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**COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF TITUS COUNTY, TEXAS  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 10, 2010**

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC ATTENDING:**

**Sam W. Russell, County Judge  
Mike Fields, Commissioner Precinct 2  
Thomas Hockaday, Commissioner Precinct 4  
Carl Johnson, Auditor  
Joyce Simpson, Assistant to County Judge  
Lydia Gonzalez, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Mike Mahar  
Paul Heidaker  
Steve Austin  
Duane Schaffer  
Brian Whitfield**

**Don Boggs, Commissioner Pct 1  
Phillip Hinton, Commissioner Pct 3  
Teresa Price, County Clerk  
Debby Rhea, County Treasurer  
John Livingston, Captain Sheriff's Dept  
Norma Narramore  
Jennie Taraborelli  
Mike Ahrens  
Danny Clark  
Lou Antonelli**

Judge Sam W. Russell called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on May 10, 2010 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**

County Clerk, Teresa Price, came before the court thanking them for the actions they had taken in the past. She also went on to say that the court was negligent on following through on purchasing computer upgrades that had been already been approved by the Commissioners' Court. Judge Russell stated that he had not signed the purchase orders because he is waiting on a comprehensive study of the county's computer needs. CIRA (County Information Resources Agency) from Texas Association of Counties had been asked at that same meeting to come and do an assessment of the county's needs. They will be here next week.

**2. Presentation on Loop Project**

Jennie Taraborelli with Pate Transportation came before the Commissioners' Court with a progress report on the Loop Project. The Environmental Assessment documents have been submitted to FHWA. They hope to hear something from them within the next two weeks at which time they can schedule a Public Hearing.

The US 271 ROW acquisition is ongoing. To date, fourteen (14) parcels have been acquired and Possession and Use agreements have been negotiated on ten (10) additional parcels. They have received approval from TxDOT for the Clearing and Grubbing Contract and will start

advertising on May 24, 2010. Carl Johnson, County Auditor, asked if they would have all three (3) contracts before the end of the year and Ms. Taraborelli answered hopefully within six (6) months.

They are in the process of setting up an office in Mt Pleasant and get ready to hire staff. The City has offered the use of the old firehouse at 402 N Washington.

### **3. Consider and Possibly approve minutes for Special Meeting on April 26, 2010**

Lydia Gonzalez stated that the minutes were not ready because Ms. Price had been of the office out due to surgery. Judge Russell asked if she was the only one that could prepare the minutes and was answered yes, she was the only one.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mike Fields and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to table this item. Motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Consider and Possibly Approve Allowing Sheriff's Department to use bonus from Securus Phone Contract to pay for Inmate Identification System**

Captain John Livingston came before the court asking them to allow them to use the \$20,000 signing bonus that they are to receive from Securus inmate phone system once the new system has been installed. This money will be added to the \$7000 from the inmate commissary fund to purchase a new inmate tracking system. At this time, there is no identification system for the inmates to wear in the jail in order for officers to identify them on the spot in the jail. This will be a base system which they will be able to build off of in the future and improve upon.

The inmates will be issued a tamper proof wrist band that will have their picture, name, custody level, if they are high risk, and a bar code on it. The system comes with a scanner that will assist officers to correctly identify the inmate; to not transport the wrong inmate; house the inmate with another inmate that they have conflict with; pass medications to the wrong inmate or release the wrong inmate.

This will help the officers when doing head count to be able to account for all of the inmates in the jail, alerting them to a missing inmate.

Judge Russell asked if this would be upgradeable to a tracking system and was told that it was. Captain Livingston stated that in the future, they could add to the system to allow them to know the location of any given inmate at any time. A finger print identifier can be added at the booking desk to allow identification of any inmate by their finger print prior to release.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Don Boggs to approve allowing Sheriff's Department to use bonus from Securus Phone Contract to pay for inmate identification system. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Consider and Possibly Approve Resolution Approving Bid for Purchase of Tract 1, Lots 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12, Block 13, original townsite addition, an addition to the town of Talco, Titus County, Texas resulting from delinquent tax Suite #31,708.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Mike Fields and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to approve resolution approving bid for purchase of Tract 1, Lots 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12, Block 13, original townsite addition, an addition to the town of Talco, Titus County, Texas resulting from delinquent tax Suite #31,708. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Consider and Possibly Approve Purchasing Vent Hood for Senior Citizens' Meal Center**

Judge Russell informed the court that the Fire Department was in the process of condemning the current vent hood system that is now at the Meal Center. He had spoken with Beverly Logan, Executive Director of North East Texas Opportunities, who had stated that they did not have the money to replace it. The current estimate to replace Vent Hood is approximately \$7000 - \$8000. Local bids are to be obtained.

Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to approve purchasing vent hood for Senior Citizens' Meal Center. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Consider and Possibly Approve Proclamation Recognizing Hurricane Preparedness Week May 23-29, 2010**

This was requested by the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

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

**8. Consider and Possibly Approve Travel and Seminars for Titus County Employees and Elected Official**

Travel was turned in for Lt. Terry McDowell and Sgt. Marcus Carlock from the Sheriff's office to attend a Risk Management Workshop Course presented by Texas Association of Counties in Tyler on May 20, 2010.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mike Fields and seconded by Commissioner Don Boggs to approve travel and seminars for Titus County Employees and Elected Officials. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Consider and Possibly Approve Oral and Written Reports of County Officials**

Reports were turned in from the City of Talco VFD; District Clerk; Sugar Hill VFD; Five Star VFD; Winfield VFD and Cash report from Auditor's office.

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

**10. Approve Treasurer's Report**

Motion was made by Commissioner Phillip Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Thomas Hockaday to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Approve Budget Amendments**

There were no budget amendments.

**12. Sign Pay Orders and Approve Payments**

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

**13. Closing Comments by County Judge and Commissioners, if any**

Judge Russell informed the court that notice had been received from the USDA designating Titus County as a contiguous disaster county making emergency loans available for farm operators.

Commissioner Thomas Hockaday felt that we needed to make sure that our insurance pays on Jewel Lee as a Reserve Deputy.

**Adjourn**

Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boggs and seconded by Commissioner Mike Fields to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.