

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**COMMISSIONERS' COURT**  
**WORKSHOP MEETING – FEBRUARY 3, 2015**

On the 3rd day of February, 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; Betty Stiles, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and Valerie K. Amason, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Stan Turpen, Assistant County Attorney; Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Pam Heard, District Clerk; Collin Jackson, IT Director; Bill Mills, Sheriff; and .

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:

**ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION**

Discussion regarding contract and outstanding issues with Tyler Technologies.

**MINUTES**

Judge Mills announced the purpose of the meeting is to discuss our differences and try to reach solutions. Tyler representatives, Jim Biggs, Greg Wallace and Paul Rans appeared at the Commissioners' Court workshop meeting with a Power Point Presentation.

Mr. Biggs stated he would like to begin with going through brief past history in terms of some of the investments that were made to insure that we are on the right track and also touch on some of the old issues. We have made a significant number of investments to make sure this product is alive and we feel that we are

moving in the right direction now and I apologize for the misalignment. I am here to talk about being factual and bring to the table opinions and suggestions of where we can go from here. Both hard parts and soft parts are over and above the contract that we have invested in over the last several years adding up to almost \$500,000.00. Our transition plan is normally to invest three months, six months tops, in the post go-live services. In the case of Aransas County, Paul Rans, transmission manager, was here thirteen months, so that 1200 hours represents seven months we would normally have Paul billable in another county. Candidly, we did not feel comfortable in leaving as I'm sure you did not feel comfortable with us leaving. We have brought in business consultants and our conversion team has been doing work over and above the terms of the contract. Our goal was not to arm wrestle over anything, but to meet you over half way and to reach a level partnership that met the needs of both parties. There were cases over the last couple of years where IT had come to me and asked about certain things. There were several software products that we just wrote off and gave the County. We know there are questions and seems to be some misconceptions, again it was not our goal to arm wrestle over issues, but to move forward.

Commissioner Chaney asked if it normally takes six months to get things up and running, how come that did not happen. We asked Tyler for a product that would do what you purported it to do and I think we are getting close to having that done and we appreciate that.

Mr. Biggs replied, I'm sorry this is after the go-live, after the installation, we usually bring people out about three months after. This is all over and above the contract terms, in terms of meeting the contract, what was signed and so forth, what was agreed to in that contract. Above that and to your point there were questions or misconceptions and communications issues were outlined. Bottom line, our goal was to say let's look at the contract, we took the feedback and said maybe we had addressed it, maybe we had not, we'll move forward, we'll meet it. So to your point Commissioner I think we are on the same page.

Commissioner Chaney: Along with that, I think we have made tremendous progress, so I appreciate what you are saying. I think we have gone through multiple stages of competency on our side as well as on your side. I appreciate the fact that you all hung with us.

**DA Implementation and LinX Integration:**

Mr. Biggs: There are several open issues I wish to address. One was our Prosecutor (DA) Package and the LinX Integration. Our proposal that you might want to consider for the DA implementation, it's my understanding that there are six users in that office. What I propose is we don't charge the county anything for approximately a year and a half while we implement the DA package. The proposal, when I talk about October, is to get you all a couple of budget years ahead, so the court and the district attorney can budget appropriately for that package. The yearly cost for the SAAS fees is \$9,000.00. I'm not sure when we could install that package, probably a couple of months most likely, but the remainder of this year and all next budget year you wouldn't have software as a service costs for DA. There are implementation costs and what we would try to do to reduce that cost is Greg Wallace in particular agreed to manage this without a fee, but there would be a fee for training during implementation.

Stan Turpen, Assistant County Attorney inquired how they could get Tyler on site to give them training immediately, due to all new personnel in that office.

Mr. Biggs suggested they utilize the on-line videos or the manual contained in the Odyssey program. We will try and figure out when they can get someone out there in person.

Pam Heard asked if the DA package will be implemented soon, she did not realize how crucial this was concerning her office. There is also a logistic issue, because the DA's office is in San Patricio County and they have a very small place to operate out of in Aransas County.

Mr. Biggs stated that it would be at least nine days before they could possibly get to this, if then.

Mr. Biggs then raised the issue of the LinX Integration. They had not heard of nor had they installed this in any other counties and were not confronted with this until about four years ago. Paul Rans came up with a suggestion on doing an integration and since then has found out the mug shots did not work right. They set up a separate system to allow access in their data center but it still did not do what was desired. Paul found a grant through Northrup Grumman and is currently working with them on the issue. This will allow mug shots to be provided with no cost to the county. They do not know how long it will take, but Paul has gone above and beyond the call of duty in terms of research, phone calls and finding out various avenues to get this project running.

**Sheriff's Office Juvenile Arrest:**

Sheriff Mills stated this was a State wide system and two months ago the upper offices of the State wanted to cancel the whole thing because counties were falling out of it and we raised the concern, we were not falling out of it for a lack of interest, we did not have the integration, so yes, Michael Brooks was in a meeting a few weeks ago where it was announced it was a problem and that they had acquired a grant which should allow the county to come back on network and my investigators would not get blocked off.

The Sheriff and Mr. Biggs agreed this was the right solution.

Mr. Biggs stated, we had given our API tool kit to the county at no cost, this is the number of cycles and hopefully we're in the right place. Also, there are Integration tools that allow various systems to communicate with each other so our Integration tool kit is an add-on product that many counties would purchase in this case, we have for this project, provided that. Mr. Biggs also stated it was his understanding from the last meeting there was conversation that we probably never closed out on doing juvenile arrests with the county and he has three suggestions.

One, typically in juvenile arrests we do not see counties in Texas utilizing Odyssey, all of them to my knowledge use other tools, that's certainly an option, but should you want to use Odyssey, there are tools that that Paul has researched. While we don't have this in use in Texas, Peoria Illinois has developed a juvenile

arrest template which sets up the juvenile arrest process as a separate group within Odyssey and allows reporting, keeps the security at appropriate levels and also allows for removal of information as required, so that is something we could set up here, and I believe that would meet the needs of the county and the needs of the Sheriff.

There's another option in terms of using an instant reporting system that would basically allow a juvenile arrest to have a code base, and when cleared by arrest, would separate that incident report and information from the rest of Odyssey. In other words keep it separate from the adult side.

Sheriff Mills stated, that's what we were doing, my deputies told me I don't want to do an instant report, the trouble is, it doesn't marry until the initial offense report is cleared. We have to basically go back and clear it. Now we've got it out there in never-never land because they are not married together. Then I get an expunction order two years from now and I can't find a juvenile's name because it's not associated with the objects, but that was the best we could do. We weren't showing reports of arrest of juveniles, because we couldn't book them into the jail. Because you didn't have a queue which was required to show on the schedule, it violates the statute of the State of Texas and this puts me at odds with the Attorney General. Also, it was discussed last time that Odyssey had not yet developed a solution and you didn't know whether it would roll out that year or what the cost would be.

Mr. Wallace stated, we built it for Peoria, Illinois, so to my knowledge we don't have it installed anywhere in Texas, it would be something that we would want to test and make sure it would work. Our team of demo experts seem to think it would be a possible solution and that's why we offered it in the first place.

Mr. Biggs asked if his team could demo it to the sheriff's office.

Mr. Wallace stated they had demoed it already.

Sheriff Mills replied that he did not know that he had seen the demo. It was discussed at the last meeting at the EOC, that there was a possibility of a rolling

out, but you had not yet insured that it met the criteria for Texas according to the statutes. Also, the entire appearance you presented and why the County went with Odyssey, is that we were doing away with all the different vendors, the maintenance agreements and interfaces.

Then we get the program and find out in fact you do not facilitate the arrest of juveniles in your detention package and that was the recommendation. I'm concerned we won't be able to expunge a record when ordered to do so and if we're doing an instant report, it's not showing "cleared by arrest". I can't show an arrest because it required me to show them booked into the jail, it's a catch 22. I guess the question would be cost.

Mr. Biggs: My suggestion is that we if could do an on-line demo with the Sheriff, on the PEORIA option, see if it meets your needs and then go through it.

Mr. Turpen: Have you looked at the Texas statutes specifically, for the general code, not sure how close they are to Illinois.

Mr. Biggs: What we've seen in Texas, every Odyssey account uses a third party system to manage it, to keep the security totally separate, so we've investigated it in a number of different ways, but again, that would be, if we were in virtually any other county, they would have it on a separate system and this is our recommendation to look at that.

There are three parts, 1) Sheriff needs certain reporting, in terms of number of arrests and associated information, does it meet those needs , 2) does it meet the statutes, 3) is it a supportable product. We will try to work with the Sheriff to get this system in place and we will try to keep the costs down.

**Leap Integration:**

Mr. Biggs stated, this is a new project and Tyler was not aware that the county needed this, because the previous IT director did not have this item on the Sheriff's needs list.

Sheriff Mills stated the Leap Integration was left out because of costs.

**Inmate Billing:**

Tyler hopes to get this in a future product release.

**DC Registry and DC IV-D:**

Pam Heard stated IV-D refers to Child Support in Welfare Act, a simple registry for every state.

**JP Warrants:**

JP#1 - Mr. Sans stated warrants came from PTS and cases came from Hill Country and there was no link, they did not think they would be able to make an association between the two, it was not something Tyler could do systematically.

JP#2 - Mr. Biggs stated they are waiting on feedback on spreadsheet associations from Judge McGinnis. Collin Jackson reported that in a discussion with Judge McGinnis, her office, after being told that conversion could not be done, manually pulled and reissued their warrants for all but a few years and she is comfortable with doing that, did not want to take a chance on have a scrip come back and mess it up.

**eSignatures/SessionWorks Judge Edition:**

Tyler's Odyssey product, Session Works for Judge's, can provide paperless operations on the bench and also produce convenient and speedy search capabilities.

(See attached insert for proposed fees for six users)

Judge Mills stated that they will have a request for payment towards Tyler's current invoice on the next Commissioners' Court Agenda.

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No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 10:05 a. m. on a motion made by Commissioner Stiles duly seconded by Commissioner Chaney.

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

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