

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

WORKSHOP MEETING - OCTOBER 25, 2013

On the 25th day of October, 2013, there was a Workshop Meeting of the Commissioners' Court held in the Commissioners' Court, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, with the following members present: C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., County Judge; Jack Chaney, Commissioner Precinct 1; Leslie "Bubba" Casterline, Precinct 2; Charles Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 3; Betty Stiles, Commissioner, Precinct 4; Joy M. Dias, Chief Deputy County Clerk; Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk.

Other County Official present was Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer; Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Justin Cook, IT Director; Collin Jackson, Senior Network Security Analyst/Sr. IT Technician; and Pam Heard, District Clerk.

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:

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Judge Mills stated the purpose of the workshop was to discuss a new unified communications platform (telephone system) for Aransas County.  
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IT Director Cook stated the system we currently have is outdated and the company is no longer in existence. It was installed in 2006. When there is a problem, the County has to call someone out of Corpus Christi. The voice mail system is a problem; has random "hiccups." One of the presenters in the Courtroom stated the normal life span of a telephone system is ten (10) to (15) years.

William Hill with Affiliated Communications Inc. representing Shoretel gave a presentation on his bid. When asked how much the system for each office would cost, he replied \$1,800.00 to \$3,500.00 depending on the size. He said the County would need fifteen (15) of these.

Charles Slaughter with Synergy gave the next presentation. He stated the main difference in the two systems was the phone. The City of Rockport is using Synergy. He stated financing was available at 0% interest for twenty-four (24) months on all the hardware. They warrant all products for the life of the contract with on-site repair.

Josh Richline representing Richline Technical Services out of Corpus Christi stated he also represented Shoretel. He noted that some of the County systems are older than 2006. Hidalgo County is using Shoretel. Mr. Richline stated buying the system is the least cost; maintaining the system is the biggest cost. Their response time is from 45 minutes to one hour.

Jeremy Wilson, representing Absolute Communications from Corpus Christi, spoke next. Mr. Wilson presented a revised summary sheet with lower costs. They use the Mitel telephone system and have a five (5) year warranty on the phones and system. They have a "virtual server."

Phil Morgan from Alamo Prism which is based in San Antonio and Dallas was the last presenter. There proposed solution was an Alcatel Lucent system. There response time would be overnight or three (3) hours. There system would communicate with all offices.

All the presenters stated they had disaster recovery.

Commissioner Chaney questioned what the County actually needs. Commissioner Casterline would like to see a bid for what is actually need and is less expensive. Chaney also stated there was too much emphasis placed on disaster recovery. He recommended a list of questions to ask the vendor's that would allow them to respond to the County's needs.

Commissioner Smith stated the County currently is paying \$31.00 per month per unit and asked how much money had been budgeted for this project. Cook stated \$100,000.00 was budgeted for installation and phones.

Judge Mills thanked the vendors for their great presentations and stated the County may have to meet with IT to determine the real needs of the County.

Commissioner Smith commented that he does not normally turn on his cell phone.

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No further business presenting, the Court adjourned was adjourned by Commissioner Smith duly seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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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