

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 7, 2017

On the 7th day of August, 2017, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Courthouse, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, with the following members present: **Leslie "Bubba" Casterline**, Commissioner, Precinct 2 and Judge Pro-Tem; **Jack Chaney**, Commissioner, Precinct 1; **Brian Olsen**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Betty Stiles**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Jeri Cox**, Tax Assessor-Collector; **Suzy Wallace**, County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Rene Butler**, Maintenance Supervisor; **Lynn Doane**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Jacky Cockerham**, 1st Assistant Auditor; **Sue Pash**, Chief Deputy Treasurer; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Pat Rousseau**, Human Resources Director; **Michael Geer**, Airport Manager; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Interim Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Gavin Harrison**, Training Coordinator - Sheriff's Office;

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

City of Rockport Council Members: **C. J. Wax**, Mayor; **Barbara Gurtner**, Ward 4;

Texas Maritime Museum: **Kathy Roberts Douglas**, CEO

**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

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS

**AEP Representatives, Patrick King**, External Affairs Manager; **Bob Dupnik**, Distribution System Supervisor; and **Hilda Bernal**, Customer Service Account Representative; were present to update the Court on the July 14, 2017 power outage which affected a large portion of Aransas County residents and businesses. **Patrick** handed out circuit maps to help the court visualize the areas affected, and he stated that at 8:15 a.m. the Fulton Substation Transformer #2 failed internally and tripped off-line causing power loss to 6,700 customers (this being the top green, yellow and red sections). Bob Dupnik's personnel rushed in, identified the problem, and then implemented a plan to do field switching to re-route some of these areas over to another portion of the substation, and at the same time, evaluating the transformer. We were able to restore 3,554 customers with power within an hour and an additional 1,534 customers were back up and running by about 12:30 p.m. At this point the transformer was loaded to capacity. The final 1,514 customers received their power around 11:30 p.m. that evening. This delay was due to AEP having to remove the 100,000 pound transformer, using a crane, and then replace it with a temporary portable unit. We also had to build a whole new overhead distribution lines from the back of the substation out to F.M. 2165 to tie in and re-energize our customers and this is a very labor intensive process. Before we

could turn them back on we had to test and phase in the power, a lot of checks and balances and during that time we had over 50 AEP employees and at least 25 contractors working on this situation. **Commissioner Chaney:** So AEP was so efficient, they were able to accomplish this in under 24 hours? **Patrick:** Yes, sir. **Commissioner Chaney:** That's incredible. **Patrick:** It was all hands on deck that day. So, where are we at now, what is the status of the transformer that actually failed? Due to the size and the weight of the new unit, we had to pour a new pad and stabilize the area with a little bit better concrete. This has been done, it has cured, the new transformer is on site and the information that we are getting at this point and time is that the substation should be back to normal before the end of this month. This was a pretty significant event and we take this very seriously. **Commissioner Olsen:** How long will the switch-over take? **Patrick:** Bob, what do you think, about a day before they get it all tested and get it in? **Bob:** They will start this week, actually tomorrow, on the transformer, it will take about a week to get everything prepared, and in place, and then it should just take a few hours. The public should not experience any outage effects during this process, if there were, it would probably only be about 5-15 minutes. **Commissioner Chaney:** Well one thing is that if we have another major outage, knowing that you all are this prepared and this active, in our planning of emergencies, you do some amazing things. **Patrick:** Well, we want to recommend you on your emergency management system, Rick McLester, your reverse 911 system, that was a very important tool to get the message out to the community and we really appreciate the county's cooperation. **Bob:** And we also want to thank David and his personnel at the County Yard, we had to get

in there and get access from the County's side and they were very helpful and it makes a big difference in trying to get things done.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve:

1. Minutes from the Commissioners' Court Workshop Meeting of June 20, 2017 and the Regular Meeting of July 24, 2017.
2. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the Minutes of Commissioners' Court, Continuing Education Credits for Leslie "Bubba" Casterline, Commissioner, Precinct 2, and Betty Stiles, Commissioner Precinct 4.
3. Acknowledge receipt of and record in the Minutes of Commissioners' Court, 16 Credit Hours of Continuing Education for Collin Jackson, IT Director.
4. Public Official Bond Continuation & Rider on Melissa Lloyd, Court Clerk - Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

**COUNTY REPORTS**

5. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2017 HOT Funds Report for the Maritime Museum.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

**CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS & GRANTS**

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve authorizing the County Judge to sign the renewal of our Adoption Agreement and Certificate of Resolution (#R-14-2017) for the Section 125 Premium Only Plan. This plan is offered to all eligible County employees as a benefit to reduce their tax liability on payment of health, dental and qualifying life insurance premiums. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

**PLANNING & BUDGET OFFICE**

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve accepting a donation of \$1,420 from the 100 Club for bullet proof vests for two Deputies. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.
8. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve revised job description for Assistant County Auditor. This position is an upgrade for the current position based on new required responsibilities. The new pay group for the Assistant County Auditor will be Pay Group 14, on group higher than the current pay grade to reflect the increased level of competence and responsibilities. There is money available in the 2107 budgeted salary line for this upgrade. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve revised job description and reclassification of pay group for the Maintenance Director (formerly Maintenance Supervisor) to be effective January 1, 2108. This position is an upgrade for the current position based on assigned responsibilities. The new pay group for the Maintenance Director will be Pay Group 19, one group higher than the Pay Grade 18, to reflect the increased level of competence and responsibilities and to provide consistency between this position and similar ones at the County. The dollar amount of the salary will not change from the current level, only the Pay Group will be adjusted. The position will no longer be Non-Exempt in line with the responsibilities required of the job.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve July 2017 Indigent Health Care Report.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Resolution R-15-2017, authorizing Prosperity Bank Signature Authority and Electronic Banking Services.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

12. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Budget Line Item Transfers of which there were none.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

13. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Accounts Payable.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

14. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve Elected Officials Salaries for the 2018 Budget Year. Commissioner Chaney made a motion to amend the motion by adding the approval of the 2 ½ % increase for the Elected Officials, who choose to take it, pending the adoption of the 2018 Budget. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Stiles.

Question. Commissioner Casterline voted against the motion, stating that, I think we are cutting a lot of people out of our budget and I think the Elected Officials ought to not take it.

Motion carried with three voting for the motion and one voting against.

It is so ordered.

15. Discussion on approving the Proposed 2018 Budget included a statement from the Auditor, **Suzy Wallace**: We just have the proposed tax rate and the proposed budget today and the Elected Officials Salaries that were approved today will be posted in the paper, (Rockport Pilot), this Wednesday for the notice, as required.

(Insert)

16. Motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve August 21, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. for Public Hearing on the 2018 Budget.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.
17. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to increase the tax rate by 1 ½ cents over the 2017 Effective Tax Rate. Amended motion was made by Commissioner Chaney to set the total tax rate at .403315, which is a 3.86% increase over the current effective rate. Commissioner Stiles seconded the motion.  
Question. Commissioner Casterline voted against the motion stating that, he did not think we need over a penny increase. Motion carried with three voting for the motion and one voting against.  
It is so ordered.
18. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve taking action by record vote scheduling two Public Hearings on August 17, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. and August 21, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. on the Proposed 2017 Tax Rate and Proposed Tax Increase.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.
19. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve Adopting the 2018 Budget and the 2017 Tax Rate at the Regular Meeting on August 28, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.



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

There were none.

REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST  
REGARDING WHICH NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

There were none.

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:35 a.m. on a motion made by  
Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney.*

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LESLIE "BUBBA" CASTERLINE, COUNTY JUDGE PRO-TEM

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