

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
June 13, 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, Garren and Wright, County Attorney – Gerald Hale, County Clerk – Sonya Scott, and Treasurer – Summer Campbell. Present via Zoom: Jacki Brooks, The Goldthwaite Eagle, and Justice of the Peace – Kim Avants. See attendance sheet for audience listing.

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

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 May 23, 2022 - Commissioner Williams noted a correction to the Precinct 4 report. Commissioner Garren made motion to accept the minutes with corrections noted. Commissioner Williams provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Audience with Individuals – Chad Beavers addressed the court regarding road work on county road 408. Photos provided to the Judge.
4. Review and Action on Accounts Payable – Clarification on flag charge listed for Precinct 4 miscoded. Motion from Commissioner Garren to approve with corrections with a second provided by Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.

Consent agenda – Consent Agenda:

- a) Monthly County Treasurer Report submitted electronically.
- b) MCAD Monthly Collection Report.
- c) County Clerk Report
- d) District Clerk Report
- e) County Tax Collector – Assessor Report
- f) County Extension Report
- g) Sheriff's Office
- h) Justice of the Peace
- i) County Judge's Receipts
- j) Hamilton EMS
- k) Veterans Service Officer – Commissioner Wright noted the improvements completed at the Legion Hall and thanked the local Veterans' for all of their hard work.

Commissioner Wright moved to approve consent agenda with a second from Commissioner Garren. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Consider and Act on Outdoor Burning and Fireworks Ban. Commissioner Garren made the motion to extend the burn ban until July 12, 2022 and to prohibit the sale or use of certain fireworks. Commissioner Wright provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Consider and Act on application for unclaimed capital credits – This is an annual election. County has historically received approximately \$2,000 to \$30,000 per year. Judge Smith moved to approve the application for unclaimed capital credits. Commissioner Garren provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Consider and Act on Interlocal Agreement for joint appointment to Board of Workforce Solutions. Mills County does not currently have a representative on the board. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the joint agreement with San Saba County with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Consider and Act on agreements with Goldsmith Solutions. Judge Smith provided an overview of the County's relationship with Goldsmith Solutions. County budgeted funds in the current budget to convert the current courthouse phone system to a Voice Over IP (VOIP). This change would produce approximately \$500.00 per month of savings. There are some up-front costs to make this change. There are also some changes recommended to upgrade our network system to add security and provide more reliability. Sam Goldsmith addressed the Court. Judge Smith moved for approval for the Mills County Courthouse to move to VOIP in the courthouse with network upgrades as presented. Commissioner Garren provided the second. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion of agreement with Goldsmith Solutions for proposed IT services for the next budget fiscal year and to be included in the next budget for approval. This would be a one-year contract with renewal options after a year of service. This service would also include the Law Enforcement center with remote support. Commissioner Williams moved to engage in an agreement for IT services for this budget calendar for prorated June, July, August and September of the current fiscal year and to add this agreement services for the next budget calendar to be discussed in the current budget cycle. Second from Commissioner Garren. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Wright abstained.

8. Consider and Act on Tyler Technologies software conversion agreement for court records in the Clerk's office. – Commissioner Garren moved to approve the County/District Clerk to use the Special Use funds and engage Tyler Technologies for the conversion. Second provided by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 4-1. Commissioner Wright voted against

9. Consider and Act on group medical plan – Per agreement with the County's group medical provider - Texas Association of Counties (TAC) – the County has to declare the medical plan provided to employees by June 29, 2022 for the coming year. TAC has notified the county of an 8% rate increase if the plan provisions remain unchanged. The premium increase for the county for the coming year is approximately \$30,000. Discussion between commissioners on plan options. Commissioner Garren made a motion to keep the plan as currently provided to our employees with the County absorbing the increase in cost. Commissioner Wright provided the second. Motion carried 4-1. Judge Smith voting against the motion.

10. Consider and Act on purchase of equipment from GT Distributors for Sheriff's office. Chief Deputy Green addressed the Court stating that the proposed purchase of body armor will complement the current armor that is used by the deputies. This is additional armor and accessories to be used in tactical situations. Equipment is not specific to a person and is one size fit all and can be passed to new hires as needed. This is available in the Law Enforcement budget under equipment. Judge Smith noted that the equipment budget was approved to purchase a jail transport van. Chief Deputy Green noted that upon further evaluation, Law Enforcement is re-prioritizing the transport van versus other needs that have come to light. Judge Smith moved to table until the next meeting to review special use funds and other options for payment. Commissioner Garren seconded. Motion carried 4-1. Commissioner Wright voted against.

11. Consider and Act on concrete work in Precincts 2 and 3. Discussion of bids for concrete work to repair a bridge in Precinct 2 (CR 333) and a low water crossing in Precinct 3 (CR 199). Bid is from Dan Partin (2nd cousin to Commissioner Partin. This relationship has been disclosed and cleared by TAC with regards to the nepotism law.) Motion from Commissioner Williams to complete road improvements with concrete work as presented. Judge Smith provided a second. Motion carried 4-1. Commissioner Wright voted against.

12. Discussion, Consideration and Action on use of Road & Bridge budget on CR 549. Commissioner Partin discussed with the court that money was set aside in the budget for overtime work for road projects. Commissioner Partin would like to use some of that money for 2 miles of road work (materials) for work on CR 549. Judge Smith moved to allow Commissioner Partin to utilize money out of the road and bridge funds not to exceed \$25,000. Commissioner Garren provided the second. Motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Wright voted against.

13. Consider and act on EMS Station Construction – John Braun has reviewed the proposed plan for the new EMS station. There is a draft resolution to clean up the title on the existing property that is vacant and unusable. John Braun's report suggested a discussion with the vendor to clarify the scope of the on-site work that would be completed by the County. Guy Burns addressed the court with information on site work that has taken place to date. Judge Smith asked a Commissioner to meet with the vendor and Burns for the site work discussion. Commissioner Wright volunteered Commissioner Garren based on his supervision of the site work on the Law Enforcement Center. Mr. Burns will schedule the review meeting, Judge Smith moved to table the item. Commissioner Partin provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Commissioners request and reports:

Pct 1 Commissioner Wright: working on 505 and 510. Still losing road signs. One employee on vacation last week.

Pct 2 Commissioner Garren: lots of traffic on 338 for wind turbine work.

Pct 3 commissioner Partin: blading some roads. Repairing washed out roads. Met with NRCS on three government dams that need repair. NRCS does not have funds for this budget cycle. Proposed that county would provide the hauling of top soil as part of our cost of the repairs. Will not happen this budget cycle.

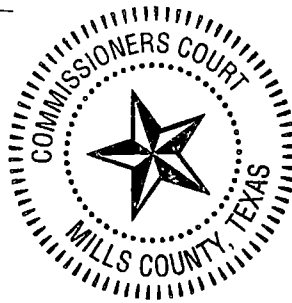
Pct 4 Commissioner Williams: blading roads after the moisture. Child welfare board and MCAD meeting. 433 project this weekend. Pulled ditches, mailed letters to property owners about the work being

completed. No extra road hands worked. Water supplied by Richland water. In response to Mr. Beavers, have not completed the work on the road that he addressed the court.

15. Judges report: Mostly worked on the budget. Law Enforcement budget was submitted with no back-up. Provision in government code that Commissioners Court can order an elected official to provide back-up for budget process. This may result in a special called meeting if such an order is needed..

16. Commissioner Garren moved to adjourn; Commissioner Williams seconded. Motion Carried 5-0.


Senya Scott
Mills County Clerk



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