

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

WORKSHOP MEETING - AUGUST 4, 2011

On the 4th day of August, 2011, there was a Workshop Meeting of the Commissioners' Court held in the Commissioners' Court, 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; Russel Cole, Commissioner Precinct 4; and Joy M. Dias, Chief Deputy County Clerk.

Other County Official present was Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer; Bill Mills, Sheriff, and Pam Heard, District Clerk.

The Meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. at which time a quorum was declared by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

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Judge Mills stated the purpose of the workshop was to hold a general discussion of the 2012 budget with elected officials and department heads  
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COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE

John Debler and John McDavid, Jr. representing GSM Insurors were present to discuss health insurance. Mr. Debler stated the County has not gone out for bid for several years. If the County decides to go out for bid, an RFP will need to be prepared. Mr. Debler suggested this may be a good idea. Kelly Kolodzey from Texas Association of Counties passed out a chart of "grandfathered" medical plans. She noted Aransas County had major claims last year. Ms. Kolodzey did not think other insurors would want Aransas County and after reviewing Ms. Kolodzey's stats, Mr. Debler agreed. Ms. Kolodzey stated being in a pool is beneficial; she will run more plans for the Court to consider. It will be up to the Court to decide if the employee pays more, we have less benefits, or a combination of both. Ms. Kolodzey also stated it is a good idea to make a new employee wait 60-90 days for insurance. Mr. Debler stated more employees are doing the "wellness program" and this helps but it takes time to see the results.

(Reports inserted)

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Mills presented an annual report for August 2010 through July 2011 on calls for service. He also had a Commissary profit report. Sheriff Mills suggested the interlocal agreements for jail service with the City of Fulton and the City of Rockport need to be reviewed to equalize the costs. Sheriff Mills also reported new facilities are being built for

Federal prisoners. These facilities are private. One is in Karnes County and they transport for free. District Attorney Patrick Flanigan informed the Court that State and Feds are cutting facilities and putting more burdens on locals.

Sheriff Mills informed the Court he has consistently cut overtime by re-working schedules. He would like to use the transport officers for security in the courthouse when they are not transporting. This would save around \$18,000.00. He would also like to create or re-name an officer as Commissary Officer. One-half of this officer's salary could be paid from the commissary account.

The Court asked Sheriff Mills what "boarding and traveling" is. These funds would be used in the event of a hurricane to board County prisoners elsewhere. Also there is some travel out of state to pick up and bring prisoners here for Court. These are hard to calculate costs not knowing if a hurricane will happen.

Sheriff Mills was able to cut about \$100,000.00 out of his budget.

(Reports inserted)

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The Court adjourned at 12:15 p.m. and returned to Open Session with all present at 1:30 p.m., and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

IT DEPARTMENT

IT Director Justin Cook presented a letter prepared by Collin Jackson, Senior Network Security Analyst/Senior IT Technician, outlining IT needs. Mr. Cook stated he would be able to lower his budget request. Commissioner Chaney questioned the need for WiFi. Mr. Cook replied the District Judges want it and District Clerk Heard agreed. Cook believes WiFi would eventually eliminate some equipment we now have. Commissioner Chaney did not agree and stated it is not needed in the Library.

(Letter inserted)

County Auditor Kirk gave the Court figures on what revenue the County has coming in and what she thinks we may have left going forward into 2012. Tax Collector-Assessor Jeri Cox gave a hand-out on the tax rate. Commissioner Smith tried to figure revenue with different tax rates. Mineral value is down. Ms. Cox requested some direction from the Court to produce different reports.

County Treasurer Cartwright requested an additional \$1,500.00 in her conference budget so she can attend some schools to get certified. Commissioner Smith questioned Auditor Kirk on vacation time, sick leave and longevity. Ms. Kirk gave explanations and some opinions on personnel matters. She also gave some explanations of her chart on what it would cost the county for pay increases and longevity pay for elected officials. Ms. Kirk stated she and her Chief Deputy Suzy Wallace would update the

budget book and bring it to Court on Monday.

Local citizen Betty Stiles was allowed to comment on the budget for CID computers. She feels they are too expensive. Both Judge Mills and Commissioner Chaney explained they are tougher and have more capabilities than regular computers. Ms. Stiles also thinks WiFi for the Library is high and not necessary.

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No further business presenting, the Court adjourned was adjourned by Judge Mills duly seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

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