

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

WORKSHOP MEETING - AUGUST 8, 2012

On the 8th 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; Justin Cook, IT Director; and Patrick Flanigan, District Attorney.

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 hold a general discussion of the 2013 budget with elected officials and department heads

COUNTY ATTORNEY/LAW LIBRARY

County Attorney Bianchi discussed his proposed 2013 budget for his office and the Law Library. His only changes were in Court costs that are unpredictable (\$3,600.00 to \$4,500.00); travel increased from \$2,000.00 to \$4,000.00; and a scanner and software for scanning all the County's contract (\$3,100.00 in the IT budget). Commissioner Chaney stated he requested IT be in the individual departments so the Court would have a better idea of exactly how much a department was costing. Mr. Bianchi stated he would support this.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

District Attorney Flanigan talked to the Court about the possibility of a combined County Court at Law with San Patricio County and clarified what would happen if the County Court at Law was eliminated.

(Budget request inserted)

IT DEPARTMENT

IT Director Justin Cook presented his IT budget. Commissioner Smith asked County Auditor Kirk if the maintenance for Tyler could be paid

out of the certificate of obligation. Her response was "yes". Commissioner Casterline asked when the Tyler software would be complete. Cook stated Tyler estimated by February 2013 but he believes it will be March or April. Commissioner Chaney again stated IT maintenance costs need to be changed to the individual departments so the Court has a clear picture of what the departments cost. Commissioner Smith commented "if the department head has control." Commissioner Chaney stated the telephone line item should be \$5,000.00; miscellaneous \$2,000.00; and meals \$4,000.00

(Requests inserted)

REPORT - 2012 EFFECTIVE & ROLLBACK TAX RATES

Tax Assessor-Collector Cox presented reports on the 2012 effective and rollback tax rate calculations.

(Reports inserted)

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Tax Assessor-Collector Cox stated her wish list included a two step increase for two of her employees who wait the counter. They have handled 52% of the motor vehicle transactions in the office. Commissioner Chaney complimented Ms. Cox' department.

FLOOD CONTROL

Drainage Engineer David Reid reported he has gone through all the drainage projects and gotten most of the easements needed. He is now trying to acquire easement through buying. He saw no reason to re-rate the projects.

LIBRARY

Iris Sanchez stated she could increase her fines from a nickel to a dime to bring in additional funding. She charges \$5.00 for an out-of-state library card and has around 2,300 customers. Commissioner Chaney recommended going up to \$10.00 for out-of-state customers and \$5.00 for out of County customers.

AIRPORT

Airport Manager Gene Johnson stated, to his knowledge, all IT comes out of his budget since he is an enterprise fund. When questioned about how many planes in his hangars are being flown, he replied 35 to 40%.

DISPATCH

Lee Zapata said she had two Gateways in the IT budget (\$1,700.00). She stated everything was working well since the rewiring was complete. The County will be paying 52% and the City of Rockport 48% in next years.

DPS

Sharron Loflin, DPS Secretary, introduced two officers. They are not actively working licenses and weights because of all the accidents in connection with Eagle Ford Shale.

The Court adjourned at 11:40 a.m. and returned to Open Session with all present at 1:30 p.m., and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

TREASURER

County Treasurer Alma Cartwright stated she is cutting a full-time position and making it part-time. She also requested step increases for two of her deputies who are assuming additional duties. She stated she needs new software to handle hotel-motel tax. Funding for the beach has been taken out; Commissioner Casterline asked why and Ms. Cartwright stated she is budgeting to what she anticipates the revenue will be. Judge Mills said the Fulton Mansion needs money. Sales tax revenue has been climbing 5 to 7%.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, TRANSFER STATION, MOSQUITO CONTROL

Director of Environmental Health James Jackson stated he needs a new truck for Environmental Health, one for Animal Control, and a truck with a sprayer for Mosquito Control. His part-time environmental health worker is going from 8 hours to 24 hours a week. He wants an ice machine for environmental health. He also wants a software program to track the animals. His revenues are up at the Transfer Station. Mr. Jackson suggested the garbage they are picking up could be covered by the Pathways budget.

Tax Assessor-Collector Cox gave the Court a new handout on proposed tax rates.

(Handout inserted)

CONSTABLE - PRECINCT 1

Constable Doc Thomas stated he has been doing a lot of evictions. Commissioner Chaney and Constable Thomas stated having a marked car is an asset. Commissioner Chaney suggested the Constables get a \$2,000.00 salary increase. Constable Thomas also requested radar for their vehicles.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Mills stated he would like to replace the license and weights truck with a car because of better mileage. A discussion was also had regarding the cameras that are used to locate trucks that are going around the weigh station. Sheriff Mills stated one of these cameras is broken and suggested the IT Department might be able to fix it.

The Court recessed at 3:55 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 8:30 a.m. on August 9, 2012, and further proceedings were had and done to wit:

Sheriff Mills continued with discussion on his budget requests.

(Overview inserted)

(Auditor's handouts inserted)

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

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

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