

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
WORKSHOP MEETING-AUGUST 7, 2013

On the 7th day of August, 2013, there was a Workshop Meeting of the Commissioners' Court held in the Courthouse, Rockport, Aransas County, TX, 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.

Other County Officials present at the beginning was Joy M. Dias, Chief Deputy County Clerk, Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer; Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor, Pam Heard, District Clerk, and David Vyoral, Road and Bridge Administrator. Other Elected Officials and Dept Heads were present at different times of the day. The meeting was convened at 9:00 a. m. at which time a quorum was declared by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

Judge Mills stated the purpose of the workshop was to have general discussion of the 2014 budget with elected officials and department heads

DISTRICT CLERK

Pam Heard addressed the Court stating E-filing will be available in July 2015 and at this time she needs no money for equipment. She would like laptops for the District Judges now, although there is one Judge that will probably not use it. She stated she needs to know who will be paying for Edoc support as she understands there is not a District Judge software or jury software in Tyler. She also gave several reasons why the new software will impact her office adversely. Ms Heard is grateful for step increases. Commissioner Casterline questioned how step increases are put into place. He does not like how some departments ask increases for everyone, some do not ask for anyone. Commissioner Chaney thinks we need a written policy to document step increases.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

David Vyoral reported he has received the "new" used Gradall. It has a 30 day warranty and he is using it. He wants to keep all the other equipment for back up. Discussion centered on special projects, especially the Lamar Road Project.

TREASURER

Alma Cartwright suggested the County move the HR Dept under the County Judge. The HR would still have to work with the Treasurer, but would be supervised by the Judge and Commissioners. Ms Cartwright would like to know how the Court feels on this and they overwhelmingly support this idea. They also want to increase the HR position to a 19-2 step. Ms Cartwright is asking for a cell phone allowance of \$540.00 for herself. In the Assistance Dept, Commissioner Stiles would like more charities to step up and give. Commissioner Smith asked if there are State Mandates concerning the amount of assistance we give. No taxes except the healthcare sales tax support the assistance budget. It also receives grants. Ms Cartwright would like to purchase reuseable bags and quit using plastic. The initial cost would be around \$1000.00. EMS needs a total of \$150,000 for a new ambulance. They are asking we fund \$50,000. All commissioners think we pay too much for our share compared to other entities. Judge Mills thinks we need to meet with the other entities, Commissioner Casterline wants to give our fair share, but no more and let the other entities step up.

When giving out HOT funds, Commissioner Smith wants the organizations to give a detailed balance sheet of their funds. The requested budget of \$275,000 is conservative. Another \$5,000 needs to be added to the Tourism Line for Lamardigras advertising.

IT DEPT

Justin Cook stated he would like to finish current projects before planning any more. Judge Mills asked if he had Edoc support budgeted for the District Clerk's office. Justin did not think they would need Edoc as Tyler would cover their needs. The District Clerk then talked and said the Tyler program does not have a DA or Jury package. There was a Tyler rep in the Courthouse and he was asked the question about a DA package. He said it was in the module that Aransas County purchased. There was not a Jury Module purchased, but he would check on that. Justin and Pam Heard are getting a quote from Edoc also. Ms Heard indicated she could use Records Management for the cost of the Jury Wheel.

The Tyler Rep also indicated the installation of their software is moving along and we should be live Sept 30th.

Mr. Cook is asking to buy 15 new computers. Commissioner Chaney wants a schedule of replacing computers.

AIRPORT

Mr. Gene Johnson, Airport Manager would like to add another employee to increase service. He feels giving better and faster service will increase revenue. The court agreed. He will have to amend his budget.

Mr. Johnson also said he wants John Wendell Rd improved. There is an ongoing conversation with the City of Rockport about this problem.

JUVENILE CASE MANAGER

Judge McGinnis would like to have a new car for the case manager. She also needs walkie talkie or a hand held radio. The court did agree to her request. She also stated some fees will increase on September 1, 2013. She will report the fund balance.

The court recessed at 11:20 A.M. and will return at 1:30 PM.

FLOOD CONTROL

David Reid spoke about some special projects not in CIP. He talked some of the Mesquite Rd bypass project. He indicated easement problems sometimes delays projects. Commissioner Stiles asked if he needs help. He said he could always use more help, but can make do for now.

LICENSE AND WEIGHT

Sheriff Mills would like a new vehicle for L&W. Commissioners indicated not now. The sheriff talked about getting our L&W officer certified for Federal tickets, but the DPS will not allow him to take the class as they say Aransas County is not big enough. This is causing us to lose a lot of revenue.

SHERIFFS OFFICE

Sheriff Mills would like a full time custodian for the jail and Safety Center. He has put officers that had been assigned to Fulton on directive patrol.

JAIL

Sheriff Mills said the food budget is doing so much better. They are buying in bulk and have acquired a big freezer to store food. We are paid \$63.00 a day for Federal Inmates. Sheriff Mills believes we are in good standing to keep Federal Inmates for some time. In the event of a hurricane, the Feds have to take care of them and we have insurance to keep the money coming. Sheriff Mills is asking for a small van for the jail. The commissioners agreed. We already have radios and equipment for it. He also indicated he would like to use inmates more for janitorial services to the county.

VENUE TAX

David Thompson believes the Venue Tax will grow by 7%.

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Jeri Cox is having new software installed. She had to do this as the Appraisal Office got new software. Maintenance cost will go down, but not until next year. She does not have the official effective tax rate at this time.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned. Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Stiles seconded it.
Question. The motion carried unanimously.
It is so ordered.

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

Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk &
Ex-Officio Clerk of the
Commissioners' Court