

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
November 13, 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 Attorney – Gerald Hale and County Clerk –Sonya Scott; present via Zoom: Kim Avants – Justice of the Peace 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 October 23, 2023 and October 27, 2023– Commissioner Wright moved to approve minutes as presented with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Audience with Individuals – Sheriff Hammonds addressed the Court with regards to leaving office. Last day in office will be November 22, 2023 - handout provided recommended Daniel Garza to act as interim.
4. Review and Act on Accounts Payable – Commissioner Wright moved to accept Accounts Payable with a second from Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda was reviewed by the Court as follows:

- a. Monthly County Treasurer Report
- b. MCAD Monthly Collection Report
- c. County Clerk Report Clerk
- d. District Clerk Report
- e. Tax Assessor
- f. County Extension Reports
- g. Facilities Report
- h. Sheriff's Office
- i. Justice of the Peace
- j. County Judge's Report
- k. Hamilton EMS
- l. Veterans Services Officer

Guy Burns provided an update on the Courthouse doors. Motion made by Commissioner Williams to accept the consent agenda with a second by Commissioner Head. Motion Carried 5-0.

5. Consider and Act on Burn Ban – Burn ban is currently lifted. Judge Johnson does not see any action that needs to be taken at this time. No action taken.
6. Consider and Act on Subdivision Variance – Mr. Kafer addressed the court with regards to splitting his 9.73 acres in two tracts requesting a variance. Judge Johnson moved to approve the variance with a second by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.
7. Consider and Act on COLA for Mills County retired employees - Ralph Wallace from Texas Association of Counties addressed the Court. County budgeted a 3% COLA for retired employees. Judge Johnson moved to approve the \$145,000 budgeted for the COLA for retired employees. Commissioner Wright made the second. Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Partin voting against the measure.
8. Consider and Act on Child Safety Trust Fund – Commissioner Williams addressed the Court. Vehicle Registration office collects \$1.50 per registered vehicle. Treasurer's office has been paying the Heart of Texas Child Advocacy Center in Brownwood but that office is now closed and under investigation. Tax Assessor proposed the money be sent to the Child Welfare Board for use. County must follow statute for disbursement and use of these funds. As Commissioner Williams is part of the Child Welfare Board, he will not be voting on this item. Commissioner Head moved to table until a written advisory from District Attorney. Commissioner Partin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Williams abstaining.
9. Consider and Act on Budget Amendment – moving money from overtime pay to cover certificate pay for deputies. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the budget amendment with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.
10. Consider and Act on Law Enforcement eGrants Resolution for body worn camera – Chief Deputy Garza addressed the Court regarding the needed resolution to be able to apply for eGrants. Items 10-12 discussed as one but will be voted on individually. Resolutions are similar to those approved in the court in the past. Judge Johnson moved approve the resolution. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.
11. Consider and Act on Law Enforcement eGrants Resolution for ballistic vests -Commissioner Williams moved approve the resolution with a second by Commissioner Head. Motion carried -0.
12. Consider and Act on Law Enforcement eGrants Resolution for cell phone download – This is used on seized items to obtain data from the device. Commissioner Head moved to approve the resolution with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.
13. Consider and Act on Canvas for November 7, 2023 Election – County Clerk addressed the Court. Commissioner Wright moved to accept the canvas as provided. Commissioner Head seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.
14. Consider and Act on participating in Texas Association of Counties Cybersecurity Training Program – This is an annual training. Judge Johnson moved to approve the program. Second provided by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.
15. Consider and Act on Rural Interlocal Agreement for Hill Country Transit District – Judge Johnson has been in several meetings with regard to this program. This is a revised agreement.

Commissioner Wright moved to approve the Interlocal agreement. Second provided be Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Discussion on Hoof and Horns Ranch Subdivision – Judge Johnson noted that a preliminary plat has been submitted. Judge Johnson and Commissioner Partin have noted approximately 20 items that needed to be addressed. Judge Johnson has provided a letter with requested information. Judge Johnson is officially saying no to the approval of the plat submitted. Judge Johnson noted an email and a letter was sent on Friday as to why the Plat was rejected.

17. Consider and Act on amendments to the Mills County Road Access Policy – Commissioner Williams addressed the court regarding the changes that are proposed from the previous workshop. Commissioner Williams moved to approve with a second provided by Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.

18. Consider and Act on amendments to the Mills County Subdivision Regulations and County Road Standards – Resolutions drafted with the input of the County Attorney. Judge Johnson moved to approve the changes and resolutions with a second by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.

19. Consider and Act on new EMS building. – still some work that needs to be completed. No other information to report.

20. Commissioners' Reports and request

Commissioner Wright, Pct. 1 – blading roads, mowing, re-topped one road, clearing ROW

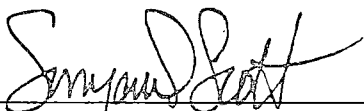
Commissioner Head, Pct. 2 – installed a couple of tin horns and blading roads.

Commissioner Partin, Pct. 3 – blading roads, new employee started this morning. Already has his CDL but no experience with heavy equipment.

Commissioner Williams, Pct. 4 – road work, blading, lost a road with a road wash out from the rain. Trouble getting material with local pits closed. Road is passable but not in the shape it should be – CR 536. Getting bids for low water crossing. Will need to install a tin horn possibly. Ridge School House will be auctioned this Friday. Courthouse cameras will be installed in January. Would Commissioners be open to a safety meeting next week?

11. Judge Johnson – Deputy Garza and the Judge received a letter from Jail Standards and all deficiencies have been corrected. We are now in compliance with the Jail Standards. Still looking for a physician for jail visits.

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



Sonya Scott, County Clerk
Mills County Clerk



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