

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
PUBLIC HEARING - DECEMBER 14, 2015

On the 14th day of December, 2015, there was a Public Hearing in 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; **Charles Smith**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Betty Stiles**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Kristen Barnebey**, **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Carrie Arrington**, Office & Contracts Manager for the County Attorney's Office; **David Vyoral**, Road Administrator; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Rick McLester**, Emergency Management Coordinator; **Brian Olsen**, local resident; and Members representing Friends of the History Center for Aransas County as follows: **Pam Stranahan**, President, **Kam Wagert**, Vice-President, **Linda Garcia**, **Vickie Moon Merchant**.

The Meeting was convened at 8:45 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

Michele Bennett, Aransas County Elections Administrator was present to discuss the use of the Countywide Polling Place Program (also known as Vote Centers) during the November 3, 2015 Constitutional Amendment Election.

Michele provided each court member with individual packets containing statistical information on turnouts from four previous constitutional amendment elections and written comments from public voters on this year's election.

Out of 1,796 voters only two people absolutely refused to vote because there were no paper ballots.

There was confusion concerning the vote centers being numbered 1-4, some people thought the number represented the precinct number. Michele's thought was that the numbers should be removed.

Commissioner Casterline voiced his concern about the number of machines we will have during an election with a bigger volume of voters. Michele explained that she had seven reserve machines in case of complications. She has been keeping account of peak voting times on her computer and she stops by the voting centers often. She had provided an extra poll book and three more machines (still leaving her four) to one of the voting centers at one point to initiate two lines for checking in voters and that seemed to have taken care of the problem.

*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 8:50 a.m. on a motion made by
Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.*

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

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