

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

WORKSHOP MEETING - MARCH 14, 2017

On the 14th day of March, 2017, 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; **Betty Stiles**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Kristen Barnebey**, County Attorney; **Lezlie Kirk**, County Auditor;

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present:

City of Rockport Council Members: **Patrick Rios**, Ward 3 & Mayor Pro-Tem;

Rockport Volunteer Fire Department members present included **Steve Sims**, **Willard Cox**, **Gary Smith** and **Buck Kohl**.

Fulton VFD members present included **Ricky McLester, Jr.** and **Ricky McLester, Sr.**

Lamar VFD member, **Carl Stubbs**.

Tri County EMS representative, **Steve Knight**.

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:

ITEM FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION

Discussion with Rockport, Fulton and Lamar Fire Departments concerning funding and services provided and how to proceed in the future.

Members of the Court along with the County Attorney and one representative for each fire department met to discuss the change in the way the County's funding was split between the departments in 2016, differing from prior years. The court explained that they felt it would be fairer to disburse the money evenly among the departments. They were also present to work out and sign an agreement concerning county responsibility and insurance coverage. Kristen explained that if the county gives the department money, the county is responsible for anything that happens during a fire. The court had concerns about the Junior Member Program and their involvement in the fire fighting duties. The Departments assured the court the Junior Members are not allowed to drive the equipment nor join in the actual fighting of fires, they are given support roles only. The Rockport VFD rules also has an extensive three page application to be filled out on each Junior member and the parent(s) or guardian must sign stating what their child may or may not participate in, with a limitation of actually going into a fire. The Junior member also must have a relative whom is already a member to take responsibility for that child. Fulton's Junior Members are assigned a liaison if they do not have a relative member. The court stressed that the main thing that they wanted to receive from the departments is maybe a quarterly accounting of what the money received from the county was spent on. The court advised the departments to approach them in April

or May with a written proposal on how they want the funds disbursed so that they can include that during the budget process. Agreements to be approved after March 27 in Commissioners' Court and Kristen Barnebey will e-mail copies to the departments.

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:15 a.m. on a motion made by Judge Mills and seconded by Commissioner Stiles.*

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

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