

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
WORKSHOP MEETING - AUGUST 06, 2015

On the 6th day of August, 2015, there was a Workshop Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Courthouse, 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; Betty Stiles, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and Valerie K. Amason, County Clerk.

The Meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. at which time a quorum was declared by County Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION

2. General Discussion of 2016 Budget with Elected Officials and Department Heads as scheduled.

Sharron Loflin present for the Department of Public Safety Office. Discussion included the decline on revenue from citations and the expense of keeping this office open. **Jeremy Rowland**, speaking on behalf of the DPS office, stated that they are not here to generate revenue and he feels that they are covering the expense of the Rockport Office with the citations that they write. Three Troopers are assigned to Aransas County, he does not have any control over the border patrol duties they are assigned to and he does not have an answer for the court, their priority at this time is border security. DPS and Sharon stressed that the office in Rockport is

valuable to the Department for processing paperwork, lab submissions and results, presenting cases to County Attorney's office, etc. Jeremy also stated that Texas is a big state and they depend on the County's to help them out. He offered to help the Sheriff's Office with training on DWI arrests. Judge Mills suggested that a meeting be set up for himself, the Sheriff and Lieutenant Carr to get together and discuss this further.

Bill Mills present for discussion on License and Weights.

Concerning the problem with potential revenue, Sheriff Mills stated that one officer is in the office, the other on the shoulder and we are splitting the tickets for the stops with the DPS. With two stations you would have two officers working the two sides and you would not have to split the costs of the stops.

Commissioner Smith pointed out that collections for this Department were: 2010 - \$296,000; 2011 - \$209,000; 2012 - \$207,000; 2013 - \$218,000; 2014 - \$169,000 with an annualized rate of \$29,000. When you get close to budget time, you'd run \$24,000 and all the sudden in the month of July, you wrote \$38,000 in citations. Is this indicative of what we could do every month? **Sheriff:** Well we should be doing better, yes, but we had a discussion with the men on labor costs and we are seeing a trend over in our direction and he understands. **Smith:** We are looking at a decline from last year on an annualized basis of \$120,000, that's one-half a cent on our tax rate, for whatever it's worth. I know we're not here to profit, but every time we lose revenues, someone has to pick up the tab. Maybe we will have a positive variance in the future.

Virginia Easton Smith present for the Agriculture Extension office. This office requested \$2,500 in capital outlay, estimated cost for computers or whatever else they may need. The IT department does not fund computers for the Extension office because they are on a cost

share with the State - A&M Extension. The A&M pays a percentage on their salaries, computers and sometimes training. A&M furnishes and installs the software on their computers. Collin services the computer for the Administrative Assistant and A&M services the other two. This department has three Part Time regular employees and two appointed Temporary Officials. Mention was made that this department may be requiring a newer vehicle in the future. Mike Gordon had stated that he may be able to keep the current one running for another year.

The Commissioners' Court then went into discussion about the requests made, which requests they might possibly be considering and if there was enough money in the budget to cover these requests.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 11:53 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Chaney duly seconded by Commissioner Smith.

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

VALERIE K. AMASON,
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT