

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
May 22, 2023 – 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 were Judge Johnson, Commissioners Mike Wright, Robert Head, Dale Partin and Jason Williams, County Treasurer – Summer Campbell, and County Clerk –Sonya Scott; present via Zoom: Kim Avants – Justice of the Peace, Terrel Harris - Basic IDIQ and Jackie Brooks.

Audience sign-in sheet is attached to the minutes.

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

Agenda: -

1. Judge Johnson called the meeting to order noted the presence of a quorum; Judge Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Williams provided the opening prayer.
2. Review of minutes - Minutes of May 8, 2023 – Commissioner Williams moved to approve with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Audience with Individuals – none
4. Consider and Act on Accounts Payable – Commissioner Williams moved to approve with a second by Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Linebarger Attorney Carrie Pickering and Area Manager Katie Rhodes presented a delinquent tax collection and litigation activity report - Pickering and Rhodes addressed the Court and summarized the delinquent tax collections for the County.
6. Consider and Act to claim the Government Exemption for EMS Services (TLGC 262.024) with Sheriff Hammonds. – Sheriff Hammonds addressed the Court. Commissioner Partin noted that this has been discussed in prior meeting and voted against. Judge Johnson noted that the County is in line to renew their contract with Hamilton EMS on June 2, 2023. No action taken.
7. Consider and Act on Security IT Electrical Issues at LEC. –

Judge Johnson moved to go into Executive Session to discuss this item at 9:30 am at the Law Enforcement Center. Judge Johnson noted that the Court, Guy Burns, Sam Goldsmith and David Sons of Goldsmith Solutions, Jeff Heffelfinger – Southwest Architects, Steve Christopher – Dennard Electric, Bryan Holden – S3 Sustainable Security Solutions, and Sheriff Hammonds. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. Motion Carried 5-0. Court will reconvene when return from LEC.

Court reconvened at 11:20 am – Court back in session.

Commissioner Williams noted that there have been some communications errors and maintenance issues that have not been followed up on that has led to these issues. The situation has been resolved; however, moving forward we need to be more proactive. Commissioner Partin noted that the system has been replaced and provided the job descriptions for Commissioners and Sheriff. Commissioner Partin

clarified that Commissioners determine access to all county buildings. Commissioner Partin requested the old system be reviewed to identify if possible the failure and a new system installed. Commissioners discussed where the funds would be available to replace battery back-up system. Commissioner Williams moved to reevaluate the payment for expense item related to the IT issues at the LEC with a second from Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Consider and Act on accepting Opioid Resolution funds. – Judge Johnson noted that the Resolution forms have been completed in prior court. Judge Johnson moved to accept the funds of approximately \$6500.00 with a second by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Consider and Act to amend Indigent Healthcare Fund by adding a new revenue line for Opioid Settlement by County Treasurer – Commissioner Williams moved to amend the Indigent Healthcare Fund for the Opioid settlement funds. Second by Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Consider and Act on budget amendment to increase the General Liability & Property Insurance (10-500-504) by \$6400 – The numbers used in the budget were based on an estimate. County Treasurer provided the actual cost. The County needs to adjust the budget to account for the actual cost. Judge Johnson moved to amend the general Liability & property Insurance by \$6400 with a second by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Consider and Act to update bank signature cards to reflect change in Treasurer's office – Debby Grba is now in the Treasurer office. Signature cards need to be updated for the employment change. Motion made by Commissioner Head to update the signature cards with a second by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Consider and Act on allowing Veteran Service Officer (VSO) to open bank account under County Tax ID number - County Treasurer provided that this account will mainly be funded by juror donations. This account will still be reconciled and provide reporting through the treasurer's office. Commissioner Williams moved to allow the VSO to open an account with a second by Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Consider and Act on engagement letter from Eckert & Company for the Mills County audit – Eckert and Company have been completing the audit for the County for approximately 15 years. They have done a great job. Judge Johnson moved to approve the engagement letter with a second by Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Discussion on creating CR 224 from Private Road 224 – taken out of order – Commissioner Head noted that it is a 1.1 mile road. The residents have turned in a petition to make this a county road. The road is not in good shape. Judge Johnson noted that approximately 14 families live on this road. Commissioner Williams noted the guidelines state a 20 day posting prior to Court action. Commissioner Wright noted that the petition signatures need to be verified and the posting notices completed prior to action from the Court. No action by the Court at this time.

15. Consider and Act on hard drive destruction approval. – This was tabled at the last court meeting. Sam Goldsmith provided that the County is currently contracted for this service via our shredding company for \$10.00 per drive. Goldsmith will do this service and offers a certification of disposal at \$20.00 per drive. Judge Johnson moved to contract with Goldsmith Solutions to destroy the hard drives at \$20.00 per drive. Second by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Consider and Act on Courthouse flood lights proposal – This item was tabled at the last meeting. Guy Burns addressed the Court stating that 8 flood lights will cost \$1840.00 with an hour per light for installation. This is approximately \$2000 savings from having Wilson Electric complete the work. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the installation of LED lighting at the Courthouse with a second from Commissioner Wright. Discussion included paying for this out of the maintenance fund. Motion carried 5-0.

17. Consider and Act on Courthouse window blinds proposal – This item was tabled at the last meeting. Guy Burns provided that the blind vendor is having a sale. This price is for purchase only with Mr. Burns completing the installation. Mr. Burns noted that the building improvement fund has a possible balance available to cover the cost of the blinds. Commissioner Partin noted the difficulty of cleaning 171 wood blinds. Judge Johnson moved to approve the wood window blinds for \$23,384.59 Second by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 3-2 with Commissioners Partin and Head voting against the measure.

18. Consider and Act on new EMS building – Terrel Harris of Basic IDIQ addressed the Court. Since the last meeting, have decreased the amount of concrete to keep within the budget for the project. Harris has also met with Buster Taylor of Taylor Construction to bring in a local subcontractor that is more cost effective. Mr. Taylor said he could get to the job within 2 weeks. A section of concrete has been removed on the west end and removed some of the sidewalk. Commissioners agree that they will be able to complete the prep work needed for the concrete work in time for Taylor Construction to complete the work. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the concrete bid with Basic IDIQ with a second by Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.

19. Commissioners' Reports and request

Commissioner Wright, Pct. 1 – hauled 14 loads of material to the EMS sight. 17 loads of base and bladed it in on county road. Trailer that was just purchased needed replacement tires and at least one rim.

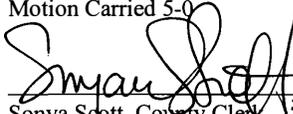
Commissioner Head, Pct. 2 – worked on 332, shredding and blading several other roads. Letter from Randall Leonard cancelling the road use agreement. Bridge on 1047 might be open by the middle of June.

Commissioner Partin, Pct. 3 – working on washed out ditches around the Priddy area. Trimming trees.

Commissioner Williams, Pct. 4 – spotty rain in his area of the county. Blading where they can. Staying busy.

20. Judge Johnson – Monica from the appraisal district noted that tax notices are available on line. Still interviewing to hire chief appraiser. Continue to get the chipped asphalt to work on roads.

21. Adjournment - Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn; Commissioner Wright seconded. Motion Carried 5-0


Sonya Scott, County Clerk
Mills County Clerk



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