

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

PUBLIC HEARING - MARCH 13, 2017

On the 13th day of March, 2017, there was a Public Hearing 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; **Brian Olsen**, Commissioner, Precinct 3; **Betty Stiles**, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Lynn Doane**, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Diana Espinoza**, Drainage Engineer; Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present:

**Mike Probst**, Editor and Publisher of the Rockport Pilot Newspaper;

The Meeting was convened at **8:45 a.m.** at which time a quorum was declared by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

ITEM FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION

Public Comments on the proposed improvement and assessment of cost for bringing Lara Garza Road, Bernardy Lane and Phillip Lane up to current County roadway standards.

David Reid stated this situation is similar to the previous hearing with some of the neighbors wanting to have the road work done and property owners pay their portion of the \$129,000, the amount that would be two-thirds of the cost of this project. This would be a standard road with no curbs and gutters.

William Paige, owner of property next to Garza acres stated that half a dozen of the property owners are retired and on a fixed income but understands that the county would give them three years to pay off their portion through added taxes. We understand that we would get the first two years, interest free and would start paying interest the third year.

Judge Mills stated that the county could waive that interest.

Mr. Paige said that's what we wanted to ask, we would be working with you in good faith, but we have had some discussion and feel that if some of the other property owners are not paying their portion, the County should start charging them interest after the first year to get their attention. We also like to get some help with drainage and that would help our properties. We get a lot of water from Club Lake when we get a lot of rain.

Commissioner Stiles asked if Club Lake is part of our CIP and David responded, yes, and went on to say the ditch that they are currently building from Weeping Willow to Poinciana over the Bell property should certainly help with the drainage issue.

Jillian Cox stated that she lives at the very end of Bernardy, and that she and the Kent's who live across the way from her, and who could not be here today, are mostly against this. She realizes that there needs to be some road work and have some drainage issued. The cost seems exorbitant to us and we are

still working. We think that there needs to be a solution that is not so expensive and it seems that the County would be taking quite a bit of their property from the land owners, the easement would change quite a bit.

Jerry Hawes stated he lives at 322 Whispering Woods and feels he should not be a part of this. Whispering Woods runs into my property, I moved there thirty two years ago and that's why my address is Whispering Woods. I have four acres and people are using my right-of-way to their properties. I don't feel like I should pay for a road that I will never drive on and I am just asking to be recused from this. I realize I have property back there but I don't need the road. I worked with Pat Prowdy years ago to get the initial drainage ditch done and get the road paved, Whispering Woods was not paved when I moved back there, so I felt like I was finished with roads at that time.

Commissioner Stiles stated that this is in perpetuity and so further down the road it will benefit the community way after we are gone.

Mr. Hawes replied that he will do what he has to do, but that was just his request.

Commissioner Casterline asked David Reid what the spread, per parcel and what is the amount?

David Reid replied it's per property owner and there are sixteen property owners at about \$8,000 each over three years or if the court chooses, they could extend it out further.

Patricia Garza offered that when she and her husband first bought out there, he tried to maintain the road as much as he

could, now he's older, has had a back operation and can no longer maintain. We really need a road out there.

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 8:59 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Casterline.*

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

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VALERIE K. AMASON,  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT