

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

WORKSHOP MEETING - AUGUST 9, 2012

On the 9th day of August, 2012, there was a Workshop Meeting of the Commissioners' Court held in the Commissioners' Court, 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; Russel Cole, Commissioner Precinct 4; and Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk and Joy M. Dias, Chief Deputy County Clerk.

Other County Official present was Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Jeri D. Cox, Tax Assessor-Collector; Richard Bianchi, County Attorney; Bill Mills, Sheriff, and Pam Heard, District Clerk.

The Meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. at which time a quorum was declared by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

Judge Mills stated the purpose of the workshop was to continue general discussion of the 2013 budget with elected officials and department heads

COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY CLERK RECORDS MANAGEMENT

County Clerk Friebele discussed her proposed 2013 budget for her office including her Records Management budget. She reported one reason for fines and court costs being down is the Pre-Trial diversions handled by the County Attorney's Office. If a person is given one, they pay \$500.00 to the County Attorney's Office, and no court costs or fines are collected if they follow their agreement.

ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

Road Administrator David Vyoral stated he needs to raise the pay of his truck drivers because he is having problems hiring. He also asked the Court to reinstate his groups and steps to pre the Ray Associates study that lowered all of them. Commissioner Smith asked how many miles have been lost to annexation by the City of Rockport. Vyoral replied "probably 20 miles." Commissioner Smith informed Vyoral the Court was restoring the 2009 tax rate so he would have more funds in his budget. There are fifteen roads on the road improvement list.

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Some of them cannot be done because they do not have an easement. They were doing about two miles per year; however, in the last three years they have just been maintaining them. Vyoral asked for pay increases and Commissioner Smith asked if this was on top of the proposed COLA. Vyoral stated the Ray Associates study hurt him in future hiring because he had to use a lower pay grade for the salary. Vyoral also stated his employees are not getting a full reimbursement for their cell phones because the money is taxed prior to them receiving it. Vyoral also stated the three miles of FM 1781 outside the Rockport city limit is not in his budget. Two miles of the road are in the City of Rockport. There is an issue of where the responsibility lies between the Airport, Rockport and Road and Bridge. Vyoral stated it would cost approximately \$55,000.00 to seal coat the County's three miles and another \$7,000.00 for mowing.

FLEET MAINTENANCE

Michael Gordon reported Bee County Rural Transport is no longer getting fuel from them.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - PRECINCT 2

Judge Diana McGinnis stated she holds Court two to three times a week and uses a bailiff about ten hours a week. The Juvenile Case Manager has 96 cases and Judge McGinnis requested a two step raise for her.

(Activity Report inserted)

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - PRECINCT 1

Judge Diane Dupnik asked for two step raises for her clerks. She was questioned about how much Constable Thomas does for her but she did not have the data with her.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Roger Carriere, Maintenance Supervisor, had a very brief discussion on his budget. He needs money for air conditioning units and asked for step increases for his employees.

EXTENSION OFFICE

Extension Agent Ginger Easton-Smith reported the possibility of the County getting another agent. Ms. Easton Smith asked for salary increases for her part-time workers, for herself and the future agent.

(Budget request inserted)

DISTRICT CLERK

District Clerk Pam Heard's budget discussion was brief. She wanted to verify exactly what the IT Department was budgeting for her.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Mills returned to discuss costs of criminal examinations. He wants to renegotiate the Federal inmate contract and the new painting at the jail has helped people lose anger.

COUNTY AUDITOR

County Auditor Kirk asked the Court for direction on the budget. Commissioner Casterline asked about the Road and Bridge Department eliminating a position and said the Court may consider performance reviews for step increases.

Norma Martinez with The Rockport Pilot stated no one wants to be responsible for a merit raise.

Tax Assessor-Collector Cox presented a new handout on proposed tax rates.

(Handout inserted)

Commissioner Chaney wants a \$3,000.00 sign on a street where children are at play; other Commissioners say take it out. Reduce IT maintenance by \$83,000.00. Discussed County Attorney's funds that are bringing in over \$20,000.00 per year. Added money in the election budget for potential May election. No radar for the Constable; give them hand-held radio only. Commissioner Chaney wants to bump up the Constables salaries \$2,000.00 each.

The Court recessed at 11:50 a.m. and returned to Open Session at 1:30 p.m. with everyone present except Judge Mills, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

Auditor Kirk stated she would have final changes in the Commissioners' boxes for review by tomorrow. Final "tweaking" will be on Monday. She will include the \$2,000.00 for the Constables and a COLA increase for all employees. There will be no truck for license and weight. Health and Sanitation part-time employee was approved for more hours. The ad valorem tax for Road and Bridge will be increased. A discussion was had regarding longevity pay for elected officials.

Commissioner Smith stated he did not think Commissioners should receive longevity pay since they are part-time.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned was adjourned by Commissioner Chaney duly seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

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