

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

WORKSHOP MEETING - JUNE 26, 2017

On the 26th day of June, 2017, there was a Workshop Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Courthouse, 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; **Brian Olsen**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Betty Stiles**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Jeri Cox**, Tax Assessor-Collector; **Alma Cartwright**; County Treasurer; **Suzie Wallace**, Interim County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Jacky Cockerham**; Assistant County Auditor; **Tana Taylor**; Assistant Auditor;

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

The Meeting was convened at **8:30 a.m.** at which time a quorum was declared by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DISCUSSION

**Alma Cartwright - County Treasurer:** **Alma**: There are no changes in this department, but I am requesting that my part-time, that I have had for two years, be made a full time employee, there are enough duties at this point to require her to be there full time. **Commissioner Stiles**: Will that cut back on your personal overtime? **Alma**: Oh, I'm sure, but there's enough duties and I like to keep everyone's duties equal, so not only alleviating a duty from me, but from my other staff. **Commissioner Casterline**:

What does the part time person do? **Alma:** Right now, she does the bank reconciliation on small accounts, I do the large one and I would like to give her the other one, she enters all of the juror checks, which has doubled in the last year, that's a big chore, and that helps accounts payable, because they certainly don't want to enter those. So that has consumed her this year and I would give her some spread sheets to do also.

**Commissioner Casterline:** How much money would that be? **Suzy:** What grade and step? **Alma:** 12-3, so the pay right now is \$15,593 and a full time would make it \$31,960, and that's without burdens. **Commissioner Chaney:** So that would be \$12,000 in burdens. **Commissioner Olsen:** Is everything else straight forward? **Alma:** Yes sir, no change whatsoever on anything else. On the rest of the employees I do ask for step increases, but that based on performance reviews.

**Alma Cartwright - Assistance Department:** **Alma:** I don't have any changes there. I do have \$27,563 in the maintenance agreement line, Collin did not know if the indigent health system software would go up, but it is. Other than requesting step increases for the employees in this department, there are no other changes. The telephone did go up just like every department.

**Alma Cartwright - Indigent Healthcare:** **Alma:** This is just an estimation of \$9,000 more right now than what we spent last year, until I get the final numbers on the gross tax levy from Jeri, so those numbers will change. **Commissioner Olsen:** But nothing has changed on this page? **Alma:** On Indigent Health Care? No, that is straight forward medical expenses, based on the 8% of Jeri's numbers. **Commissioner Chaney:** On line 768, Code 3, will that come back as an adjustment sometime here in the year, if the emergency room goes on line? What is that line item for? **Jackie:** We added that line item anticipating that they

were going to be here. **Alma**: Also in there, is it in the Rural Health Clinic, the rent supplement for South Texas Family Planning? Actually it was already approved at the last meeting. **Commissioner Chaney**: Will we see that paid out on a monthly basis? **Jackie**: Yes, it's monthly.

**Alma Cartwright - Health Care Sales Tax**: **Alma**: Council on Aging, their request was the same. **Commissioner Chaney**: And is that monthly? Are we doing anything quarterly now? **Jackie**: We pay the Fire Departments quarterly and I believe that's the only one. **Commissioner Chaney**: How come we pay them quarterly? **Jackie**: That's how it was set up, the capitals part, it may be an Interlocal, I don't know, I haven't read it. **Alma**: Halo Flight, I believe we give it to them all at one time.

**Alma Cartwright - Utilities**: **Alma**: I didn't know what we were going to cover for the new MHMR building, or if we were still going to cover the old MHMR. Adult Probation, are they staying over there? Would we still pay the electrical on that one? **Commissioner Stiles**: That's a Richard Bianchi question. **Alma**: So that may increase if we pick up that new building in the system. We had \$7,000 and I put \$10,000 in case we need to cover that. **Commissioner Chaney**: So you allowed the \$3,000, I think we need to raise that another \$1,000, we have a lot of bodies in and out over there. **Jackie**: Do you want me to increase that, Commissioners? **Commissioner Chaney**: I would take it to \$12,000, because I think we will average about \$400 to \$500 a month there. **Alma**: Oh, I have another line item and it never seems to get in the budget. I had come to the court to get money to spend on the County Health Fair and the Immunizations, I have \$1,500 in it for next year. As far as the Revenue, I project that we are sitting at 5%, Jackie, is that what you're doing, the regular sales tax? **Jackie**: Yes. **Alma**: So, whatever we decide on

the regular sales tax, we will increase the health care sales tax at the same percentage. So, that could change if she adjusts the regular sales tax. **Commissioner Chaney:** What is the SSA Jail Incentive? **Jackie:** I don't know, it's been there, I haven't taken it out, the Judge thinks it needs to be there. **Alma:** We have a jail incentive, but it's not on that line. If an inmate comes into the Jail and they are on Social Security, sometimes we get about \$400 from them and that goes to the General Fund, but it doesn't hit that line item. **Jackie:** They probably created that line for it but it just always hit the general fund and they just haven't taken the line out.

**Alma Cartwright - Hotel/Motel:** **Alma:** The 2018 Proposed Tax \$427,000, Jackie, is that what you ended up putting on it? When we moved it from 3% to 5%, because I like to go conservative on the revenues. Last year we projected \$421,000 and as of....

**Commissioner Olsen:** I think you're conservative, only going up \$6,000. **Commissioner Chaney:** What's the cycle, because we are only at \$73,161 right now? **Jackie:** This is my June, only through the end of May, so we're not getting the big months. **Alma:** Yes, we are missing the big months, so it's kind of hard to project, but I can go back and refigure, and if I can get June's collections in before the budget ends, you can get a better projection. **Commissioner Casterline:** Can you get us a list of the businesses that actually pay hotel/motel? **Alma:** Sure.

**Commissioner Olsen:** Yes, there are RV overnights that should be also collecting hotel/motel tax and the venue tax. **Alma:** The RV's? If they actually have a Cabin, yes. If they just rent the pad for them to park, no. Now, if they have a trailer they are renting out there, then yes. These RV parks are popping up all over the place and we really have to watch. There are also a lot of houses in Copano Cove that people are calling us on, because

people suspect they are renting them out. **Judge Mills:** Is Miss Kitty paying us? **Alma:** Yes, she's probably our biggest one, she has about 60-70 properties that she is renting out. **Commissioner Stiles:** The government did a study on that same issue for the Legislature to look at, because it's got to be statewide.

**Alma:** As far as expenditures, as far as the 4% to the Art Association and the Maritime Museum, I think the Aquarium is asking for 13% instead of 10%, but I wasn't here when they came in. **Commissioner Casterline:** They all asked for something over the usual. **Judge Mills:** Oh yeah, for capital improvement, \$12,000 here and \$14,000 there. **Alma:** I just thought they were trying to up their percentages. Okay, that's all on that one.

**Alma Cartwright - Venues:** We are increasing this fund 5% of projected revenues, which is \$518,000. I did add some lines and actually on Hotel/Motel too, for Collection Software, we have a software program, but I may have to spend some money on the Collection Process, I think that the Hotel/Motel should pay that, like a scanner, the credit card acceptance, whatever we come to, with Collin. **Commissioner Stiles:** Does Misty's software work the same? **Alma:** No, we had looked into that, but Collin has actually already paid for part of the software. The part we haven't figured out yet is, they can electronically file the report, but we've got to have the money come with it, so there may be some expenditures on that, and I think the Venue and the Hotel/Motel Fund should pay. **Judge Mills:** Okay, Jeri's not here, but that budget hasn't changed, right Jackie? **Jackie:** I don't think anything has changed in her budget, but the Appraisal District is looking for some new software, and they don't have numbers yet for her to enter into her budget. **Judge Mills:** Alright.

**Alma:** It looks like this may be a good time to bring this up. The outside Auditors have written us up for two years in a row for time sheets, not having the in and out on them. So, if you would like to be entertained by the numbers, the electronic timekeeping system, this was two years ago and I assume it's still the same rate, is \$15,000, \$3,700 annual maintenance. If you add the remote implementation where people could use a phone app and stuff like that, it's another \$8,500, so to go that route, it is very expensive and you would have to figure out how much money you're saving, by not paying people for not being on time. Or, I can change the time sheets to show in and out if you want me to.

**Judge Mills:** Okay, now we have to wait until 9:00 a.m. to start the next meeting.

---

*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 8:25 a.m.*

---

---

C. H. "BURT" MILLS, JR., COUNTY JUDGE

---

---

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