

Mills County

Commissioners Court Regular Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2022– 9:00 am

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: County Judge Ed Smith, Commissioners Mike Wright Dale Partin and Jason Williams for a legal quorum. Also present for meeting, Treasurer Summer Campbell, County Attorney Gerald Hale, County Deputy Clerk Joy Nowell. Present via Zoom: Commissioner Jed Garren, Jacki Brooks, The Goldthwaite Eagle and, Wesley Alexander. Present in the courtroom Mark Toppert, John Braun and Jett Johnson.

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

Agenda: -

1. Judge Ed Smith called the meeting to order noting the presence of a quorum. Judge Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Williams providing the opening prayer.

2. Review of minutes January 10, 2022 - Motion to approve the minutes as written by Commissioner Williams, 2nd by Commissioner Wright. Approved 4-0

3. Audience with Individuals- None

4. Consider and Act on approving Accounts payable

The Hot Check fund was discussed with The County Attorney explaining the County holds the funds collected on hot check prosecution, retains fines and fees and then remits the other collections to the party that submitted the hot check for prosecution.

Motion to approve accounts payables by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Partin. Motion carried by a vote of 4-0

5. Consider and Act on Monthly Departmental Reports:

a. Tax assessor Collector report

b. County Extension report

Motion to approve monthly department reports by Judge Smith

seconded by Commissioner Partin. Carried 4-0

6. Designation of Judge Pro Tem -

Motion by Commissioner Wright to designate Commissioner Williams Judge Pro Tem

seconded by Commissioner Partin. Carried 4-0

7. Declare as scrap from the Sheriff's Office Panasonic microwave in the jail kitchen.

Motion made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Williams to scrap Sheriff's Office microwave oven. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Consider and Act on Burn Ban

Judge suggested extending the burn ban for approximately 60 days to March 15, 2022 due to dry conditions.

Motion made by Commissioner Williams to extend the burn ban to March 15 and seconded by Commissioner Wright, Carried by 4-0

9. Consider and Act on Engagement of Counsel

Motion by Judge Smith, seconded by Commissioner Williams to recess for 10 minutes and reconvene in Executive Session with the County Attorney Hale and Attorney Jim Allison by phone for the purpose of discussion of legal strategy and potential litigation pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071. Carried 4-0. – Recessed at 9:30am.

Court reconvened in public session at 10:16 am on January 24, 2022.

Motion made by Judge Smith approve retention of the Law Firm of Allison, Bass & McGee seconded by Commissioner Williams. Carried 4-0.

10. Discuss EMS dispatching

The Judge reported a meeting last week to get together all parties to discuss EMS dispatching issues, The Parties involved were two people each from the court, law enforcement, EMS, and the Hospital District plus a local fire chief. To identify the problems leading to the Sheriffs notice of termination of EMS dispatching in May 2022. In the Judge's view – it all comes down to personalities.

Hospital District suggested District EMS Chief for Mills County Wesley Alexander be the primary and only contact for the Sheriff. Several other suggestions were discussed The Sherriff agreed to a meeting with Mr. Alexander but did not commit, at this time, to extending the deadline on dispatching. The Judge is therefore continuing to work on other possible alternatives. Outsourcing EMS dispatching to Hamilton County Emergency Communications or AMR are both being perused. Commissioner Partin reported on his tour of the dispatch facility at the Law Enforcement Center, describing the facility and technology as state of the art and more than adequate for a small rural county. EMS dispatching will be an agenda item for Commissioners Court until the matter is resolved.

11. Commissioners Request and Reports

Precinct 1 – repairs been busy, putting materials down on CR 429. Been to dry to blade.

Didn't have radios to talk to fire department in a fire last week but picked up two radios from the County Judge afterwards.

Precinct 2 – Commissioner Garren reported the shredder was in Gatesville, haven't had been time to get parts yet.

Thank everyone for help while during two hospital stays. Working on road use agreement with Bluebonnet , have gone over the agreement and looks good.

Precinct 3- The replacement heads purchased for the blown engine on a precinct truck do not fit – despite being the right make & model. Met with Blattner regarding post construction clean up on roads, Repairing broken water pipes in the precinct barn from last week's hard freeze.

Precinct4

Have a road hand out with COVID. Hired a road hand, Robbie Hurst, to replace a year end retirement.

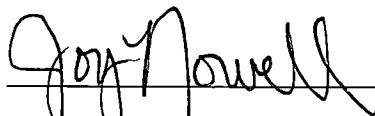
Helped the fire department with a brush fire in the Buffalo Creek area – the same area as a bad fire a year or two ago. Several meetings this week including Hill Country Community Action on the recruitment of a new executive director. Meeting with Oncor today on power for the security cameras on the regency bridge.

Drove to Temple with Commissioner Partin to look at a used haul truck

12. Judge's Report –Over 100 active cases of COVID in Mills County including in the courthouse.

Last summer IT firm of Goldsmith Solutions was retained to look over Mills County technology. The report came back and has been distributed to officials. Immediate large project includes potentially replacing the landlines, courthouse security cameras and repairing fire alarms.

13. Adjournment: Motion by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Williams. Carried by 4-0.



Joy Nowell, Deputy Clerk



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