

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

On the 23rd day of September, 2019, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners' Courtroom, 2840 Hwy 35 N, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, with the following members present: **C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.**, County Judge; **Jack Chaney**, Commissioner, Precinct 1; **Leslie "Bubba" Casterline**, Commissioner, Precinct 2; **Charles Smith**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Wendy Laubach**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Jerry Brundrett**, County Surveyor; **Kristen Barnebey**, County District Attorney; **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Latisha Murphy**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Katherine Comeaux**, Development Services Coordinator; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Linda Doane**, Human Resources Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Environmental Health Director; **Jacky Cockerham**, First Assistant County Auditor; **Iris Sanchez**, County Librarian; **Lori Cesar**, Animal Control Director; **Julie Gifford**, Deputy Elections Administrator; **John Gutierrez**, Chief Deputy Sheriff;

Long-Term Recovery Specialists: **Randall Freeze**; **Vicki Foley**, Executive Secretary;

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present:

City of Rockport Council Members: **Pat Rios**, Mayor;

Aransas County Citizens: Mike Pfister; Kay LeGrand; Patricia Arnold;

Mike Probst, Editor and Publisher of the Rockport Pilot Newspaper;

The Meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. at which time a quorum was declared by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

**Kay LeGrand:** Myself and my husband, Chris, moved to Rockport in 2000 to work for the Aransas County Independent School District. We purchased a home at 702 Copano Cove Road from Thomas Touchstone and he was required to have an Aerobic Septic System installed, according to the contract. He did that, we moved into the house, and we lived there until August 2017 when Hurricane Harvey destroyed it. The home was demolished in May of 2018. Our new house has been under construction and is just about complete, but upon inspection by the Environmental Health Department it was determined that the leach pipe system was damaged, our tanks were in the wrong location, and that we have to get a totally new septic system. We lived there 17 years and did not have any problems, so upon our request the Environmental Health Department gave us a copy of the approved location of the tanks in 2000. (Handed out copies to the Court) You see on the lower part there, the tanks were supposed to be 40 feet from the water, the yellow highlighted area is where the tanks are actually located. Now how did that happen, Thomas Touchstone was the director, or the head of the Environmental Health

Department at that time and Timms Plumbing installed it. So you are supposed to have a final inspection for approval and then at that point you get electricity and move into your house, apparently the final inspection never happened, because we received a copy of the application but there was no inspection on file. If there had been an inspection the tanks would not have been approved and hopefully it would have been corrected, so you're wondering why I am bringing this up 19 years later, well, because we are being required to replace our septic system and it's going to cost us thousands of dollars. We already have an SBA loan to help with the little bit of the insurance that we were given, so what we are asking is, how did this happen, and what restitution is there for us, because now we are being required to put in that septic system where it should have been in the first place, which we wouldn't have to do if it had been put in the right place by an employee of Aransas County. That's basically all I have to say and we would like a response at some point.

Judge Mills: Thank you ma'am.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve:

1. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2019 and the Special Meeting of September 12, 2019.
2. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, Certification from the Texas College of Probate Judges to Melissa Brown, Guardianship Court Clerk, for



successfully completing the Continuing Judicial Education program at the Sheraton Gunter Hotel, August 22-24, 2019 in San Antonio, Texas.

3. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, Certification from the Texas College of Probate Judges to Christella Hernandez, Probate Court Clerk, for successfully completing the Continuing Judicial Education program at the Sheraton Gunter Hotel, August 22-24, 2019 in San Antonio, Texas.
  4. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, countywide vote center locations for the November 5, 2019 Constitutional Amendment Election.
  5. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, Order of General Election to be held on November 5, 2019.
  6. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the minutes of Commissioners Court, the appointment of early voting clerks for the November 5, 2019 Constitutional Amendment Election.
  7. Allowing the Aransas County Library to remain open for the public until 8:00 p.m. on October 8, 2019 for Teen Reads Week.
  8. Court Order #0-17-2019, Setting Fees for Sheriff and Constables.
  9. Official Public Bond Continuation Certificate for Kimberly Morales, Executive Assistant for the Road and Bridge Department.
- Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

COUNTY REPORTS

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve allowing Animal Control to accept a donation of a used, white, top load/glass lid, Samsung Smart Care Washer with an approximate value of \$1000 from Annalisa and Jason Gordon.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

COUNTY ROADS & FLOODPLAIN

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Order #0-18-2019, an Order closing, abandoning and vacating a portion of the cul-de-sac on West Sagebrush Drive, adjacent to Lots 10 and 11, in Copano Cay, Unit 1, Aransas County, Texas.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.
12. Presentation of the Bahia Bay Watershed Drainage Improvements final report by Hanson Engineering's Craig Thompson.
13. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize Road and Bridge to advertise a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services associated with plans, specifications and estimates for Bahia Bay Watershed Drainage Improvements.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

(Insert)

CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, GRANTS & LEASES

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to TABLE approval of the Downtown Anchor Governmental Services Facilities Project Contract with the jointly selected architecture firm, PGAL, and the County.

[Tabled from 09/09/19]

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

15. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Resolution #R-36-2019, a Resolution of Aransas County, Texas certifying that the County has made a grant to the Aransas County Council on Aging, an organization that provides home-delivered meals to homebound persons in the County who are elderly and/or have a disability, and certifying that the County has approved the organization's accounting system or fiscal agent.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Resolution #R-37-2019, for the 2020 Indigent Defense Grant Program.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

17. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Texas Association of Counties' Workers Compensation Renewal Agreement and Questionnaire for plan year 2020.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE

18. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the August 2019 Indigent Healthcare Report and the End of the Year (09/01/2018 - 08/31/2019) Indigent Healthcare Report.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.
19. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the August 2019 Treasurer's Report.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.
20. Motion was made by Judge Mills and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the County's September 2019 monthly financial support in the amount of \$37,500 to Code 3 Emergency for this month, but the County will require a contractual agreement, to be submitted by this time next month, with a written guarantee that these subsidies will be disbursed only as physician compensation.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.
21. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Budget Line Item Transfers of which there were none.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

(Inserts)



22. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll/Payroll Liabilities.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEADS WHEREIN NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

**Suzy Wallace** read the fee report.

**Valerie Gonzales** reported that Environmental Health did not receive any bids for the Roll-Off Truck so she will proceed with HGAC Buy Board prices. Also at 260 Allen M. Parks Drive the demolition has begun.

**Judge Mills** introduced Lori Cesar as the new Director of Animal Control.

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:32 a.m. on a motion made by **Jude Mills** and seconded by **Commissioner Smith**.*

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*Valerie K. Amason*  
VALERIE K. AMASON,  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

*[Signature]*  
C. H. "BURT" MILLS, JR., COUNTY JUDGE

