

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 28, 2010

On the 28th day of July, 2010, there was a Special Meeting of the Commissioners' 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; Charles Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 3; Howard Murph, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Richard P. Bianchi, County Attorney; Dee Oliver, County Treasurer; Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Gene Johnson, Airport Manager; David Vyoral, Road Administrator; Bill Mills, Sheriff; David Reid, Drainage Engineer; Jeri Cox, Tax Assessor/Collector and James Jackson, Environmental Health.

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:

MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of July 6, 2010, Regular Meeting of July 12, 2010, Special Meeting of July 16, 2010, Special Meeting of July 20, 2010 and Budget Workshop Meeting of July 20, 2010.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were none.

PRESENTATION - FISCAL YEAR 2009 AUDIT

Michael A. Arnold, CPA, presented the 2009 Fiscal Year Audit. He informed the Court the County has a four (4) months of operating funds and is in good physical condition. Mr. Arnold went over his report page by page.

Judge Mills thanked Mr. Arnold and asked him to try to get next year's audit in earlier.

(Independent Auditor's Report on Financial Statements)

PAYMENT - MORGAN HILL

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Murph to authorize payment of \$9.73 for a purchase card lost receipt for Morgan Hill.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

Commissioner Smith requested an item be placed on the next agenda to authorize the County Judge to approve payment of any future purchase card lost receipts without bringing them to the Court.

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PITNEY BOWES LEASE AGREEMENT - MAIL SYSTEM

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services State and Local Fair Market Value lease agreement for Aransas County's mail system equipment and services.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Lease agreement inserted)

COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CIAP) - BIG TREE RANCH

Kendal Keyes with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department gave a lengthy presentation requesting the County to approve applying for CIAP funds to purchase the Big Tree Ranch. Commissioner Smith asked who would be preparing the grant application and Ms. Keyes stated she could do the application. She explained that she had already applied for a grant from a different source but would not know until August if it was approved. The Court explained how slow approval of CIAP grants is and questioned whether or not the seller was willing to wait for a grant to be approved. The owner, Cletus Ernster, and Haynes Realty Company representative were both in Court and the owner confirmed his willingness to wait for grant approval.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Murph to approve granting request of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) that Aransas County submit a pre-application for the CIAP funds to be granted to Aransas County in the amount of \$2.5 million for the acquisition of the Big Tree Ranch if it does not conflict with the funds for Cedar Bayou.

Question. Motion passed unanimously.

It is so ordered.

RESOLUTION - COPANO CAUSEWAY FISHING PIER

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve Resolution #R10-12 in support of the Aransas County Navigation District's request for funds from the Texas Department of Transportation for the renovation of the Copano Causeway Fishing Pier.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Resolution inserted)

PUBLIC OFFICIAL BOND

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve public official bond continuation certificates on Justin D. Cook, Senior IT Technician and Danielle Littleton, JP#2 Court Clerk.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Bonds Inserted)

CONTINUING EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

Judge Mills presented for recording in the Commissioners' Court Minutes a continuing education certificate from the V. G. Young Institute of County Government to the North and East Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association 2010 Annual Conference for Leslie Casterline, Commissioner Precinct 2.

(Certificate inserted)

RESOLUTION - VENUE TAX

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to table this motion to approve a Resolution establishing a venue tax fund, a start date for collection of venue tax, the venue tax rate, and collection procedures.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

RADIOS - CONSTABLES

Motion was made by Judge Mills and seconded by Commissioner Murph to table approval of purchase of two radios for the Aransas County Constables for more information.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

INSURANCE

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to reject additional windstorm coverage of \$25 million offered to Aransas County through the Regional Pool Alliance (RPA); additional premium of \$3,150.00 to be paid in September when new budgets are set.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PUBLIC HEARING - 2011 BUDGET

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to hold the public hearing on the 2011 budget on August 9, 2010 at 8:45 a.m.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PERSONNEL HIRING FREEZE

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Murph to approve placing a personnel hiring freeze effective immediately for any and all vacant budgeted county job positions authorizing Department Heads to come to Court for approval to hire essential employees.

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Motion was amended by Commissioner Smith and amendment seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve placing a personnel hiring freeze effective immediately for any and all vacant budgeted county job positions authorizing Department Heads to come to Court for approval to hire essential employees including full-time and part-time positions.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PRELIMINARY 2011 BUDGET DISCUSSION

County Auditor Kirk stated the Court was \$900,000.00 short when budget preparations started but is now down to \$260,000.00. Health care sales tax has experienced a drop in collection and could be in critical shape soon. Commissioner Smith did not agree with that assessment. Ms. Kirk stated the assessed value had dropped 4.6% this year. This along with the slow sales tax receipts has caused the shortage in projected funds. Ms. Kirk stated the deadline to approve the 2011 budget is September 13th. The Court must make a decision on the ad valorem tax August 9th.

(Fund balance spreadsheet inserted)

REPORT ON CALCULATION OF 2010 EFFECTIVE & ROLLBACK TAX RATES

Tax Assessor-Collector Cox reported on calculation of the 2010 effective and rollback tax rates.

(Calculations inserted)

BUDGET LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

There were no budget line item transfers presented by County Auditor Kirk.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Murph to approve the accounts payable plus debt service payments due.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

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

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