

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

WORKSHOP MEETING - JULY 20, 2011

On the 20th day of July, 2011, 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; Leslie "Bubba" Casterline, Commissioner Precinct 2; Charles Smith, Commissioner Precinct 3; Russel Cole, Commissioner Precinct 4; and Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk.

Other County Official present was Lezlie Kirk, County Auditor.

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 reviewing the "wishlist" of each department prior to finalizing the 2012 budget. County Auditor Kirk set up the schedule.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Lori Honeycutt representing TAC appeared to discuss the increase in unemployment costs. Ms. Honeycutt informed the Court their liability is currently the first twenty-six (26) weeks a person is on unemployment. With the change by the Federal government increasing the liability to one hundred and three (103) weeks, the Feds pick up weeks 27-73 and the County picks up weeks 74-103. TAC is billed through the Workforce Commission. The County's 2010 liability was \$109,445.00. Commissioner Smith asked what the County is doing wrong. Apparently elected officials are not disputing the requests. Ms. Honeycutt stated she would like to give training to County Officials and Department Heads on what they need to be doing. She also informed the Court the Feds will discontinue payment June 9, 2012; any claims filed by that date County will be responsible for whole 103 weeks. Ms. Honeycutt told the Court workers compensation is looking good.

ROAD AND BRIDGE

Road Administrator Vyoral appeared for questions regarding his budget request. Commissioner Smith reminded Vyoral that the road tax rate was lowered two (2) years ago to help the General Fund and asked what Vyoral's position was regarding this. Vyoral stated he was alright with this if he is not building roads and filling open positions. He also reminded the Court the equipment he had requested in the 2011 budget was taken from the certificate of obligation and not his budget. Discussion was had regarding gas \$18,000.00 for a new fuel system. Seventeen (17) entities get fuel from the county.

IT DEPARTMENT

Justin Cook, IT Director, returned to Court to discuss his 2012 budget request. His priority was fifteen (15) computers; network equipment for the Public Safety building; increasing internet speed when the County goes on Tyler. The laptops requested for the Sheriff's Office CID should be in the Sheriff's budget.

COUNTY AUDITOR

County Auditor Kirk informed the Court they recycle supplies but she is going up to \$2,800.00 for office supplies. She wants to send her staff to training; wants her part-time employee changed to full-time. Commissioner Smith asked how much is being budgeted for health insurance for people who are not taking it. Also requested information inmate transportation. Requested budget hearings to be held after County Judge and Auditor have met with department heads to go over their budgets. Ms. Kirk stated she would move the workshops to the middle of August in 2012 after Tax Assessor-Collector has tax rates.

Commissioner Smith stated the County may have an increased burden for the District Attorneys since the State cut what they will be paying.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Mills stated \$124,000.00 is in his budget for four (4) new vehicles. Tahoes work best because they have rear wheel drive.

JAIL

Commissioner Smith asked Sheriff Mills how he felt about having a probationary period before an employee got health insurance; Sheriff Mills said it was okay with him.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Sheriff Mills stated the County needs a new animal control policy; he was informed by Friebele the current policy is from 1993.

LICENSES & WEIGHTS

Judge Mills asked what shift the current officer is on. Sheriff Mills stated 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The north bound weigh station will cost \$33,000.00.

Sheriff Mills also told the Court the IT Director says they need a new server.

No further business presenting, the Court adjourned was adjourned by Commissioner Smith duly seconded by Commissioner Cole.

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

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