

**NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT**  
**ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**WORKSHOP MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A **WORKSHOP MEETING** OF THE ABOVE NAMED COMMISSIONERS' COURT *V.T.C.A. GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 551.001(4)*, WILL BE HELD ON THE **5<sup>th</sup>** DAY OF **AUGUST, 2015** AT **8:30 A.M.** IN THE COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 301 N. LIVE OAK, ROCKPORT, TEXAS, AT WHICH TIME THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WILL BE DISCUSSED, TO-WIT:

**I. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGES**

**II. DECLARE QUORUM**

**III. ITEM FOR DELIBERATION:**

1. REPORT ON CALCULATION OF 2015 EFFECTIVE & ROLLBACK TAX RATES – JERI COX/JUDGE MILLS
2. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF 2016 BUDGET WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS AS SCHEDULED – LEZLIE KIRK/JUDGE MILLS

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

DATED THIS THE 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY 2015.

**ARANSAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT**

By:   
C.H. "BURT" MILLS, JR., County Judge

***NOTES TO THE AGENDA:***

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WHO PLAN TO ATTEND THIS MEETING AND WHO MAY NEED ASSISTANCE SHOULD CONTACT THE COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE AT 361-790-0100 TWO WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING SO THAT APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

**FILED**

AT 9:48 A.M.

JUL 28 2015

**VALERIE K. AMASON**  
COUNTY CLERK, ARANSAS CO., TEXAS

*posted @ 10:00 A.M.*

**FILED**

AT 9:50 A.M.

JUL 31 2015

**VALERIE K. AMASON**  
COUNTY CLERK, ARANSAS CO., TEXAS

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT, ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS**

I, the undersigned, County Clerk, do hereby certify that the Notice of the above named Commissioners' Court, is a true and correct copy of said Notice, and that I posted a true and correct copy of said Notice on the bulletin board in the courthouse lobby of Aransas County, Texas on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015, and said Notice remained so posted continuously for at least seventy-two (72) hours preceding the scheduled time of said Meeting.

  
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COUNTY CLERK, ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS

MINUTES OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
WORKSHOP MEETING - AUGUST 05, 2015

On the 5th day of August, 2015, there was a Workshop 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; and Valerie K. Amason, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Kristen Barnebey, County Attorney; Jeri Cox, Tax Assessor-Collector; Pam Heard, District Clerk; Doc Thomas, Constable - Precinct 1; Charlie Phillips, Constable - Precinct 2; Diana McGinnis; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2; Michael Geer, Airport Manager; Mike Gordon, Fleet Maintenance; Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer; Roger Carriere, Public Facilities; David Reid, Drainage Engineer; David Vyoral, Road Administrator; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Linda Garcia, Executive Assistant to the County Judge; Carrie Arrington, County Attorney's Office Manager; Gavin Harrison, Training Coordinator for the Sheriff's Office; John Gutierrez, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Roman Cortez, Deputy Chief/Jail Operations and Grievance Officer; Diane Dupnik, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1; Lee Zapata, Communications Center Administrator; John Strothman, Pathways Project Manager; Michelle Bennett, Elections Administrator; James Jackson, Environmental Health Director; C. J. Wax, Mayor - City of Rockport; and Bruce Harper, Rockport Pilot Staff Writer.

The Meeting was convened at 8:30 a.m. at which time a quorum was

declared by County Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

**ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION**

1. Report on Calculation of 2015 Effective and Rollback Tax Rates.

**Jeri Cox** reported on the calculation of the 2015 effective and rollback tax rates. The current effective tax rate according to Cox's calculations is \$0.375462.

(Report Inserted)

2. General Discussion of 2016 Budget with Elected Officials and Department Heads as scheduled.

**Kristen Barnebey** present for the County Attorney's Office. She stated that she currently has four employees. She will be hiring two Assistant County Attorneys, an Administrative Assistant and a Paralegal to fulfill the needs of her office due to her current position being changed from County Attorney to County and District Attorney. Commissioner Smith stated that this change should speed up some of the handling of cases and inmate processing.

**Jeri Cox** present for the Tax Assessor's Office. She stated that she could live with the changes made to her initial budget requests, but she would still ask the court to approve a three percent COLA for her employees and a five percent increase to her annual salary, pointing out that she did not receive any raises in 2009, 2010 or 2011 and last year's increase was only 1.5 percent.

**Pam Heard** present for the District Clerk's Office. She stated that she may have problems with the telephone allowance because of having to initiate phone calls to attorneys due to e-filing complications. Postage should be going down because Judge Whatley is not requiring the Grand Jury notices be sent by certified mail as was required by Judge Bauer in the past. This procedure is statutory unless the Judge decides not to do it. Heard also offered to cut her conference money budgeted to \$3,500. When asked why she needs a travel allowance she stated that she and her deputies have to use their personal vehicles to go to the bank, the printing office and whatever other business they may have to conduct around town and that she shares that money with her deputies. With the Passports generated and the new fees changed in the legislation she expects an increase in revenue in her office. She requested a consideration for COLA raises for her employees and a five percent increase in her salary, stating that she has been here for fifteen years and has never asked for an increase. Judge Mills thanked her for her cooperation in making room for IT by moving some of her filing cabinets out of the IT office, which used to be a storage room, and Pam asked for a new part-time employee to scan those old files (which can be destroyed after they are scanned) in order to facilitate more room for the rest of the cabinets.

**Doc Thomas** and **Charlie Smith** were present for the Constables Offices. Doc commented, when questioned about the advent of the new District Court, he will not be taking on any more duties, because he doesn't have the money in his budget. The \$800.00 in vehicle maintenance and repairs was questioned since both Constables just received new cars. Doc stated that is always traveling on "bad" county roads and has already had a flat tire. Lezlie Kirk stated they needed the money

to purchase such things as windshield wipers, tires, etc. A new line item in the budgets was set up to cover the costs for mandatory certified training on the firing range at the Fulton range, since the Sheriff will not let them use his range. This cost was covered by the cut of fuel by \$200.00 and \$100.00 out of advertising.

**Diana McGinnis** present for discussion concerning the Juvenile Case Manager and Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 offices. No changes requested in the JCM Office, that program is working very well. Decline in collections are the result of Traffic tickets not being written by DPS Officers and the Parks and Wildlife because they are being sent to the Valley to assist on the Border. This is having a huge impact on the budget. The Sheriff's Office citations are about the same as the previous years. Judge McGinnis stated the court cut both JP offices half a person when collections was moved to the County Clerk's office and the new collections program is not going to be beneficial to her office because she does not have the personnel to enter the information into that system, they are still entering the warrants in the Odyssey program for 2010, 2011 and 2012. Commissioner posed the question that since traffic citations are down would you not have more time to enter information? McGinnis stated that they still have a lot of civil, juvenile cases, a lot of phone calls and traffic in the office.

**Michael Geer** present for discussion concerning the airport. Airplane fuel sales were down for the first six months of the year due to weather (about 30 zero flight days). Grant projects for 2017 & 2018 include maintenance on airport road surfaces which is estimated to run north of \$100,000, a cost to the county being about \$50,000 and TX Dot paying the other half. General maintenance for 2016 include

building repairs which are expected to be at about \$27,000 compared to \$20,000 this year, based primarily on corrosion that needs to be dealt with. Hangar rental includes \$5,000 profit off of the Davis Loop Property and \$42,000 off of the Navy.

Consensus is the airport supports itself 100% in this community.

**Mike Gordon** present for discussion concerning Fleet Maintenance. Mike stated his budget for Gas, Oil & Lubricants may not be enough according to Mike due to if he has to order two loads of fuel at one time. It takes about \$4,200 three times a year to replace the oil. Maintenance will probably be about the same. He put in for a step raise for two employees, only if they get their CDL license back.

**Alma Cartwright** present for discussion concerning the County Treasurer's Office, Assistance Program, Indigent Health Care and Health Care Sales Tax Fund. The Assistance Department consists of three employees and Indigent Health Care. The projected revenue for Health Care Sales Tax Fund, currently trending at about 6% is \$1,477,765 which funds the Assistance Department and Indigent Health Care. Requests were made to transfer approximately \$823,052 to Indigent Health Care and \$124,000 to the General Fund to cover the costs for the Certified Nurse Assistant at the jail. Other expenses covered by the HCSTF include Mosquito Control and Ambulance Service. Alma asked for a five percent increase in her salary, three percent COLA for her employees and another full time employee but would be grateful for a part-time person if that's all the court will allow.

**Roger Carriere** present for discussion concerning Public Facilities. Capital Outlay plans in the amount of \$28,000 include Air Conditioning for his new Portable Building and replacing other old

units. The Professional Services Budget in the amount of \$97,872 covers such things as roofing, pest control, and other repairs. Insurance and Bond Premiums in the amount of \$66,464 covers all county buildings except the Airport, Road & Bridge, Jail and Sheriff's Office and Automobile Liability.

**David Reid** present for discussion concerning Flood Control. Revenues are basically offsetting expenses in this department and they have been able to do projects that are outside the scope of the Capital Improvement Funds. David stated that he had a meeting last week with Kevin Carruth and Mike Donohoe concerning City Extra Territorial Jurisdiction on flooding issues and they decided to go back to the City Council and see if they might rescind the agreement that they approved and start over with something that makes sense for both parties. Smith suggested that they should have a workshop with press coverage, the increased losses due to flooding needs to be brought to the public's attention.

**David Vyoral** present for discussion concerning the Road & Bridge Department. This department predicted a loss this year and they are presently sitting at about \$913,000 in the black. Lezlie reminded the Court that most of the revenue expectations have been met and with subsequent bills the positive amount will start dropping towards the end of the year. David stated that they may be losing the City of Rockport, he heard that they are going to go out for bids on their roadwork. This year will show an increase in Fulton because of roads that need stabilized and some extensive drainage work. David also stated that there is a ten mile stretch pending for the City of Rockport this year that has not been started yet. The department this year has been very busy with new culvert installations due to the

new houses being built. They seal coated the boat ramp at Cove Harbor for ACND#1 and paved the parking lot for ACISD. Concerning Salaries in this department, they are having a hard time filling positions due to the hourly pay rate, out of thirty-three applications they interviewed eight and hired one, mostly because when they found out how much the job paid they said no thanks. Truck Driver's with a CDL are starting at \$12.96 and the Treasurer is hiring people starting at \$14.00 an hour. David recommends at the least a 5% raise for his current employees and one engineer in charge instead of two. Evaluation of all roads that need paving is sixteen miles, we budgeted \$300,000 under Special Projects and it will take that amount to do two miles. Out of the \$168,000 budgeted for Machinery & Equipment may purchase a new pot patcher and a drum roller.

**Bill Mills** present for discussion concerning the Sheriff's Office. The \$130,000 under Machinery & Equipment is requested for continuing rotation of vehicles. In the over-time amount of \$45,000 about two-thirds is going towards Stone Garden and most of that money will be reimbursed by the state. This can be lowered to \$20,000 and wait on the reimbursement.

Jail - Vans are at about 100,000 miles and one needs a handicap wheelchair ramp to be changed out. Federal prisoners are now being housed again and the numbers are back up as City of Rockport arrests on the weekends tapered off. Legislature passed bill effective September 1, 2015 changing Blue Warrant Process which allows inmates arrested on administrative violation to be released on bond after petition to the court.

Court took a break for lunch at 12:02 p.m.



Court resumed meeting at 1:30 p.m. with all members present.

**Diane Dupnik** present for discussion concerning the Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1. The Court questioned the difference in the court costs budget. Diane explained this was autopsy figures and there is no way for her to budget this because you cannot predict how many you will have. Diane presented reports on tickets submitted by DPS Officers and the Sheriff's Office to explain the decline in court collections. Diane expressed her concern over cutting her postage by \$200.00 and asked if they could reverse this and take \$200.00 out of her telephone budget.

**Lee Zapata** present for discussion concerning Communications. The court questioned the increase in personal services and Lee explained that it was for step increases to keep from losing employees to other cities. This increase took place, as a result of an Inter-Local Agreement with the City of Rockport, in July without the Court's permission. Lee apologized and stated that she thought the Sheriff took care of contacting the court. The cost to the County for the step increases came to about \$26,000 for this year and will be about \$52,000 in the 2016 Budget. Overtime pay in the amount of \$39,000 was questioned and Lee explained that this was a result of the loss in employees. Lee requested funds for a new radio repeater in the 2016 Budget and future consideration for backup radio equipment at the service center off of the by-pass in case of emergency/disaster situations.

**John Strothman** present for discussion concerning Venue Funds. Funds expended year to date are General Pathways this year \$82,083 on sixteen different venues. John stated production was a little slow

this year because of the weather.

**Valerie Amason** present for discussion on the County Clerk's Office. Requests include a five percent raise in her salary, change for increase in the indexing specialist position from a pay group eleven to a pay group twelve, with a new job description to include additional duties for backing up the Vital Statistics position. Valerie also requested an increase in her conference money for educating herself and her staff.

**Misty Kimbrough** present for discussion on Collections. She asked for additional money in her postage and office supplies due to the expectation in an increase in post card notices because of the new I-Plow system the court approved.

**Michelle Bennett** present for discussion on the Elections Department. Requests include an Absentee Processing System at a cost of approximately \$8,000.00, sixteen additional voting machines and \$3,300 apiece and two carrying caddies at \$1,100.00 each due to the County coming on a Presidential Election and she wants to be prepared in case of any break downs and so there will be more machines to accommodate the voters. Court suggested she do a line item transfer from her temporary help to purchase the Absentee Processing System this year.

**James Jackson and Ronnell Burke** present for discussion on Animal Control, Environmental Health and the Transfer Station. James asked that the court allow a line item transfer of \$7,400.00 out of his current Capital Outlay to purchase exhaust fans and chip readers this year. The \$8,500.00 request for next year is needed to re-seal

approximately 1,200 square feet of dog runs. The court said they would consider \$2,500.00 for this project.

Concerning Environmental Health, previous funding for temporary help was cut out of this budget.

Concerning the Transfer Station, James is asking for \$19,500 for new extra heavy duty waste containers.

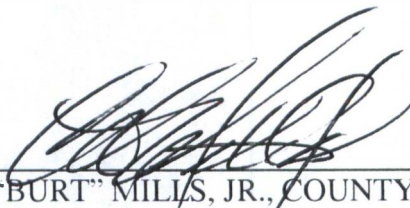
Court will consider requests by County Clerk for \$6,000.00 in conference money, Collections \$250.00 postage and office supplies, Dispatch Personnel \$11,500.00, Elections \$15,000.00 and Transfer Station \$19,500 for capital improvements and will take a look at COLA raises for employees.


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No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 4:15 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Stiles duly seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

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