

Mills County  
Commissioners Court Minutes  
July 24, 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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, Justice of the Peace – Kim Avants, County Attorney – Gerald Hale, and County Clerk –Sonya Scott; present via Zoom: Clerk Joy Nowell, Deputy Garza (joined later) 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 July 10– changes from the Treasurer were noted on Number 15 – payment was already made. Motion was necessary. No. 17 – Road and Bridget 15-400-317 is the correct account. Judge Johnson moved to approve with changes with a second from Commissioner Williams. -- Motion carried 5-0
3. Audience with Individuals – none.
4. Review and Act on Accounts Payable – Clarification of some charges. Questions on estray payment for Mike Williams. Treasurer was unable to get clarification on why the animals were kept for so long. Need more documentation is the Chief Deputy is not authorized to authorize payments? Commissioner Williams moved to approve Accounts Payable with the exception of the payment to Mike Williams for Estray with a second by Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Consider and Act on Budget Amendments– Treasurer Campbell presented several budget amendments related to Law Enforcement overtime. She has met with the Sheriff and Chief Deputy to project what would be needed to cover the overtime expenses for the remainder of this budget cycle. Sheriff Hammonds has authorized Chief Garza to sign budget amendment. Consistent turnover has caused this issue with overtime. Judge Johnson moved to approve the budget amendments for the Sheriff's department. Commissioner Wright seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Consider and Act on monetary donation to Hill Country Transit – Tony Austin from the Director of Rural Operations of HOP. Addressed the Court. HOP is funded by state and federal funds. County does not fund this project. HOP is asking for \$25,000 funding. Local revenue has dried up over the last several years and Medicaid funding has dropped. Discussion of dropping services and limited service to no out of county trips. School and City have also declined to help fund this project. Budget is very tight this year. Mr. Austin discussed the shortfall of \$59,000 but is just asking the County for \$25,000. TxDot has parameters that will limit how the change in services will be changed. Non-emergency medical transportation will be affected. Do we have the metrics that show what our transportation 4178 total trips in a year of that 517 were shopping. 2119 were school related. Mills County is rural and moving people to where they need to go is costly. State is forcing our hand with regards to services being cut. County provides the office. Does that provide any credit towards our cost? Concern is over our budget being so tight and we are still working on the budget. County

Attorney noted that there is nothing budgeted in this cycle. Commissioner Williams moved to table and discuss during the budget process with a second by Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Consider and Act on 2024 funding commitment for Hill Country Community Action. – Yearly request for \$5000 for the next budget cycle. Commissioner Partin moved to table and include with budget discussions. Commissioner Williams provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Consider and Act on Interlocal Agreement with CTCOG for 911 Public Safety Answering Point. – This is an annual request for services with the CTCOG. This does not say who is running the system just that the CTCOG will provide the system. Contract is with the County – not a direct contract with the Sheriff's office. Sheriff's office not represented. This is the Commissioners role to contract for the County. Judge Johnson moved to approve the agreement with CTCOG. Commissioner Williams provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Consider and Act on adding policy to the Employee Handbook prohibiting the use of some social media applications on county devices. (TX S.B. No 1893) - All County cell phones, iPad and computers. TAC is handing this down. Sam Goldsmith provided that there is no cost to implement. This is a mandate from Texas Bill. Stipend to employees for cell phones does not mean the personal cell phone has to be blocked. TikTok specifically named along with any possible successor. Goldsmith provided that this would be blocked via firewall. Will block from free Wi-Fi as well. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the social media policy to block as requested and for Goldsmith to make the changes needed to make these changes. with a second by Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Discussion of 2023-2024 budget status. This year's certified tax roll is significantly less than last year. Hand out will be provided by the Judge.

11. Consider and Act on security and camera RFP's - David Sons addressed the Court. Handout provided. Of the 4 vendors, 3 in Texas and 1 in Tennessee. The price ranged from \$422,000 to over \$700,000 cost. This is not included in the budget for this year. Discussion of separating this into 2 separate projects. Sam Goldsmith addressed the Court. If the Court wants to separate the projects, we can go back to the vendors and ask for more details with a separated project. Goldsmith provided that he is not prepared to narrow the options at this time. He does not have concerns on any of the three expect for the Graceway Group due to the reoccurring cost annually. Do not think that we need to redo the RFP. Goldsmith recommended to allow all 4 vendors to adjust the RFP into 2 separate projects for the Court to review. County Attorney provided that if you specially change an RFP that the RFP has to be redone. Budget placeholder may need to be used as requesting this information will require time and ,meetings for review. Commissioner Williams moved have Goldsmith ask the vendors to separate the projects and use the \$617,188 as a placeholder in our budget process. Commissioner Head provided the second. Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Partin voting against the measure.

12. Consider and act on selling the Ridge School House and Property. – taken out of order. Commissioner Williams noted that the school house is falling apart and needs a lot of work. He has discussed with the Historical Commission and that group is not interested in funding the repairs needed. School house is on approximately ¾ acre. Commissioner Williams recommended that the property be sold. Does the court want to sell the building? The land and building? Court has to decide how they want to proceed. A survey will be needed if selling the land. Commissioner Head moved to sell the property and school house. Second provided by Commissioner Wright. Commissioner Williams will provide additional information at the next court. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Goldsmith Solutions to provide an IT updates – Handout provided and reviewed. All of the projects are funded in the current budget. Goal is to have all of these items completed by the end of this fiscal year.

14. Consider and Act on Hardware Recycling Approval – This was tabled at the last meeting. These items need to be declared as scrap so that they may be declared as scrap. Commissioner Williams moved to declare the items listed as scrap. Commissioner Wright provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

15. Discussion on existing Wind Turbine abatements and evaluations – Taken out of order – Oncor and Sharyland representative - John Rutledge addressed the Court. Tax projections are over a million less than projected this year. Priddy Wind project came on line at 250 million with a change in value due to abatement starting this year. Is a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) PILOT = 100% abatement. Contractual agreement states a constant payment for 10 years in lieu of taxes. Values are going down as replacement cost are less than when wind turbines first came in place. Handout provided. Can't enter into a long term agreement due to projections change and value changes. If the turbine is re-powered it can cause an abatement/value can change. Envenergy will be fully taxable in 2024 – abatements will cease.

16 Consider and Act on new EMS building – Guy Bums addressed the Court. Electrical and AC are completed. Will not make our August 1 opening date as planned. Finishing up the items as possible. We are still waiting for the doors to be installed that has delayed the opening.

17. Commissioners' Requests and Reports –

Commissioner Wright, Pct. 1 – cutting brush on roads, installed 3 tin horns and moving all equipment from old service truck to new service truck. Digging material.

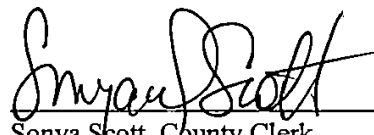
Commissioner Head, Pct. 2 – serviced trucks, installed tin horns.

Commissioner Partin, Pct. 3 – completed project. Thanks for pct 4 guys for the assistance. Have tin horns that want to be installed but does not meet the court set requirements.

Commissioner Williams, Pct. 4 – have a new land owner that needs a tin horn but the location is not good for installation. Assisted pct 3 all week to complete project. Some equipment issues but nothing major. Finding tum around places in road was difficult. Road work rest of the week. In this weeks paper items declared for auction in August. Can deliver the equipment after August 1 that will be in the auction.

14. County Judge Report – Oncor and Sharyland resolution. This is at the Texas Supreme Court now. Might have an answer at the end of the year. Will be having Court every Monday in August. Will also be having a town hall meeting to discuss helicopter transportation for the county. New blinds in the Courthouse that will hopefully help the heating and cooling cost.

15. Commissioner Wright moved to adjourn; Commission Head seconded. Motion Carried 5-0

  
Sonya Scott, County Clerk  
Mills County Clerk



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