

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
Regular Session
March 10, 2025– 9:00 a.m.

This regular session of the Mills County Commissioners' Court opened in due form of law at 9:00 am in the Mills County Commissioners' Courtroom located at 1011 4th Street, Goldthwaite, Texas 76844.

Present in the Courtroom were Judge Johnson, Commissioners Craig Sullivan, Robert Head, Dale Partin and Jason Williams, County Attorney Bill Malone, and County Clerk –Sonya Scott; present via Zoom: Court Coordinator Annette Watson, Wayne Barr – Eckert & Co, Kim Avants – Justice of the Peace, and David Shaw- Emergency Management Coordinator. Audience sign-in sheet is attached to the minutes.

The meeting is available to the public to view on the Mills County YouTube channel.

Agenda: -

1. Judge Johnson called the meeting to order noted the presence of a quorum; Judge Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Williams providing the opening prayer.
2. Review of minutes - Minutes of February 24, 2025– Commissioner Head moved to accept with a second from Commissioner Sullivan. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Williams abstained.
3. Audience with Individuals – none
4. Review and Act on Accounts Payable – Commissioner Partin requested a stronger policy on food purchases in our employee handbook. Commissioner Williams moved to approve with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda was reviewed by the Court as follows:

- a. Monthly County Treasurer Report
- b. MCAD Monthly Collection Report
- c. County/ District Clerk Report Clerk
- d. Tax Assessor
- e. County Extension Reports
- f. Facilities Report –
- g. Sheriff's Office
- h. Justice of the Peace
- i. County Judge's Report
- j. Hamilton EMS
- k. Veterans Services Officer

Commissioner Williams had a question on the corrections from the last entry on the Budget Analysis. The report is different from last month and would like further explanation. Commissioner Williams will meet with Treasurer to answer his questions. Motion made by Commissioner Williams to accept the consent agenda with a second by Judge Johnson. Motion Carried 5-0.

5. Consider and Act on Audit report from Eckert & Co. for fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 and related matters. Wayne Barr Addressed the Court. Barr reported that this was a good clean audit. Judge Johnson moved to approve the audit report as presented with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Consider and Act on Bids for Handicap Entrance for 1888 Jail & Sidewalk Repair, and related matters. Judge Johnson noted that there are several items that will need to be addressed if the handicapped entrance is moved from the North entrance to the East entrance. Judge Johnson has discussed with counsel, that these are separate jobs and bids so the bid process would not have to go through the bid process even though collectively the payments to this vendor would be over the \$50,000 threshold. The Historical Commission has approved the proposed build verbally. We will have to apply for a permit from the state Historical Commission for these changes. Lynetta Barnett, Chairperson of the Mills County Historical Commissioner noted that the proposed work/bids have been approved by the local chapter. Both bids would require a payment of half up front. Judge Johnson moved to accept the original bid for the handicap entrance to be completed at the North entrance of the 1888 Jail with the repair of the sidewalk. This would include an upfront payment of \$13,000 . Commissioner Williams is concerned regarding the procurement procedure as this would be a combined total over \$50,000 to one vendor without going out for bids. This process is different from our procurement policy that was distributed last week. Commissioner Head provided the second. Motion carried 3-2. Commissioners Williams and Partin voted against.

7. Consider and Act on Hendrick Indigent Payment, and related matters– Judge Johnson provided that the agreement from 1987 has been honored since it was in place. Tonya Castillo of Hendricks will not provide further documentation for the Court. The email provided earlier is sufficient. Judge Johnson moved to approve the payment to be sent in the amount of \$5129.48. Amanda Williams – Jail Administrator, stated that Hendricks has not been in agreement to sign up for indigent care for Mills County at this time. Ms. Williams also noted that we have additional bills coming in that will be sent to Bell County for processing. Commissioner Williams provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Consider and Act on moving ADA Compliance Officer from Treasurer's Office to Judge's Office and related matters - Judge Johnson is the steward of the Courthouse. Judge Johnson moved to relocate the ADA compliance officer from the Treasurer office to the Judge's office. Commissioner Williams provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Consider and Act on Subdivision Variance for Herbort Family, and related matters. – Gerald Hale – representative for the family, provided that this property is located off of County Road 523. The property was owned by siblings, Rock Springs Land and Investments. The Herbort's (one of the owner/siblings) is requesting a subdivision variance to deed the one acre where their house is built from Rock Springs to Ken and Peggy Herbort. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the subdivision variance as presented. Commissioner Partin provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Report from Mills County Historical Commission, and related matters – Lynetta Barnett reported that she is in support of the handicap entrance on the North side of the 1888 Jail. Ms. Barnett also provided an updated handbook to the court.

11. Discussion on Procedure of Grant Applications, and related matters – Commissioner Williams noted that he and the Treasurer would like to Court to adopt a policy or procedure to provide consistency to our processes and procedures with regards grants. An example of a grant policy was provided for

review. Sheriff Jones was present to answer questions. Grants are still brought to Commissioners Court for approval; however, the initial submission dates require Judge approval for consideration. When grants are awarded, the grant would be presented to the Court for approval. Sheriff is asking that the court not restrict departments from applying for grants before Commissioner court approval. Sometimes the time constraints for filing do not align with Commissioner Court meeting dates. Sheriff Jones is fully aware of the needs for transparency. David Shaw – Emergency Management Coordinator – agrees with the Sheriff that the Court should not restrict departments to applying for grants. Commissioner Williams noted that if a grant requires matching, the County would have to be aware of the monies requested for budgetary purposes. No further discussion.

12. Consider and Act on Procedures of Grant Applications and related matters – Sheriff Jones noted that the command center needs to be ready before it is needed. The County needs to start setting up the office space/items needed. An example was provided for the court from Tom Green County. The Treasurer in conjunction with the Texas Association of Counties Auditor suggested a policy for grants. Jones requested that we add language that if matching funds are required, then Commissioners Court approval would be required for the application. Commissioner Williams agreed that the example could be worded to fit the needs of Mills County. Commissioner Williams moved to table the procedures at this time. Commissioner Head provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Consider and Act on the Application of E-Grants, and related matters – David Shaw provided that all EMCs from our region met at the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTOG) and scored the applications. The 7 EMCs met and unofficially \$15,600 dollars will be awarded to Mills County (see email from David Shaw that provides a list of grants/items included in the submission for grants). This will require additional reporting to the CTOG and the Governor's office. There will be an email to the Judge to accept the funding. Funds will be available in October. Judge Johnson moved to table this item with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Discussion of Dispatch Console Grant for the LEC, and related matters – Sheriff Jones stated that the current dispatch console is obsolete and need of replacing. From 60-90 days the LEC will have a new console. Shaw provided the CTOG discussed that going forward the governor's office will not be providing funding for counties for this type of application. Counties will need to be considering this in the future budget process. Discussion only.

15. Discussion on Procurement and Budget Process, and related matters – Commissioner Williams would like to check with legal for more clarification. Handout regarding procurement was included in your packet. Bill Malone noted that a key concern is a county dividing a project into pieces to keep under the procurement threshold. TAC is saying legal but our auditors are saying that bids need to be received. This process needs to be discussed further. Discussion only.

16. Discussion Report on FEMA, and related matters – David Shaw noted the FEMA process is slow and steady. Working on funding and getting funds obligated at the stated level. There are some projects that we are working to close out. Working towards a standardized process.

17. Report from Precinct 4 Low Water Crossing Bids, and related matters – 3 low water crossings – only one applicant returned any bids. Only 2 were approved by mitigation. CR 530 was approved for \$28,000 and CR 508 for \$54,000, partial payments on both of these through Louis Cornado before work could begin.

18. Commissioners' Reports and request

Commissioner Wright, Pct. 1 – hauling base material on 506, will start spreading it out next week.


Commissioner Head, Pct. 2 – finished project on 333, installed tin horns, hauled material.

Commissioner Partin, Pct. 3 – hauled 45 loads of RAP to various places in the precinct. Winds knocked down several trees. Worked on clearing trees

Commissioner Williams, Pct. 4 – replaced culvert, added new culverts. Work on equipment. State of Texas Child Welfare Board, visited with legislature. Watching many bills that could have an impact on the county. Lots of tree trimming and clearing due to the weather this past week. Will be hauling material this week. Requesting a handbook meeting to review some changes. March 17th – road and bridge workshop and safety training in the Commissioner Courtroom. Questions on a bill from Bruckners.

19. County Judge's Report– LCRA judge's conference last week. All counties are having some issues with population increases affecting the services. Rural transportation is free for 60 days. There is an extreme fire danger this week due to wind.

20. Adjournment -Judge Johnson moved to adjourn; Commissioner Head provided the seconded. Motion Carried 5-0


Sonya Scott, County Clerk
Mills County Clerk



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