



# MINUTES

## Aransas County Commissioners Court

9:00 AM – Monday, June 27, 2022

The Aransas County Commissioners Court met in **Regular Session** on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 9:00 AM, in the Aransas County Courthouse, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Texas.

Present: **C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.**, County Judge  
**Jack Chaney**, Commissioner Precinct 1-1A  
**Leslie Casterline**, Commissioner, Precinct 2  
**Pat Rousseau**, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
**Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4

Absent:

### I. Call to Order & Pledges

The meeting convened at 9:00 AM, followed by pledges to the American and Texas flags.

II. **The Invocation** was given by County Commissioner Pat Rousseau.

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

### IV. Citizens to be Heard –

*Jeff Hutt addressed the Court:*

My name is Jeff Hutt, 2201 Prairie Road, I'm here today in my official capacity as the navigation district's representative to the local government corporation. I have been out of town for the weekend, so it came to my attention late yesterday evening that there would be four agenda items on today's Commissioner Court meeting agenda regarding a submission to the Commissioner's Court by the Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation (the LGC) for changes to be made to the corporation's bylaws. These are Agenda Items are 15, 16, 17, and 18.

I am a Director of the Aransas County Alliance Local Government Corporation and our board never voted to approve new bylaws nor to submit a request to the Sponsoring Entities - ACND, Fulton, Rockport, and the County - to approve any changes. Furthermore, the LGC does not have a lawyer retained to draft new bylaws, nor funds to pay for a lawyer to draft new bylaws, and our board has never voted to engage a lawyer to do work for the corporation pro bono to draft new bylaws. The corporation's initial bylaws were drafted by Kim Foutz and Will Whitson of the Long-term Recovery group and approved by the Commissioner's Court for consideration by then Aransas County Attorney Kristen Barnebey's office. However, its final version was adopted after extensive revision by the Navigation District's General Counsel Gerald Benadam.

The bylaw changes in the documents being presented today to the Commissioner's Court are significant and substantial. If you go back and look through our meetings of the LGC, you'll see we never discussed any changes to the bylaws. We discussed one change and that was moving the quarterly meetings to annual meetings. That was all that was approved. None of the changes increasing the membership or making the LGC contract perpetual each year, none of these things, were ever discussed by us. I do not know who is presenting this to you today but they do not represent the LGC. There was no vote taken on it.

As a director of the LGC, I'm very concerned about the legality of individuals representing a local government corporation which is an organization that's created and defined under the State's statutes. I would ask you not to approve these today, and I would ask that the County Attorney's office look into who submitted these bylaws and who submitted this request. Thank you.

## V. Presentations –

### 1. Aransas County Workforce Development Center Project Status Update

**John Jackson, Aransas County Partnership Economic Development Corporation Director and Past Chairman**, shared a brief recap on this initiative from its 2020 beginning—including the Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant application, the 12-member committee Mr. Jackson chaired to study and recommend a plan of action during the due diligence period, the visit to Del Mar College which resulted in a partnership relationship and, ultimately, a written Memorandum of Understanding with the applicant, Aransas County, for Del Mar to operate the facility and provide curriculum and training if the grant was awarded, the search for a suitable site for the center, and then securing the north building of the former Little Bay Primary campus—to its \$1.7M U.S. Department of Commerce EDA grant award for the Aransas County Workforce Development and Entrepreneurship Center in January of 2021. The grant required a 20% match. The EDC was able to raise more than that (\$438K) in local, mostly private, funds within two weeks. So, the project was and is a true public and private partnership, with Aransas County as the owner of the land and improvements and Del Mar College as the operating partner providing the curriculum and training for high school students, college students, senior citizens, or others needing workforce skills, training, and certification for higher paying jobs in the area.

*Now to bring you up-to-date. Back in January of 2021, the total project costs to purchase the building and retrofit it for this application were estimated at \$2.1M. It should be no surprise to anyone now, though, that the estimated cost of construction material then was significantly lower than today's cost estimates, and so that creates a need for raising additional funds and/or a scaled-down version of our earlier expectations and plans.*

*We have a preliminary plan to raise these funds; but, as of yet, have only one pending application for funds on file and several other prospects if we fall short and need additional funding. In the meantime, we have finalized construction plans and engineering specifications, and we need to find a general contractor. Del Mar College*

*is planning to start classes this summer in a temporary location (First Baptist Church in Rockport). Also, the large task force that I'm a part of has been meeting bi-weekly for months. From that committee, we have two other key players here to share additional information with you today. And, if you have questions, we can take them afterwards. The first is John Strothman from Aransas County. Following him will be Lenora Keys from Del Mar College.*

**John Strothman, Aransas County Project Manager**, talked about the project dates, costs, and support.

- The grant amount was approved in February of 2021.
- We have a five year period on the grant so the end date is February 9, 2026, so we have time to work on this project.
- The total grant amount for the project was \$2,138,731
  1. the EDA contribution was \$1,700,000
  2. the local match was \$438,000, and it was broken down into two categories:
    - a. \$332,000 cash and
    - b. \$106,000 worth of in-kind services provided by people
- The property purchase price was \$1,096,000.
- He took over the project six months ago after Kim Foutz left.
- We've been working with Del Mar, GrantWorks (our grant administrator), John Jackson, the architect, and the MEP (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) engineer to develop plans, specifications, and a budget for this project.
- We just received the plans and specifications last Wednesday, so we haven't much time with them.
- We will come back again as soon as we have a better idea about how we can go about accomplishing this project.
- There are five in-kind donors in this project:
  1. Del Mar College—they have done a lot of the upfront work and have contributed their IT design and a lot of materials,
  2. Turner|Ramirez has been providing the architectural services,
  3. City of Rockport will be providing us with taps and other things (fire flow line, fire line) so we can make this building independent of the building next door,
  4. Aransas County ISD is in the building right now working on it (off and on between their own projects), removing all of the old low voltage wiring, IT and telephone stuff, and
  5. Aransas County is also going to be working on the building. I'm developing a list with Rene and other department heads to see what

all they can do to help get the building ready for the general contractor.

- Once we have a better handle on design and cost, what can and cannot be done, it'll make our ability to go out and get additional funds a lot easier.
- Once EDA approves this project, they have to approve everything we're doing—the plans, specification, everything—and we're going to go out for permits.
- We have RFPs for our general contractor. The bidding process will take two to three months, and then we go into construction time—which will be eight months, ten months tops.
- It's not looking like we're going to get this project done in 2022, for sure, but we will get it done in 2023.

**Lenora Keas, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Del Mar College,** gave a brief PowerPoint presentation entitled, Aransas County Workforce Development Center. In it, she discussed the Aransas County Partnership Economic Development Corporation, which started with a visual summary of most of what Mr. Jackson and Mr. Strothman touched on.

She then moved onto Programs/Areas of Study they plan to focus on, which included: Building Trades, Public Safety (such as paramedic), Light Industrial/Manufacturing, Health Sciences, Construction Skills Credentials, Computer Science, Drafting and Design, Maritime, Professional Enrichment, and Small Business Entrepreneurship. The Health Sciences is an area that they intend to start this summer as soon as we can.

*We are working right now on a partnership with First Baptist Church to go ahead and start those health sciences programs (in mid- to late-July) for certified nurse, phlebotomy, and the like. In addition to that, we are also going to start some maritime programs there. And, we plan to bring in a mobile construction unit. We've done that over here since 2017, with Rebuild Texas after Hurricane Harvey, and it was very successful. The programs we provide are tied to the Texas Workforce Commission in-demand job occupations and we tie those to the region. Most of them can receive supplemental funding from the Texas Workforce Commission and they do lead to jobs within this region, so those are the programs we focus on.*

Ms. Keas then showed a floor plan for the new Aransas County Workforce Development Center with its color-coded legend showing the classroom space by areas of study and administration space. She also showed the more-detailed plans and specs that were completed by Turner|Ramirez Architects (Corpus Christi) and expressed her gratitude to them for donating this significant work and, specifically, to Philip Ramirez who grew up in Portland. These detailed plans are required to move forward for bid and to submit to the EDA for final approval.

Like Jackson and Strothman, she also touched on the impact of inflation on the construction and budget. Then she spoke about Del Mar College's accreditation through Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS

or SACSCOC) and the goal of having our Aransas County site fully accredited. To that end, Del Mar will submit a request by July 1, 2022 for Off-Campus Site Substantive Change (Sub-C) for the expansion of programs at Aransas County Workforce Development Center.

*SACS accreditation will endorse credit courses taught onsite, transferability, and student eligibility for financial aid assistance. SACSCOC is the regional accreditation that accredits the University of Texas, Texas A&M, or any major college or university in the State of Texas. For us to open up a new site, we have to have preliminary approval and accreditation—and we've done all that work. And, I share this with you today kind of as a reassurance as to the determination and dedication that Del Mar has to this project. For us to receive accreditation for the site is significant. It is being submitted and we will find out; it takes about a year to come back. But, all of our sites are accredited, as you may know. We offer dual credit courses right now at Rockport-Fulton High School and that site is approved and accredited by SACS, just like all of our other dual credit sites, our centers, and our campuses. So, I offer this to show part of the work that has taken place over the last six months really.*

She then took and answered questions from the Court.

**VI. Consent Agenda:**

2. Minutes from the June 13, 2022, Regular Meeting
3. Anonymous donation of \$50 to the Aransas County Assistance Department – Crime Victims Program
4. Memorial donation of \$100 from H. D. Schultz and C. E. Schultz to the Aransas County Library to purchase books
5. \$500 donation from Wendy Laubach to Aransas County Animal Control for supplies
6. \$100 donation from Richard Burchfield to Aransas County Animal Control for supplies
7. \$50 donation from David Glocar to Aransas County Animal Control for supplies
8. \$50 donation from Mr. Smith to Aransas County Animal Control for supplies
9. \$1,000 donation from Jensen Smith to Aransas County Animal Control for supplies
10. \$100 donation from Karen Small to Aransas County Animal Control for supplies

**Motion** by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Consent Items; seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

## VII. County Reports:

### 11. NOT AN ACTION ITEM: Compliance with Local Government Code 113.002 Concern

Commissioner Rousseau was concerned to learn that a few department heads and/or officials did not respond in a timely manner back to the Auditor after they were informed of County Internal Audit findings (which included a request for response), so she wanted to address the compliance issue with the Court.

After some discussion—which included County Auditor Jacky Cockerham—Commissioner Laubach suggested a Letter of Memorandum from the Court issued by Judge Mills, to stress the issue and raise the level of attention. Judge Mills was agreeable. And, Assistant County Attorney Jen O'Steen confirmed that the Judge could issue a letter or a memorandum on behalf of the Commissioners' Court based on this conversation.

**Commissioner Chaney:** *I would suggest that if responses don't come back in a timely manner that they be brought to the Commissioners' Court publicly to discuss why a particular department didn't respond.*

**Auditor Cockerham:** *We could put them on the agenda—or whatever we need to do to get the responses.*

**Commissioner Laubach:** *If we have some pending now, then we have a lot of sort of backed up issues that you ought to get a response to in the next few days. Maybe the thing to do is to take this up at the next meeting in two weeks and see if any of the backlog was cleared up in the meantime.*

**Auditor Cockerham:** *We can do that. Yes, ma'am.*

**Commissioner Laubach:** *And, I suppose it would be appropriate for the County Auditor just to send out a reminder notice for anything that's pending over the last 18 months and didn't get answered. Then, we could discuss that in two weeks.*

**Auditor Cockerham:** *We can do that too to make sure we get everything cleared up.*

**Commissioner Rousseau:** *And, again, I want to state that there is no indication that there is any kind of major problem. I just think it is important that if recommendations have been made from the Auditor's office, they should be followed up upon. I think, overall, the County's department heads and elected officials are doing a very good job managing their department budgets.*

**Commissioner Laubach:** *I agree, and I don't want to give anybody the impression that I know of anything that's a concern. I don't. But, this is a procedural issue. The whole point of auditing rules is that they are sort of a tripwire. They make it likely that you'll find out if something is of concern. So, even if you don't have any concerns yet, you should have procedures that will give you warning if ever one comes up in the future.*

## VIII. County Roads and Floodplain:

### 12. Lot Size Variance

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to approve a variance on Aransas County's Subdivision regulations on minimum lot size to allow the replat of real property located at 200 West Pompano from two lots into one lot; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

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

#### IX. Contracts, Agreements, Grants, and Leases:

##### 13. Increased Fee for PGAL

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to approve a request to increase the allowed fee for Professional Services to PGAL by \$47,375 to compensate PGAL for the additional architectural work associated with the re-design of the Community Building at the Downtown Anchor Project, with the funds for the increased fee to be reallocated from grant funds available under the General Land Office (GLO) Contract #20-065-098-C270; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

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

##### 14. GLO Contract Change

There was confusion on the wording of this item. The Court attempted clarification but it appeared that information was needed from a County employee who was in but not in attendance, so the Court left this item to return to it later this meeting.

*After item 19, Assistant County Attorney Jen O'Steen, asked the Court to return to this item due to the arrival of Latisha Murphy to the meeting. They agreed. Here is that discussion:*

**Latisha Murphy:** *This was not ever considered in-kind. This was local funds that were to be contributed by the County for the GLO grant. Under a recent review of a draw request, the amount that would show under the local funds in the GLO State Contract did not reflect the \$2,500 in appraisal services for the RCA parking lot. The GLO has requested this to be a formal change request to add that dollar amount in to the complete total of the County funding that was previously obligated towards this grant.*

**Commissioner Laubach:** *I may still be confused. Does that mean we originally thought it would be cash from the County and instead...*

**Murphy:** *It's always been cash from the County.*

**Laubach:** *Right, but the original application was written up so that it would be cash from the County and the change is what—we found somebody to do an in-kind on our behalf instead or what?*

**Murphy:** *There was never in-kind.*

**Laubach:** *So, what are we changing?*

**Murphy:** *The RCA parking lot appraisal services for \$2,500 was not ever included.*

**Laubach:** Ah, so it was zero in the budget before and we've found a new good thing and it takes the form of an in-kind contribution by the public

**Murphy:** In-kind should not be used. It was not ever

**O'Steen:** So, it's on the agenda item.

**Murphy:** The agenda item is wrong.

**Laubach:** Remember the public came up with a cash contribution

**Murphy:** The public was never requested to come up with money.

**Laubach:** Where did the money come from?

**Murphy:** This was always to come from the County. The \$2,500 appraisal services were already paid by the County but it was not included in the State Contract to reflect that \$2,500 as the other funds that are showing there for the \$16,000 were. I think the confusion that is persisting with this is because it does state in-kind [on the item] and that is incorrect.

**Laubach:** Okay. In the original application, we did not mention \$2,500 that we intended to use for an appraisal and we then actually spent the \$2,500 and need to change the data?

**Murphy:** Yes. It needs to be stated

**Laubach:** And, the reason that it was stated that way was because, presumably, when the Commissioners' Court met and approved the grant, we didn't approve this part. And, again, I realize it's a small amount but I'm just trying to make sure we're running the right traps for when we make a change and what the County is committed to do.

**Murphy:** I was not a part of the application process, so I was not

**Laubach:** But, you're saying

**Murphy:** It's not how this was created originally, but the GLO grant manager, John Bastero, noticed that this \$2,500 is not reflected as showing County obligation and needs to be clarified and ratified to be included in the State Contract.

**Laubach:** So, one thing that could have happened is that we didn't put it in the grant application though we meant to and now we're fixing that. The other is we did put it in the grant application but somehow it didn't show up in the GLO's records and we're sort of ratifying that and those are different because one involves a decision we made a couple of years ago to approve a certain expenditure level that we're not changing it just didn't get in the paperwork. Alternatively, we meant to include it a couple of years ago when we approved it but we left it out somehow and now we want to fix that. One involves agreeing to spend money that we didn't previously agree to spend and so we need to make sure the record reflects that we've thought about why we should spend the money, we wish we'd always done it from the start, and we don't have any problem with it now.

**Murphy:** This money has already been spent. I don't have the records in front of me. I was not prepared to come in here this morning. It could have been done before the RCA parking lot was



**Laubach:** *It could have been spent in an innocent error. I don't have any problem with it. It's just that the way you clean it up is different if that's what happened. Even if we meant it to be in the application but somehow—who knows how—that line item got dropped, now we want to fix it, it's a different kind of record that we make. I'm just not sure what happened.*

**Murphy:** *And, this is the GLO and GrantWorks recommendation to correct the \$2,500 not reflected in the State Contract by submitting this change request number 4.*

**Commissioner Chaney:** *I have a question for Ms. O'Steen. Should we put this back on the agenda worded differently? Or, is the wording okay?*

**Osteen:** *I think that we probably should go ahead and strike this item and bring it back at the next meeting with the correct wording and I will work with Tish and Jacky on it so we can make sure that we do it correctly. I do think that that \$2,500 was always part of the project. It's just that the GLO has to document what portion of costs were done as a local match and that \$2,500 was part of the County's contribution. It's not part of our record that's being corrected. It's the GLO's record.*

**Laubach:** *Nevertheless, my decision whether to correct it with the GLO depends on whether we have fixed whatever we did wrong internally.*

**O'Steen:** *I don't know that we did anything.*

**Laubach:** *We may not have. That's what I need to know...*

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to **TABLE** approving Change Request No. 4 to the General Land Office State Contract #20-065-098-C270 [due to confusion with the item wording]; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

**Vote:** Motion to **TABLE** carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

15. LGC Bylaws Amendment (see below)
16. LGC Articles of Incorporation Amendment (see below)
17. Interlocal for Continuation of LGC (see below)
18. LGC Resolution (see below)

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to **TABLE agenda items 15-18**; seconded by Commissioner Laubach.

Commissioner Rousseau asked for them to be tabled because the commissioners did not receive redlined documents comparing what was to what is being proposed.

Assistant County Attorney O'Steen said she would email them to her later today.

Commissioner Laubach agreed with Commissioner Rousseau and also thought Mr. Hutt's comments raised a very serious concern about who originated this change and the fact that it was presented to us in a way that, at least, implied that the LGC was behind it—which doesn't seem to be the case. She wanted to find out who this was coming from.

**O'Steen:** *The drafts sent to her were from John Bell. He performed the work on behalf of LGC. They were sent to me for review, and I revised them on behalf of the County. It is my understanding that the LGC did vote on some kind of item at their most recent meeting and I think there are a couple of people here in the room that were there that day that could speak to that.*

**Laubach:** *Clearly the LGC did have a vote on the question from changing from quarterly to annual meetings but there are six or seven changes here that they, evidently, didn't vote on. And, Mr. Bell may consider himself to be acting on behalf of the LGC, but the LGC's board director is here telling us he's not been hired so there's just something missing and we could use a couple of weeks to straighten it all out.*

**Judge Mills:** *Mr. Meek, will you explain Mr. Bell's connection?*

**Michael Meek:** *Thank you, Judge. Michael Meek, Interim President for another few days of the Aransas County Partnership EDC. The LGC did meet on May 4<sup>th</sup> and voted on items 3a and 3b, as I recall, to amend the bylaws.*

*One reason for this is, that at the end of this year, the LGC times out unless the interlocal agreements are renewed. The other reason is that when you adopted incentive policies back in February and the City of Rockport adopted theirs in March, it created a process to where those entities—your Commissioners' Court, for example—is in control of their process for an economic development incentive. It doesn't roll through another entity like an LGC, so it puts the County in direct control of that process. Also, the board of the LGC also said there's no reason to make financial contributions after the end of this year. If the LGC wants to contract directly with one of the entities, they could do so.*

*[note: In his speaking, Mr. Meek substituted EDC in the previous sentence for LGC and also in the second sentence in his first paragraph above. When asked about it, he didn't realize he had made this mistake but confirmed, in either case, that he meant to say LGC so it has been changed accordingly.]*

*You've had a system for two years where it's been kind of a one-size-fits-all, so all those things were talked about—including not doing away with the LGC because it's a 501(c)(3) and they're very hard to create. Keep it alive but just go to annual meetings unless another one is called. So, in the absence of not having any paid retainers, Mr. Bell, who had worked on some of the original documentation, offered to do this. The LGC and the local entities are not paying for any of these drafts. The idea was that the drafts would come to the entities. As Mr. Hutt said, the entities look at these drafts, they make their changes to them, and then we have a special meeting of the LGC to consider all of the changes. So, this is a process we're going through to try to get to the end but there's a lot of steps we have to go to in order to get there.*

**Laubach:** *Mr. Meek's comments only raised my concerns to a higher level because you keep talking about "we" and "what John Bell believed he was doing on behalf on the LGC" and so forth and the LGC board did not vote to authorize any of that so I understand that there are people outside the LGC who have an agenda here but I am not hearing that it properly went through the LGC board except for the limited issue of changing from a quarterly to an annual meeting and that's what we need clarified.*

**Meek:** *There were more things voted on besides that.*

**Laubach:** *We have a board member here who says not, and I follow those meetings as well. We need a couple of weeks to sort that out.*

**Meek:** *It was on Zoom. It was a three to one vote. We have the minutes. There's nothing nefarious going on.*

**Laubach:** *That's something we should work out in the next couple of weeks. Whether it's nefarious or not, it's quite irregular and the line of communication and authority has been significantly blurred. I would like it clarified before we vote.*

**Jeff Hutt:** *The agenda item that Mr. Meek is talking about was simply to move from quarterly meetings to yearly meetings. My concern is, first of all, I never meant to imply that the County Attorney's office redid these. John Bell is not our attorney. John Bell is the EDC's attorney. So, what you have here is the corporation, the private company, which does not have an open meeting requirement, contracting out writing new bylaws on their own. We never approved any of the bylaws except for the one change that I mentioned, and we never approved bringing those bylaws to the Commissioners' Court.*

**Commissioner Chaney:** *I don't mind tabling it but it seems like we're making a lot of to do over nothing. I'm not sure I understand.*

**Laubach:** *The fact that we don't really understand what the controversy is is exactly the reason to table.*

**Meek:** *May I make a suggestion so that all the cards continue to be on the table? Now, that the county legal has made some changes to documents which were given as drafts just to start the process, let the LGC have a Special Meeting to consider these amendments to the bylaws and everything else, and then we could come back to Commissioners' Court with the actions of the LGC.*

**Rousseau:** *That sounds like a good idea; but, when that's done, could we still see the initial statements versus the proposed ones?*

**Meek:** *Yes.*

**Rousseau:** *Okay. Thank you. I think that's a very good suggestion, Mr. Meek.*

**Vote:** Motion to **TABLE items 15-18** carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

## **X. Planning and Budget Office:**

### **19. Treasurer's Report**

**Motion** by Commissioner Rousseau to approve the May 2022 Treasure's Report; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

### **20. Auditor's Report**

**Motion** by Commissioner Casterline to approve the May 2022 Monthly Auditor's Report; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

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

**21. Annual Financial Report**

**Motion** by Commissioner Chaney to accept the Aransas County Annual Financial Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2021 as presented June 13, 2022, by Wayne Beyer, Beyer and Company, Certified Public Accountants; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

**22. Capital Credits**

**Motion** by Commissioner Casterline to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign the County Request for Capital Credits, and submit to the Texas Comptroller, Unclaimed Property Division, and further authorize the County Treasurer to disburse any said funds received from the Texas Comptroller as follows: One-Half (1/2) to the Aransas County Library Literacy Program and One-Half (1/2) to the Children's Coalition of Aransas County; seconded by Commissioner Rousseau.

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

**23. Rental Supplement Increase**

**Motion** by Commissioner Laubach to approve increasing Rental Supplement paid to South Texas Family Planning and Health Corp, from the current budgeted amount of \$990.00 per month to \$1,000.00 per month, effective for the months of July through December 2022, to be paid out of the Health Care Sales Tax Fund; seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

**24. NOT AN ACTION ITEM:** New Employee Handbook Policy Request Regarding Mental Health Leave for Peace Officers (see below)

**25. NOT AN ACTION ITEM:** Employee Handbook Policy Revision Request Regarding Vacation Leave (see below)

**26. NOT AN ACTION ITEM:** Employee Handbook Policy Revision Request Regarding Emergency Bereavement and Funeral Leave (see below)

**27. NOT AN ACTION ITEM:** Employee Handbook Policy Revision Request Regarding Vesting (see below)

*The above four items were each presented to the Court by Human Resources Director, Linda Doane. Discussion followed on each.*

**28. Budget Line Item Transfers**

**Motion** by Commissioner Casterline to approve Budget Line Item Transfers; seconded by Commissioner Chaney. (Per Auditor Cockerham, there were none.)

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

**29. Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities**

**Motion** by Commissioner Chaney to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities; seconded by Commissioner Casterline. (Auditor Cockerham stated that this included the \$143,880 payment for the new dozer that was budgeted in the 2016 CO—that is the balance of Road & Bridge’s CO money—and it was approved during last Commissioners’ Court. The rest of it: \$42,866 came out of the Road & Bridge fund. Other than that, there’s some Cedar Bayou and a couple of other invoices that were paid out of 430 but not really anything that stands out.)

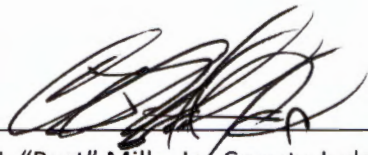
**Vote:** Motion carried 5-0; it was so ordered.

**XI. Reports from Commissioners, Elected Officials & Department Heads – No action will be taken –**

**Commissioner Laubach:** *I just wanted to say it’s been some weeks now since our Regional Pool Alliance representative agreed to get back to us with answers to the questions we did not receive last time she presented to us. I understand that she had a COVID quarantine issue but it’s been many weeks, so it’s surely over. For a while there, we were getting steady email traffic about developments in that field but nothing lately—except a demand from NorthStar for what could be a \$5M charge against the County. I’m really starting to worry about the time that’s going by and we’re not coming to grips with that we’re going to have to do about Regional Pool Alliance. It’s not on the agenda today. I guess I will put it on the agenda for two weeks from now or whenever our next meeting is. I’m hoping that there’s background information. I just not seeing any.*

**XII. Adjournment**

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:29 AM on a motion duly made by Commissioner Rousseau and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., County Judge

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carrie Arrington, Ex-Officio Clerk  
of the Commissioners Court

