

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

WORKSHOP MEETING - JUNE 19, 2018

On the 19th day of June, 2018, there was a Workshop Meeting of the Commissioners' Court in the Commissioners' Courtroom in the County Courthouse, located at 2840 Highway 35 North, 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.

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

Wendy Laubach; Candidate Elect for Commissioner, Pct. 4;

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:

ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION

General discussion of 2019 Budget with elected officials and department heads as scheduled.

Patrick L. Flanigan, 156th District Court Judge: I've got a couple or three budgets I need to visit with you about, we've got some real good news, the Court Reporter Service Fund, it's a special dedicated fund, they are a portion of the filing fees in Civil cases that go towards Court Reporter expenditures and can be used for indigent court appeals transcripts, we had been taking those out of the general fund and a few years ago that changed so we now have the special fund for those expenses and

we have \$84,000 in that fund at this point. Historically, I don't think we've taken more than \$10,000 out for these expenses in any one

year. The other thing that we have done, in visiting with the Auditor, her staff and the District Judges is we have modified numbers in 2019 as opposed to 2019, we are having to deal with attorney fees, which is a big expense, it's a mandate that the State gives us and we just have to pay them, both Criminal & CPS cases. **Commissioner Olsen:** Do you think the additional \$11,000 will take care of this? **Judge Flanigan:** I think that will be fine, what we've gone to the last half of this last year is a flat fee instead of an hourly rate. This encourages attorneys to dispose cases of quicker & benefits the County, so this ought to be enough. The other thing, salaries are always a consideration, we made the determination even though we have the right to go ahead and dictate to the Commissioners Court what salaries are going to be for our court reporters and our court administrators, we've always been treated very well by the counties so we are recommending an increase only if other County employees are receiving one. **Commissioner Olsen:** The miscellaneous fees are up \$8,000, can you tell us about this? **Judge Flanigan:** I'm not sure where that comes from other than the expense that we are going to consider and want to have included, if you'll go to 116 under the 435 budget, the pro rata share category that would go to San Patricio County, we've got that tagged right now at \$118,000, why that was reduced from the \$129,000 projected I don't know, I think that was looking at the overall savings that we anticipated on not having any kind of big equipment, we had a copier that we had to buy last year that is used by all of the counties, we had some... **Suzy:** Judge Flanigan, may I interrupt you? On that number, I just got an e-mail from David Wendell and he said the percentage split is 17.54% and the estimated share is \$136,000 and we had printed this budget before I received that e-mail. **Judge Flanigan:** Ok, the reason that we are going up to \$136,000 and actually I was thinking that it was going to be closer to \$138,000, we do have one big expense that we are trying to get for next year which is a new software system for the District Judges, court reporters, and court administrators to use that will enable us to access all five data

bases from the five counties that we serve. We have five different counties with five different data bases or docketing systems through the District Clerk's offices, the Odyssey System for Aransas County and San Patricio County are compatible but they run on separate servers etc., than what the other 3 Counties are using. This new system allows remote access records, attach signatures to search warrants, orders, etc. When we looked at the options that we had, personnel costs are increasing everywhere, we looked around at the different departments and every department had increased double in the time period that I've been around, except for the District Judges and their personnel, we have the same amount now as what we had 35 years ago. We anticipate that using this new system, which is going to be about a \$65,000 start-up between five counties and a small annual update, will allow us to continue with the same amount of staff.

Commissioner Chaney: This is in line with what we've been talking about the last few years, the e-signatures, etc. **Judge Flanigan:** Yes, it's all in one package and it has the security that we need in dealing with sensitive documents. **Commissioner Chaney:** With the growth of industry coming into San Patricio County, what do you anticipate in the increase of court cases? **Judge Flanigan:** I would guess at least 10% in both San Patricio and Aransas Counties for the next couple of years. **Judge Mills:** Ok Judge, what else: **Judge Flanigan:** I think that's about it. We did move one of the expenses out, I think it was court costs, we moved that somewhere else and I wasn't sure what we were taking out of that fund. I think some of the court reporter expense and the visiting Judge expenses were coming out of court costs, so we were identifying different line items where those funds should be more properly budgeted.

Jeri Cox, Tax Assessor-Collector: My increase is in Professional Services and that's the amount that I pay to Appraisal District on an annual basis for IT support through True Automation, Harris Govern and they just charge the appraisal district, it's calculated out what my share is and I pay them. They did have an increase in their annual

support and also we have paid in the past \$22,000 each year for five years for hardware server purchase that was made five years ago. That is going to be paid off at the end of this year, but they are now looking at purchasing a new server and so I left the \$22,000 in there plus \$3,000 more for my portion of the new server. I also submitted in my budget cost of tax collecting based on these numbers, last year we charged off to the entities \$93,749 and that was broken down by the percentage of the tax roll per entity, this year I have increased that to \$97,427, that's mainly personnel costs using current salaries. If that amount is ok to charge out, that would give me the opportunity to start working with Carrie & Kristen on the contracts. This is the spreadsheet I gave you at the time based on 2019 income with the projected effective rate on the preliminary values and I've added the very bottom part calculating income with exactly 2017 tax rate, I think that was a request. With the 2017 tax rates against the 2018 preliminary values, I left the exact same rate all the way down of course it would probably not be that for the interest and sinking because I don't know what the debt payments are for this coming year, but just applying it to the values across the board my tax levy is almost \$2,000,000 down compared to last year's budget \$1,684,000.

Jackie: Yes, the General Fund M&O would be 1.2 million. **Jeri:** And I think that may shift some, would actually make it worse because of the debt and I have talked to the Appraisal District and they are still reducing values, people protesting and everything but the number of official protests that haven't been settled, the last time I checked, is right around the same number as last year 974, something like that so they were please about that but now people are bringing their proof if they had interior damage. **Commissioner Stiles:** And they may have made some errors in what is still standing and what is not.

Commissioner Olsen: When will you ask for final numbers? **Jeri:** They are required to provide them by July 25th and I think we have the budget set right after that. **Commissioner Olsen:** Thank you. **Jeri:** That's all I have.

Richard P. Bianchi, County Court At Law Judge: My budget is fairly close to last year's budget, the case load is staying reasonably static, if it did increase I don't know what we'd do without adding more courtroom time and maybe personnel so we're kind of stuck with status quo. I have a couple of items on the proposed budget, insurance and bond premiums and we are showing a decrease of \$1,700, I'm not sure of where that came from, I've never heard of insurance going down. **Suzy:** We did an analysis on that but I will double check it to make sure we put the correct numbers in. **Judge Bianchi:** Ok, the only add on I have is in line item 488, travel and meals, the travel needs to be increased by \$3,000 for expense by court reporters, this is something that was implemented last year but it just wasn't in the budget last year. **Commissioner Olsen:** So bring that up to \$5,000? **Judge Bianchi:** Yes, that's what I'm suggesting and really, that's it. **Commissioner Chaney:** What is the volume of cases that you've heard annually? **Judge Bianchi:** I don't have a good enough number to give you, I get what the County District Attorney's Office brings to us. I do have one request or question, that's for an update or a guidance on our personnel pay raise policy, where we are at, at this time. I just want to be sure I'm following policy, I'm in the fortunate position of having two excellent employees and I want to make sure I keep those employees. So if the policy is nobody is getting a pay raise anywhere for anything, ok, I understand, but if there are step increases or title changes or some method used to gain a pay increase, I need guidance. **Alma:** We have step evaluation monies allocated for that on an annual basis. **Commissioner Olsen:** Have you done a review and increase for this year? **Judge Bianchi:** No. **Suzy:** Linda Doane will get you the policy.

Mike Gordon, Fleet Maintenance: In my budget I lowered some numbers and raised some, I have three where I need more money, gas, oil, & lubricants because prices have increased, most of that is absorbed by the R&B department. Conference and association dues, that's where we need more training for Chris Randall on the second part of hydraulic

training to keep us up to date, and John Jennings for the future on hydraulics, he took the first class and did real well, it's helped out already and I really want to send him to the second more advanced training on that. If I have the opportunity and the money I'm going to try to transfer money and do it in December, because that's when we are kind of slow and they have those training classes in Houston, but I want to go ahead and put it in the budget just in case that doesn't happen. I may not use it, but it will help the county in the long run keeping professional service funds down if we do the maintenance. In Capital Outlay, we need a new tire balancer, ours is 13 years old, it's hard to get parts, the motor is going out on it, and having issues with the bigger & heavier tires we now have on our county vehicles. **Commissioner Olsen:** And how much would a new one cost? **Mike:** A new one would cost us about \$4,800 to \$5,000. **Commissioner Chaney:** Would you have enough in this budget to purchase that? **Mike:** Possibly if I do a line item transfer at the end of the year, maybe see if I have enough in late November, early December.

Lee Zapata, Communications Director: The only change I have is personnel, this morning I was looking through some numbers and I had not calculated the percentage and our county percentage is up by 2 ½% from 2016/17 & 2017/18 to 47%, I used the personnel bottom line figure that the City has calculated for the 2019 budget and 47% of that comes out to \$367,847, which is about a \$37,000 variance and that's my mistake, I just didn't have the percentages put together yet and I realize that was weak, you know how we do the annual calls for service to make a decision on our percentages for each entity. **Judge Mills:** So what was it again? **Lee:** The City of Rockport is at 50%, the County is at 47%, and Fulton is at 3%, which is basically 1% down. We are up in calls for the county, productivity from the Sheriff's Office on what we've been doing this last year. **Commissioner Chaney:** How many calls do you have a year? **Lee:** The percentages I do basically are from June to May and we had 18,000 dispatch calls for those agencies.

Commissioner Chaney: How do we compare to other counties? **Lee:** For a small community, I think pretty high.

David Reid, Road Administrator: Revenues, I don't anticipate getting a lot of work from the other entities, I talked to Donohoe and he doesn't know what his budget is looking like, so I don't want to county on that. **Commissioner Casterline:** Well if we don't get that it will give us more time to catch up on our work. **David:** Right, hopefully we can patch roads this year, but I think there are going to have to be some long term solutions for some of those roads. Are we getting FEMA money, I hate to count on that, and there's still very little grant money out there and I don't know about the timing on that. **Commissioner Casterline:** If we get FEMA money for roads how long do we have to spend the money? **Jackie:** You have to spend before you get it, it's all a reimbursement. **Commissioner Casterline:** So how long do you have? **Jackie:** I think as long as the project is open because they still have stuff from Katrina that they haven't finished and closed. You have to submit a list and once they get the project written and everything's approved, then they obligate the money and it's just sitting there until you complete the project, turn everything in and then you get reimbursed for it. There are instances where they will let you get an advance but for the most part you have to spend it. **Commissioner Casterline:** David, how many roads did you have on the list? **David:** Twelve or thirteen. **Commissioner Casterline:** Can you file anything for cleaning culverts & ditches? **David:** I suppose we can, but I wasn't thinking about getting reimbursement for that, we do that in our normal process. **Commissioner Casterline:** I was just thinking there were probably so many of them out there that we may have to actually contract some. **David:** That may be true, there is always the man power problem. **Commissioner Casterline:** But like I said if we don't do anything for the City that will give us some extra time. **David:** Yes. **Commissioner Stiles:** Well there's hardly a road that hasn't been obstructed. **David:** That is true but not so much from the storm but from the debris removal. Some more than others, the one I'm

really worried about is Loop 1781, it took a beating from Crowder Gulf. **Commissioner Casterline:** And airport road too. **David:** Well, airport road is mostly in the City. **Commissioner Chaney:** On the paving of Monkey Road, you guys did a really good job on that. **David:** Thank you. **Commissioner Chaney:** But, Bubba and I were talking yesterday and that did not save us much money as we had anticipated. **Commissioner Casterline:** You didn't use that crushed concrete on that did you? **David:** We used limestone, but there's not a big difference on that. I did look at what it would cost to build that and it was in the \$25-\$26 a linear foot range, as opposed to the \$50-\$60 per linear foot for the normal road, so yes, we saved some money. Under certain situations I think it's better to do that type of road, it's a lot cheaper, but I think you are going to wind up with more maintenance cost as you go forward. **Commissioner Casterline:** We were there a lot with the way it was. **David:** Yes. I expect next year we will be back on our regular seal coat process, of course materials are up again and will be up again by the time we do these, but I am looking at a little over 20 miles of seal coat for next year. I'm looking at reconstruction for Green Oak, Hewitt, West Club Lake, Port Bay and Rattlesnake Point road was actually on this year's, I'm not sure we will get to that this year but we will get to it next year. Like I said, I'm really worried about 1781, it's a really long road and the county's part is 8 miles and to rebuild it completely will take 3 million to do that. **Commissioner Stiles:** How much of the CO money is left? **David:** We probably have \$1,000,000 left to do that. What I'd like to do is spend some money in some evaluations, take core samples & see if we have any subgrade issues and maybe that will tell us how much of that road we really need to rebuild. **Commissioner Stiles:** We talked about widening Rattlesnake Point Road and what the cost is to do that, you're going to have to do some eminent domain almost to widen that, are you not? **David:** Well, I'm going to try to shoehorn in some width in the ROW that we have. **Commissioner Stiles:** Are you trying for any kind of grant money associated with Long Term Recover? **David:** Yes, I got with

Kim Fouts this morning and she was going to get me on a potential list for Fulton Beach Road, Lamar Beach Road, Shell Ridge Road, and Rattlesnake Point Road. The first three were on a mitigation grant, but that project was for oyster reefs or something out in the bay, so I wanted to get on Kim's list for money that was for shoreline restoration. **Commissioner Olsen:** You have \$10,000 extra in signage.

David: I understand that we had Insurance on signs, is that right?

Jackie: Yes. **David:** I put a big number for signs in, I don't know that we will have to use it or maybe they will pick up that tab.

Commissioner Stiles: We need to look into purchasing our own equipment to make signs, it would be a lot cheaper than contracting that out.

Have you done any kind of cost estimate? **David:** I have, I don't have those numbers with me but I think it was in the \$10,000 range.

Commissioner Stiles: Are you going to start charging for permits at some point? **David:** We already are charging for new construction, I

don't remember what the court decided on old construction, I think you said April. **David:** One other thing, I did want to buy a piece of software that costs about \$14,000 for the first year and \$6,000 per year after that for maintenance. **David:** Collin, did you write that

down? **Collin:** I did write it down but it would not be something that would come out of my budget, it would have to come out of R&B. **David:** This is a web based project, monitoring, tracking, program, you can

have an app on your phone, take a picture of a culvert that's blocked, it pops up on the main screen on a map and creates a work order when it's finished. **Judge Mills:** What happened to pencil and paper? **David:**

It's really a pretty good piece of equipment, documentation and costs of doing projects, tracking inventory, and it puts it on the map so you can see if there is a drainage problem in one area, if you want to see a demonstration, I can arrange that. **Commissioner Casterline:**

Would you be able to keep track of where signs were? **David:** Yes, you could keep an inventory of all of that and the inventory that you have out in the yard and in the field. You can get it where people calling in with their problems, it will create a work order. **Collin:** It would

come in really handy for a lot of the FEMA paperwork that we are having to do. There is unlimited usage, any department that might need it for something could use it.

Mike Geer, Airport Manager: I would like to put less money in my RAMP Grant to help keep the County in the black and I can't see where we would want to spend a lot of money on Grant Projects next year because most of them are done. The only other thing is I'm going to be losing a full time employee that's going to go to part-time, the plan is not to hire another full time employee. I was able to take advantage of a grant through Texas workforce that will pay for one full time employee to help us with the inside work for the time being. Fuel prices for aviation are trending up, I've been raising prices about every 2-3 weeks and I look for it to continue through the summer. In Utilities, I look for electric to go down, the main reason for that is the we had a well that water was going for who knows how long, the only thing on that well now is for irrigation around the terminal area, before we had the entire hangar farm on that well water. Shame on me for not noticing the electric bill before that and isolating that particular meter. **Commissioner Stiles:** Did you put anything in your budget for the sinkhole repair? **Mike:** Not yet, we are still evaluating, I did buy some barricades to put around it, as we are doing work out there through North Star and also with this other engineering project that we have going on with TXDot and getting some professional input on what might be causing that. It could have very well been exasperated by the hurricane and Paul Chappel with North Star is looking at that to see if there is a way that we can include it in our insurance or a grant. **Commissioner Casterline:** Where is the sinkhole? **Mike:** Right on the ramp, behind the terminal next to a big drain box. **Commissioner Casterline:** I'm sure you still have the map of the old drains, it's been, for years, where all over the airport where the culverts failed, there is an extravagant drainage that was built in there originally years ago and on the side of the road where culverts go together, they were some pretty dangerous places. **Mike:** That's what is happening

here, this was an improved box in 2008 they lined the culvert with fiberglass and we had some schematics on that as well, but whatever is happening is happening underneath or around behind the box, you can look behind the box and not see any washout but it's going to take tearing the pavement up to see what's causing it. **Commissioner**

Casterline: What's your traffic look like? **Mike:** It's picked up a little bit this summer, but we had a really slow first few months of the year, slower than the previous 4 or 5 years. **Commissioner Chaney:**

Mobile Exxon, have you contacted them yet? **Mike:** I keep trying, if somebody's got a better contact number, I'd sure appreciate it, the number I have is for the Aviation Fleet Manager and I can't get any return calls. **Commissioner Stiles:** You also have one other thing that you are going to have to deal with, on your new hangars, do you have any anticipation as to when, the amount of revenue that you're going to lose compared to what you said you will gain back? **Mike:** I still don't have a really good idea of what that's going to be, I just know that we have the Lost Revenue Insurance and the thing is, we got paid on that, a lump sum up front, and that all went on last year's income. So this year's income, we've taken a pretty large hit there, since we have \$140,000, I think in October or November of 2017, that all went on 2017's books. Coming into 2018 we haven't made any money on hangar rent at all and if you do the math the \$140,000 is almost what the hangar rent would be. We're getting near the point where they will need to pay us again if they are going to. I have another meeting with North Star when I leave here to kind of discuss that time frame of when they are going to start handing hangars back to us or I don't know if we are still going to have to continue to tear buildings down, we don't know.

Commissioner Stiles: Have you heard back on the concrete evaluation? **Mike:** No, still testing, the slabs will still be usable as slabs just maybe not usable as foundations. Again, we are still not sure what we are going to have to tear down but as they start handing hangars back to us I can start charging hangar rent again. I have 20-25 customers that want to come back some of them have

their planes on the ramp waiting in the rain and the sunshine, same as the Highway Patrol with their boats, they rent a rather large hangar from us ordinarily and their boats are sitting out in the elements and Austin doesn't like that, they want to do something about that pretty quick. I've lit a fire under North Star, but I want to make sure that we get everything we can possibly get because this is our one shot. To answer your question we will probably have about 20-25 customers as opposed to the 50 we had before.

Collin Jackson, IT Director: My maintenance line went up significantly, I included a disaster readiness package so that we would get some fiber optic support from Spectrum and AT&T to get us a connection into Austin for backup and recovery of our data as well as delivery of our internet connection, we would get our internet out of Austin instead of relying locally, but we had to put in the budgetary numbers, and part of this is the hazard mitigation grant that I'm going for, but while we are trying to submit that grant in 2019 coming up, I figured it would behoove me to put it in the budget in case we don't get the grant or there is some stalling on the grant that keeps us from being able to start implementing that Hazard Mitigation. If we get that Grant and start getting that project built then my maintenance line could go back significantly to close to what it was in previous years. On my spreadsheet with some of the increases that we've done after Harvey getting some AT&T circuits to get back to operational my maintenance line increased to \$467,000 roughly, with the disaster readiness package in there it goes up to about \$548,000. I did look at how much of that affects other departments, basically we would be buying a \$200 internet service for each department and there are 41 departments in the county. **Commissioner Stiles:** Is that reflected in each of the departments' budgets? **Collin:** It is not, it's rolled into mine, accounting wise it made more sense to put it all in mine. As far as my capital, I have only put in a few of the projects that people have requested of me for this year, I had a lot of projects that did not happen in 2017 and I ended up giving money back

because of Harvey. I did not put those back into the 2019 budget because after evaluating, part of what I had in 2018 I can cover and replace some of the hardware that needed to get purchased and cover some our exasperated storage where we are constantly digitizing data now trying to get more of our HR records onto a digital backup capable software package, we have the HR package in this budget, additional storage needs for the County Attorney, I'll be taking care of some of that this year and adding some next year, the Sheriff's Office with all of their new body cameras and all of the vehicles they are getting, we are having to buy a new server to store all of their video data and that's in the budget for next year as well. Other than that I've only included replacing about 20 desk tops & 11 lap tops, I've got loaners from the Office of Court Administration, we are going to have to end up buying laptops for the court personnel, for people that I've got loaner hardware, refurbished and used, they transferred it to our budget but I'm not going to be able to continue to maintain that hardware, we are going to have to surplus out at some point. That kind of accounts for a lot of my budget increase, I've moved numbers around but that's kind of where it was, I was looking pretty good until we started adding the additional server, in 570 I do have about \$88,000 in that budget that I have earmarked for technically other departments projects. We could put that into their budgets specifically, if we wanted to. Same with my maintenance line, about \$66,000 are other departments. The maintenance line, we did allocate out where the maintenance that is part of a piece of software that is used by possibly one department, two departments where it would be easy to divide, we did split that out where it is going to be reflected in their individual budgets. This is kind of my worst case budget, we may or may not get the Hazardous Mitigation Grant and then also the time frame and we have three years to get the grant implemented and all the stuff implemented before going back for extensions. **Commissioner Olsen:** How large is the grant? **Collin:** The grant is \$14,000,000 just for us, it is a Multi-jurisdictional Grant which will be for Rockport,

Fulton, all Fire Departments, EMS, pretty much all of the first responder units, the Schools, etc. It basically builds your own underground network so we don't have to worry about a hurricane coming in a picking off our power poles and stuff, so it is getting slow movement, there are people higher up that have been looking at it, William Whitson has been really helpful in getting Mike Koerner involved, but in the interim I did factor in a 3 year term for this disaster package of getting AT&T and continuing to suffer there. It's kind of a ridiculous cost, they are the only providers in town, AT&T and Spectrum, when they cross the bridge into this area the price automatically goes up, so we are at their mercy as far as getting any support. We added a circuit to the airport after the storm and that was being charged to FEMA for a while, I went ahead and put it in my budget because we don't know how long FEMA will pay for that at about \$2,000 a month. We are still maintaining the Spectrum circuit in case we decide not to budget or FEMA cuts us off, but right now those terms were obligated for 2 more years unless we decide to enact the non-appropriation clause. **Commissioner Chaney:** We had Harvey and we've been working to get all of this stuff Cloud based, were we successful in that? **Collin:** As far as our court records, yes, except that all records were not digitized, like in Valerie's office we hadn't had enough time to scan them all, as far as records like HR, we never had a digital package for that. **Commissioner Chaney:** So are you going to put a plan together, sometime in the near future, to fix those holes? **Collin:** That's part of what this disaster package that I put in here is, we would have a pretty significant high speed connection into Austin to Texas One Data Foundry Data Center up there. I've looked at what it would cost to put our own server storage and equipment up there and they also have their own Cloud storage offering where we could basically dial into their storage on demand and stick stuff up into a highly redundant data center that is quite a ways away from Rockport and in a facility that is pretty much a bunker, wholly protected. **Commissioner Chaney:** Well trying to reflect your leadership

in the IT unit, that you had been talking about that for three or four years and I want to thank you for that because I don't think we would have been as far along as we are. **Collin:** Thank you, we've come a long way, I thought my budget was doing really well until we started getting some of the final numbers back on the disaster readiness package and then some of the projects that got added in before submitting it before the deadline, I had to cut people off with requests. **Suzy:** Do you want us to update them now? **Collin:** That's up to you. **Suzy:** Would everyone like to see the updated amounts? **Collin:** My maintenance has gone up significantly, I added some professional services because, I'll admit there are areas in this that I was like, ok, this is kind of overwhelming, so I wanted to get some consultants, some professional services in to help guide us to ensure that we effectively close any gaps, take care of some of these servers that are aging out and to get as much of our data as we've still got on site up into an environment that is wholly protected. I was talking with our backup recovery vendor from Reliant Data and they are about to switch software so I had to factor in a new piece of hardware to cover the software that they are going to in order to store the backup data. I've had a chance to demo the new software and its ability to recover from a disaster situation and it gives us a lot more rapid recovery than what our current solution does and I think we need that. **Commissioner Chaney:** Whenever we go back to the new courthouse, do we need to take into consideration, having the servers in a room that has a little bit more concrete and a better air conditioning system? **Commissioner Stiles:** Or a generator. **Collin:** Yes. **Commissioner Stiles:** Are you still occasionally working for City? **Collin:** Yes, knowledge transfer mostly, and showing the new interim IT director how to navigate the networks at the police and Sheriff's stations, but not too much time spent over there. I just want to mention also, I do have the iBench software program for the District Judges in my budget and I also included the software for Judge Bianchi if he chooses to

use it. **Suzy:** Do I need to add maintenance for Judge Bianchi? **Collin:** No, it's the same for both.

Kristen Barnebey, County/District Attorney: If you remember, last year we did return some money to the County, that and Pre-Trial Diversion money, and that was in part & parcel to have a new position and us moving some money around, and this year we will do the same, we will both, return money to the county, we will absorb any raises that are given, both this year and next, and we are also cutting our budget. So the County/District Attorney's office wants you to know, and I've had a meeting with staff, and of course in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, we have made a commitment to be good stewards of the tax payer's money and also understanding that potentially you have some hard decisions to make in the future. So, how did we do that? After last year we had the new attorney's spot, we did not fill that spot after Hurricane Harvey and to date we have not filled that spot, hoping that we can just get through. Also, instead of attending seminars, Kelsey and I have been lucky enough to have been asked to speak at some of the seminars for the Association. That way I still get the same credits and they pay for the expenses. We also did not fill some of the losses we had right after the Hurricane, because we did lose several employees due to damage, we waited until we got back up to full speed so that left some money as well. So you will see in this budget that we are not coming to the commissioners at all and asking for any raises, instead I've gone to my staff and indicated that as much money as we can save, we will put in a pool & then discuss raises at that point, everyone in my office is in agreement and understands what's going on. So, another way that we have lowered costs is, we recovered all of our furniture after the storm, we went in, even though sometimes we weren't approved to go in, so we were able to recover almost 100%. So, moving forward where will we cut? If you remember last year, it was a legislative year, and DPS was talking about charging counties for the drug testing, that was a big deal and it will certainly be another big deal this year, however it won't go

into effect until mid-summer or maybe September 1st so we can cut some of the court costs there and take that down to \$30,000, of course we are returning that money this year because we didn't have to use that money this year, we also did not move it around and try to use it. Also, if you notice the furniture area can be cut \$2,000, professional services we are going to leave at \$11,000 even though we will probably return the majority of that, so I just wanted you to know that, not only are we cutting our budget for next year, we are not asking for raises this year or next year. My understanding on how to ask for that, you did not necessarily include it, that there was a fund for that, but we are not making any requests for raises and we are anticipating returning the same amount of money to the county as last year. **Commissioner Stiles:** There is a State Fund that you receive, is that in here? **Kristen:** It's always just gone into the budget, I've never said you have to, your right the County/District attorney can say it must be spent on XYZ, and I just have never done that, I've never see the need for it and you could use it for all kinds of things. Just so you know, our Forfeiture Account has about \$9,000 in it, which is low, but that is used for law enforcement training, and then the Hot Check Fund has about \$10,000 in it and that can't be used for just anything, and it's a little bit on the downside because we don't handle a lot of check cases. **Judge Mills:** What is the total amount you are giving back to the county? **Kristen:** So last year at least \$15,600 but there will be more, I'm going to wait to see if you decide if any, as for raises throughout the county or not do anything, it's not the same as anybody else and then calculate that, but it's going to be in the nature of \$50,000 we think in the long run. **Commissioner Casterline:** Do you also have the Law Library? **Kristen:** I do, the Law Library is statutory, it goes 100% to Vernon Statutes, and I think it's exactly the same.

10:58 - Break for lunch.

Resumed meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Kay Adams, Wing Rescue: This year, we are hoping to get your help with euthanizations, we used to have two vets, now we are down to one and the county is not helping us with it, Dr. Thompson is the only one in town that will help us. **Judge Mills:** I can't speak for the rest of the court, but would it be good if the County Animal Control could help out Monday through Friday during normal working hours? **Kay:** Yes, last year we would call ahead, it was Monday - Friday, and try to set a time for them to help us out. Last year we had talked about a service contract between us and right now we have one with Aransas County Navigation District that compensates us \$35.00 per carrier, with a max of \$3,500 a year, we have renewed again for the third time with an automatic renewal because they are so happy with our services. **Judge Mills:** If we had the same kind of understanding with you as the Navigation District that would make you happy? **Kay:** Yes, that would help us so much. A copy of the agreement is in the packet.

Pam Stranahan, Historical Commission: We are asking for \$10,000, same as last the last couple of years. (See handout for breakdown attached)

Kathy Roberts Douglas, Texas Maritime Museum: A budget request was submitted in advance of today in the amount of \$8,000, the same as last year, so on behalf of the board of trustees and myself we thank you for your funding especially here in the last few months. The museum remains debt free with a mission of providing education and entertainment to the public about Texas Maritime History. As you remember we were designated by the Legislature in 1987 as the official maritime museum for the State of Texas, we are still accredited through the American Alliance of Museums in Washington DC and just as a side note to that we will be going up for re-accreditation in 2019. When American Alliance was informed of the situation in Rockport in 2017, they asked us to wait until we felt like we were restored and as you know we were completely restored in April of this year. In review of just some of the quarters, the Sea Camp was completed last summer

and we hosted 250 children. The Byers and Sunderland Stockless Anchor, built in the early 20's arrived on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 and that particular anchor is so exciting, it has a Swastika on it because it was built in the 20's and because it was made before Hitler in 1932 we recognize it as a good luck Swastika for good sail and for good anchor. Hurricane Harvey didn't get that one because it weighs 14,000 pounds and it was planted on that concrete pad and it is southeast of the building. The Duck, Duck, Goose, a temporary exhibit was supposed to be on Labor Day, that did not happen until April 2018. During our closure we were able to assist our sister organizations including the Film Festival in November 2017, we were able to seat 974 individuals in those four days so that they could carry on. We were able to help public and private organizations, anyone that needed a place to host a hundred or more people. We were not able to hold the Belle Ball, nor the Maj Jong and those were because of the Rockport Country Club closure. So in January 2018, we decided we were going to use our own facility to start the Brown Bags and we had over 300 people. Dr. Steve Lyons from NOAA came in February to compare photos and aerials of Harvey, it was very uplifting for our audience, not a Debby Downer, it was about this was what happened, this is what occurred and he answered any questions. In your packet is the first attempt at fund raising since the Hurricane, The Rockport Food & Wine Festival, the 57% that showed up were mostly within a 70 mile radius, some attendees were from other states, so we had a total of 1,400 people from 13 different states including Texas. Thank you for any continued support.

Christopher Mace, President - Aquarium at Rockport Harbor: We don't have a building but we are planning to build our program back through the education center, as you know that is a Venue Tax, not a HOT Tax. What I'm proposing is that we come back in with HOT Tax Funding, the same we had in previous years which was 10% to sort of start our engine. That would allow us to at least get one staff moving on some of the paperwork and fundraising. What I'd like to do is hire someone in the education center also an Executive Director to oversee

the Aquarium operations moving forward. **Judge Mills:** You realize where the HOT Tax money comes from, we are hurting in that area.

Christopher: Yes sir. **Judge Mills:** We are not going to lower your 10%, but it might be lowered automatically. **Christopher:** I fully expect that and realize that everybody around here is in the same boat, whatever you can do for us, we need your help more than ever. Our FEMA Claim is moving forward at FEMA pace, I think we are going to get about \$200,000 for contents, I still don't know about our insurance claim for the building and the FEMA subsidy on that. **Judge Mills:** I'll let you know when I hear more on that, but the Texas Workforce Commission may be able to help you with employees. **Christopher:** That would be spectacular, thank you.

Virginia Easton Smith & Bethany Jackson Hammond, Agrilife Extension

Service: Virginia: Our budget is the same as last year minus the vehicle. **Judge Mills:** I was just at College Station and Texas A&M was building everywhere, can they help us out a little more down here?

Virginia: No, I don't think so, because we are not actually part of A&M, although we are very closely associated with them, we are a separate entity. **Commissioner Olsen:** Everything on here is out of your control, telephone, utilities & insurance. **Commissioner Stiles:**

Utilities, we were talking about water, do you have a well? **Virginia:** We have a well. **Commissioner Stiles:** Do the Master Gardeners use it?

Virginia: They don't use it through their irrigation system because of boron. **Commissioner Stiles:** Can a filtering system be used? **Virginia:** I'm not sure. **Commissioner Chaney:** To remove Boron is expensive.

Judge Mills: We had a \$4,000 water bill. **Virginia:** I heard about that, we had a leak and have isolated it, the valves are turned off to that, but we won't be able to find the leak until the soil dries out.

Commissioner Stiles: Could you check on the expense of a filtering system? **Commissioner Chaney:** You might check South Texas Filters in Corpus Christi. **Virginia:** Ok, thank you.

Sandy Jumper & Paula Dean, Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce:

Thank you for having us here and thank you for all the support you've given us throughout the years, I have Paula Dean here with me, she is our Tourism Development Chairperson and Ezel Camacho, from Rockport-Fulton & Cameron Haynes, from Kingsville, they were both enrolled at Sam Houston University, they are our student interns and we are really happy to have them. So they are going to be handing out our new brochures, we've listed the open hotels and accommodations and those that are planning to re-open, you'll also find our open attractions. We have 46 RV Parks open right now, on the back is our event listing, a little map of where we are, and contact information for Aransas Pathways. These brochures are being sent to every entry point, the Visitor Centers across Texas, they are in our Goodie bags, mail-outs and on display at the Chamber Visitor Center. So today we are here to present to you the 2018-2019 marketing plan and we want to thank Ezel for creating that amazing cover, she is going into Graphic Design. On page 3 we have the Come Back Campaign and with the help of Radio Texas, George Strait, and the Dell Foundation, along with Jeff Hunt and ICF's creative efforts we were able to start a campaign with a positive note of back to being Rockport-Fulton and we are trying to encourage people to come and find yourself in Rockport-Fulton. So a major highlight was finding our own Rockport Beach #1 in Texas by "USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice 2018" and that happened after the hurricane. George Strait not only gave us permission to use one of his songs, but he did several voice overs for our community as well with a soft opening June 15th and full force in July. Hospitality Training, Texas Travel Industry Association and the Tourism Travel organization granted us \$5,000 to promote our hospitality program. Our website is a major source for visitor information and another highlight is our Volunteerism, it's brought people from all over the United States. (See Brochure Insert for information recapping the year, Target Market, Goals, etc.)

D. J. Chilcoat, President of the Friends of Fulton Mansion: Marsha is gone and interviews for the next site manager have taken place in Austin and I believe someone has been selected and they should be here in early July. I believe we sent over a power point presentation, you may have copies, yes, ok, what I'd like to note is the 2nd & 3rd slides are giving you statistics on our attendance, we were just about to break a record with our attendance for 2017 when Hurricane Harvey hit, however we are very, very, grateful, because our visitors center had very little damage out there, so we were up and able to get it open just nine weeks after the hurricane. The wonderful thing about that is people can go in and see our exhibit area which is top drawer, it is interactive with the children, so we have been able to make some money that way. The mansion itself, reopened after 28 weeks, now if you have not been to one of the hard hat tours, you really need to come on over, the mansion is empty right now and people have enjoyed seeing this. Overall we have had a 45% decrease in our visitation levels from May through the end of last year and until the end of April this year. However, still 74% of our visitors came from outside a 90 mile radius and we were very pleased with that. Prior to Harvey 56% of our visitors stayed in Motels and for the most part they spent three nights. There are also photos there showing you the various activities that we have been able to be involved in, Music at the Mansion, Halloween on the Beach, the Middle School Band at Christmas, Sea Camp, Easter Egg Hunt, and they teach Texas History in the 4th Grade Classes, so we get those children if the schools are open. There is an example of the hard hat tour, the details of the mansion, our collection, and you can go past the gate that was there before, over to windows & see the beautiful view that George and Harriet Fulton had of the bay. You can also be up and personal with the crown molding that is melting from the water coming in, it is all plaster and the horrible part of that is that two years previous we had just finished our restoration and it was a very sad time. What I am asking, and I realize HOT Funds are down, is the \$15,000, we use those funds to pay for visitor

service support there in the education and history center and then also for tour guides to assist in taking care of guests at the mansion. **Paula Dean:** I'd like to add that last year, in the middle of pulling themselves together, they partnered with the Education Foundation to do Symphony by the Sea, and if I talk about it I'll start crying because it was such a moving experience and a healing experience for our community. It also drew in people from Corpus Christi and further away, so they should get a huge credit for that as well.

Michele Bennett, Elections Administrator: Ok, the only thing I put on my request, besides my normal operating expenses, this year is to obtain Vista Solutions, so we can move all of our voter registration files to electronic, rather than keeping them stored in a file cabinet. We all learned something in this last hurricane, you can't take everything with you when you leave, if you have it in a Cloud somewhere, you can have it within reach. I have a quote to get the program and training, \$7,250. I also received a quote for them to take all of our files and put them in the Cloud for us, having only two people in our office, it would take us years to put all of it in and that cost would be \$15,000. **Commissioner Olsen:** This is your Professional Services Line? **Michele:** Yes. **Commissioner Stiles:** Can you give us an amount of what kind of income that you generate? **Michele:** In 2016 my office generated \$25,884, we did elections for the City of Aransas Pass and Aransas Pass ISD; in 2018 we did elections for the City of Rockport and Aransas County ISD and that was a little over \$13,000, and this year is not over. **Commissioner Stiles:** Are you going to do the Navigation District? **Michele:** Yes, in November along with the General Election. San Patricio has this program and they love it. The company will be glad to come and give a demonstration if you would like, ballots by mail could be incorporated into this program so I could just print a button and it would print all of the applications for me, it cuts down on human error. It would also free up space.

Ricky McLester, Jr., Fulton Fire Department: My request is the same as last year, I kept it the same. Last year we had a considerable increase in calls for service, not counting the hurricane calls. We had 452 in 2017, of that 45% were in the county, 38% in the City of Rockport, 15% in the Town of Fulton and 2% being mutual aid outside the county. Kind of a breakdown, 30% were Fire Alarms and we've been working with law enforcement to cut that down a little bit, because most of those were in the City limits of Rockport, 17% were structure fires, 12% grass fires, 12% accidents and the other catches everything else making up the remaining 21%. We are going strong, FEMA has been able to recoup most of the cost that we lost with our substation in the Copano Cove area, insurance was able to provide money so we got a good start to get that building back going, we should have it up by the first of next year. **Commissioner Chaney:** With the City's Annexation to south, how did that reflect changes in service? **Rick:** Nothing jumped out at me from last year's report to this year as a City change, I didn't see a drastic change.

Debbie Thompson, Council on Aging: We are asking for \$35,000 to help with our meals on wheels program, last year we served 33,000 and some odd meals to our homebound, we also served almost 10,000 to people that come into our center. We did take a beating but luckily we had good insurance and our major loss was about \$10,000 in food out of our freezers, but instead of letting it parish we came into town and gave it to anybody that was cooking on the streets, we lost it but the county did not. Our building has been rebuilt, we got some good Grants, we got to buy two new vehicles, other than that we are on our road to recovery. We really do need the county's support to continue and we are so blessed by your past support. **Alma:** They are also going to assist me with the Fan Drive.

Ricky McLester, Jr. & Brian Schultz, Halo Flight: **Brian:** I am the Development Director with Halo-Flight, I'm new with the organization and South Texas as well, and I have learned a lot over the last 6

months coming down here because I come from a very different part of the country and so Halo-Flight is a God send. We are requesting \$5,000 but we will appreciate as much as you can do, we are usually around the 30 mark for Aransas County. **Rick:** We have a cooperative effort with first responders, last year Halo-Flight completed 1,268 missions with four aircraft and two bases, three counting Driscoll.

Brian: The coordination between crews is amazing, and the culture of safety is top notch with a crew who are highly skilled. **Commissioner**

Stiles: Do you still offer Guardian Insurance? **Brian:** Yes, we offer ranch plan for large ranches south, Brooks County, Jim Hogg, they are 45 minutes from anything resembling a building, let alone an ER, so we offer a plan to enable them to call us if they have a life threatening emergency to come down and help them. Recently, Raytheon sent a guy to come and do an audit, safety wise, the inspection was quite stringent and we walked away with stellar reports, there were no deficits found. We perform rigorous maintenance all of the time and our availability is 99.5%, so whatever support you can give, we certainly appreciate it.

Rick Martinez, Pool Parks Director, City of Rockport: Joe Rectors, I'm taking Rick's place. What I've done, last year we tracked attendance for utilization, we took the attendance and broke it down into what percentage of the attendees were county residents. Last year our attendance was quite a bit higher, so using the same standards I used last year, the percentage of county utilization is down, we were in the \$80,000 range last year, this year it was \$63,228, so that includes salary which is funded by the City, the resources broken down proportionately, we try to do a monthly per person, to figure out what it costs to put somebody in the water for the day. And then we have the supplies and whatnot, and then we break that down by 100 people, so that's how this is calculated and you can see the total patronage is down. The other thing I want to point out is, if you look at Fulton utilization, it's 65 different patrons, this is not duplicated, some patrons may come 100 times, they would count as one person, so when

you see those numbers, it's hard to keep track, but this is the best we could isolate individual visits. So we are asking for the proportionate share of the total budget for county residents only in the amount of \$63,228. **Commissioner Olsen:** When did you re-open the pool? **Joe:** At the end of November, we had a staffing level of 37 last year and we are down to 16, operating the same hours with less people. **Judge Mills:** Ok, any other questions for Joe? No, ok, thank you.

No further discussion presenting, the Court adjourned at 3:00 p.m.



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



VALERIE K. AMASON,

EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT