

ORIGINAL

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
REGULAR MEETING - MAY 26, 2015

On the 26th day of May, 2015, there was a Regular 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; Betty Stiles, Commissioner, Precinct 4; Valerie K. Amason, County Clerk; and Gayle Otto, Chief Deputy County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Richard Bianchi, County Court at Law Judge; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer; Timilu Latham, Chief Deputy County Treasurer; Suzy Wallace, First Assistant Auditor; David Reid, Drainage Engineer; Kristen Barnebey, County Attorney; John Strothman, Pathways Project Manager; Pat Rousseau, Human Resources Director; Jerry Brundrett, County Surveyor; Collin Jackson, IT Director; David Vyoral, Road Administrator; Michael Geer, Airport Manager; C. J. Wax, City of Rockport Mayor; and James Jackson, Environmental Health Officer.

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

There were none.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the following consent items:

1. Minutes from the Regular Commissioners' Court Meeting of May 11, 2015.
2. Public Official Bond Continuation Certificate on Rick McLester, Aransas County Fire Marshall.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of and Record in Minutes County Treasurer, Alma Cartwright's Completion Certificates for 20 Hours Treasurers' Continuing Education and 5 Hours Public Funds Investment Act.
4. Accepting three laptop computers and three vehicle mounts from the City of Rockport into County Inventory for use by Animal Control.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION**

**TERMS & APPOINTMENTS**

4a. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve Re-Appointing Jim Bounds as the Aransas County Representative Board Member for Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Letter inserted)

5. Motion was made by County Judge Mills and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Appointment of Richard Bianchi as the Aransas County Representative to the Board of Coastal Bend MHMR, replacing former County Court at Law Judge, William Adams who has resigned according to Mark J. Durand, Representative for Coastal Plains MHMR. Mr. Durand also pointed out that William Adams is ineligible to serve because he is now a resident of Nueces County. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

6. Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Acknowledge Receipt of and Record in Minutes of Commissioners' Court a Contract with Aransas County Independent School District (ISD) for a Tax Ratification Election to be held on August 18, 2015. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

(Contract Inserted)

**Planning & Budget Office**

7. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve the request of Airport Manager, Michael Geer to take Bids to demolish the Tractor Barn at the Airport. Question. Motion carried unanimously. It is so ordered.

(Insert)

8. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve retaining DC Ashworth Consulting, LLC on an

hourly basis for further consultation regarding Hospital District or other Healthcare Opportunities.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

9. Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve authorizing the County Judge and the County Treasurer to sign a Governmental Certificate and approval for the County Treasurer to sign a Promissory Note to Secure a Letter of Credit from Prosperity Bank to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TECQ) in the amount of \$10,200.00 for Financial Assurance of the Aransas County Transfer Station.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Insert)

10. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve the Budget Line Item Transfers.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Inserts)

11. Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the Accounts Payable.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

**DRAINAGE EASEMENTS & STORMWATER ITEMS**

Suggestion was made by David Reid to enter into closed session to

discuss the next two agenda items:

12. Accepting Gift of Property known as Janacek Road, being the description of a Private 60 foot wide roadway out of tracts 34 & 35 of the Coleman-Fulton Pasture Company Subdivision, for the sole purpose of improving drainage infrastructure.

13. Guidance for an Agreement providing for subdivision regulation by the City of Rockport and the County of Aransas within the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of the City of Rockport.

**PRESS QUESTIONS**

There were none.

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

Fee Report read by **Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor.**

**Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer** added that on the Accounts Payable today, we have the U.S. Fish and Wildlife distribution that the Commissioners' Court had already approved according to a letter stating the amount would be the same as the previous year in the amount of \$121,000.00, but the letter came back with the check and it is actually \$113,000.00 instead of the \$121,000.00 as stated in the previous letter.

Pat Rousseau, Director - Human Resources Department stated that there was a powerful thunderstorm in Nueces County where a Halo Flight Air Ambulance was trying to land there with a sick child coming from up from the valley and going to be transferred to Driscoll Hospital. They could not land there because of the weather so they came over to the Aransas County Airport. Bill Shockley met the aircraft in the rain. Robert Garcia and Hai Tran assisted Mr. Geer and they

brought the child into the building. The ambulance arrived shortly thereafter and the child and his family were transported to Driscoll successfully. Ms. Rousseau wanted to commend Michael Geer and his staff.

**Michael Geer, Airport Manager,** stated that the airport terminal was very busy that day. All of the people were very respectful when they brought the child through and the child was not alarmed or upset by the crowd and remained calm as he was kept in the conference room and made comfortable. We also received nice letters from the folks over at Driscoll thanking all who were involved.

Commissioner Smith stated that the State Legislature, currently in session, has decided to raise the homestead exemption to support local government. It is amazing that these people think that the public is so naïve and that they continue to promote these unfunded mandates.

Commissioner Stiles reports that the new causeway bridge is now up and she commends TXDOT for their response to some of the problems that arose. They removed twelve of the barricades impairing vision on the south bound sides. They put up a new LED stop sign and are going to install rumble strips to slow the traffic making people aware that construction is going on. She points out that the public needs to be very careful because there is a low profile, on the side, on the railing. She also commends Martin Hoerst for his accommodating involvement with the issues.

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The court entered into closed session at 9:27 a.m. to discuss and review potential litigation issues and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071(1(a)); and to discuss real estate negotiations, including Pathways Projects pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072; and resumed Open Meeting at 9:58 a.m. with all members present, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

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No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 9:58 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Smith duly seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

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