

Mills County

Commissioners Court Regular Meeting Minutes

May 23, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Goldthwaite, Texas 76844.

Present in the Courtroom: County Judge Ed Smith, Commissioners Mike Wright, Jed Garren, 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: Jacki Brooks. Present in the courtroom Jett Johnson, Tommye Ledbetter, Paul Ledbetter, Mark Toppert, Patricia Graham, Deputy Sheriff James Purcell.

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 May 9, 2022 and May 12, 2022

Motion made by Commissioner Jason Williams to approve minutes for MAY 9. Commissioner Mike Wright stated that his report mentioning work on a railroad crossing should refer to CR 316 near its intersection with CR 315. Commissioner Williams amended his Motion to approve the minutes to include with the correction of the road reference to CR 316 & CR 315. With a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Garren the motion for approval of the May 9 minutes was approved 5-0. A motion to approve the May 12 minutes by Commissioner Partin was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Wright and carried by a vote of 5-0

3. Audience with Individuals- None
4. Consider and Act on approving Accounts payable

Motion to approve accounts payables by Commissioner Garren and seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0

5. Consider and Act on County Extension Office Monthly Departmental Report.  
Motion to approve County Extension Office monthly department report for April 2022 by Commissioner Garren and seconded by Commissioner Partin. Carried by a vote of 5-0
6. Consider and Act on list for Juror fee donations.  
Following a power point presentation which included the statutory requirement, background and economic impact. Judge Smith move to modify the form jury form letter to comply with Texas Government Code 61.003, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Commissioners Williams. Carried by a vote of 5-0.

7. Consider and Act on Ban on Outdoor Burning.

Current burn ban expires the May 24. Judge Smith proposed to extend burn ban to June 14, 2022 based on drought conditions and recent or ongoing wildfires in Hamilton and Taylor Counties. The deadline for a firework ban over July 4 is June 15 and can be considered next meeting.

Motion to approve the Burn Ban made by Judge Smith and seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on purchase of belly dump trailer and truck.  
Commissioner Partin gave details on 2013 Belly Dump trailer for sale by the Carlisle's for the price \$24,500 and a used haul truck in Midland priced at \$29,500. To avoid two trips to Midland, Commissioner Partin requested approval for the purchase of the truck subject to his inspection. This will permit him to take a check to Midland, inspect the truck and close the purchase if the truck's condition is satisfactory. Motion I by Judge to approve the purchase the 2013 belly dump for \$24,500, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Williams. Carried by vote 4-1. Motion by Commissioner Garren on approve the purchase of the haul truck for \$29, 500 subject to Commissioner Partin inspection. Motion by Commissioner Garren and 2<sup>nd</sup> Judge Smith. Carried vote by 4-1. Commissioner Wright explained his nay vote was over the purchase being made in the Road & Bridge fund vs individual precincts.

9. Consider and Act on Precinct 4 road project using Road and Bridge funds.

A presentation given by Commissioner Williams on Co. Road 433 Project which included approximately One mile of road.

Bids on hauling material, price per yard/ton, distance from pit, turnaround from three parties - McCoy, LA Porter Const. and San Saba Aggregate. Commissioner Williams proposed the use of 5 trucks to haul the material to CR 432. Equipment needed for the project: a water truck, 2 extra road hands and three contracted belly dumps in addition to the two owned by the county. Motion to approve by Commissioners Williams, seconded by Judge Smith, objection from Commissioner Wright based on his disagreement with its funding through the road and bridge account. Carried by vote of 4-1.

10. Consider and Act to add Amanda Williams to the bank card for writing checks on jail accounts relating to inmate funds.

As these accounts are not county funds, the account doesn't come through the Treasurer's Office. Jail Administration has been writing checks. Motion by Commissioner William and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Wright. Objections voiced by Commissioner Partin and Garren based on the lack of information from the Sherrif's office. Carried vote by 3-2

11. Consider and Act on County Policy for entrances onto County Roads.

The activity has been increasing with new entrances onto county roads. The proposed policy follow's a state policy on highway access and requires Landowner application. The application and a \$50 fee are to be submitted to the appropriate Commissioner. County Attorney Hale suggested keeping a central record vs in the 4 precincts. Since the Treasure will be handing the application fees, the applications, after Commissioner approval, will be turned into the Treasurer Office. Commissioner Wright explained how he handles landowner entrances and tin horns.

Commissioner Partin and the County Attorney underlined the need for a county wide policy.

Judge Smith suggested that Mills County Road Access Policy be adopted and the Court consider Commissioner Wright's suggestions later.

Motion by Commissioner Garren approve the policy as submitted and consider modifications later and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Williams. Commissioner Wright against. Carried by vote 4-1 with Commissioner Wright opposed.

12. Consider and Act on TexDot Agreement to Contribute ROW funds HWY 45 project.

TEXDOT is widening Hwy 45. They have asked the counties, Brown, San Saba, Mills, to pay a portion of the estimated cost of right of way acquisition. The four tenths of a mile in Mills County will have a ROW acquisition cost estimated at \$25,000. Mills County's share of the cost would be s \$2,500. Judge Smith recommended execution of the TXDOT agreement to contribute right of way funds (fixed price). Motion by Commissioner Williams to act on the TEXDOT agreement and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Garren. Motion carried by vote of 5-0.

13. Consider and Act to establish Grievance Committee of 9 Citizens (TLGC 152.014(2)).

Move by Judge Smith for election for Grievance Committee consisting of 9 citizens with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Wright and carried by vote of 5-0

14. Selection of Grievance Committee members list below drawn random by Judge Smith.

1. Jhenisa Stegemoller
2. Jessie Rodriguez
3. Peggy Herbort
4. Nancy Walton
5. Armando Villescaz
6. Jessica Head
7. Kirk Edington
8. Ann Rowland
9. Katana Howard
ALTERNATES (in order drawn)
1. Kristi McCoy
2. Chad Beavers
3. Joy Nowell
4. Rolejio Clemens
5. Wendy Katrina Rowley
6. Robert Hall
7. Dean Humphries
8. Howard Kellis Landrum
9. Carrie Miles

15. Consider and Act on EMS Station Construction.

Judge noted recent discussions with an architect and the engagement of a surveyor to stake the site and determine the proposed plan would physically fit. No action proposed at this time as he would like the winner of the primary election Tuesday to have input. Move by Judge Smith to table item 15. Motion made to Commissioner Williams and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Garren to Carried by vote of 5-0

16. Discuss 911 Dispatching.

The Judge reported the Sheriff is working on reducing the law enforcement budget by \$300,000 to offset the estimated staffing cost of 911 dispatching. A department, 911 dispatching, will be set up by the Treasurer. For the next fiscal year.

17. Commissioners Request and Reports

Precinct 1 – Have been hauling material on CR 510 and stock piling to yard.

Precinct 2 – Stock pile material on all county road. Unless something blows up they poured 14 holes for bluebonnet wind turbines on schedule.

Precinct 3- About a mile on CR. 232 hauling and still got the rock grinder. Working on dump trucks. New subdivision activity noted but no applications filed.

Precinct 4 – Work done at CR 430, allowed county to remove and reinstalled fence. Working on Co 433 trying to get ready for this project hauling material. MCAD meet last week and 31<sup>st</sup> of May. MCAD Audit report came back clean. District has encountered mailbox capacity issues at CTTC and has changed email providers to BIS which hosts the MCAD website. Safety class on May 31<sup>st</sup> in the court room. Board of MCAD getting frustrated with Oncor situation. Question did we completely table JP collection contract report and status of cleaning up title to old EMS old station?

18. Judge's Report –

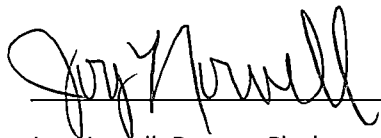
Subdivision activity: There are no preliminary plats filed which is the first step in complying.

We have a vacant seat on Work force board which was previously held by Mary Knight. There is a possibility of the new HCCAA executive representing both San Saba and Mills Counties.

The contingency collection contract for the JP's office renews automatically in 12 month increments unless cancelled and the JP is satisfied with the vendors performance so there is no need to enter into the 5 year renewal previously tabled.

A draft error resolution on the old EMS old station was been sent to the County Attorney for review. The judge briefly reviewed the history.

19. Adjournment: Motion by Commissioner Garren and seconded by Commissioner Wright. Carried by 5-0.



Joy Nowell, Deputy Clerk



May 23, 2022