

MINUTES OF THECOMMISSIONERS' COURTSPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING - AUGUST 15, 2011

On the 15th day of August, 2011, there was a Special Meeting/Public Hearing 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 Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk.

Other County Official present was Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer; David Vyoral, Road Administrator; Jeri D. Cox, Tax Assessor-Collector; and Justin Cook, IT Director;

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:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Mills asked if any one had comments regarding the 2012 budget. Betty Stiles suggested the County consider merit raises in future budgets on a six-month basis. She said this could reduce the number of comp hours the County is paying. Employee performance could be evaluated and the County would have a paper trail. She also stated longevity pay is starting too early; vacation pay should not start until an employee had completed one year of employment. Paper could be taken care of with computers. The Court should investigate the County Court at Law position.

Commissioner Smith asked Ms. Stiles if she was speaking of unemployment rather than workman's compensation and she was.

Judge Mills stated he did not disagree with anything she suggested.

Commissioner Smith asked the IT Director if WiFi would help with eliminating paper and Mr. Cook stated it would.

Commissioner Smith also pointed out the County Court at Law Judge could not be paid more than \$1,000.00 a year less than the District Judges and then the Legislature changed it to not less than a \$1,000.00. Smith stated the Bexar County Court at Law Judges make the same as our Judge and try more cases.

County Clerk Friebele pointed out the Legislators retirement is tied to the salary of the District Judges.

The Court entered into closed session at 9:09 a.m. as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.074(a)(1) to discuss duties and compensation of the County Engineer and returned to Open Session at 9:41 a.m. with all members present and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

COUNTY ENGINEER

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to table action on the duties and compensation of the County Engineer for further information from Texas Association of Counties.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

2012 BUDGET

County Auditor Kirk stated the City of Rockport is wanting an additional \$20,000.00 for the County's portion on the swimming pool. Commissioner Chaney, newly appointed to the swimming pool committee as the County's representative, stated this would bring the allotment up to \$55,000.00. This increase is a result of the ACISD withdrawing from participation. The question was whether to continue to operate the pool in the winter when heat is required or to drain the pool and close down for the winter months. Commissioner Chaney suggested the Court invite Tom Staley, City Parks Director, to come to the Court for discussion before increasing the allotment. The County will investigate whether hotel-motel tax could be used for the pool.

The Humane Society requested an increase of \$15,000.00. They currently receive \$10,000.00; this would be an increase of 150%. After discussion on the EMS request for additional funding, motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve requested 10% increase (\$14,317.00) in EMS funding for 2012.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

Judge Mills stated he received a copy of a letter sent to District Judge Janna Whatley from San Patricio County Judge Terry Simpson requesting additional funding from the other four (4) counties in the 36th Judicial District Juvenile Probation Department. McMullen County paid the \$495.00 shown as their additional portion.

Ms. Kirk stated the County already pays \$112,808.00 to San Patricio County for our portion on Juvenile Probation and did not think the County should pay any more.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline not to contribute more to the San Patricio County for Juvenile Probation.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Letter inserted)

Ms. Kirk also asked the Court to decide on what health insurance option they wanted. She asked the Court to put the plan year change on as a separate agenda item. The Personnel Manual will need to be updated and employees informed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to adopt Option 3 with plan year changed to October 2012.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Health Care Proposals inserted)

OFFICIAL BONDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve public official bonds on Cynthia Huff, Deputy County Tax Assessor-Collector and Crisly Ann Staley, Deputy County Treasurer.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

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

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