

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

BUDGET HEARING MEETING - JUNE 17, 2019

On the 17th day of June, 2019, there was a Budget Hearing Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners' Courtroom, 2840 Hwy 35 N, 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; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Kristen Barnebey**, County District Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Pam Heard**, District Clerk; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Rocky Chatwell**, Airport Employee; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Michele Bennett**, Elections Administrator; **Rene Butler**, Maintenance Director; **Jacky Cockerham**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Ronell Burke**, Animal Control Supervisor; **Iris Sanchez**, County Librarian; **Harry "Doc" Thomas**, Constable, Pct. 1; **Richard P. Bianchi**, County Court at Law Judge; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director;

Other Interested Parties present:

Clarissa Mora, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend; **Joe Reikers**, Aransas County Crime Stoppers Member & Rockport Aquatic Manager at the Rockport Aquatic & Skate Park; **Hannah Miller**, Executive Director of the Rockport Cultural Arts District;

Mike Probst, Editor and Publisher of the Rockport Pilot Newspaper;

The Meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following discussions were had to wit:

Pam Heard: I have good news, I am giving the County back \$17,575, this was a double entry under Office Furniture and Equipment, my Maintenance Agreement ended up on there and in the proper place under Maintenance Agreements. Everything else is practically the same. **Commissioner Chaney:** What is the adjusted amount? **Commissioner Smith:** \$472,306. Pam, your Expenditures are roughly 465,644? **Pam:** Yes sir, most of that is salaries, the rest of it is all pretty much the same, it has been the same for several years. I actually need another person but we are not asking for that this year, we are pretty much at critical mass, but we are just going to make it work. **Commissioner Smith:** So the \$234,414, which is an increase up above, that's an annualized number of somebody that's already been added? **Judge Mills:** No. **Pam:** That's just the number with step increases. **Jacky Cockerham:** That's with the step increases that were given in 2019. **Suzy Wallace:** And what you are looking at on the 2019 current totals up there, those are the proposed 2020 totals and the 2019 actuals. That's where we stand today. **Commissioner Chaney:** On the group health insurance, as a general question, have you moved that to a different category? **Suzy:** No. **Commissioner Chaney:** Because there is \$56,190 and it's all staying the same? We're not anticipating any changes? **Suzy:** We have the same amount of people, it's the same dollar amount until we get our October 1 increase. **Commissioner Chaney:** What are we anticipating in an increase? **Suzy:** We don't know yet.

Commissioner Smith: I'm looking at 2018 actual \$663,445 total, then budgeted for 2019 at \$930,838, did we move something in or transfer something out? **Rene Butler:** That would be the chill plant we lost at the courthouse, the pieces of equipment we rented from Pro-Tech

Mechanical, that would be the piece of equipment that we lost when we lost the courthouse.

Commissioner Smith: But you've only spent \$314,091 year to date, which represents 42% of what, but we are still showing \$930,000, what's the deal? **Rene:** Well, what we did was, we started

diagnosing units that needed to be replaced and so every year I've gotten some proposals for AC Units for two to four units to be replaced. **Commissioner Smith:** On which facilities? **Rene:** On all facilities. **Commissioner Smith:** What about the ones that were lost? **Rene:** Well, we've got

three units, because of the way the AC condensers were hooked up, that are brand new. Every year I put in for monies based on diagnosis and if we have units from three or four, actually we have more than that, but the ones that are the most likely to fail are the ones that we put in to budget for. **Commissioner Smith:** Facilities Maintenance, after the storm, 2019, \$663,445 and proposed 2020 \$1,083,924, which is \$420,000, we are over 70%, what's the deal here? I'm just

having trouble following the thought process. **Rene:** Are we talking about to the monies right now? **Suzy:** Yes. **Rene:** Well here's the thing, that all adds up to the things that we need to

have done in 2020. We have re-wire at the A&C Fire for the Jail Mezzanine that is getting ground faults, so that needs to be replaced and it's about \$46,000 for a total re-wire. If we don't then we continue to have alarms in the middle of the night. As far as the concrete, I've got

concrete curbs in there that need to be repaired throughout the facilities that were damaged by trucks and big rigs after Hurricane Harvey, that was not covered by our insurance. **Commissioner**

Smith: Who's rigs were they? **Judge Mills:** There were so many different trucks, we don't know.

Rene: Volunteers, Semi-Trailers that brought in supplies and generators. **Judge Mills:** The outside toilets. **Commissioner Casterline:** We couldn't qualify for FEMA on things like that?

Rene: No, insurance didn't cover it either. So there are several pieces of equipment that need to be replaced just because of age and wear, another hot water heater... **Commissioner Smith:** Let's go back to the concrete, is that a real critical item, we couldn't do without those curbs?

Rene: I wouldn't say it's critical, but... **Commissioner Casterline:** Is it hazardous or something like that? **Rene:** Yes, I'm concerned about the injury liability of broken concrete, sidewalks.

That cost is minimal, about \$8,000 to \$10,000 worth of concrete work that needs to be done, but that's one of the things that's in there, the hot water heater at the detention center, that's almost \$15,000. **Commissioner Casterline:** Rene, you wouldn't happen to have a list of all the things, the stuff you are talking about is a long way from \$300,000. **Rene:** I do. **Commissioner**

Smith: So we are looking at \$172,000 on Building Repairs and Maintenance projected for 2020, is that what we are looking at? **Commissioner Casterline:** That's looking at the total.

Commissioner Smith: Suzy, the insurance premiums, these are the insurance premiums that are allocated to this department? **Suzy:** Yes, it takes care of all of the facilities insurance and the flood. I do have a listing of that and that was increased by, and I've already talked to Kathleen for an actual for 2020 and it looks like it's going to be pretty close to the same, unless all of the hangars go on line and then the Airport's insurance will really go up.

Commissioner Chaney: The insurance premiums, we are looking at a \$34,000 increase. Why would that be? Just increased replacement value? **Suzy:** That is our actual property insurance and I

increased that by 15% over the actuals that we are paying in March. **Commissioner Chaney:** In our year to date, we are through May, so we are five months into the twelve month period? **Suzy:**

Right, but all of the insurance premiums are paid in March and April, so this would have all of the insurance premiums for the year. **Commissioner Smith:** What were those insurance premiums?

Suzy: The total for public facilities... **Commissioner Smith:** I'm talking about what we have paid for this year. **Suzy:** This year, we have paid \$500,097, that's the entire for 2019.

Commissioner Smith: But we've only spent \$314,000 and that contains \$114,000 for facilities?

Suzy: Yes, the budget amount that was for 2019 was \$94,000 and we've already spent \$101,000 and some of the flood that comes in at the latter part of the year that has not been included and I can give you a copy of the schedule that has all of the insurance if you would like.

Commissioner Smith: No, I'm just trying to figure out, if we've spent \$314,000 but \$114,000 of that is one time only. **Suzy:** Right. **Commissioner Smith:** That means that our other expenses are running \$200,000 for the first five months, roughly \$40,000 a month, that would figure that our total expenses for the year would be about \$480,000?

Judge Mills: I think we need to let Iris give her short presentation because it looks like we are going to be with this one for a while.

Iris Sanchez: I didn't ask for anything different other than for conferences. **Judge Mills:** Your only increase was for conferences? **Iris:** Yes sir, and we don't go every year, it just depends on what's happening at the time. **Commissioner Smith:** So you went up \$2,000 on \$200,000? You've got other things you need to be doing, we have bigger problems than that, if everybody only went up 1% I'd be home right now. **Judge Mills:** Alright, any questions for Iris? (NONE) Alright, thanks Iris.

Commissioner Casterline: I'm curious if some of the stuff that you are talking about that is actually storm debt, if it should be in the... **Judge Mills:** Wait, Rene has been deep in insurance pockets. **Commissioner Casterline:** Well I realize that, but it creates kind of a haze when, to me it's almost like having improvements, they are not an ordinary expense that's going to happen or reoccur and it seems like it almost should be a different part of the budget or not expensed out. I don't know what all of the total of that is but things that are actually storm damage that we are going to have to fix out of our pocket there. It's like we are looking at it like it's routine maintenance when it's actually uncovered storm damage. **Rene:** We pushed as much as we possibly could have to get things covered that were damaged. **Commissioner Casterline:** I'm not saying that now, I'm just saying that when you are looking at the budget, if you have stuff that's not actually normal, that storm related makes it look kind of looks a little cloudy. **Rene:** But there's things in here that, it's not that I just want to replace them, it's that there are pieces of equipment in here that are almost 14 years of age and so I know that three years ago we came to Commissioners' Court and said we would like to start replacing some of these things in a staged scenario so that not everything fails at the same time. These proposals right here, from different companies on the same equipment, are the reason for the increase in the requested budget. **Commissioner Smith:** Rene, the pieces of equipment that you are referring to, in the streets and the curbs, wouldn't it be better if we could actually show that those were in the right department? For instance the jail, I understand we've got some problems with the jail. We rent out space in the jail to the Feds, by putting them over here and not putting them in over on the jail we are underestimating our costs over there in order to determine what the per diem rate is. **Commissioner Casterline:** Especially when we do negotiate with the Feds. **Judge Mills:** We haven't negotiated with the Feds in a while, we need to. **Suzy:** Well, I just did a spreadsheet for the Sheriff with the current dollars and he is in the process of looking at that, but it does not include items such as this. **Commissioner Smith:** You're talking about generators, air conditioning units, and things like that over at the jail. **Judge Mills:** Yeah, there's a problem with that, it would reflect a much higher number. **Commissioner Casterline:** Yeah, anything that legitimately is a jail expense would be figured in the cost of housing, somehow should be connected within the Sheriff's Jail budget so it can be calculated.

Suzy: Well, we can get, I'll work with Rene and get the numbers associated with the jail and increase the Jail's budget by those dollars. **Jacky Cockerham:** But are you talking just the jail or are you wanting to split out everything in all of the departments. **Suzy:** No, just the jail.

Commissioner Laubach: The jail is special because we get reimbursed by the Feds. **Jacky:** Well, if you look at that, well the City, we always charge the City. **Commissioner Smith:** If you're going to be expending dollars for particular pieces of equipment, I think it ought to be over in that particular department in the budget. I can understand keeping it clean and maintaining, and repair work and things like that to a lesser extent, but even that, you've got a contract on maintenance, it ought to be reflected over there. **Commissioner Laubach:** So the with the City Agreements as well, not just the Feds? **Rene:** So, at the Public Safety Center, any piece of equipment or anything bought for maintenance to keep the building to its higher standard, this is split with the City, so would that be...? **Suzy:** It's what it sounds like. **Commissioner Chaney:** Well it gets you a lot better accuracy and what the jail's actually costing, rather than splitting it over in a couple different things. You know we've been, we talk about these things each year on small items where it doesn't make enough difference, that we can just go ahead and purchase them in bulk in one area, but if you've got a piece of equipment that only goes there and will never go anyplace else and it has a specific long standing value, especially when we are getting reimbursement, then we definitely do need to budget it in that department. **Commissioner Smith:** I'd like to make a suggestion, Suzy, going forward, we take those major items and switch them back over to the proper department. After having said that we can go on to some of these other things here. The professional services, \$50,000, could you explain what that is? It's an increase. **Rene:** Ok, that is the A&C wire re-wire of the Mezzanine. **Rene:** That is the alarm panel and fire system at the jail. **Commissioner Smith:** Ok, so we need to move that too. **Rene:** The fire panel, we had it tested and it is healthy, what's happening is we are getting some ground faults up in the attic that are setting it off. That's about \$46,000 so that's what that \$50,000 is for. **Commissioner Smith:** I wasn't here but it looks like we have another employee that we've added in your department? **Judge Mills:** Yes. **Rene:** Yes. **Commissioner Smith:** And that was necessary, right? **Rene:** Yes, sir. **Commissioner Smith:** How many people do you have? **Rene:** We have eight people. **Commissioner Smith:** What about land and buildings, \$25,000, for 2019 and 2020? **Rene:** I think that is what I have left over in the CO. **Suzy:** The CO is \$16,000, we don't normally budget that money, but it's, that's why that dollar amount is there. That can come out. **Judge Mills:** The \$25,000 can? **Suzy:** Yes. **Commissioner Casterline:** Is it also on the income side. **Suzy:** What? **Commissioner Casterline:** You have the money in CO's and you have it in there to spend? **Jacky:** But we don't transfer the money from CO's into there, we actually just expense it out of CO's. **Commissioner Smith:** It would never hit this far anyway then. You know, this is a general comment, this is an unrefined preliminary, un-reviewed budget, it seems to me that we might be putting a cart before the horse here, but... **Judge Mills:** Charlie, last year, Brian and I sat with the Auditor's and went through it the first time and we didn't do this and I got a little bit of bark burn about not including the whole Commissioners' Court so that's why they decided to do it this way, this time. **Commissioner Laubach:** Well it's working out well so far. **Commissioner Casterline:** So the \$25,000 is coming out? **Jacky:** At this point it would be \$1,058,924, that's before... **Commissioner Smith:** Remember you need to take out the \$50,000 as well and you need to take out the other items over there under Building Repairs and Maintenance. **Jacky:** Right. **Commissioner Smith:** So we don't really know what it is at this point, until we get all of those expenses pulled out of there. **Jacky:** Right, that's what I was going to say,

prior to making those other changes. **Suzy:** But we will get with Rene and get a good dollar amount on the Professional Services and where they need to go, so net and net to the General Fund it will be the same, it's just going to move from one department to another. **Commissioner Smith:** Right. **Commissioner Chaney:** Why are we anticipating such an increase in utilities? Are we anticipating a rate increase? You know, because we installed, some of the things that we installed, we went with more energy efficient, hoping that could sustain an increases for at least a couple of years. **Rene:** Are you talking about the LED lightbulbs? **Commissioner Chaney:** That, but just building repair maintenance, I'm sorry, utilities. **Jacky:** It looks like we just carried over because what we had budgeted last year it's coming in at a lot less for actual will be less. **Commissioner Smith:** Well the actual 2018 is \$76,000 and it jumped up to \$133,000 for 2019 and year to date is \$27,000, when you come back and divide, there again, you've got the cooler part of the year. **Commissioner Laubach:** Why was 2018 down, was it a storm effect or you just had more efficiency? Look how much lower utilities were in 2018 than in 2017. Is that a trend? **Jacky:** Probably because we didn't have our electricity. **Commissioner Casterline:** Probably because our old courthouse was so efficient. **Jacky:** And we ran on a generator the whole time we were there. **Rene:** But the majority of the equipment that we purchased for lower energy usage was taken out during Harvey, we went back into the Courthouse and got it though. But that can't be the light bulbs and LED. **Commissioner Laubach:** I guess I'm just suggesting, I'm wondering whether we are seeing a downward trend or if that's a bobble that we can't trust, it's just storm related, because it went down significantly in 2017. Are we getting more efficient or is that something we won't see happening? **Judge Mills:** We will get more efficient in the new Courthouse, but I don't know about this one. **Suzy:** Well, we can probably drop that \$133,000. **Commissioner Smith:** Well there is nothing really supporting it at this point. **Commissioner Chaney:** The actual in 2018, we are probably taking into account the generators and things like that because we weren't on generators in January of 2019, were we? **Suzy:** No, we were in here though. **Commissioner Chaney:** I think we can call it a trend debt with the actuals. **Commissioner Smith:** Some of the problems that are coming in the middle, in the year 2019 the budget increased \$1.7 million dollars, those are expenditures over the previous year. And the years prior to that, I just happen to have those numbers here, 2016 we actually spent \$249,000 more than we spent in 2015 on the General Fund expenditures. In 2017, \$218,000 and in the year 2018, only \$19,000. All of those years together 1.84%, 1.59%, .4%, and then all of the sudden in the year 2019 we budget a 12.7% increase. So, I'm looking at this and I'm saying are we really going to spend that extra \$1,775,000 in the year 2019. The problem being, well maybe we are spending more money on assets, not really, 2019 out of that \$1,775,000 there is only 339,000 spent on furniture and equipment. This year we are forecasting \$633,000, but these two years 2019 and actual budgeted expenditures are 12.6% and the ones in 2020 we have another 7%, that's 20% for 2 years and compounded it's over 20%. Now, I made some comments at the last meeting that we are going to have to live with a 3 ½ percent going forward out here, we are in real trouble, we can't sustain these types of increases without making some significant changes. I don't know what the changes are but those are the facts. But I do think we need to put the numbers where they need to go. Well, it's a strong case to make too for unfunded mandates, a lot of the things we have to do in the jail have all been mandated by the State Jail Commission, this is a pet peeve with me. These guys up there in Austin, who was it, it was J. P. Bush who referred to them as the knuckleheads in the pink buildings, well they are and they don't understand what's going on down here at this level and they make the rules, they make the laws and they just shove it right on down, I don't think it's right but we have to live with it. **Judge Mills:** So you want

to get Rene, Jacky, and Suzy back together and come back with it? **Commissioner Smith:** We'll come back to it, that's not my suggestion because right now it's in a pretty good state of flux. **Suzy:** And we will also look at the utilities line in question. That will probably drop down also. **Judge Mills:** Alright.

Commissioner Smith: Judge, you know we could go through here, but all of these all of these departments that less than a 2 - 3% increase, there's really not that much sense going through all of the budgets on them. If we were to eliminate all of those we could streamline this process a little bit faster. **Suzy:** Well, when we take a break I can make some phone calls and if their total budget is, if they don't have anything they want to discuss. **Judge Mills:** I know Rick McLester said he didn't have anything. **Commissioner Smith:** Yeah, I think our time will be well spent where the increases are there. **Judge Mills:** Ok, we can just talk to the ones who had the large increases. **Commissioner Chaney:** Ok, before Rene leaves can we look real quick at the Parks Budget? **Suzy:** The \$30,000 that's in the Pool, the other is for Tiger Field and Lewis Park. **Commissioner Chaney:** I asked Rene to look at some playground equipment for Lewis Park but I'm proposing that we don't do that this year, we can look at that next year. We have a lot more kids moving into Peninsula Oaks and that little park is getting used more and more, but at this particular stage I think we can put that off for another year. **Judge Mills:** I think you need to look at Grants if you're going to start that. **Commissioner Chaney:** Yeah, absolutely! Now, we still have some Professional Services with the mowing and things like that. What's the utilities? **Jacky:** That's the lights and water for Tiger Field. **Judge Mills:** Alright, thank you Rene.

Judge Mills: Valerie, do you have any big changes in your department? **Valerie Amason:** I have one change, I found a copy that I had turned in to Tana, in the Auditor's office, on my Conference Budget. I have a new court clerk and she needs training too. **Suzy:** Am I reading this correctly, it was a change from \$6,110 to \$7,110 on line 425, Conference and Association Dues? **Valerie:** Yes. **Commissioner Laubach:** Over all we're talking about up \$2,500. **Jacky:** Yes. **Suzy:** Do we need the Fire Departments to come in? **Judge Mills:** I don't think we need them to come in. **Jackie:** We got a request for a 3% increase. **Commissioner Smith:** \$116,072 to \$124,787, a difference of about \$6,800, that's 5%. **Commissioner Casterline:** That's between all of them. **Commissioner Smith:** The big one in there is for the Aransas Pass Fire Department, knocked up \$3,500. **Suzy:** And that figure is just what they requested, that was not the 3%. **Commissioner Smith:** I think we should give them the same 3% that the rest of them wanted. **Suzy:** We can do that. **Jacky:** So that reduces it down to \$121,437. **Judge Mills:** Alright, that solves that problem.

Judge Mills: We don't need to call Karl Stubbs for La Mardi Gras, that's the same. **Commissioner Casterline:** That's HOT Funds, what's our projected for HOT Funds? **Commissioner Smith:** Ok, Alma, HOT Funds you're showing \$266,000. **Alma:** \$260,000, \$2,000 in penalty and interest, but yes \$260,000. **Commissioner Smith:** You're saying that we are only going to collect \$262,000 next year? Do we have more Hotels? **Judge Mills:** Two more just came on line. **Alma:** That's a bit conservative, we can increase that. **Commissioner Smith:** Well, the interesting thing about that is we've got a lot of Condos that are rented by the weekend, Condo pools, for instance, I know someone that said they had 256 properties before the hurricane and he's gone down to less than 50 after the storm, a lot of those are still not back on line, they will come back on line and they will be rented, so we may see a significant underage on the HOT Fund. I'm not

suggesting that we change it, it doesn't impact the tax rate anywhere. **Alma:** The only thing it affects is what the entities that are getting the 4%, it affects what they budget and if you give them too big of a number and they put too big of a number in their budget. **Commissioner Smith:** I agree with that, I'm not suggesting that we change it. **Commissioner Casterline:** Yeah. **Alma:** But I do know there are a lot of houses that have come into play and you are 100% correct, it's going to be more. **Commissioner Smith:** Let me ask you a question, do we pay them on actual collections or budgeted collections? **Alma:** Actual. **Commissioner Smith:** So this is going to be a self-correcting thing anyway. As long as the entities that are on there are getting a percentage. **Alma:** Only the Maritime Museum and the Art Association, the others are set amounts, the Chamber gets a set amount, Fulton Mansion, all of those just get a set amount. **Commissioner Smith:** Did it go down after the storm or are we still giving them the same amount they were getting before the storm? **Alma:** The same as before, as far as the ones that are getting X amount of dollars through the state. **Commissioner Casterline:** Have we started giving the Aquarium anything? **Alma:** No, the Aquarium is figured in at 10%, but until they open back up we do not pay them, needless to say. **Commissioner Casterline:** Have you told them what the projected income is? **Alma:** Luis has asked me and I think we gave him the numbers, but this is very conservative. **Commissioner Laubach:** Are we accumulating it for the Aquarium and they are getting it later? **Alma:** No. **Commissioner Smith:** I think I'd leave it like it is. **Alma:** Well I do know that since I've had the HOT part-time person, which will be in my budget to increase the hours for that position, in the eight or nine months that I've had that person, we've collected an additional \$40,000 in Hotel-Motel and Venue Taxes. This is people that we are finding that have started renting their house, did not pay their taxes, and we chased them down, so that's working very well.

Judge Mills: Alright, who else? **Commissioner Smith:** Judge, I've gone through the front portion of this thing, the only people I think we need to bring in are Animal Control, Environmental Health, Communications (Lee Zapata), we need new numbers from her since the City has annexed more property, and we need to talk to the Detention Center and the Sheriff, John Strothman for the Long Term Recovery Budget, Elections. **Suzy:** The County/District Attorney's telephone line is going to change a little bit, based on our Analysis of what the expenditures were. **Commissioner Chaney:** We need to look at County Court at Law. **Suzy:** There is an \$89,000 on the Furniture and Fixtures that's coming out of that, you said it was in Collin's Department, so... **Commissioner Chaney:** What will it take that to? We also need to look at 401, Attorney's Fees. **Commissioner Casterline:** I think 401 is reflective of what the State did, the Mandated Indigent Attorney Fees and I think they have raised what we have to pay. **Commissioner Smith:** I don't know can anyone else want to weigh in on that, are we having to raise the amount to reimburse the attorney fees for indigent defense, a higher rate per hour? **Jacky:** I don't think they have raised the rate per hour, there's just a lot of them. **Commissioner Smith:** Is this \$55,741 year to date representative on a monthly basis of what we are having to pay out? **Jacky:** Yes, probably so. **Commissioner Chaney:** Then we probably need to adjust the 2019. **Commissioner Smith:** If you take the \$55,741 for five months that's \$11,000 a month which would be about \$132,000 a year rather than \$175,000. **Commissioner Laubach:** But actual in 2018 was \$172,000. Are they not smooth throughout the year? **Jacky:** They fluctuate, it just depends on how long a case goes on, actually Judge Bianchi has been monitoring a lot of the hours that they are turning in. **Commissioner Laubach:** But it's really jumped up a lot from 2016, 2017, and 2018, I mean \$175,000 doesn't look crazy compared to 2018. **Jacky:** That's one of those

unfunded mandates. **Judge Mills:** Yeah. **Commissioner Chaney:** Well, that's a number that we really don't know so... **Commissioner Smith:** Well why don't we listen to what Judge Bianchi has to say. **Commissioner Chaney:** So what was the adjusted taking the \$89,000 out? **Jacky:** \$593,463. **Commissioner Smith:** And that's with a \$50,000 increase in the Indigent Defense Fund. **Suzy:** So do you want to see the District Judges? **Judge Mills:** Yes. Charlie, do you want all of the Non-Profits, like Wings Rescue to come in? **Commissioner Casterline:** I have a question, you know last year we gave money to the downtown business group? **Jacky:** The Arts. **Commissioner Casterline:** Why would we do that on an ongoing basis? **Judge Mills:** Downtown business group? **Alma:** Is that the Cultural Arts? **Judge Mills:** That was a one-time deal. **Commissioner Casterline:** Well, I saw it on there and it looks like it's proposed to keep doing it and I... **Alma:** That's out of the Hotel/Motel? **Commissioner Casterline:** Yeah, I just find that strange that we would, I mean it's for the businesses in that part of town and if we are going to do it for them we should be doing it for everybody. **Commissioner Laubach:** If it was a one-time storm thing it doesn't need to be in the budget going forward. **Alma:** I agree. **Commissioner Smith:** Well, as far as the General Fund goes, I think the ones that are still open, Non-Departmental, I think we need to re-work that one, IT, Court at Law, I want to listen to Judge Bianchi, District Court, Elections, Facilities-Maintenance, Sheriff, License & Weight, and Detention Center. **Suzy:** And I'll tell you, on License and Weights, theirs is the same except we increased their budget by \$5,000, they seem to be a magnet for electricity strikes. **Commissioner Smith:** I've got a question, what's the revenue coming in on License and Weights? **Commissioner Casterline:** Well, they just opened, I don't know how much they have been working there, that's something he can update us on. They just opened the other side not too long ago. **Commissioner Smith:** Sheriff, you have any information on the revenue? **Sheriff Mills:** I can get that, I don't have it here with me. **Commissioner Casterline:** What about the lightening? **Sheriff:** It's the Southbound station. **Suzy:** It's been struck twice and it's below the deduction amount on the insurance. **Commissioner Casterline:** The other one has not been struck yet? **Sheriff:** The damage all three times has been at the South bound station and I don't know what it is. **Commissioner Chaney:** It's probably an indirect strike and it's probably because the ground is bad. **Sheriff Mills:** The irony is, there it's buried service and the other one is not. **Commissioner Chaney:** I bet you where it's coming, I bet we need to set that set in the ground right, that might solve that problem. Did it come in at the pole or at the building? **Sheriff Mills:** It came in at the building. **Commissioner Chaney:** Then we need to do a ground survey on it, that's what that problem is, I'm sure.

Suzy: Back to the Rockport Center for the Arts, they sent in a request and that's why we put it on here. **Commissioner Smith:** Suzy, did the contribution to the Humane Society, is that under Animal Control? **Jacky:** We don't do the Humane Society any more. **Commissioner Laubach:** Did the "Another Chance" group ask for anything? They have like 600 animals in their shelter. **Commissioner Smith:** Are they a 501C? Are we complying with these 501C's where they have to show their expenses? We can reimburse money for the services that they provide, but we can't donate money to them. So your office, we're satisfied on that? **Suzy:** Well, Wings Rescue has not spent any of their money this year, so they have not requested any money. **Commissioner Smith:** So the 501C's, they spend money and then they have to submit a bill on what they did. **Suzy:** Yes, yes. **Commissioner Casterline:** And we had some kind of agreement once where it was so much for... **Judge Mills:** Yes, so much per bird. **Commissioner Casterline:** So much per bird, not to exceed so much.

Judge Mills: Ok, John, things have changed since 9:00 a.m. this morning, now we are only talking to people that are asking for a lot more money than last year, so where are you? **John**

Strothman: On the Long Term Recovery? **Judge Mills:** Yeah. **John:** I'm not ready to talk about this but I'll let you know. **Commissioner Smith:** Is this a Special Fund? **Jacky:** Yes sir, Fund 535, page 120. **Commissioner Smith:** And where is the money being funded from? **John:** Well, for the Long Term Recovery team we are looking at a lot of different branches. First, for the four employees, Randall Freeze, Jennifer Heard, Vicki Foley, and Deana Spruce, those folks right now, we are back in to the Department of Labor for another extension for the next two years. We do not know if we are going to get it but. **Commissioner Laubach:** Is this Texas Workforce? **John:** Texas Workforce has endorsed this, Senator Cruz' office is pushing this, and Congressman Cloud, so that's our first option. We don't know the terms, we don't know anything, but we are in for it. The other avenue, and this is strictly for the team, not for the other two consultants, the other avenue is to bring them into the county, fund them through the (CDL), Community Disaster Loan Program, and then we would split the costs with the City, the County paying 60%, and the City 40%, (which is based on the amount of projects that the team is working on), in the mean time, we would also be looking for other foundations. So far, they have been funded through the Department of Labor, but we'd be hitting up these other foundations again, the HEB Foundation, LL Foundation, and Sid Richardson Foundation again, these various foundations to help supplement this cost. So, this is what we've been working on. **Judge Mills:** Since we went there, let's talk about CDL. This is the \$5 million dollars that we got from the Federal Government.

Commissioner Smith: It is to be used only for salaries and what not. **John:** It says, "Funding must be used to carry on existing, essential, Municipal Services or to expand such essential service functions to meet disaster related needs". **Judge Mills:** That sounds real good to me, but I'm not an auditor, what does it say Auditors. **Suzy:** I know what that says, but I mean, we have talked about this and operations, this group of individuals have not been on our payroll, would they be funded through another grant, so in continuation? I mean, that's my own personal opinion. **Commissioner Chaney:** So they would actually have to come on our payroll in order to be able to be reimbursed? **Suzy:** What is your thought? **Jacky:** Well, number one, a CDL is not a reimbursement, it is a loan. **John:** It is a loan, they could be in two years, they could be..

Alma: The chances of it being forgiven are good? **John:** Good. **Commissioner Casterline:** And do we have the money already? **Jacky:** We have been awarded the money, if we need it it's there, we have not gone on it. **John:** Now, on the team I have not used this, but as part of the CDBGDR Grant or Block Grant, there is a 1% to 2% fee that we get, and that could add up to \$628,000 for 2 years, so that's money that is coming back into the kitty. When we are administering these Block Grants, most of that money goes to Grant Works for their services but 1% to 2% of the money is held out for our administrative services. When you add up all of the CDBGDR Funds that we are applying for, roughly \$54 million dollars, there is about \$628,000 of it that will come back. Now, I'd like to keep that back to go towards the Consultants Fees. **Commissioner Smith:** Right here, first of all, it's pretty general, this FEMA fact sheet, to meet disaster related needs, it's not really too specific there. The requirements to "be located in the presidentially declared disaster area, the disaster area must have been adversely affected at the level of essential municipal services, previously provided". Well if we are trying to reconstruct facilities that provided those services, I think by extension you are going to have to have a facility, "not be in arrears with respect to any payments due on previous loans" and "ensure state law does not prohibit local governments from incurring indebtedness resulting from a federal loan", "be able to show a substantial loss (greater than 5%) of tax and other revenues

for the current or succeeding year as a result of a major disaster". **Commissioner Chaney:** What's the definition of Municipal? Can we fall under that? **Commissioner Smith:** Yes, this doesn't preclude counties. **Commissioner Casterline:** Prior to the storm, even some of this stuff that we are doing, that these people did our Grant work, basically didn't cost us anything, right? Are there people out there that would do the Grants that Long Term Recovery is working on for the same thing other than, my assumption is that they are looking for Grants to suggest that we get or enter into? **John:** No, they are administering the Grants that we found or that we are working on, so like this CDBGDR, we are identifying the projects that we would like to have funded and so we identify them and there is a whole gamut of things that you have to do, you have to do whether it's low mod, low to moderate income, then you have to do "whether it was broken by the storm" then you have to do all of this. We are putting out these projects, we're trying to look at them and then Grant Works is identifying yes, we can get this one passed, no we can't get that one passed. Then we bring another one out, so we can get to our, it's complicated but the Grant is set up as that 70% of them has to be Low Mod and then at least 30% you can do non-low mod, which is where we are going to put... **Commissioner Casterline:** That's what I'm, they are finding stuff to suggest to the Grant like... **John:** Make sure the Grant flies, sure. **Commissioner Casterline:** Like in the past as we used a couple of other people for Grants. **Commissioner Smith:** It's my understanding that they have actually committed, they will loan us up to 5 million dollars, they say we qualify for it, so what we are talking about here is do these specific expenditures qualify, that's what you're hung up on. Does it say that they have to be salary? **Jackie:** No, our interpretation of it is just maintaining operating expenses to keep us at the level that we were at, that's what operational... one of the other things that John asked me... **Commissioner Smith:** Let's go back a step. Essential functions to meet disaster related need, disaster related seems to me, to set aside that we wouldn't need a Long Term Recovery Team if we didn't have a disaster. **Jacky:** Exactly. **Commissioner Smith:** This was a disaster related need. **Judge Mills:** Let me interrupt again, Doc, unless your budget went up a bunch we really don't need to talk to you at this time. **Harry "Doc" Thomas:** Well, ok, it didn't but there is one thing that we may need to discuss. **Judge Mills:** Ok, hold on. **Jacky:** There is one other item that John was talking about, the revenues. With FEMA, we have what they call DAC (Direct Administrative Costs) and it is 4% of what our projects are, we can claim on that. At this point the insurance is paying for our salaries, our DAC, so we don't have to claim it for us, I have checked with them on the three projects and we can claim it on that, but as long as the team is being paid by another Grant, we cannot submit that for reimbursement. **Commissioner Smith:** So we are going to continue to work on Grants as long as possible. **John:** Right. **Commissioner Smith:** Then we will switch and try the CDL and when all else fails we will take it out of our General Fund. But the projects that we are working on, we've got a lot of money potential out there and they need to be managed. **Jacky:** Right. **Commissioner Smith:** I don't have a problem with following that particular hierarchy, the worst case scenario is coming back and amending our budget if we don't get these, does that solve your problem? **Suzy:** Well, this is a reimbursable loan, it's not... **Commissioner Smith:** I understand, let me ask you a question. What do you think would happen if we defaulted on the loan, are they going to repossess our county? (Laughter) **Judge Mills:** Ok, anymore on Long Term Recovery? **Suzy:** So my understanding right now is that there is a possibility that their salaries may be extended for two more years? **John:** Yes. **Suzy:** So as far as right now, we just have Jennifer that's being paid through Red Cross, so is that going to stay. **John:** No, that's over. What I know right now is the existing Grant will either expire September 30th or December 30th. Right now there is

funding to go to December 30th with the four people, but they have not approved it yet. The money's there, you just have a procedural thing, as soon as I know that then that will move them into December and that puts us into the next Fiscal year. Our goal is to have an answer from the Department of Labor much sooner than that. **Commissioner Smith:** How are these folks being paid now, are they being paid directly by the County? **John:** No. Jennifer is. **Suzy:** Only one, and that's through the Red Cross Grant we were getting. **Jacky:** Well, William and Kim are being paid contract, but we've received the funds from SRG for that also, so at this point there's not any money that's county at all. **Commissioner Casterline:** John is it possible for you to outline for us all the money that the County got and most of it is that the County was allocated that but my understanding is that we are applying for these Grants and it's the possible bucket of money out there. You know out in the public you hear that we got all of this money, when in reality we have the possibility of getting it all but most of it, when we apply for the Grants, we don't have stuff that meets the qualifications for the Grant that is required. Can you make us a list? **John:** Sure, of all of the projects that... **Commissioner Casterline:** The amount that's out there and maybe a little report on what the percentage on them that are out there, because I know there is a lot of them that has the low to mod requirement on it that's stumping us on how to be able to qualify. **John:** We think, and what we have done is, and I've got a worksheet here that I can send to all of you. In order to get \$38,000,000 worth of roads and drainage projects in low mod areas, we've actually shoved \$56,000,000 worth of projects, and as they reject them then we have another one that we move up. The goal is to have \$38,000,000 worth of roads and drainage projects in the County that are low to moderate income areas. When we get all of that then it frees up the \$16.5 million that we can spend on the non-low & mod, which is Downtown Anchor and other projects like that. We have FEMA projects, PA's, FEMA HHHMGP's, Hazardous Mitigation and other types. **Commissioner Casterline:** That's what I say it would be nice if you could put together a list of all of that, with some description to kind of keep us up-to-date on them and what's the actual chance of being able to get some of it. **John:** Ok, I will do that.

Judge Mills: Alright, Doc, let's hear what you've got to say. **Doc Thomas:** Well, Judge, as you are aware of, and the Sheriff may be able to answer some of these questions better than I can, apparently with changing radio deals here in the county, it makes ours (the Constables) obsolete. From my understanding, we've only got half of the people that we can talk to and the distance has been cut down on how far we can talk back from. **Judge Mills:** Well I know we've had a radio change and a power change. **Commissioner Casterline:** So what do you have, an 800 radio or a VHF? **Doc:** I've got the VHF and the new system is totally different. **Commissioner Casterline:** Isn't the new system VHF? **Sheriff Mills:** The new system is dual band, so if you're 800 or VHF you should be able to transmit to one or the other, either way. But what we are doing is going digital in this conversion, the P25, per mandate, as well was written in the Grant, or else we would not have been able to qualify with FEMA or anybody else for consideration without the P25. **Commissioner Chaney:** So where does that leave the constables? **Sheriff Mills:** So right now the City has not made a determination on what they are going to do, so the old system is still up, nothing was done that should have diminished or taken away from any of the coverage or range, either one. **Doc:** My car radio range is cut down because it's on the Antennae that the City is on. **Sheriff Mills:** That's where it's been for two years. **Doc:** Yeah, but we had Channel 1 that I could talk on and I don't have that Channel anymore. **Sheriff Mills:** Both of the Antennae's were at the same height, Channel 1 is the one that was assigned to the Sheriff's office, the one that we went digital on, for our part of the conversion I had to have one of the

VHF's to convert going forward with the P25 and whether or not he has dual band, that's his decision or choice. Both are going to be left up, there's not sense in tearing one down or the other, because we are licensed in both frequency ranges and going forward in the account of another episode like we had, some on 800, some on VHF, we had both networks up and operable, so we are going to continue to move forward with them where we are in the best of both worlds, not knowing whether the help is going to come from somebody with the VHF system or the 800.

Commissioner Casterline: So if they have the VHF, they should be able..., do you have any idea why the range on his might be cut down? **Sheriff Mills:** I don't believe it has been. **Doc:** Well

the test we did the other day it was, and then Lee Zapata told me it's because the antennae is out there on the By-Pass, it's a lower antennae than the Channel 1 antennae. **Sheriff Mills:**

Channel 1 for two years has been on a 50 foot tower, which is lower than the water tower.

Channel 2, that the City put out there on the water tower, is higher than what you have on

Channel 1 the last two years, so I don't understand where it would have degraded from here to the South County line, being read on both systems. Nothing should have gone down from what we've had in the last two years, if he was on a digital band it would read Channel 1 as well. **Commissioner**

Chaney: So you need a new radio system? **Doc:** Apparently so, we are going to need to be able to talk to them, right now we are either able to talk to the County or the City, but not both.

Sheriff Mills: That's not my choice, the City did that. **Commissioner Laubach:** If you need to

get new radios, what is the cost? **Doc:** Well, they are pretty high from what I understand.

Sheriff Mills: For a mobile and a portable, it's about \$11,000, if you go dual band with what we've done, per officer, that's what the school was quoted. **Commissioner Smith:** Could the two

of you get together and come back with a recommendation to the court. **Sheriff Mills:** Sure, I

can get with Motorola and see if I can get the price the school district was quoted. **Doc:** Was

there any other questions on my budget? Two of the things in there are re-striping the car, insurance paid to do it and somehow when it was in the shop they called somebody, I don't know who it was, and that person told them not to do it. The other thing was mileage, my car, in the last month and a half, has broken down six times and with the advice of the Auditor, I need to put something in the budget for next year in case we have the same problem. **Judge Mills:** How

many miles do you have on your car? **Doc:** I think it's around 58,000, almost 59,000.

Commissioner Casterline: What kind of issues are you having with it? **Doc:** A couple of different things, one is the whole ignitions system, I guess, they replaced a few things and finally, after sending it to the dealership a few times, this last time, they said they hope they got it this time. But when you would go to put gas in it, it wouldn't even take gas, they fixed that problem, but then it was the ignition system and I forget what the other problem was.

Commissioner Casterline: Is the car still under warranty? **Doc:** No, it's five or six years old. **Judge Mills:** Ok, we'll discuss it later, thank you Doc. **Commissioner Smith:** Judge I

make the same suggestion I stated earlier, that Doc and the Sheriff get together and come back to the court with a solution. **Judge Mills:** I think the only solution is to get the Constables the

same radios that the Sheriff's deputies have.

Judge Mills: Ok, Alma do you need to talk to us? **Alma:** The only thing that I have is what I briefly mentioned earlier, increasing the Hotel/Motel person to either full time or give her more hours. **Judge Mills:** I think we all agree that with the additional \$40,000 that she's brought

in, it's probably worth considering. **Alma:** It comes to quite a bit because you get benefits, because right now she doesn't, so we are allocating about \$15,600 and so it will take it on up to around \$50,000 for full time. And to alleviate the HOT Fund, there's no reason why the Venue

that we are collecting, it's taxes too, if you want to venture going there, split it with the Hotel/Motel where it comes out of both funds because we are collecting for both. **Commissioner Casterline:** I think if the position's job is to collect money for both funds it seems only right that those funds be paying for it. **Alma:** That's all I have. **Judge Mills:** While we're on this subject, it's kind of ironic that Alma has gone to the City and the Town of Fulton and said, "There's a lot of Air B&B money out there that's not being collected, what about if the County collects it for you, like we do for the State, for a very nominal administrative fee", and the City Finance Director said they would hire a consultant to do that for them. **Alma:** Their comment was that the County pays too slow. **Commissioner Smith:** Well, they're not receiving anything now. **Alma:** Yes they do, when we collect it we tell them "don't forget the City" and why would they want to pay us when we are already doing it for them.

Judge Mills: Ok, Animal Control, you're up. **Commissioner Chaney:** I had a question on the office & machinery in 570 & 580. **Ronell Burke:** We got a quote for three new lap top computers and a complete setup for our pickup trucks that are in the field. Our last lap tops came from the City of Rockport and they are slowly playing out. **Commissioner Chaney:** So we are looking at a \$50,000 increase in those two line items? **Ronell:** Yes, the increase of \$15,112 in Office Furniture and Equipment is for the computers and the Machinery & Equipment \$37,000 is for a new truck and also potentially a horse trailer. **Commissioner Chaney:** Are those smaller trucks working out better? **Ronell:** This pickup truck is a regular size pickup to replace the truck with the two boxes mounted in the bed of it, Supervisor's truck, basically. **Commissioner Chaney:** Are you going to use that truck elsewhere or is it just worn out? **Ronell:** It's worn out, it's a 2008 with 128,000 miles, it's screaming at us to replace the motor but we are band aiding it along. **Judge Mills:** The Stock Trailer is something that her and I have been talking about for about a year, we've need one here quite a few times in the last few years. I talked to the Sheriff about putting it in his budget, he said I don't care, so if we can't get it in yours we'll try to get it in his. The fact of it is on weekends the Sheriff's deputies could use it for larger animals. **Commissioner Chaney:** Is this enclosed or open? **Ronell:** Enclosed. **Commissioner Smith:** Are we still doing Animal Control for the entire county? **Ronell:** Yes sir, but not in the City Limits of Aransas Pass. **Commissioner Smith:** Are we negotiating with the other entities on the percentage split? **Ronell:** The percentages have not changed. **Commissioner Smith:** The cost of the department has increased so the percentages should be re-evaluated. **Jacky:** We have not initiated anything. **Kristen Barnebey:** So, they continue each year, they self-perpetuate unless someone terminates, so if the Commissioners Court wants that done. **Commissioner Casterline:** So do we bill them for their percentage of the total budget? **Jacky:** We have a flat amount. **Commissioner Casterline:** Well it sounds like if our budgets gone up for that department we need to... **Jacky:** We would need to do a new Interlocal. **Commissioner Smith:** Even if the percentages stayed the same they should be paying more, that's the way dispatch works. Maybe we ought to approach them on HOT taxes a little differently. **Commissioner Chaney:** We need to look at everything involving the City because they have annexed a lot of area. **Judge Mills:** We need to take a look at the numbers for the Ambulance Service. **Jacky:** We need to get new numbers for dispatch also. **Commissioner Smith:** The law on Interlocal Agreements, the Government Code says, "One taxing entity shall not subsidize another", so we need to be as close to the costs as possible. **Judge Mills:** Ok, we'll get there, that makes getting the horse trailer a little sweeter. **Commissioner Smith:** Now, the horse trailer is around \$13,000? **Ronell:** The horse trailer is around \$5,000. **Commissioner Smith:** So the

truck is \$37,000? **Ronell:** That's the two together. **Commissioner Smith:** Oh, ok, so what's the other for? **Ronell:** That's the lap top computers. **Commissioner Smith:** And lap tops do what. **Ronell:** That's how we dispatch. **Commissioner Smith:** Do you respond 24/7? **Ronell:** Yes, sir. **Commissioner Chaney:** Now that Aransas Pass is annexing part of Aransas County, do we need to do any Interlocals with Aransas Pass or are we just not flat out not going to handle dispatch? **Ronell:** Well, my hope was that once they take over more jurisdiction, that they would take away some our calls because they have their own Animal Control. **Commissioner Smith:** I don't have any more questions for Animal Control. **Commissioner Chaney:** Ronell, your people are doing a good job.

While waiting on Clariss Mora to arrive, Kristen Barnebey gave a presentation on the necessity of involvement the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend has benefitting the Children of Aransas County and the importance of the County supporting them if possible. She also stated that she and Clarissa Mora will be approaching other counties to ask for their support also. Alma suggested that their organization be listed on the Juror donation forms.

Commissioner Smith: In the Non-Departmental 19, who would that be? **Suzy:** That would be John Strothman and Tish, and a portion of John's salary is allocated out to Venue, but the biggest part is budgeted. **Alma:** What percent do you have on that for the venue part? I think we were budgeting a whole lot more than he actually turns in. **Suzy:** We talked about changing that. We changed it to 90% to the General Fund and 10% to Venue because it was higher last year and we changed it. **Commissioner Chaney:** Why is it in red for 401, Attorney Fees \$50,000? **Suzy:** Because... **Commissioner Smith:** What is the Professional Fees for in 410, \$125,000 in that particular department? **Suzy:** I'm trying to get to my support sheet for these numbers because this is actually a budget that is provided to us by Linda Haynes. The \$50,000 is in red because I have a note that says "need to account for an additional law firm expenses for 2020 Census" and there was no number, so I just plugged \$50,000 in General. And then the Professional Services, 2020 Estimated HR, we have an additional \$2,800 for Consultant, Richard Beck is \$48,000, Crematories are \$6,000, and in 2018, well it's just an accumulative total of a lot of different areas. But a lot of it has to do with the background checks, we are changing the way we are doing the pre-employment physicals. **Commissioner Smith:** What about Equipment Rental? **Suzy:** Great American Financial and Xerox Financial, now that we have not separated out and put in the individual departments, that's all still being budgeted under 409. **Commissioner Smith:** Well, it's a pretty healthy increase. **Suzy:** Yes sir, we have toyed with the idea of splitting it out and letting all of the departments carry their own burden on this, but we just didn't have time for this budget to get that split out, we are still gathering numbers. **Commissioner Casterline:** But that's mostly copy machines and printers? **Commissioner Chaney:** What kind of printers do we rent? **Alma:** That's that Great American part, but I don't know how much it is. **Jackie:** We lease all of the printers. **Commissioner Casterline:** Are we using, at one time we switched to where the copy machine was... **Suzy:** That's Dahill on the copy machines. **Commissioner Casterline:** But the printers and copiers are all one machine, or are they separate? **Jacky:** Well, both, each department has a big copier that is a scanner, fax, copier, and printer and then some of the offices have individual printers. **Judge Mills:** And I understand more people are going to ask for them this year. **Commissioner Casterline:** What, the individual ones? **Judge Mills:** Yes. **Judge Mills:** Alright, Valerie (Gonzalez). **Suzy:** Environmental Health is on page 46. **Valerie:** So the biggest thing I have is going to be the postage, well gas, we always have gas issues. We have more vehicles now that we have more Code Enforcement Officers, so we have

more gas that we use, so I put \$1,000 extra. The postage, we send the certified letters out, and we are sending more out now that we have more Code Enforcement Officers. And then Conferences, that is one that was always over budget in because we have so many licenses that we are required to maintain, so we broke it down on the spreadsheet that Suzy provided us with and it came out to \$7,100. **Commissioner Smith:** Suzy, group hospitalization insurance, are these the most current numbers? **Suzy:** Yes sir, the ones in the 2020 column are based on today's population of employees. **Commissioner Smith:** For instance, \$56,190, how many employees is that for? **Suzy:** Seven, that's \$8,027.02 per person. **Commissioner Laubach:** So your Group Hospitalization went up, basically because you added an employee? **Valerie:** Yes. **Alma:** Judge, on the employees, do we still want to pay one the of the Code Enforcer's out of the Health Care Sales Tax? I didn't know if we still were, we did because of the storm. **Valerie:** We are still doing storm work. **Commissioner Casterline:** Well some percentage of the calls you get are due to health hazards caused by the storm. **Suzy:** And even though this is being transferred to cover the salaries, we still budget for them in Valerie's group. **Judge Mills:** Alright, what else? **Jacky:** You want to do mosquito next? **Valerie:** Yes. **Jacky:** Page 92. **Valerie:** So on Conferences, that's going to be the one new license that Bob has, and my Mosquito License, so now we have two Vector Control Licenses. **Suzy:** And she has no control on that Transfer Line that's down below, that's the percentage that we came up with. **Commissioner Smith:** So, year to date, we've spent \$42,600 on what? **Valerie:** Chemicals? **Commissioner Smith:** On Machinery & Equipment? **Valerie:** Not that I can think of, Oh we did have some Mosquito Sprayers that we got through a DSHS Grant, that was \$42,000. **Commissioner Smith:** So the Grant is being shown somewhere else, Suzy? **Suzy:** We don't actually budget for the Grant, I believe these expenditures went through before, and they have been reallocated off to the budget 430 where the Grant is, if I'm not mistaken, so that \$42,600 should actually not be there, but I will double check and make sure. **Commissioner Laubach:** So if the department overall needs to go over by about \$4,000, it sounds like most of that can be accounted for by a general transfer to Fleet Maintenance which is just a general place and there is nothing Mosquito Control can do about it? **Suzy:** We haven't looked at Fleet Maintenance yet, have we? That's not her department. **Commissioner Laubach:** I know, we have not talked about that yet, so there will be another time when we can talk about why they went up. **Commissioner Smith:** It's interesting to show the \$42,600 here to date projected for 2019 is blank. **Suzy:** Well that's because it is a Grant and it wasn't planned, and I believe, if I'm not mistaken, I've already made a journal entry to correct this but it happened before we printed these reports. **Commissioner Casterline:** Valerie, what's your chemical use, what are you forecasting. **Valerie:** For next year? **Commissioner Casterline:** Yeah, I mean, over the last year we've had a lot of rain, have you used a lot? **Valerie:** We have not used as much as we typically use because of the high winds, maybe once a week, and my Grant is covering some of my chemicals as well. **Commissioner Smith:** Yeah, but still on the budget that she is operating under, she's got almost \$110,000 that's not expended yet. **Valerie:** I was going to use that money to purchase vehicles, because ours are rusted out. **Jacky:** So she's going to ask for a budget line item transfer at some point. **Commissioner Smith:** How much are you going to spend on vehicles? **Valerie:** It's about 80,000. **Commissioner Smith:** How many is that, three? **Valerie:** Three. **Commissioner Smith:** That's outfitted and ready to go? **Valerie:** Yes, because we have the sprayers and the Grants. **Commissioner Smith:** You're still using the small trucks, right? **Valerie:** Yes. **Commissioner Casterline:** Valerie, this money comes out of General and some out of Health Care? **Commissioner Smith:** All of this comes from Health Care Sales Tax. **Commissioner Casterline:** Ok, where to

next, don't you have another department? **Jacky:** Transfer Station, page 153. **Commissioner Chaney:** I had asked the Auditor to look at the possibility of additional revenue due to a set fee to some degree, and the reason I'm saying that is, there are a lot of expenditures that we can build up fund over time that will relieve the General Fund, such as vehicles and outside clean-ups and things like that, I don't think you've had time to do that? **Suzy:** You were going to send me an e-mail with all of the information that you were wanting. **Commissioner Chaney:** Oh, ok, well I apologize for that. Anyway, I'm not asking the Court to look at that right now, but I do think this is something that we need to look into and I'd like to be thinking about it to make a budget amendment at some point. For an example, I go to the Transfer Station about once a week and I take about three or four bags and three days ago my base fee was \$1.75, I think we need to put a base rate that may include some of the weight, but say a base rate of \$3.00 minimum fee to go to the Transfer Station and that's before weight or may include a portion of weight. With the amount of people that we get through the Transfer Station and the amount of receipts that are \$1.00 to \$3.00 may go a long ways in helping to offset the cost of Capital Expenditures, new roll-offs, a new truck in the future, whatever, so that we don't have to fund out of the General Fund specifically. **Judge Mills:** So if you go out there three times in one day it would cost you \$9.00 plus whatever? **Commissioner Chaney:** Yes, it would cost you \$9.00. **Commissioner Casterline:** Well don't you normally, when you are trying to calculate the rates, shouldn't it already be doing that? **Valerie:** Right, so we did a price increase the year before last to help cover any extra cost we incur for equipment now that we are operating out of the Transfer Station fund and not the General Fund. **Commissioner Chaney:** But what I'm saying for two or three bags, the Transfer Station is not breaking even, whenever you do that and you take everything else out. And we've talked about being prepared for unexpected expenses and stuff, and I, as a consumer, I would not have a problem with a base fee. **Commissioner Casterline:** How many people do you have that come with minimal amounts? I don't know, to me it's like you're overcharging the guy who doesn't have much to make up for the shortfall. **Commissioner Chaney:** I don't know it's just an idea. That's something I'd like for us to look at and maybe bring back, I think it's too late to do it for this budget's session, but I'd like to look at in a few months or so and see much we could bring in for the trucks, etc. **Commissioner Casterline:** Valerie, when we set the fees are you allowing for that kind of stuff already? **Valerie:** Yes. **Commissioner Casterline:** Well, I think, if it needs to go up, that we should go up on everything. **Commissioner Smith:** Valerie, the \$180,000, that's for? **Valerie:** To replace one of our diesel roll off trucks. **Commissioner Smith:** You have two of them? **Valerie:** We actually have three, one is a 2009, one is a 2010, and one is a 2017. **Commissioner Smith:** So we are trading in which one? **Valerie:** The 2010, the \$180,000 is the cost of a new one, it does not include the trade-in, I think they sell it in auction. **Commissioner Laubach:** What do you think you would get as an offset, a few thousand or a whole lot? **Valerie:** I've never sold one, so I don't know. **Commissioner Casterline:** So have you asked, wherever you are getting it from, if they take trade-ins? **Valerie:** We have to bid it out. **Commissioner Casterline:** We don't have the option to trade it in? **Suzy:** We do. **Commissioner Smith:** How much below MSRP was that quote of \$180,000? **Valerie:** I don't know, that's one of those things that Mike gave me, that we can't use unless we bid it out, so it could actually be higher. **Commissioner Smith:** We're going through the State Program, right? **Valerie:** No. **Commissioner Smith:** Why not? **Suzy:** Ok, this is a decision that we have made, that we are going to keep everybody under the 2CFR 200 umbrella that follows the Federal Guidelines whether it is paid for by Federal Money or not, just to keep everybody in line with the thought process that if it's over \$50,000, they need

to go out for three bids. This was a decision that was made after the hurricane and we had...

Commissioner Smith: I'm confused, is this the result of three bids? **Valerie:** No, Mike and I did not, it could be higher and it could be lower, but if we did not get any bids that would be the bid we used. **Suzy:** But they will go out for bids before they actually purchase the vehicle. **Commissioner Smith:** How did you come up with this \$180,000 though? **Valerie:** From Tx Mas **Commissioner Smith:** Ok, and that's what they said they could buy the truck for? **Valerie:** Yes. **Commissioner Smith:** Without bidding? **Valerie:** Correct. **Commissioner Casterline:** So the net amount will be something less? **Valerie:** Correct. **Commissioner Casterline:** I had asked Valerie to try and run some calculations comparing back to when we used to use Dawson, I think she called and got some quotes and her opinion is we are still way better off than contracting it out. **Valerie:** Right, so if we did not use a contractor and bought the truck, we would be saving \$90,000. **Commissioner Smith:** The \$280,000, that's the landfill costs? **Valerie:** That number includes the landfill costs, along with paint disposal and tire disposal. **Commissioner Smith:** Ok. On year to date, that \$90,344, it looks to me like the \$280,000 is a little high. **Valerie:** We just paid \$40,000 for our mulching and we do that once a year. **Jacky:** It's not in that year to date, they just finished it and we haven't paid the bill yet. **Commissioner Smith:** I'm not understanding, if you took \$90,344 and divided it by 41 or 42 would you come up roughly with about \$200,000? **Commissioner Laubach:** What would professional services include, in general, contracting out things? **Jacky:** Yes, we have to pay for disposal at Corpus Christi Land Fill and then we've got... **Valerie:** We've had more paint come in than usual, we've had more tires come in post Harvey. **Commissioner Laubach:** So this is, at least the Transfer Station gets to take them someplace else and you have to pay them to dump, and does it also pay for contracting out other things? **Valerie:** Yes, mulching. **Commissioner Laubach:** And that's in there also. **Valerie:** Yes. **Commissioner Smith:** That \$280,000 is an awful interesting number, how did you come up with that? **Valerie:** So I went back to what we spent in the previous years and that's how I got that. **Commissioner Smith:** 2018, \$261,000. **Valerie:** 2018, yes, I don't ever want to under budget for it. **Commissioner Casterline:** Valerie, have you looked into increasing our... **Valerie:** I have, I have to put in a whole new application, I would need a professional engineer to sign off on it, but I have the paperwork. **Commissioner Casterline:** So is that something that needs to be budgeted? Is there a permit fee increase? **Valerie:** There is, but you would have to find out how much the engineer would charge to put the packet together. I tried to do it through a temporary and they told me no, it will have to be an amendment. **Commissioner Smith:** Valerie, I'm not being critical, but if everybody built little hidey holes, we tax people based on what you folks turn in and I don't get any particular pleasure in over taxing people or under taxing people, so between that and the trade-in on the vehicle, you might be \$40,000 to high. Look, it's only going to cost what it is going to cost and that's why we have a rainy day fund, so let's try to get as close as we can to what it is that we are projecting, alright? **Valerie:** That is as close as I can get, but I understand. **Commissioner Smith:** But you don't want to under budget is what you said. **Valerie:** Right, I will try my best. **Commissioner Smith:** Well, do you think you are \$40,000 too high? **Valerie:** No. **Commissioner Smith:** Really, so we are not going to get anything for the truck, and we are going to spend \$280,000 when we've never spent that much before? **Valerie:** We did increase other areas, I do believe that it is going to be that much or very close to that number based on what has come in and what we pay out there. **Commissioner Smith:** Let's look at 2018, what was going on that year. **Valerie:** We were closing early most days. **Commissioner Smith:** We were closing early because we didn't have enough bins, do we have more now? **Valerie:** No, that's the

increase in the amount of tires & paint that have been coming in. **Commissioner Smith:** Well since this is a stand-alone fund it will not impact, only to the extent that reduces the transfer back to the General Fund. And you are going to ship back to us \$72,000? **Jacky:** Yes.

Commissioner Smith: But you're going to run your fund balance down to \$60,000? **Jacky:** Yes.

Commissioner Smith: Ok. We'll see how it turns out.

Judge Mills: Ok, Ms. Mora, did you have something for us?

Clarissa Mora: Yes sir, so the Children's Advocacy Center of the Coastal Bend, we serve twelve counties in the Coastal Bend and as long as I can remember we've gotten funding only from the Nueces County Commissioners' Court. So we are here today requesting and asking you to consider setting a little bit of money aside for services that we provide to children and families that are victims of child abuse here in Aransas County. **Commissioner Casterline:** So where do your funds come from besides the help you get from Nueces County? **Clarissa:** So the majority, about 50% of our funding, comes from VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) and then about another 27% comes from the State. The remainder is obtained by fundraisers, donations and then of course we are asking our Counties to help out too. **Commissioner Chaney:** What is your annual budget? **Clarissa:** 1.32 Million right now. **Commissioner Chaney:** Taking Nueces County out of it, which counties are your highest need. **Clarissa:** After Nueces, it would be San Patricio and then Aransas County.

Commissioner Casterline: About what number do you deal with in Aransas County right now?

Clarissa: So last year, we interviewed about 70 children, in addition to interviewing alleged kids, who are victims of abuse, we also work directly with their non-offending parents so that we can provide support services for the families. All of these services are free to the families and no costs are billed to their insurance. **Commissioner Smith:** You say your Total Budget is 1.3 Million, the Grants that you get from the Federal Government, how much are those? **Clarissa:** So our VOCA Grant is a two year grant and for Fiscal Year 2019 it was about \$563,000.

Commissioner Smith: Per year? **Clarissa:** Yes sir. **Commissioner Smith:** The rest of your operating funds, so you get donations? **Clarissa:** Yes, our Federal and State Grants, those primarily cover the Salary and Fringe Benefits for employees, well we have 15 employees and those VOCA and HHSC Funds, that's what we use to pay our employees. **Commissioner Smith:** \$563,000 is the total from both Grants? **Clarissa:** \$563,000 is from VOCA and we got \$262,000 from HHSC, and then we get money from the Attorney General every year and that is \$42,000 a year and that's a flat rate fee and it never increases. **Commissioner Smith:** So your still about \$400,000 short in your budget amount. **Clarissa:** Yes sir. **Commissioner Smith:** What did the Nueces County Commissioners' Court give? **Clarissa:** They gave \$10,000 this year. **Commissioner Smith:** And they have what, some 300,000 thousand people? **Clarissa:** Yeah. **Commissioner Chaney:** How many cases do you see there? **Clarissa:** So total last year in 2018 we interviewed about 1600 children and I'd say about 800-900 of those kids come from Nueces County, they live in Nueces County.

Commissioner Casterline: Would any of this program qualify under the Health Care Sales Tax?

Alma: It would be a fine line on that one. **Commissioner Smith:** I wouldn't think so. **Judge**

Mills: Ms. Mora, I just want to say you have a real advocate her in Ms. Barnebey and you do a wonderful job, we will look to see what we might can do. **Commissioner Smith:** You are office over I Nueces County? **Clarissa:** Yes sir, we are, but we are able to do Mobil Interviews, which really is a benefit to Law Enforcement and Child Protective Services in this area and it is a cost for us to have to pay an employee to come out here and Child Protective Services does not have the freedom that we have. We just have to really be cognizant of what we are paying someone to come out here because we have to reimburse them for their gas, but we have the mobile

equipment and that's something that we could definitely do to help out Law Enforcement, they don't have the freedom in this area and if we have the funds this is something we could do more

The Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and resumed at 1:00 p.m.

often. **Judge Mills:** So, right now we sometimes have our Sheriff's Deputies that pick up the child, deliver them to you and bring them back to Aransas County and that could take half a day. **Commissioner Casterline:** Kristen, why don't you get together with Clarissa and the Sheriff and come up with a comparison of the cost, time and money, and what it would be for their people to come here. **Judge Mills:** Speaking for myself, because I cannot speak for the others, I am most interested in helping your organization. **Commissioner Smith:** Yes, I am inclined to help as well. **Kristen:** We also donate from our forfeiture account. **Commissioner Smith:** How much to you have in that account? **Kristen:** It's less than \$10,000, pretty much at any given time and the Kleberg County Attorney just gave \$10,000, McMullan told me they would donate \$3,000 but we'll see and then we are going to see San Pat and some others. **Commissioner Smith:** How much are you going to give out of your forfeiture fund? **Kristen:** So, usually we give \$1,000 on the day of giving in November and that's matched, and then this last event I gave \$100, let's see this summer the forfeiture account will pay for T-Shirts we wear on Casual Fridays, sometimes we go to the sponsored games, but if you know that forfeiture account also goes to, we also pay for the Battered Women's Shelter, but yes, that money absolutely goes there. **Judge Mills:** Well, thank you Ms. Mora for coming and we will certainly see what we can do for you. **Clarissa:** Thank you, I appreciate your time. **Judge Mills:** Alright, Michele. **Michele Bennett:** I have two changes, I'm asking for you to allow me to purchase a Verity County System for our Ballot by Mails, this last Primary Election we had almost 9,000 ballots for the Gubernatorial and I barely got the results out at 7:59 p.m. and I know we like to have the results here by 8:00 p.m. Our workers who come in to do the Ballot Board were literally scanning them in one at a time and it takes like 8 seconds per ballot. So, this particular program would save us time and money. We can recoup some of our costs by charging the other entities 10% of the costs, when we do their elections. **Commissioner Laubach:** What would this program cost? **Michele:** About \$57,000. **Commissioner Casterline:** Is this amount in the budget you turned in? **Jacky:** It's in Office Furniture and Equipment, included in the \$60,000. **Commissioner Smith:** You said this would save us time and money, how much? **Michele:** Well, on the Ballot Board we have up to 10 people in there and that's \$10.00 per hour, per person, if we saved 5 hours that's \$500, per election. **Commissioner Smith:** So it would take us 120 years to break even? **Michele:** No, but we would also recoup our costs with our Election Entities. **Commissioner Casterline:** When we do Elections for other people, where does the money go that we charge them? **Michele:** It goes into a Contract Service Fund that we use towards this type of purchase, but we don't have enough money in there to even... **Commissioner Casterline:** Where is that in your budget? **Michele:** It's not on this budget, it's in a separate line item. **Jacky:** It's in a separate fund. **Commissioner Smith:** So what have we been spending that money on? **Michele:** Nothing it's just sitting there, well actually I had a negative line item for a while. **Commissioner Smith:** It's showing a negative. **Suzy:** Well, I think it's positive now. **Alma:** It would be barely positive, it was \$15,000 in the hole for about 5 years. **Michele:** It hasn't been 5 years that I have been doing this job. **Commissioner Smith:** So we get money from the Democrats, the Republicans, the City,

that money must have been spent on something if it was negative. **Michele:** Years ago I asked if I could by \$20,000 in equipment and that's when that line item went negative. **Commissioner Smith:** Ah, so you're paying off old purchases. **Michele:** Well it's paid off now, it was a purchase from probably 3 or 4 years ago. **Commissioner Smith:** You have \$60,000 down here to save money to get rid of temporary help, yet the temporary help at the top, you are projecting the same amount of money as the year before. **Michele:** I understand that, but all I'm saying is that if you guys expect to have your results at 7:00 p.m., I need additional service. **Commissioner Casterline:** I think we can wait, for \$60,000. **Commissioner Smith:** I don't need the results by 7:00 p.m., but what I'm saying from a budget standpoint you haven't reduced anything up here, but you have the expenditure down here. **Michele:** I know because it's going to take more money, come 2020, because it's a Presidential Election, if I had 9,000 ballots in the Gubernatorial, I'm predicting that I'm going to have over 10,000, possibly 11,000 in the Presidential. Also, we are going to have a Primary, a Primary Run-Off, the May Election, and the November Election, so the first three are all reimbursable by the other Entities. So, I understand that we do have to spend money to make money, another thing that I would like to point out is we've never had to pay for Election Equipment, other than the \$20,000 that we spent 3 years ago and in all the years that we've had electronic voting the State has picked up the money or now Insurance. So fifteen years ago when the Help America Vote Act came into place, they purchased all of the voting equipment that Aransas County had prior to Verity and then the Insurance paid for Verity, so this is the only time I am asking you to spend money, to speed up the process, not only easier on my workers, but also due to their age, they can't be there 12 hours at a time or won't be there, it will make it easier on them. **Commissioner Casterline:** So how much time is it that you think we could be delayed in getting the results? **Michele:** It could be hours, remember 4 years ago when I didn't have the results to you until 10:00 p.m. and how upset people were? **Commissioner Laubach:** So, that \$57,000, could that money be charged back to the City and the School District? **Michele:** Yes, I can charge them 2% of the purchase price, per election for a long time. So every time I contract with them I can charge them up to a 10% fee for actual use of that system. **Commissioner Laubach:** So we could make that back in just a few years. **Michele:** If I charged them 10%, currently I'm charging 3 ½ % for the new Verity purchase and next year it will go up to 7% and then it will be up to 10% in 2021. **Commissioner Casterline:** And that money goes into that fund that you were talking about. **Michele:** Yes. **Commissioner Laubach:** How long do you think it will take to pay back that money if you started charging the 3% - 7%? **Michele:** I don't know because they don't have to contract with me. **Commissioner Casterline:** Yeah, but if they don't have any equipment, unless they want to do it by hand. **Commissioner Laubach:** I bet they don't want to do their own election. **Michele:** Well they've been pretty pleased with what we've been doing for them and our job. Mayor Wax said, after the last election, "as long as you're offering it, we are going to take you up on it". All I'm asking is that you consider it. The only other change is, if you guys agree to this, then under License & Support, we would need to add \$7,000. **Commissioner Smith:** Why is the Maintenance Agreements going up by \$14,500. **Michele:** Years ago Harte InterCivic came to us and asked us to sign a contract saying that we would remain their customer and they wouldn't go up on their prices, but their price has increase every year now because when I was in Peggy's office it was not something that the county was agreeable to. And now they don't even offer it with the new Verity System, I've asked if they could cap this and they said it's currently not being offered. **Commissioner Smith:** Professional Services, we've only spent \$165 this year and we budged \$9,000 and you're proposing another \$9,000 in 2020? **Commissioner Laubach:** Why is

that brand new in 2019, Professional Services? **Michele:** It was a line item that we created last year and I believe that's going to be for... **Suzy:** Your notes say, that is to convert the Voter Files to Digital. **Michele:** Yes, but their quotes have since gone from \$9,000 to \$46,000, so that's why I haven't spent that money. **Commissioner Casterline:** So we can take that \$9,000 out. **Michele:** Yes. **Commissioner Smith:** What about postage? **Michele:** Postage is going to go up, I'm paying like 76 cents for every ballot that goes out. **Commissioner Smith:** We spent \$3,218 in 2018 and so that figure is going to triple? **Michele:** It could. **Commissioner Smith:** Come on. **Michele:** No, because we don't know, don't forget that we have our mass mail-out that we do at the end of that year, we have to send out everybody's new card and if we have 4 elections, with the by mail ballots, people are requesting ballots for the whole year, so if we have 10,000 people that request a ballot in 2020 that's going to be 10,000 people times 4 elections. I guess I'd rather be safe than sorry. **Commissioner Smith:** I don't ever want to be under budgeted all right, but you do understand that we have a fund called the General Fund, so if you were under budget we would continue to deliver the services? Your job is to tell us exactly what you think you can spend or are going to need to spend, not over and not under, that's your charge right there. We tax people based on these budgets. **Michele:** I would like to point out though, in 2017 we had \$6,300 in postage, so I was planning for at least 10,000 by mail ballots. **Commissioner Smith:** Can you explain the Maintenance Agreements? **Michele:** The Maintenance Agreements are the License and Support that we pay to the different vendors. The increase was from Harte, as I explained earlier. **Commissioner Laubach:** So if you got this new Verity, you would have to allow for more in the Maintenance Agreements for that too, right? **Michele:** Yes, an additional \$7,000, but if we chose to purchase it this year we would not have to pay for it until 2021. **Commissioner Smith:** Office Supplies, \$229.00 is what you've spent this year, but you budgeted \$10,000. **Michele:** That's what I've had in there every year since I've been in office. I use more on even years than on odd years. **Commissioner Laubach:** It looks like it's almost double what it really needs to be based on historical use. **Judge Mills:** Any more questions? **Michele:** Under Temporary Help, for the 2018 Budget, I forgot to budget for all of the Elections that we were going to have that year and I want to say we were about \$18,000 over budget so I didn't know how you wanted to handle that, if you wanted to leave it the same and me come back and ask for more at the end of 2020 or if you want to put more money in to handle the Elections, because in 2018, we had \$17,865 and 2016 we had almost \$19,000. Also I was hoping that we could have someone come in temporary and help us scan files in to convert Voter Registration into Digital, because when I first looked at their program they quoted \$9,000 and their office no longer does it so they had to send it out to a third party and the third party sent me a quote for \$46,000. So if I could just get someone to come in and scan for about four hours a day it would help us because the drawers are two sections deep and one drawer could take two to three weeks for one person to do it, so we're not getting very far. **Judge Mills:** Ok, I guess we are through with you Michele, thank you. Ok, Kristen are you ready?

Kristen: I just wanted to point out that, first of all our budget is going to be unchanged except for step increases, but also that our office has contributed more than \$70,000 to the General Fund. **Commissioner Smith:** What are the Professional Fees? **Kristen:** Attorneys we have to hire when we have conflicts or if we have a Protective Order or a Contested Case, mom comes to us first and then maybe dad should be represented also, but we can't help him because of conflict. **Judge Mills:** If there's no other questions I guess we are done with your budget. Mr. Geer, you and Rocky step on up.

Michael Geer: There's not a whole lot of change in my budget, when I got the report from the Auditor a few weeks ago, the Airport was in the red about \$350,000 and that's because we didn't receive any hangar rent, so we rely heavily on the loss from use money from the Insurance Company and they like to pay that out in big lump sums and in 2018 we did not receive any payments. So, in February of this year we received a \$420,000 payment and we probably will not get another check until the first of 2020. **Commissioner Casterline:** When do you project to have some more hangars? **Michael:** My best guess is, the FAA, the ball is in their court now as far as the final determination of the Aeronautical Study, they look at the GPS points and elevation, and the over-all height of the building that we are going to put back up. Even though we are going back in the exact same spot with seven of the eight hangars they still want to do this air space study. In the past this would have taken six to nine weeks, but because of the Government shut-down a few months back, the FAA is not opening any new mail, and that's how they put it to me, so. Last week on Monday and Tuesday I went to an FAA Conference in Fort Worth and was able to get in front of our Airport District Office Manager and told him we were about to submit that paperwork and he said he has the ability to push us up the line a bit, and that's what they plan to do, so it might actually still take eight or nine weeks but it will be getting done faster than if they didn't move us up. So by fall we should be well into building some hangars and if that's the case we should be able to get some planes in them by the end of the year.

Commissioner Smith: I see your showing Land Grant \$50,000, we have that every year? **Michael:** Yes sir, we budget that every year. **Commissioner Smith:** Then back over in the Expenditures you are showing Grant Projects at \$100,000. **Michael:** Right, that's primarily our Ramp Grants, we budget \$100,000 so we can get \$50,000 back, if we spend that full \$100,000 then we'll get the \$50,000 back. **Commissioner Smith:** Do you have any big projects planned? **Michael:** No, not really, I just think it's good business to go ahead and budget that because it's free money. But anything we do, from buying WD-40 to lube the doors on the hangar to replacing a pane of glass that may have gotten broke, or if we had an electrician come out for a bad breaker, all of that falls under that Maintenance Grant. By the time I submit those invoices it's a stack about yea high. The bad thing is I've exhausted the Ramp Grant for this year so I won't get any return on any additional spending. The good news is the State's budget begins September 1st. **Commissioner Smith:** Suzy, what's the \$45,203 transfer to General Fund, Airport Fund 500, Line 912? **Suzy:** That's for the personnel. **Jacky:** That's for Admin Support, just like we did for the Transfer Station. **Suzy:** I'm sorry, it's not just personnel. **Michael:** And finally, the one thing I talk about every year, we just don't know what fuel is going to do. So it stayed pretty steady from 2017 - 2018, I don't see any reason why it should go too much higher in 2019, right now it's actually trending down, so we are happy to enjoy a little bit higher mark-up on our fuel and \$350,000 on our fuel should get it done, but if fuel spikes for some reason next year that's the only thing that I can see that we might need more money on, the good thing is we should see an increase in the revenue because we do try to keep our mark-up pretty steady. **Commissioner Smith:** I'm having trouble understanding this rental hangar up in your revenues, you budgeted \$100,000 for 2019. **Suzy:** I can explain that, the loss of revenue that you claim with the insurance, that's that income and I didn't want to, we received \$422,000 for the previous year but we didn't get it until this year, so I didn't want to put in \$422,000 again for 2020 if it's not all going to hit at the same time. And the only other issue that has not been addressed is the insurance premiums, which is line 460, if the hangars come on line that will increase the Airport's percentage of insurance. **Michael:** My budget is just a little bit more for Conference Association dues because I want to start taking a representative from our Airport with me to at

least the State Conference to go to some of the other break-out sessions. **Judge Mills:** Ok, thank you. Sheriff is up next. **Sheriff Mills:** Concerning earlier conversation about the Annexation by the City of Aransas Pass, there was only one call for service in the last year.

Sheriff's Office Budget:

Commissioner Smith: Sheriff, the over-time pay for 2019, Suzy you might look at this too on page 37, \$67,729, that's year to date already paid? **Sheriff:** That's driven by Operation Stonegarden for the County and then it's reimbursed. **Commissioner Smith:** So projected 2019, \$20,000, is that a budget error? **Suzy:** That's right, because the \$67,729 is all reimbursable with the exception, the \$20,000 that is budgeted, everything above that is reimbursable. **Commissioner Smith:** Reimbursable by insurance? **Suzy:** No, Homeland Security Grant. **Commissioner Smith:** Ok, over here on the second page, Line 460 - Insurance Premiums, what's the story on that? **Suzy:** Same as everybody else, the insurance rates went up, all of the new vehicles, and like I say, I have a schedule on that I can give you. **Commissioner Smith:** That's over a 20% increase. **Suzy:** Yes sir. Before Harvey, a lot of the fleet was over three years old and we were only carrying liability on them. **Sheriff:** For future consideration, I think we need to start looking at it now because the radio project, the building that's next to the tower we need to rebuild or double the size of it, there is no room in there, but I think it could easily be doubled if we built onto the North side of it and then take off the door between them when we're through because of the dust flying around on the electronics, but put a common roof on them so it wouldn't leak. **Commissioner Smith:** The Office Furniture & Equipment, \$20,500? **Sheriff:** The old storage was getting full so we need to expand. **Commissioner Smith:** The Machinery & Equipment, \$40,000? **Sheriff:** That's for those cars that did not get replaced after the storm, that would be money for one vehicle a year. At some time in the future that will ramp back up as our cars age.

License & Weights:

Sheriff: Two things happened over the last three years, the paper I handed out to you, shows how much has been written in fines and how much has been collected, I think you're looking at \$59,000 that's due. In 2017 we saw a change that now the deputies for Aransas County and City Officers cannot legally turn the lights on to weigh trucks, it has to be turned on by a License and Weight Officer or DPS. In their absence you are going to see a lot of days that we did not get to use the scales, now we do have a DPS officer that lives here and likes to work this area so we may see him spend more time here. He can turn the lights on and our deputies can work with him in the two stations but we can't legally turn the lights on or off. **Commissioner Smith:** August of 2018, we still have \$28,744 outstanding. **Sheriff:** I don't assess and I don't collect. **Commissioner Smith:** So we didn't cover expenses in 2017, we did cover our expenses in 2018, and we are lagging behind in 2019. What are the benefits of the weigh station? Safety? **Sheriff:** Safety and wear & tear on your roads, yes sir.

Detention Center:

Sheriff: What I did not include here, which came to light a couple of weeks ago was that Spectrum TV went digital, prior to that we were receiving the Cable TV signal in the jail for free, then they began billing us. They did not bill us last year because we paid \$2,500 for the equipment for the digital and they agreed to spread it out over the next year in lieu of rental

payments for monthly fees, so I do anticipate as of May this year we should be getting a bill from them. I've called and asked about the rate per outlet and it seems like this would run about \$180.00 to \$200.00 per month. **Commissioner Smith:** Does the Jail Commission say "We will have Cable TV"? **Sheriff:** It's a good baby-sitting tool, the TV's and the Network itself are all paid for by Commissary Fund, the inmates pay for that so there wasn't any outlay from the County, so it gives you an opportunity when there are eight guys in a cell, they are not going to let one of them misbehave when they will lose their TV privileges. **Judge Mills:** Ok, thank you Sheriff.

Judge Mills: Ok, Stephany, our main question is, are you looking into the difference between what you're doing for the County and what you're doing for the City?

Stephany Ross, Allegiance Mobile: We are looking into that, I'm not familiar with what the call volume was when they started the contract with you all several years ago because I was on the streets and not actually in the role that I serve in now, but we are averaging about 100 - 120 calls for the County areas for the last three or four months and of those calls you're averaging 0 - 6 that are actual mutual aids. The City has increased their call volume, they are averaging about 170 - 200 plus calls. **Judge Mills:** Ok, well make sure that gets changed. **Commissioner Smith:** What about the response times? **Stephany:** The response times, since I have taken over, have improved, we found that there was a dispatch error on our side. When the local dispatchers took over dispatching us we were able to get good cross streets and accurate locations, that decreased our call volume from what it was. For the City we are averaging anywhere from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ out of compliance and a lot of that is based on the annexation that had not been accounted for in the time lines and then for the County we are averaging anywhere from 4% - 6% depending on what part of the County they are responding to. **Commissioner Casterline:** What is your time frame in the doughnut hole, where there were sections of roads that were not there? **Stephany:** In the doughnut hole, that has improved since things have been worked on since Harvey. There are times like, say on San Antonio Street or other roads off of Corpus Christi Street, the pavements that used to be a lot of sand and pot holes, so they would have to find different routes and some of the streets didn't go all the way through, so they were having to find actual ways around it, whereas now they are having an easier time, just the numbering is what is causing the delays now. **Commissioner Smith:** When the original contract was put together we actually had longer response times in the doughnut hole than the City had on the other side of the doughnut hole. **Commissioner Casterline:** After the storm, Road & Bridge came up with some material that they improved a bunch of those sections substantially. **Commissioner Smith:** Could you do us a favor? Could you put some equal footing in negotiating with you fellas? By that I mean, previously you all struck a deal with the City and we had to take what was left. We don't really like to be treated that way. **Stephany:** I can pass that on to my higher ups, yes sir. **Judge Mills:** Yeah, just because they got a bigger piece of the pie doesn't mean they get the better deal, or a deal first. Thank you Stephany, we appreciate it. **Commissioner Chaney:** Ya'll do a great job. **Stephany:** Thank you.

Judge Mills: Alright Collin, come on up. **Collin Jackson:** Yes, well what this actually entails is replacing a good chunk of the hardware or what we replaced about six years ago. We had replaced all of our servers, they've now survived a Hurricane, the wear and tear on them is starting to show, we had hardware that failed earlier this year, we managed to pull it off but it's warranty expires in 2020. We've renewed it once, renewing it again will become more cost

ineffective rather than ripping it out and replacing it. So this budget increase factors in replacing all of our virtualized server hardware. **Commissioner Smith:** What's the switch there from \$90,000 going from one area to another? **Collin:** The Auditors suggested I move all of our data connections, internet, mobile hotspots, and phone services in my department, have all been moved into the telephone line, instead of Maintenance Agreements, to be in line with all of the other departments. **Commissioner Smith:** Now, this \$89,000 that's down there. **Suzy:** On your report these numbers don't reflect, because we got these printed before, but it's the \$89,000 and the \$8,000 that we talked about this morning. See on that line 570. **Commissioner Smith:** So that takes it from \$19,000 up to \$263,037. So the bottom number for proposed 2020 is \$1,150,324. And County Court at Law goes down to what, \$200,000? **Jacky:** County Court at Law is \$593,463. **Commissioner Smith:** This is a really good estimate for what you think you're going to need, you don't have any fluff in there? **Collin:** This is a very good estimate, I took pretty much all of the fluff out and I left maybe 1% in there. **Commissioner Smith:** I have a quick question for you, come next year when we are limited to the 3 1/2%, are you going to run IT on 3 1/2% a year? **Collin:** Sure. **Commissioner Smith:** Ok. **Judge Mills:** Judge Bianchi, it's your turn. **Judge Bianchi:** I did leave one thing off and since Collin is here I'd like to bring it up first. I did not ask for any money for a sound system in here and I know it's been discussed in the past, the biggest problem we have is from the witness box. I was told it was back ordered and that's been some time ago and I don't know what the status of that is. **Collin:** That was kind of pushed back onto Northstar and they wouldn't do it because of the ADA compliance, the first quote was \$3,000 and then the ADA report came in and the vendors then amended their quotes to include ADA compliance and that increased it to almost \$20,000 on the hardware components that would be necessary for that compliance. **Commissioner Laubach:** In our own meetings in here, I often hear from the public that they can't hear us and it's not legal, it's wrong. **Judge Mills:** Ok, well, I'll check into that. **Judge Bianchi:** Alright, in my budget you see the bottom line has gone up \$79,584 and \$60,000 of that is Attorney's Fees and that is just an uncontrolled number. **Commissioner Smith:** How did you come up with that number? **Judge Bianchi:** Well, we went back and for this year we projected \$115,000 and that number was a wishing and a hoping, but if you look back at the 2018 number it's just about what we are asking for here. **Commissioner Smith:** Have any of these changes in the State telling us how much we have to pay them? **Judge Bianchi:** There is not a standard for what we have to pay them per hour, but the hourly fees are not high, I frankly don't know how they can make a living doing this but, the fact is that we've got over 100 kids in the system right now that are in Foster Homes from this County, it's the volume of cases, it's rare that anyone makes over \$1,000 on a given case. **Commissioner Smith:** But we've spent \$55,000 in five months, we've been running the same kind of keel that we normally do? **Judge Bianchi:** I don't think so, it seemed slower at the beginning of the year but it's running on up there now, I just didn't want to under budget like we have before. **Commissioner Laubach:** Has it really changed that much since the beginning of the year? **Judge Bianchi:** It's just that at the end of the year you have some up and downs, like any law practice does, sometimes there's a rush at the end of the year, sometimes there's a lag, and there's just not anyway to predict it. There's not magic in that number, I just essentially went back to 2018 and said, well what did we actually spend. **Commissioner Laubach:** Well it looks like there wasn't anything going on up through 2017 and then it really jumped up in 2018, is there something special going on? **Judge Bianchi:** Well, there were a lot of cases that lagged, that didn't get filed for a period of time because of storm, and it may as well go back to the way it was before 2018. These cases are Criminal, CPS, and our Juvenile cases and one of the areas that we are going to run higher on is

our Juvenile cases. We've had four or five sexual assault cases by Juveniles just this year and we just haven't had that before. The biggest shock along the way is the CPS cases, we are running far above the National Average on a percentage basis of our population. CPS tells me that about 2 1/2% of our children population are in Foster Care compared to say, Nueces County, which is at 1%, it's hard to explain why that is, but a significant amount of it is parents on drugs.

Crime Stoppers and Rockport Community Pool - Joe Reikers:

Joe: There was an agreement in the past when the Charter was severed and re-deferred and distributed, that the County Contribution was going to be proportionately \$45,000. Over the course of history that was reduced and currently stands at \$30,000. Typically I come to Commissioners Court with a bunch of charts and graphs and demonstrate the portion of County utilization, I did not do that this year. We are empathetic since the County Revenue is down, so in short we are just asking for the same \$30,000. **Commissioner Casterline:** What would you have to raise the rates to for people that actually use the pool to pay for the expense of the pool?

Joe: Probably about \$11 and change. If we offset it to resident and non-resident, the resident price would go from \$5 to \$8 and I don't know what the non-residents would be. **Commissioner Casterline:** Is that \$5.00 for a day? **Joe:** Yes, now if you buy a pass, it's 50 cents a day,

\$180 gets you in all year. **Commissioner Casterline:** How many days does an average person go to the pool? **Joe:** Well the people who buy the yearly pass attend about 200 days out of the year. We did increase the rental fees, we weren't even breaking even, so we did that to offset some costs, we changed operational systems which substantially reduced the costs. **Commissioner Casterline:** It would be nice if it were set up, like our Transfer Station, where the people who use it pay for it. **Commissioner Chaney:** That would make it cost prohibitive for so many people, we try to go once a week and I take six kids. **Commissioner Casterline:** Why should I pay for it? **Commissioner Chaney:** That would be \$66.00 per visit, so we would not do that because I couldn't afford it and there are a lot of other people who could not afford it. So what you might gain in revenues per ticket, I think you would lose in attendance. **Commissioner Smith:** You mentioned when you first started about an agreement, do you have a copy of that agreement? **Joe:** I don't have one with me, I will get it to you, I'll send it to the Judge's office. **Commissioner Smith:** When this started Judge Guillory, at that time, committed no more than three years, so that might pre-date some of this other stuff, I don't know. **Judge Mills:** Ok, let's go to Crime Stoppers. **Joe:** Ok, I'm Joe Reikers, I'm on the board of Aransas County Crime Stoppers, this is the first time that we have come before the Commissioners to ask for any sort of contribution towards revenue. I have two things to talk about, one is basically how Crime Stoppers functions with the money and the other is about how we partnered with the canvas. We have a P3 TIPS Program which is suddenly why we need some money. **Commissioner Smith:** How much money are you looking for? **Joe:** As much as you will give us sir. I have a budget and this is what we'd like to cover. The electronic P3 System, it's anonymous, it's sanctioned by the state and the office of the governor, but it's not free, we paid \$2,400 for it last year. The Crime Stoppers was established in Aransas County about 15 years ago, but the State has changed the requirements on it, currently we have three retired law enforcement officers on the board and then we have a partnership with all of the law enforcement in Aransas County, typically the Constable does not participate and the Game Wardens participate hit or miss. (Joe went on to explain how the P3 System works). **Joe:** Texas Local Government Code 351.901(b) authorizes Commissioner's Courts to donate up to \$25,000 per year to a certified Crime Stoppers

Organization. We cannot use public donations for operating costs, those donations can only be used for the reward money. What we really need is money for media and advertising to get the word out there. The Rockport Pilot is running a little column for free, but we would like to work with them to get an Unsolved Crime Section or a Crime of the Week or Month Section. We would like to have more small flyers for the school, in particular, and also for other Community entities, like the Chamber, Center for the Aging, we would like to have something printed that people could take with them and to hand out in the RV Parks, we get lots of tips from the RV Parks. The State and the Crime Stoppers Council recommends billboards at the point of entries to the town which is about \$240 a month for the basic billboard. **Commissioner Laubach:** What entity runs the P3 now? **Joe:** P3 TIPS is run by a company called Andrews, which is a software company, they have a contract with the State and also the Governor. **Commissioner Laubach:** Who is the entity that we would be writing a check to? **Joe:** Aransas County Crime Stoppers, Inc. 501c3, and contributions are supposed to be labeled Operating Funds or Reward. **Commissioner Laubach:** Where does most of the money for your \$6,000 budget come from now? **Joe:** A variety of places, like Oysterfest and Seafair. **Commissioner Laubach:** So you get sponsors and you do fundraisers. **Joe:** Yes ma'am, but we have not had a Sponsor yet. The Operating Funds is where we are short and if you can help us out it would really be appreciated. **Commissioner Smith:** So, how much is the City kicking in? **Joe:** Right, so the City, I don't think they are donating anything, they gave us a designated officer with time, as did the Sheriff, but if you read the Statute, the only authorized entity that can donate is County Commissioners, it does not provide for a Municipality. **Commissioner Smith:** I think they could do it if they wanted to. **Judge Mills:** Thank you, you do a great job.

Hannah Miller, Executive Director for the Rockport Cultural Arts District: I am here requesting \$10,000 for the Kite Festival, you awarded \$5,000 last year for the event and the Board asked me to come back and ask for a little bit more this year. **Commissioner Smith:** How did it work out last year, did you make any money off of it? **Hannah:** So, this is the first year that it was profitable, we only cleared \$100, this is the first full year that they've done it, they brought it back from the 80's. Last year they did what they call a fun fly to test it out, it was a free family event. This year we decided to try to make some profit by renting out Food Vendor spaces and selling T-Shirts, so that was helpful. In the future what we would like to do is make it a closed-in festival, still make it free and family friendly but then invite vendors, make it a little bigger and partner with the Maritime Museum, maybe have more of a kids section. We had over 500 kids kites created and flown while we were there over a two day period, since there wasn't a controlled entrance and exit point, which we will do next year, we did counts throughout the day to try and get an idea of how many people were there. We had zip code collectors walking around talking to the groups, 82% were outside of Rockport and out of that 82%, 47% were from 75 miles or further, so they possibly stayed in hotels here. **Commissioner Laubach:** How many people do you think attended? **Hannah:** We estimate about 5,000 plus. **Commissioner Smith:** You say you cleared \$100 and we donated \$5,000? **Hannah:** Well the \$5,000 was put towards marketing. **Commissioner Smith:** So you only need \$4,900 this year? **Hannah:** I'm sure we will be happy with whatever you decide to give us. **Commissioner Smith:** Who else contributed to this event? **Hannah:** The City for operating costs and I believe it was \$2,500. **Commissioner Laubach:** Have you thought about charging an entrance fee? **Hannah:** We were wanting to keep it free but this year, so I stepped into this position in February and they had no plans to sell water, T-Shirts, or anything, they were just going to collect money off of food vendors and I said, "Maybe we need

to make some money for future festivals", so we got HEB to donate water and sodas, we did not make a whole lot off of those due to the proximity of the food vendors, but we sold all but two of the larger T-Shirts, so we will have more of the kids T-Shirts on hand, charge a little more, and maybe that will be an income generator. **Commissioner Smith:** So how much is the City kicking in this year? **Hannah:** They haven't decided yet, they don't decide until July.

Commissioner Smith: That festival is held on the grounds in the City of Rockport, right?

Hannah: Yes sir. **Commissioner Smith:** Can you give me some factors that entered in to the fact of why you want \$10,000 from us and you only got \$2,500 from the City? **Hannah:** When we asked

for \$10,000 from the City, we were asking this amount that included a bunch of other events, the Harvey Block Party, Visions of Sand at Christmas, the Shopping Tournament. **Judge Mills:** Ok, thank you for coming. **Hannah:** Thank you.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. H. Mills, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Valerie K. Amason", written over a horizontal line.

VALERIE K. AMASON,

EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT