

[Link to Audio](#)  
[Link to Audio](#)  
[Link to Agenda](#)  
[Link to Attachments](#)

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF TITUS COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 9, 2010**

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC ATTENDING:**

**Sam W. Russell, County Judge**  
**Mike Fields, Commissioner Precinct 2**  
**Thomas Hockaday, Commissioner Precinct 4**  
**Leonard Rockwell, Elections Administrator**  
**Joyce Simpson, Assistant to County Judge**  
**Christie Davis, Auditor's Office**  
**Norma Narramore**  
**Larry Cox**  
**Lou Antonelli**  
**Pat Howard**  
**Jimmy Parker**

**Don Boggs, Commissioner Pct 1**  
**Phillip Hinton, Commissioner Pct 3**  
**Teresa Price, County Clerk**  
**Tim Ingram, County Sheriff**  
**Jerene Sarratt**  
**Joel Green**  
**Karen Richard**  
**Ryan Cox**  
**Brian Whitfield**  
**Joel Howard**  
**Mike Price**

Judge Sam W. Russell called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. on August 9, 2010 noting that for the record, notices have been posted for the appropriate amount of time prior to the convening of this meeting according to government regulations.

Judge Sam W. Russell led the Commissioners' Court in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Thomas Hockaday 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**

Karen Richards from Titus Regional Medical Hospital asked the Commissioners Court to expedite reimbursement for commitment fees on MHMR totaling \$29,011.00. Judge Russell explained that we had requested an opinion from the Attorney General's office as to whether Titus Regional was considered a private entity and also for the County Auditor's office to verify the amount owed.

Teresa Price, County Clerk, said that she had met with the Auditor's office last week on this matter and it looked like the hospital actually owes the county \$8000.00. Judge Russell feels that the county may need to get an opinion from the County Attorney.

**2. Presentation from Joel Green, Operations Manager for County Information Resources Agency**

Joel Green was here in June, 2010 to perform an overall technology assessment on the Computer system for Titus County. While here, he met with elected officials and department heads regarding their needs and concerns. Mr. Green is here today as a result of this assessment and to give a report on his findings.

Mr. Green stated that Titus County had a bigger network than most counties had and that overall the computer system was pretty stable. One of the main problems addressed was the lack of anti-virus on computers. Each department was responsible for obtaining anti-virus software for their computers. He went on to explain that the County had solved this by purchasing an anti-virus server.

He went on to point out the following major issues that need to be addressed:

- Adopt a computer usage policy
- Have exit procedures in place when an employee leaves the workforce
- Compile a complete inventory and update yearly
- Have a hardware replacement schedule such as replacing every 5 years so that this can be included in budget
- Backup daily to server and not to individual computers or thumb drives
- Server room is extremely hot and not well ventilated. It needs to have its own separate air conditioning unit. All servers should be 2-3 feet off of the floor.
- All networks should have backup battery.
- The doors are left wide open to the computer room. This needs to be closed and secured to disallow anyone entering and tampering with the system.
- Standardization of Microsoft software was recommended by getting an enterprise licenses that would save the County money plus have uniform software throughout the county.
- One of the most critical issues was the replacement of the AS400 server. The one in place now cannot be updated and is running out of storage space.
- At the present time, the County uses an IT consultant who is only available 32 hours a week, Monday – Thursday. The County may want to extend the hours to include Friday or to look at getting their own IT person who could be available after hours and on weekends, especially since the Sheriff's department is 24/7.
- Create an IT Committee to discuss long term goals. Outside people can be included on this committee.

Commissioner Boggs commented that the issue regarding the AS400 server was his fault because he wanted to get an evaluation of the system first. Judge Russell felt that it was beneficial to have Mr. Green perform the evaluation and thanked him for his report.

**3. Consider and Possibly approve minutes for Commissioners Court on June 14, 2010 Regular Meeting, June 28, 2010 Special Meeting, July 12, 2010 Regular Meeting and July 26, 2010 Special Meeting**

Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boggs and seconded by Commissioner Mike Fields to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Open bids and Consider and Possibly Approve the Sale of Buildings and Sheds and Miscellaneous Items**

The following bids were received:

**Metal Building B** – Tim Gentry - \$1001.99; Larry Cox - \$1521.99; MJC Construction - \$1001.50; Ladd Freeman - \$601.00 and Diamond S-Bar Co. (Danny Smith) - \$500.00. Motion was made by Commissioner Phillip Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Don Boggs to accept the high bid of \$1521.99 from Larry Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

**Metal Building A** – Tim Gentry - \$1575.99; David Elmore - \$215.60; Larry Cox - \$351.70 and Diamond S-Bar Co (Danny Smith) - \$400.00. Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to accept the high bid of \$1575.99 from Tim Gentry. Motion carried unanimously.

**Pipe Fence** – Tim Gentry - \$201.75; David Elmore - \$392.62; Larry Cox - \$751.50. Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to accept the high bid of \$751.50 from Larry Cox. Motion carried unanimously.

**Pipe Gates** – Tim Gentry - \$61.75; David Elmore - \$60.12; Larry Cox - \$25.00. Motion was made by Commissioner Phillip Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Don Boggs to accept the high bid of \$61.75 from Tim Gentry. Motion carried unanimously.

**Wood Frame** – David Elmore - \$392.68; Diamond S-Bar Co (Danny Smith) - \$400.00. Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to accept the high bid of \$400.00 from Diamond S-Bar Co (Danny Smith). Motion carried unanimously.

**Flag Pole** – David Elmore - \$11.25. Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to accept the bid of \$11.25 from David Elmore. Motion carried unanimously.

**Lights & Light Pole** – David Elmore - \$12.01. Motion was made by Commissioner Phillip Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Don Boggs to accept the bid of \$12.01 from David Elmore. Motion carried unanimously.

**Barbed Wire Fence** – David Elmore - \$16.00. Motion was made by Commissioner Phillip Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Don Boggs to accept the bid of \$16.00 from David Elmore. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. Consider and Possibly Approve Reawarding Office Building**

On July 26, 2010, Jeremy Daniels was awarded the bid for the Office Building located at Cypress Lumber on US 271. He has since contacted Titus County that he will not be able to move the building in 21 days, that it will be 2-3 months due to his working out of town. The next high bidder was David Elmore in the amount of \$612.75 with Cypress Lumber following with a bid of \$200.00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to approve reawarding the bid to David Elmore in the amount of \$612.75 with the stipulation that if he does not want the building, then it will go to Cypress Lumber for \$200.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Judge Russell emphasized the fact that it has not been made clear that before any property can be removed, payment must be made to Titus County.

#### **6. Consider and Possibly Approve Judges & Clerks for November, 2010 Election**

Leonard Rockwell, Elections Administrator, explained that during the course of the year, vacancies for judges and clerks have occurred. Republican nominees are as follows: Box 3 – Margaret Reick – P; Box 14 – J. P. Hart – A; Box 15 – Karen Welba-Harmon – P; Box 18 – Jennifer Rovell – P; Early Voting Judge – Venetia Nelms with Doni Barrett and Bridget Byers as clerks. Democratic nominees are: Box 15 – Edith Gill; Early Voting Judge – Orlue Pettit with Lillian Branch and Eva Gaddis as clerks. Early Voting Ballot Board – Emily Aikman, Judge and Aileen Lindsey – alternate judge.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mike Fields and seconded by Commissioner Thomas Hockaday to approve judges & clerks as noted above for the November, 2010 election and to include holdovers from 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **7. Consider and Possibly Approve Remote Early Voting Locations**

Mr. Rockwell stated that in the General Election, remote voting locations are provided to assist those in the nursing homes and the elderly. He is recommending adding Pleasant Springs Assisted Living on 2003 N. Edwards; Villa on 1714 N. Edwards and Villa of Mt Pleasant on 2503 Greenhill Road. Judge Russell told the court that the Senior Citizen Center Meal Center (NETO) had been approached about being a remote location but they were afraid that it would jeopardize their funding. He then asked Mr. Rockwell if there was a deadline and was told that it had to be done 60 days prior in order to get approval from the state. Judge Russell then asked if it would be a problem to have four (4) Early Voting Locations in case NETO decided that they could hold early voting and was told no.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mike Fields and seconded by Commissioner Don Boggs to approve Pleasant Springs Assisted Living; Villa; Villa of Mt Pleasant and the Senior Citizen Center Meal Center contingent on jeopardizing funding for the Meal Center. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **8. Consider and Possibly Take Action on Employee Life Insurance**

County Auditor, Carl Johnson, asked that this item be tabled until he could get some figures together. He has been out of town and unable to do this.

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

**9. Consider and Possibly Approve Resolving the VISA Credit Card Balance**

Commissioner Don Boggs asked for this to be placed on the agenda due to discrepancies on the balance due to VISA. The county has two accounts with VISA. One is for the Sheriff's department and the other is for General Accounting. Visa misapplied a payment to the wrong account. Commissioner Boggs recommends paying the balance and contest the late fees that VISA has charged us with.

Motion was made by Commissioner Don Boggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to pay and resolve the VISA balance to stop being assessed financial fees. Motion carried unanimously.

A second motion was made by Commissioner Don Boggs and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to have a separate credit card clearing house account for the Sheriff's Department and one for General Accounting. Motion carried unanimously. There will have to be a change in procedure as to how the Business Manager, William White, uses the credit cards.

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

Travel was turned in for the following: District Judge's office for bailiffs Bob Edrington and Tony Bynum to attend State & Federal Law Update at NTCC and from the Sheriff's office for Lt. Teresa Patterson to attend the Texas Jail Association Jail Management Issues Seminar 8/23-8/26, 2010.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mike Fields and seconded by Commissioner Phillip Hinton to approve travel and seminars. Motion carried unanimously.

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

No oral reports were presented. Written reports were turned in from District Clerk; County Clerk; Sugar Hill VFD; Five Star VDF; Veteran's office and cash audit from Auditor's Office.

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

**12. Consider and Possibly Take Action on Treasurer's Report**

Motion was made by Commissioner Phillip Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Don Boggs to table this item due to the absence of the County Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

**13. Approve Budget Amendments**

There were no budget amendments.

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

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

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

Commissioner Don Boggs stated that the delay in purchasing a server was his fault due to waiting on the report from CIRA.

**Adjourn**

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