

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
August 5, 2024 – 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 Jett Johnson, Commissioners Williams, Partin, Head and Wright, County Clerk – Sonya Scott, Treasurer – Summer Campbell, Present via Zoom: Jacki Brooks, and Justice of the Peace – Kim Avants.

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

1. Judge Johnson called the meeting to order noted the presence of a quorum; Judge Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Williams providing the opening prayer.
2. Review of minutes July 22, 2024, July 29, 2024, and July 31, 2024- corrections noted on July 31 minutes. Commissioner Head moved to approve the minutes with corrections with a second from Judge Johnson. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Williams abstained
3. Audience with Individuals – none
4. Consider and Act on approving Accounts Payable –none.
5. Consider and Act on line-item transfer – Commissioner Partin addressed the court that would be moving 20,000 to cover repairs. Commissioner Wright moved to approve the transfer with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Consider and Act on approving order for General Election – Judge Johnson moved to approve with a second from Commissioner Wright Motion carried 5-0.
7. Consider and Act on Election Judges – 2 year designation. Judge Johnson moved to approve with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.
8. Consider and Act on County Vehicle Registration fee schedule – no changes from prior year. Judge Johnson moved to approve the fee schedule with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.
9. Consider and Act on Air Med Care – This is supplemental insurance available to employees. Voluntary signup. This information will be in the open enrollment packet for employees. Commissioner Wright moved to approve with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.
10. Consider and Resolution for Texas Indigent Defense Commission Grant program – Mills County has been awarded \$17033. Judge Johnson moved with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Discussion on report from Texas Commission on Jail Standards – Sheriff Pool addressed the court. This was primarily a paper audit on policies and procedures. Good job to Sheriff and staff.
12. Consider and Act on Crown Correctional Telephone – Coinless Telephone Agreement First Amendment – Sheriff Pool addressed the court. The phones that are in the jail will have to be replaced the current company will no longer service these phones. The phones will be replaced free of charge. There will be changes with how people will login to add funds to the inmates' accounts for phone and commissary. This will at no cost to the county. The company will be in charge of servicing the new equipment. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the Crown agreement with contract remaining. Second provided by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.
13. Consider and Act on new curb work to be done at LEC with two different bidders – Taylor Construction and Pear Lake Concrete and Construction LLC. – Judge Johnson has spoken with Buster Taylor and his bid is up slightly and could start in 3 weeks. Commissioner Williams noted that there is a difference in length of concrete work to be completed. Pear Lake included curb work and pad under the gate. Commissioner Wright would like to see Taylor complete the work that has already been approved. New bid from Taylor includes the pavement work that needs to be completed. Taylor would need to submit a bid to repair the fence as well. Commissioner Partin would like to meet with Taylor and request a bid to include all the work needed and to clarify the difference between the two bids on the length of the concrete work. Judge Johnson moved table item for the bid work until meeting next week. Commissioner Williams made the second. Commissioner Head will reach out to Taylor and have a new bid by Monday. Motion carried 5-0.
14. Consider and Act on fence and retaining wall repairs at LEC – Commissioner Williams moved to table with a second from Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.
15. Consider and Act on Courthouse handicap construction – Guy Burns addressed the Court. Jackhammering completed from Friday through the weekend. Contractor says that he can have the work completed by Friday morning. Removable grates have been made. Work came in under the estimate. Now will only owe \$3177.50 – invoice will be provided. There is a French drain out to the red light that has a known collapsed area. Have been working on fixing these issues and the French drain would be the last place to repair. Commissioner Williams moved to accept the reduced amount bid with a second by Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.
16. Consider and Act on Emergency Management Coordinator – David Shaw addressed the Court. Judge Johnson had reluctantly agreed to act as the EMC but with his busy schedule it is a lot of work and would be a stretch. Shaw has served as the prior EM Director and recently retired from Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM). He is a Mills County resident and would be willing to take on this role. Judge Johnson has discussed with Mr. Shaw that the position of Emergency Management Coordinator and how much he would take as salary for the position. Contract would not require a fuel allowance, computer or office. The position would start January 1, 2025. Shaw noted that this would take on the daily duties of the EMC, emails, committees, etc. The FEMA side of the coin is a different role and would be an additional contract and not a part

of the EMC work. Commissioner Partin noted that we recently approved the July minutes appointed Judge Johnson. Commissioners noted that it would be better to have the position start with the new budget – October 1, 2024. The fee for this service agreement is \$1,700.00 per month. 5% of the FEMA administrative cost can be recouped by reimbursement. Commissioner Wright moved to hire EMC coordinator as of October 1, 2024 for \$20,000. (\$1666.66) per month second from Commissioner Williams. This amount has already been added to the proposed budget. Will add the FEMA portion of this to next agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

17. Consider and Act on accepting a filing cabinet as a donation from Sonya Scott to be used in the County District Clerk's office – Commissioner Wright moved to accept with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

18. Budget workshop with Charles Miles – Miles is not present. Judge Johnson presented information provided by Charles Miles. Another Commissioner Court is scheduled for Monday. Judge Johnson is proposing to lower the tax rate by \$0.01. Commissioner Williams would like to know from Charles Miles that we increase the Road and Bridge tax only. Would like to discuss plans and budget surplus with Charles Miles when he can attend. Judge Johnson will visit with Charles Miles again. No other action at this time. Plans for voting on the tax rate and budget on August 19, 2024.

19.. Commissioners' Request and Reports -

Commissioner Precinct 1 – working on roads, blading roads, have been repairing flood damage on other roads as well.

Commissioner Precinct 2 – working on roads, hauling materials, replaced tin horn. Repairing flood damage. Brush cutter will go to precinct 1.

Commissioner Precinct 3 – blading roads, lots of complaints on flood damage roads. Working on bills for repairs. Maintainer is still not working. Projected repairs of 30-40k. looking at options. Concerns about FEMA on work and the amount of work/paperwork that needs to be completed.

Commissioner Precinct 4 – busy working on roads, blading and repairs from flooding. Met with City Council of Goldthwaite regarding using material from golf course. City is not interested in in-kind work. City would rather be paid. Will meet again with the City Manger for further direction on this project. Each precinct would have to purchase the material. First estimate was for \$10 per cubic yard which is much higher than getting material from Scott McCoy. Will report back to Court.

20. County Judge's Report – MCHC will meet in the 1888 jail for the first time tomorrow. Handicapped entrance will be closed until Friday. Very high temperatures burn ban on.

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


Sonya Scott
Mills County Clerk



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