

Mills County  
Commissioners Court Minutes  
August 8, 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Goldthwaite, Texas 76844.

Present in the Courtroom: Commissioners Williams, Partin, Garren, and Wright, County Attorney – Gerald Hale, County Clerk – Sonya Scott, and Treasurer – Summer Campbell. Present via Zoom: Judge Ed Smith, Jacki Brooks, Leslie Alexander – Hamilton EMS and James Taylor - The Goldthwaite Eagle. See attendance sheet for audience listing.

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

1. Judge Pro Tem Commissioner Williams called the meeting to order noted the presence of a quorum; Commissioner Williams led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Wright providing the opening prayer.
2. Review of minutes August 1, 2022 – Commissioner Garren made a motion to accept as presented. Commission Wright provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.
3. Audience with Individuals – none
4. Review and Act on Accounts Payable – Motion from Commissioner Williams to approve with a second provided by Commissioner Garren. Motion carried 4-0.

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 – no report
- g) Sheriff's Office – no report
- h) Justice of the Peace
- i) County Judge's Receipts
- j) Hamilton EMS
- k) Veterans Service Officer –

Commissioner Garren moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the missing Sheriff's office and Extension agent report with a second from Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Consider and Act on Ban on Outdoor Burning - Commissioner Garren made the motion to extend the burn ban until September 12, 2022. Commissioner Wright provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.
6. Consider and Act on 2023 Sheriff's and Constable's fee schedule. – Judge Smith noted that fees are the same as last year and most have not changed in the last 10 years. The Sheriff provided the static fees due to the availability of private process servers which are cheaper than law enforcement. The Sheriff chose to process service within his office and therefore maintains lower fees to be more competitive.

Commissioner Wright provided a motion to accept the fees as presented with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 4-0.

7. Consider and Act on special budget amendment for purchase from Sheriff's Forfeiture Fund. Commissioner Wright moved to approve the budget amendment as presented with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Consider and Act on County vehicle registration fee schedule for DMV – two fees that the county must certify to the DMV each year. Mills County is charging the maximum allowed by statute and proposes to maintain that level. Commissioner Williams moved to approve with a second from Commissioner Garren. Motion passed 4-0.

9. Order on Order for Election for the November 8, 2022 election – Clerk provided that the State deadline for the order to be approved by Commissioners Court is August 22, 2022. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the Order with a second from Commissioner Garren. Motion carried 4-0.

10. Consider and Act on amendment to the employee handbook for COVID related sick leave – Treasurer provided that law enforcement personnel are covered by a state mandate HB2073 which provides sick leave for COVID and other pandemic diseases. The proposed amendment would replace the current COVID sick leave policy guidelines with regards to COVID leave. Commissioner Garren moved to approve the change with a second by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 4-0.

11. Consider and Act on engagement of Eckert & Company for the fiscal year 2021-2022 audit – This is our third-party auditor. They will be on site in January with a report back to the Commissioners Court in March. Annual cost is approximately \$25,000. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the engagement with a second by Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 4-0.

12. Budget Workshop – Judge explained his addition of two replacement patrol vehicles to the budget submitted by the Sheriff. Sheriff noted that even though items are budgeted priorities change. Sheriff would like to move some of the money allocated to purchase the vehicles (law enforcement budget) to audio and visual recording equipment (jail budget). Sheriff will get together a list of projects that could be included in the budget. Noted a possible need for additional funds to cover overtime for the jailer/dispatchers. No questions for the Law Enforcement from Commissioners. Sheriff Hammonds noted that he appreciated the raise in salaries. Sheriff Hammonds also noted that there would be an increase in daily rate for prisoner boarding to \$75.00 to help offset jail cost. New agreements will be forthcoming with various counties for inmate housing. Sheriff requested to add \$2,000 to uniforms and \$6,000 for schools and training in the special use funds.

- a) Law Enforcement
- b) Jail/Dispatch
- c) Sheriff's special use funds

13. Consider & Act to declare replaced Impound Yard fence material salvage- The building footprint for the EMS project changing position of the new EMS station to minimize the amount of site work and fill material required. In preparation – the current impound yard high fence will be moved and the old net declared surplus and disposed of. Commissioner Williams noted that drainage works also needs to happen. Commissioner Garren moved to declare the fence as salvage material. Second was provided by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 4-0

14. Discuss new EMS Station project – Discussed in conjunction with previous item. No action.

15. Commissioners request and reports:

Pct 1 Commissioner Wright: Building a pad for storage building, hauling material, re-wiring precinct barn.

Pct 2 Commissioner Garren – trimming trees and shredding ROW. Down a hand with COVID. No moisture to blade roads.

Pct 3 Commissioner Partin: working on 2-mile project, brought newly purchased truck back to yard.

Pct 4 Commissioner Williams: run rock crusher on 550 and 508. Re-worked right of way where new fence was installed. Spot blading some roads. Chance of rain this week. MCAD meeting this week but will miss the scheduled meeting.

15. Judges report: working on advertisement for public auction of old EMS station.

16. Commissioner Garren moved to adjourn; Commissioner Wright seconded. Motion Carried 4-0.



Sonya Scott  
Mills County Clerk

August 8, 2022

