

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
January 10, 2022 – 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: Judge Ed Smith, Commissioners Williams, Partin, and Wright, County Attorney – Gerald Hale, County Clerk – Sonya Scott, , Treasurer – Summer Campbell and Debbie Grba representing the Sherriff's office. Present via Zoom: Jacki Brooks, The Goldthwaite Eagle, Michael Pritchard – Blue Bonnet Wind Project, Patrick Cobb – Hamilton EMS, William Kelsey – Blue Bonnet Wind Project. Commissioner Jed Garren is absent from this meeting.

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

Agenda: -

1. Judge Smith called the meeting to order noted the presence of a quorum; Judge Smith led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Williams providing the opening prayer.
2. Review of minutes December 20, 2021 and December 27, 2021 - Commissioner Williams made the motion to accept the December 20, 2021 minutes as presented. Commissioner Wright seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Motion from Commissioner Wright to approve the minutes of December 27, 2021 with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion passed 4-0.
3. Audience with Individuals – Duane Rawson – How were funds spent that the county received for the virus? Many in the county do not have access to computers and would like for more information printed in the Eagle instead of on the County website. Are the results of the special session regarding a revised subdivision ordinance updated on the website? Mr. Rawson also requested that when addressing people in the audience that the audience be provided a microphone so listeners on the internet can hear the audience comments.

Consent agenda – Consent Agenda:

- a) Monthly County Treasurer Report
- b) Quarterly County Treasurer Reports
- c) Quarterly Investment Reports
- d) Accounts Payable and Payroll
- e) MCAD Monthly Collection Report
- f) County Clerk Report
- g) District Clerk Report
- h) County Extension Report – No report
- i) Sheriff's Office
- j) Justice of the Peace
- k) County Judge's Receipts
- l) Hamilton EMS
- m) Veterans Service Officer

No vehicle/Tax Assessor report or extension agency report was available. Those reports will be submitted at a later date. Judge Smith and noted the a list of the new State regulated district court fees were included in the report for information and moved to approve the consent agenda noting the missing reports from Tax Assessor and Extension Agent with Commissioner Williams providing the second. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Consider and Act to accept budget certificate for 2021-2022 – This certificate was completed for our auditor but is not required by statute. Certificate will be attached to the budget that was approved in Court in 2021. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the budget certificate as presented with a second from Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 4-0.
5. Consider and Act on Voting precinct boundaries to align with Commissioner Precincts – This is part of the redistricting process. Election precinct boundaries must change to align with the new Commissioner boundaries. Election precinct boundaries must be continuous in a Commissioner District boundary. Recent changes to the Commissioner precincts necessitate Election Precinct boundary changes. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the notice and the change of election precincts boundaries. Commissioner Partin provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.
6. Consider and Act on approving polling locations for the 2022 Calendar year – This was previously approved however, redistricting has required changes to the precinct 2 polling location. The only change is the voting location for Precinct 2. That change was required after redistricting as the prior polling location is no longer in Commissioner Precinct 2. Commissioner Williams moved to approve with the second by Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Consider and Act on Amendment of Bluebonnet Wind Abatement Agreement. On advice of counsel, court is not requesting action. Per counsel, this Amendment requires a public hearing and notice before action may take place. Judge Smith is working with Bluebonnet and counsel on the public notice. Construction dates are being changed along with the minimum megawatts and the PILOT payment per megawatt. Payments will change from \$2,850 per megawatt to \$3,701. Michael Pritchard addressed the Court stating that construction began in December but the turbine installations will begin in March 2022. County road use agreement draft was returned to the Judge and Commissioner Garren this morning. Judge Smith will defer the road use agreement to Commissioner Garren. Judge Smith moved to table item until after a public hearing February 28, 2022. Commissioner Wright provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.
8. Discussion of bids for road materials and fuel –The counties auditor, Eckert & Company noted that county expenditures of \$50,000 or more to any vendor requires competitive bidding. With each Precinct and Department making their own purchases, undertaking a bid process on common items like fuel and road materials is suggested. Following public solicitation, the County can accept and approve multiple bids from different companies. County is the entity that purchases NOT the precincts. Commissioner Williams and Summer Campbell will be working on a solicitation for bids to be published in the Eagle...
9. Discussion of unused vacation carry over time from calendar 2021 into 2022 – Pursuant to the Employee Handbook, the Sheriff requested the Judge's approval to carry over vacation for 7 people. Most of these requests are for 1-2 days except for 1 person that has 1.5 weeks to carry over. Request has been approved by the Judge. Discussion only.
10. Discussion of EMS dispatching. Email from Sheriff Hammonds dated January 5 providing notes of termination of EMS dispatching by the jailer/dispatchers in 120 days. Commissioner Wright requested information on how much this will cost the county. It was noted that the bonds that were approved to build the Mills County Law Enforcement Center was passed including facilities for dispatching. Commissioner Williams asked if there are companies that provide dispatch services? Providing EMS service is not a statutory requirement however EMS service is very important to our citizens. The County Attorney noted that the Law Enforcement Center and its e equipment belongs to the county, not the sheriff. Central Texas Council of Governments funds the county 911 system and related equipment. No one from the Sheriff's office was in attendance to address this situation. Judge Smith would like for the parties involved to sit down and discuss the options. The CEO of the hospital district is willing to sit down and try and solve this situation. Judge Smith will schedule a meeting with the involved parties. Judge Smith will simultaneously look for an nearby agency which the county could

hire as an alternate dispatch station via interlocal agreement as well as the steps to move all dispatching out of the Sheriff's office. The County Budget was approved on the assumption that the Sheriff's office would continue to provide dispatching for all emergency services – including EMS calls. Possible budget amendment to reduce the sheriff budget to offset the cost of third-party EMS dispatch services may be appropriate. Patrick Cobb addressed the Court that the biggest issue would be to lose the one common control and situational awareness if the county moved to a separate EMS dispatch location. Have been trying to meet with the Sheriff's office over this issue with no success. Will keep this item on the agenda.

11. Consider and Act on declaring the Judge's office Coolmaster Computer tower, serial #XGRDYYJ8G2XYBCDMXXRA as scrap and disposing of item. Will pull the hard drive for destruction. Power button is broken and computer out of date. Commissioner Williams moved to declare scrap with a second from Judge Smith. Motion carried 4-0.

11. Commissioner's Requests and Reports

Commissioner Wright, Pct. 1 – painted and patched storage container, met with CTTC on fiber installation

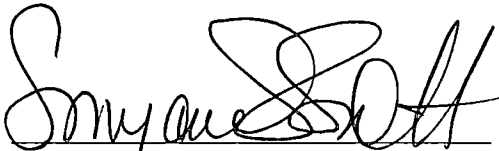
Commissioner Garren, Pct. 2 – absent

Commissioner Partin, Pct. 3 – found part to repair old truck. Met with Blattner representative on entrances on county roads. Clearing fence rows and hauling dirt. Overlay of precinct map to track improvements and work on roads to track progress. Wrote summary of work completed on roads during the past year.

Commissioner Williams, Pct. 4 – installed culvert. Too dry need rain. Dry bladed some roads. Repaired cylinder on back hoe. Hauled material to county barn. Kenneth is retired. Have hired Robbie Hurst to fill the position.

12. Judge Smith – FM 574 bridge over Pecan Bayou is down to one lane following damage from a truck accident about a month ago. TxDot estimating March – April for it to be repaired. Local reports that TxDot may be widening the bridge – if so it could be out of service for an extended periods. Appreciate Guy Burns for his work on the Courthouse Christmas lights and Precinct 1 for the installation of the storage container. COVID is present in the Courthouse and has caused the JP's office to be closed. February 14 starts early voting. County Jury trial that was to start on the 11th has been postponed until March. Stock show starting this week

13. Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn; Commissioner Wright seconded. Motion Carried 4-0.


Sonya Scott
Mills County Clerk



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