

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 8, 2014

On the 8th day of July, 2014, there was a Special Meeting of the Commissioner' Court at the Rockport Service Center, 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; Betty Stiles, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Richard Bianchi, County Attorney; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer; and Pat Rousseau, Human Resources Director.

Rockport Mayor C. J. Wax and Councilmen Rusty Day, J. D. Villa, Pat Rios, and Barbara Gurtner were present.

Fulton Mayor Jimmy Kendrick and Councilmen Craig Bohn, Leslie Cole, Larry Pahmiyer and Beverly Garis were present.

The Meeting was convened at 1:30 p.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 AND/OR ACTION

ARANSAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - CONSULTANT REPORT

Warren Hassinger made a detailed presentation on his review and analysis of the Aransas County Emergency Medical Services. The objective of his project was to examine the efficiency, effectiveness and long-term viability of the Aransas County EMS organization. The scope of the review and analysis included records, reports and filings for Fiscal Years 2009 through year-to-date 2014.

(Report inserted)

Commissioner Casterline asked what the average collection rate is. Mr. Hassinger replied mid 40% at best after backing out what Medicare and Medicaid will not pay. He also stated they could collect more with additional effort.

Commissioner Chaney asked how effective the EMS is and whether or not it is necessary to replace ambulances at the same time. Mr. Hassinger replied even replacing with new motors you still have old drive trains and chassis. He also stated the EMS provides excellent medical care. The EMS is requesting \$720,000.00 for 911 operating costs and \$180,000.00 for capital.

Commissioner Stiles asked why they waited so long to bring this problem out and what guarantee does the public have it won't happen again.

Blake McDavid, EMS board member, replied they thought it was a temporary problem that would work itself out. They are proposing a new board structure and they do not think it will happen again.

Bob Mosier, President of the EMS Board, gave a presentation on the Aransas County Medical Services, Inc. that was chartered as a 501 C 3 on December 10, 1975. He stated the projected 2014 annual operating expense is \$1,880,000.00 (including new ambulances). There are no liens on the property.

Dr. Fred Warren is the Medical Director for the Aransas County EMS. Kathy Farmer is the Operations Director of the Aransas County EMS.

(Presentation inserted)

PRESENTATIONS - POTENTIAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

David Phillips, CEO of Allegiance Ambulance, presented their proposal for ambulance service. The proposed cost was \$385,000.00 per year (amortized monthly) for five (5) years with the entities paying the cost of rent. Allegiance is scheduled to take over Guardian EMS in August. Phillips stated they replace their ambulances every two (2) years and they would be available for local events at no additional charge. They will have two (2) ambulances in the County 24 hours a day and if one ambulance goes out of County on a call, they will call an ambulance in from a neighboring city.

(Presentation inserted)

Steve Powell, Coastal Care EMS owner, made the next presentation. He stated he has been in business since 2009. Stephanie Womack is their director and has sixteen (16) years in 911 service mostly in Aransas County having previously been employed by the Aransas County EMS. Powell's proposed cost was \$374,000.00 providing two (2) new ambulances for 911 service, wheelchair van service, and quick response unit.

(Presentation inserted)

Judge Mills asked how Powell would divide the charge among the three (3) entities. Powell suggested the entities would need to "divvy" it up.

Commissioner Stiles stated she had been told Mr. Powell was not certified - Powell replied this was wrong. Powell currently is the backup ambulance provider and stated he would continue to do this but would have to charge a fee.

Dr. Nicole Soto stated that 11% of the time there is a third call out and wanted to know how Allegiance would provide the third ambulance. Phillips replied they have 2.6 ambulances available all the time and would call the third one in an emergency.

July 8, 2014

Stephanie Womack with Coastal Care stated three (3) ambulances are necessary for the County.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned on a motion made by Commissioner Casterline duly seconded by Commissioner Stiles.

C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr. COUNTY JUDGE

PEGGY L. FRIEBELE, COUNTY CLERK &
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT