

MINUTES OF THE

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

PUBLIC HEARING - AUGUST 22, 2016

On the 22nd day of August, 2016, there was a Public Hearing of the Commissioners' 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 **Valerie K. Amason**, County Clerk.

Other County Officers present were **Alma Cartwright**, Treasurer; **Jeri Cox**, Tax Assessor-Collector; **Lezlie Kirk**, County Auditor; **Bill Mills**, Sheriff; **Michele Bennett**, Elections Administrator; **Linda Garcia**, Executive Assistant to the County Judge; **David Reid**, Road Administrator/Drainage Engineer/Stormwater Management Engineer; **Collin Jackson**, IT Director; **Valerie Gonzalez**, Interim Environmental Health Director; **John Strothman**, Pathways Project Manager; **Diana Espinoza**, Drainage Engineer;

Members of Local City Government, Community Groups and other Interested Parties present were **Brian Olsen**, Unopposed Candidate for Precinct 3 Commissioner in upcoming 2016 General Election; and **Norma Martinez**, Managing Editor of the Rockport Pilot Newspaper;

The Meeting was convened at **8:45 a.m.** at which time a quorum was declared by Judge Mills, WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and done to wit:

ITEM FOR DELIBERATION

Public comments on the Aransas County 2017 Budget.

**Norma Martinez:** Last week when the court decided to put in the new employee for animal control, how did that affect the numbers for the budget?

**Judge Mills:** \$26,000 and some change.

**Norma Martinez:** Judge, for the record, can you say what the overall budget is? And what the deficit is?

**Commissioner Smith:** Net deficit is \$448,121. One of the things that one has to consider is that we are always shooting to maintain a general fund balance at a certain level, so if we over budget one year, my thought process is that we take a deficit the next year and turn that back to the taxpayers in terms of the overall tax rate. That's what this budget is reflecting, we projected a \$400,000 positive for the end of this year.

**Commissioner Casterline:** Not just last year, the past few years.

**Commissioner Smith:** Interestingly enough, we were operating with a 2.4 million rainy day fund and it is now up to twice that much. The Court also adopted a general fund balance policy this year, not to go below four million dollars.

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*No further business presenting, the Court adjourned at 8:51 a.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Stiles.*

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

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VALERIE K. AMASON,  
EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT