

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
WORKSHOP MEETING-AUGUST 8, 2013

On the 8th day of August, 2013, there was a Workshop Meeting for the Commissioners' Court held in the Courthouse, Rockport, Aransas County, TX, with the following members present: C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., County Judge; Jack Chaney, Commissioner Precinct 1; Leslie "Bubba" Casterline, Commissioner, Precinct 2; Charles Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 3, Betty Stiles, Commissioner, Precinct 4.

Other County Officials present were Joy M. Dias, Chief Deputy County Clerk, Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer, Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Pam Heard, District Clerk; and Bill Mills, Aransas County Sheriff.

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:

Judge Mills stated the purpose of the workshop was to have a general discussion of the 2014 budget with elected officials and department heads.

Lezlie Kirk proceeded with distributing up to date figures for the budget after yesterday's meeting. This included salary figures for 2%-5% increases. She also stated she gave charts trending number and average of last 3 years for the budget. Ms Kirk proceeded to go through the budget line by line.

After discussion about inter local agreements, Commissioner Chaney thinks we should be paid monthly instead of quarterly. There was agreement that an inter local with the Town of Fulton was needed for their prisoners. It was suggested to put \$1,000 in budget for Fulton. The inter local for Dispatch has been executed by Aransas County and the City of Rockport, but the originals are with Fulton, who has not returned them.

Other items discussed, Service Fee State Collection is trending down. It was also suggested to reduce the Animal Control Budget as it is hoped the City Of Rockport will be taking over this department. The Humane Society is asking for \$10,000.

The Council on Aging is not buying gas from us any more. Our sales are down, but that means we just don't buy as much.

Auditor Kirk asked the court for her part time help to work an additional 5 hours a week. The court agreed.

The new HR dept head will be a 19.2 pay rate with a cell phone and travel allowance.

To the Public Facilities Budget add the HB Tower expense.

The Sheriff would like to manage a maintenance person for the Public Safety Center and Detention Center. The salary to be split between maintenance and Sheriff.

Betty Stiles would like money in the budget for Courthouse landscaping. It was determined we have money in this year's budget for that. She will get us some figures on cost. The money will come out of Land and Buildings.

In regards to Fire Protection requests, it was suggested to reduce it by 3%. Commissioner Smith does not want to increase the amount.

All Commissioners agreed to take out Dept 588, Court Video.

James Jackson would like to have \$12,500 in the budget for a fence to control garbage around the Transfer Station.

The Humane Society is asking for \$10,000. The commissioners want to know if they are asking for money from all the entities.

Concerning the parks; Commissioner Chaney would like us to improve Tiger Field. Some of the Commissioners asked about environmental issues. Pony League people are working on a plan to increase the fields. Fence improvement would cost around \$4,000. The pool is needing an increase of money from \$35,000 to \$45,000.

Judge Mills would like to give employees a 3% increase. The Sheriff Mills would like elected officials and dept heads allocate the money. The Sheriff is losing good people to other entities with better benefits. Some are paying for most of the employees education.

The next discussion was about step increases. Commissions agreed that step increases must follow a written policy, which includes a written performance interview with the dept head or elected official. It would then go to HR and Judge Mills for approval and signature.

The court would like a 3% increase for elected officials, except the County Court at Law position. It was noted we could not give that increase as there are guidelines with the District Judges.

The IT Budget will get another \$2,000 to cover Edoc support on the District Clerk's Jury Package.

Discussion on Bee County Transit. Future grant is based on ridership. The Judge will be negotiating about getting buses to our county.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Casterline seconded it. Question. The motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

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

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