

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING - MARCH 24, 2014

On the 24th day of March, 2014, there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioner' 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 Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Alma Cartwright, County Treasurer; David Vyoral, Road Administrator; David Reid, Drainage Engineer; Richard Bianchi, County Attorney; Collin Jackson, IT Director; Bill Mills, Sheriff; Pam Heard, District Clerk; John Strothman, Project Manager; Jerry Brundrett, County Surveyor; and Pat Rousseau, Human Resources Director.

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

Don Sheets with the Aquarium at Rockport Harbor gave a presentation on expansion plans for the Aquarium.

(Presentation inserted)

Commissioner Chaney suggested the Court hold a workshop to discuss expansion plans and financing.

ITEMS FOR DELIBERATION AND/OR ACTION

MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Casterline and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2014.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

EARLY VOTING CLERKS - PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve appointment of early voting clerks for the May 27, 2014, Joint Primary Runoff Election.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(List inserted)

SCANNING COUNTY CLERK RECORDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve records scanning of old County Clerk records and line item transfer from Archive Fund reserve to cover budget shortage.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(List inserted)

REVISION - VALIC DEFERRED COMPENSATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve revision to Valic Deferred Compensation 457(b) Plan Adoption Agreement to allow loans from employees' accounts to be made to County employees at no cost to the County.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

PRELIMINARY ROAD CLOSING - MANNING ADDITION

Motion was made by Commissioner Stiles and seconded by Commissioner Smith to pass on preliminary approval to close all or part of a 20 foot alleyway in Manning Addition, Block 396.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT

De McLallen gave an extensive explanation as to why Berg Oliver Associates should be hired to do removal of noxious species in the Tule Creek Watershed. The Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries has agreed to commit \$55,000.00 in grant funding for this project. The project does not cover ongoing maintenance. This will be presented after the initial project is complete.

(Report inserted)

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve and authorize County Judge to sign an environmental services contract with Berg Oliver Associates for removal of invasive plants at four (4) Tule Creek sites.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Contract inserted)

KAYAK LAUNCH - PORT BAY ROAD

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve and authorize County Judge to sign grant award contract from the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program for construction of a kayak launch on Port Bay Road, an Aransas Pathways Project.

Commissioner Casterline suggested these launch sites have another designation other than "kayak" launch sites since fishermen and bird watchers as well as other person could use the sites. Mr. McLallen agreed with this suggestion and noted he would follow through on the change.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Contract inserted)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT - KAYAK LAUNCH

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve and authorize County Judge to sign a professional services contract with The Grant Connection for administration of Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program Grant to construct a kayak launch on Port Bay Road.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Agreement inserted)

TEMPORARY MODIFICATION - JOB POSTING POLICY

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Stiles to approve temporary modification of job posting policy, compensation and work schedule for Assistant County Attorney position as per attached memo dated March 20, 2014.

County Attorney Bianchi went over the memorandum presented for the Court's consideration. Human Resources Director Rousseau asked the Court to reconsider going against the Personnel Policy. She stated Mr. Bianchi could hire someone on a temporary basis for six (6) months without posting the job. Commissioner Smith verified with Kristen Blanford that she is not currently available to assume the County Attorney's position full-time. She needs time to close her current practice. She would, however, be available to work part-time training with Mr. Bianchi.

Commissioner Chaney withdrew his motion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Smith to pass on approval of this agenda item.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Memo inserted)

PUBLIC OFFICIAL BONDS

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve public official bond continuation certificate on Susan R. Woodley, Chief Deputy Treasurer.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Bond inserted)

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF TRAINING

Judge Mills acknowledged receipt of and presented for recording in minutes of Commissioners' Court certificate of completion of commissioner's education during calendar year 2013 from County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas for Betty Stiles, Commissioner Precinct 4 and 4A.

(Certificate inserted)

BUDGET LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chaney to approve budget line item transfers presented by the County Auditor.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Transfers inserted)

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to approve the accounts payable presented by County Auditor.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

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

Judge Mills reported he was informed there may be a traffic jam on the Copano Causeway Thursday through Saturday, March 27 through March 29, 2014 due to construction at the Causeway. Commissioner Casterline asked Sheriff Mills if signs would be put up on 774 to inform travelers to go around. Sheriff Mills said he would look into it.

Judge Mills reported he was honored at a Corpus Christi banquet to accept the Coastal Conservation Association award as Conservationist of the Year. He displayed his award along with a painting he received.

REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

There were none.

PRESS QUESTIONS

Norma Martinez with The Rockport Pilot had no questions to ask but stated she would make sure notice of road delays would be in the paper.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned on a motion made by Commissioner Smith duly seconded by Commissioner Casterline.

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

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