

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

WORKSHOP MEETING - FEBRUARY 6, 2012

On the 6th day of February, 2012, there was a Workshop 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; Russel Cole, Commissioner, Precinct 4; and Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Richard Bianchi, County Attorney; Patrick Flanigan, District Attorney; Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor; Diana McGinnis, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2; and Sharron Loflin, temporary Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1.

The Meeting was convened at 9:45 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 AND/OR ACTION

AUTOPSIES AND TOXICOLOGY STUDIES

Discussion was had regarding the recent Court decision to terminate the County's contract with the Nueces County Medical Examiner Dr. Ray Fernandez in favor of using the services of forensic pathologist Dr. Suzanna Dana from Lockhart, Texas. Judge McGinnis gave the Court a handout taken from the Code of Criminal Procedure that outlined the duties performed by Justices of the Peace regarding autopsies. District Attorney Flanigan stated a Medical Examiner is not required. When law enforcement contacts him regarding a deceased, he makes the determination on whether an autopsy is necessary. Commissioner Smith asked Flanigan if he has any problem with the change. Flanigan stated he does not know yet. Judge McGinnis stated she has had some problems with the Medical Examiner doing a complete autopsy when she asked for just toxicology. District Attorney Flanigan stated he thinks the Justice of the Peace can order an autopsy but they cannot limit what is necessary. The Medical Examiner has been charging from \$2,100.00 to \$5,000.00 for an autopsy. Dr. Dana will be charging \$2,100.00 only unless there is an unidentified body that would require more work.

Flanigan will be visiting with the Medical Examiner, Dr. Fernandez, to see if it is possible to contract with him for an autopsy only when the District Attorney feels he needs a more thorough autopsy for a case.

(Code and Dr. Dana's credentials inserted)

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