

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
REGULAR MEETING - JULY 14, 2014

On the 14th day of July, 2014, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioner' 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; Betty Stiles, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Richard Bianchi, County Attorney; Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; David Reid, Drainage Engineer; Jerry Brundrett, County Surveyor; Susan Woodley, Chief Deputy, County Treasurer; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Pam Heard, District Clerk; James Jackson, Director of Environmental Health; Pat Rousseau, Human Resources Director; Collin Jackson, IT Director; Gene Johnson, Airport Manager; and John Strothman, Project Manager. The Meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. at which time a quorum was declared by County Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS

Judge Mills presented the 2013 Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission to the Aransas County Historical Commission in recognition of its outstanding preservation work accomplishments.

(Award inserted)

ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION

MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 23, 2014, Special Meeting of July 7, 2014 and Joint Special Meeting of July 8, 2014.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

ROCKPORT-FULTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce Second Quarter 2014 Hotel Occupancy Tax Funds Expended.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Report inserted)

PROCLAMATION - 65<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF ROCKPORT-FULTON CHAMBER

Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Proclamation #P-06-2014 recognizing 2014 as the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Proclamation inserted)

EDUCATION FOUNDATION - HOTEL-MOTEL TAX REQUEST

Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve request of the Education Foundation for hotel-motel tax funds of up to \$5,000.00 to underwrite a portion of the advertising, publication, and printing costs for the Rockport-Fulton 2014 Shopping Tournament scheduled for October 3-4, 2014.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CONTRACT - EMS SERVICES

Judge Mills allowed the groups vying for the EMS services contract to give a brief presentation at this time. Action on the motion was set aside until after closed session.

Steve Powell with Coastal Care EMS stated they would provide two (2) 911 ambulances for the county only at a cost of \$175,000.00. Commissioner Stiles asked if Mr. Powell had a financial statement; however, Powell stated he did not have one at this time but could provide one at a later date. They would have four (4) medics. They have no conversation with Allegiance. They would provide an ambulance free of charge for county festivals such as the Fulton Oysterfest.

Blake McDavid representing the ACMSI stated they would have no presentation other than the one given at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with the City of Rockport and Town of Fulton. Commissioner Stiles asked how they would address the staffing if all the entities go with Allegiance; he stated it would be less. Commissioner Chaney stated the issues are how they would address an amended budget, the staffing issue, what they were going to do to make sure they do not get into this condition in the future, and if they have an operational plan.

David Phillips, CEO of Allegiance Ambulance stated the county's portion of the proposal with the City of Rockport would be \$138,000.00. They have twenty (20) ambulances in the Coastal Bend area and have been in business for three (3) years. They would provide three (3) ambulances 24/7 but does not know where they will be housed. They would provide an EMT and a paramedic for each ambulance just like Coastal Care EMS and will use local paramedics.

They would provide ambulances for festivals or fires free of charge; however, ambulances at a football game are a chargeable event. He stated the ACISD has been getting a service the local entities are paying for. He would provide a fourth ambulance in Lamar if the bridge is closed. The cost would be \$450,000.00 for three (3) ambulances 24/7 with a standby ambulance and free festival service.

AIRPORT SIGN

Airport Manager Johnson showed the Court the material he is proposing to use for a new 6' x 8' Airport sign. The cost is \$24,000.00 but it is eligible for a 50% matching grant leaving a balance of \$12,000.00. The area he is proposing to use is low and would need the Road and Bridge Department to put in some dirt to raise it; however, he does not want it raised so high it would make mowing difficult.

Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve request of Airport Manager to install an Airport sign at the intersection of John D. Wendell Road and Texas State Highway 35 on Airport property.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CEDAR BAYOU/VINSON SLOUGH RESTORATION PROJECT

Motion was made by Judge Mills and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve payment of invoice of RLB Contracting, Inc. For the Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough Restoration Project.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Invoice inserted)

INVOICE - TYLER TECHNOLOGY

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to authorize partial payment of invoice of Tyler Technology for the Odyssey software (50% of \$183,000.00).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

POINCIANA STORMWATER DRAINAGE PROJECT

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve submission of a grant application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requesting funding through the Clean Water Act Section 316(H) Grant Program for the construction of low-impact development (LID) strategies associated with the Poinciana Stormwater Drainage Project and authorize County Judge to act on behalf of Aransas County in all

matters related to the application and grant award contract.  
Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

(Application inserted)

LOW-IMPACT DEVELOPMENT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize County Judge to sign project consultant contract with The Grant Connection to assist County staff with preparation of an application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requesting funds for construction of Low-Impact Development (LID) stormwater management strategies and to administer the grant if it is among those selected for funding.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

(Contract inserted)

VIOLATIONS AT 224 STARBOARD PLACE

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve actions of Environmental Health Department to be taken in response to violations of the Aransas County Floodplain Management and Watershed Protection Order at 224 Starboard Place; letter of violation in real property records and a fine of \$3,000.00.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

AMENDED FY2015 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE - TRANSFER STATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve Amended FY2015 holiday schedule for Transfer Station employees (Labor Day correction).

Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

(Amended schedule inserted)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT - INMATES

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve and authorize County Judge to sign intergovernmental cooperation agreement between Aransas County and Brazos County for the housing and care of Aransas County inmates at the Brazos County Jail.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.  
It is so ordered.

(Agreement inserted)

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve option number 1 renewal rate as proposed by Texas Association of Counties (TAC) for the 2014-2015 plan year for employee health insurance.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Rates inserted)

DENTAL INSURANCE

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to disapprove recommencing county-sponsored dental insurance for the 2014-2015 plan year; county to continue with employee paid option.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Proposed TAC rate inserted)

RECLASSIFICATION OF MED AIDE TO JAILER/MED AIDE

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve reclassification of med aide to jailer/med aide position and confirm group 17 and step 1 pay level.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PUBLIC OFFICIAL BOND

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve public official bond continuation certificates on Kristin Guerra, Deputy Tax Assessor/Collector; and Joyce Reyes, Deputy District Clerk.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Bonds inserted)

COUNTY TREASURER'S REPORT - JUNE 2014

Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve County Treasurer's report for June 2014.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Report inserted)

INDIGENT HEALTH CARE REPORT - JUNE 2014

Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve indigent health care report for June 2014.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Report inserted)

BUDGET LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve budget line item transfers presented by County Auditor Kirk.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Transfers inserted)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the accounts payable presented by County Auditor and RLB invoice, one-half of Tyler invoice, Mike Arnold's invoice, and, if received, bill for housing horses for animal control.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

County Auditor Kirk presented the 2015 preliminary budget. She stated she had received most department head's budgets. The preliminary report she presented did not include salaries or pay increases. These would be kept on a separate schedule and would be determined later. Elected officials salaries should be set by August 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for any grievances. The budget should be adopted the first Commissioners' Court in September to allow the Tax Assessor-Collector time to send out tax statements. The Sheriff has staffing issues.

Commissioner Stiles thanked Sheriff Mills for his extensive budget presentation and asked if he would sit down with her to answer a few questions. Commissioner Casterline suggested the County should be looking at fewer Sheriff's Deputies in light of Rockport annexation of a large portion of the County. Sheriff Mills replied they are still answering the same number of calls.

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

Sheriff Mills gave each member of the Court a new 100 Club of Aransas County support bumper sticker.

Human Resources Director Rousseau stated TAC Health and Wellness Consultant Rosalinda DiTomasso will be coming August 5 to hold five (5) meetings to tell employees how to use their health insurance. Commissioner Stiles reported TxDOT will be going out for bid on September 1, 2014 for repair to Highway 35 North to Tivoli.

REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

There were none.

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The Court entered into closed session at 10:30 a. m. as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.072 to discuss real estate negotiations, including Pathways Projects and stormwater management projects; and to discuss and review potential litigation issues and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(2); and resumed Open Meeting at 11:34 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

There was no closed session.

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CONTRACT - EMS SERVICES

Judge Mills stated there would be no decision made today. All options would be looked at prior to a final decision.

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to authorize County Judge to negotiate a contract for EMS services taking all options into consideration.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PRESS QUESTIONS

Norma Martinez, The Rockport Pilot, asked how the 911 calls will be handled. Commissioner Casterline replied their team is coming in this week to look at it. She also asked how the Court's decision would affect 911 and the current EMS. Commissioner Casterline replied it will be a nightmare if they go with a different EMS; this is weighing heavy on their decision.

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No further business presenting, the Court adjourned on a motion made by Commissioner Stiles duly seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr. COUNTY JUDGE

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PEGGY L. FRIEBELE, COUNTY CLERK &  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT