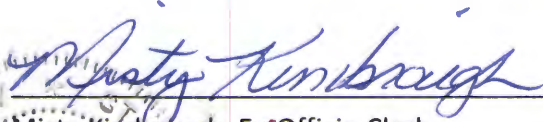
**XIV. Adjournment with Roll Call**

**Motion to adjourn:** by Commissioner Dupnik, motion was seconded by Commissioner Rousseau

**Vote:** Motion carried 4-0; it was so ordered



Ray A. Garza, County Judge



Misty Kimbrough, Ex-Officio Clerk  
of the Commissioners Court

