

MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' COURT

PUBLIC HEARING/SPECIAL MEETING - AUGUST 22, 2011

On the 22nd day of August, 2011, there was a Public Hearing/Special Meeting of the Commissioner' Court in the Courthouse, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas, with the following members present: Jack Chaney, Commissioner, Precinct 1; Leslie "Bubba" Casterline, Commissioner, Precinct 2; and Charles Smith, Commissioner, Precinct 3; Russel Cole, Commissioner, Precinct 4; Peggy L. Friebele, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were Richard P. Bianchi, County Attorney and Bill Mills, Sheriff.

Mayor C. J. Wax was also in attendance.

The Meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. at which time a quorum was declared by County Judge Pro Tem Smith, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

PUBLIC COMMENTS - REDISTRICTING

County Judge Pro Tem Smith asked if there were any public comments on the redistricting. Betty Stiles and John Irvin were the only public members present. Friebele asked if the Court ever saw information that required redistricting. County Attorney Bianchi said we did receive information on a small variance.

Vanessa Gonzalez with Allison, Bass & Associates, L.L.P. was not present at the hearing but held a phone conference with the Court. She verified that the Court was holding a public hearing. Ms. Gonzalez went over the initial results of the census which showed over a 10.73% deviation in the precincts. Any deviation over 10% requires the County to redraw political boundaries. The Justice Department also requires at least one precinct to have a greater number of minority voters so as to assure minority representation. Census blocks moved during previous meetings evened out the number of people in each precinct and increased the number of Hispanic residents in Precinct 2 to assure the County was meeting the minority representation requirement. After the first meeting, the Precinct 1 Polling Place was in Precinct 2. A change was made to move the Polling Place back during the telephone conference held in June. Commissioner Casterline stated he had received some complaints that the lines drawn erratically and asked Ms. Gonzalez to explain why. She stated this was to keep from diluting the Hispanic voters in Precinct 2.

Judge Pro Tem Smith asked how soon Justice Department approval could be had. Ms. Gonzalez stated by January 1, 2012. Smith informed Gonzalez the Court needed approval earlier than this because of the upcoming Primary. Candidates will be filing for a place on the ballot by November 12, 2011 and need to know what

precinct they live in.

County Clerk Friebele asked how many Hispanic voters were in the census block East of Hardee St. Ms. Gonzalez brought up the census block showing 25 Hispanic voters lived in that area. Friebele asked if moving that block from Precinct 2 into Precinct 1 would create a minority problem for Precinct 2. Ms. Gonzalez said it would dilute the population but the County would still be in compliance. Friebele stated the way the map is drawn creates a problem for Voter Registration. Friebele said she did not feel Ms. Gonzalez was willing to move these census blocks around in the prior meeting to show exactly how Precinct 2 would be affected. Ms. Gonzalez stated she could move these voters and the County could create Precincts 2A and 3A. Commissioner Casterline verified the law says "minority" precincts and not just Hispanics. Friebele misunderstood which letter showed the Hispanic population. She was looking at the June 10th letter. This letter was after the first change. The initial letter stated the Hispanic population in Precinct 2 was 40.98%. Commissioner Casterline stated the J.P.'s were more concerned with the veer off Highway 35. Commissioner Chaney stated there are other areas that have problems as well. Commissioner Chaney asked Ms. Gonzalez to show the south end of Precinct 1 and asked what the percentage of Hispanics lived there. She stated there were 696 residents-245 Hispanic, 396 white, and 28 Black.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chaney and seconded by Commissioner Casterline to adopt Proposal 3.

Question. Motion carried unanimously.

It is so ordered.

(Map inserted)

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

Charles Smith, COUNTY JUDGE PRO TEM

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