

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF TITUS COUNTY, TEXAS
REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2008**

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC ATTENDING:

Sam W. Russell, County Judge	Bob Fitch, Commissioner Pct 1
Mike Fields, Commissioner Precinct 2	Phillip Hinton, Commissioner Pct 3
Thomas Hockaday, Commissioner Precinct 4	Teresa Price, County Clerk
Carl Johnson, County Auditor	Debby Rhea, County Treasurer
Joyce Simpson, Assistant to County Judge	Miguel Larson, Titus County Sheriff's office
Lydia Gonzalez, Deputy County Clerk's	Tim Taylor, County Attorney
Judy Cook, Tax Assessor	Cleve Johnson, Constable Pct 2
William White, Business Manager	Paula Dyke, JP 2
James Webster, JP2's office	Alma Purvis, Sheriff's office
Ron Staggs, Environmental Investigator	Norma Narramore
Scott Young	Gerry Evenwel
Tim Dale	Courtney Sharp
Ray McCann	Sandra McCann
Brian Dyke	Tommy James
Paul Lindsey	Nancy Leflett
Ashley Tompkins	Lynda Stinger
Ted Dennay	Dick Belf
Mike Price	

Judge Sam W. Russell called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. on September 8, 2008 noting that for the record, notices have been posted for the appropriate amount of time prior to this meeting according to government regulations.

Judge Sam W. Russell led the Commissioners' Court in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Mike Fields gave the invocation.

1. Public Comments and/or Requests for Information on Non-agenda Items in accordance with Section 551.042, Texas Open Meetings Act

- a. **Update on Loop Project** – Scott Young with PBS&J informed the Commissioners Court that additional comments on the Environmental Assessment on US 271 have been received back from TxDOT. These are now being reviewed and once addressed, will be resubmitted to TxDOT. The Environmental Assessment on FM 2348 has been submitted to TxDOT for review and are waiting on comments. FM 1000 is lagging behind due to Caddo burial sites. Alignment was shifted due to these sites. Once the archeologist review the new location, the schematics will be finalized

and the Environmental Assessment can be performed. Judge Russell asked if this could delay us on our schedule and was told that it could. However, these are 3 different projects and we could proceed with the West Loop while waiting on FM 1000. Judge Russell then asked if the burial of the 27 Caddo Indians were a result of this project and was told no, they were a result of Hwy 49 project.

At a recent meeting held between Union Pacific Railroad, TxDOT and Pate Transportation Partners, the design of the railroad line was modified to increase the span length over the Union Pacific railroad crossings.

Judge Russell asked if we were still waiting on ROW acquisition due to Environmental clearance not being received and was answered that we were. If we proceed before this, it would jeopardize Federal Funding that we could receive.

2. Consider and Possibly Approve Minutes for Commissioners' Court on August 25, 2008

Motion was made by Commissioner Phillip Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Bob Fitch to approve minutes for Commissioners Court on August 25, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider and Possibly Approve Contract for the Collection of Delinquent Taxes with Tim R. Taylor, Pursuant to Section 6.30 of the Texas Property Tax Code

Tim Taylor, County Attorney, came before the court stating that one of the duties that he took on when he became County Attorney was the collection of delinquent taxes and is now asking the court to let him continue to do this by signing a contract with him. This would be a two year contract beginning January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010. Asked if this would coincide with the contract with the Tax Appraisal Office, Mr. Taylor answered in that it would. Commissioner Mike Fields stated that the collection rate had been 98% since Mr. Taylor had been doing this. Mr. Taylor said that a lot of this was due to the good job done by the Tax Office.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mike Fields and seconded by Commissioner Bob Fitch to approve the Contract for the collection of delinquent taxes with Tim R. Taylor, Pursuant to Section 6.30 of the Texas Property Tax Code. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consider and Possibly Approve Resolution providing for an additional penalty on delinquent taxes which remain delinquent on July 1 of the year in which they become delinquent, to defray the costs of collection, Pursuant to Section 33.07 of the Texas Property Tax Code

Motion was made by Commissioner Mike Fields and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to approve Resolution providing for an additional penalty on delinquent taxes which remain delinquent on July 1 of the year in which they become delinquent, to defray the costs of collection, Pursuant to Section 33.07 of the Texas Property Tax Code. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consider and Possible Approve IBM iSeries Software Maintenance Coverage on AS400 in the amount of \$4,578.98 from September 18, 2008 through September 17, 2009

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to approve IBM iSeries Software Maintenance Coverage on AS400 in the amount of \$4,578.98 from September 18, 2008 through September 17, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider and Possibly Approve Travel and Seminars for Titus County Employees and Elected Officials

No travel was turned in.

7. Consider and Possibly Approve Oral and Written Reports of County Officials

Written reports were turned in from the following: *District Clerk; Nortex VFD* and Auditor's Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to approve oral and written reports of County Officials. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Approve Budget Amendments

There were no budget amendments.

9. Sign Pay Orders and Approve Payments

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to sign pay orders and approve payments. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Closing Comments by County Judge and Commissioners, if any

There were no closing comments.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.