

COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

08.26.2013

[AGENDA](#)

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SCROLL DOWN FOR MINUTES AND ATTACHMENTS

COMMISSIONERS' COURT
SPECIAL MEETING
August 26, 2013

Notice is hereby given that the Titus County Commissioners' Court met in a Special meeting on Monday, August 26, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Titus County Courtroom, with the following members present:

Judge Brian P. Lee	County Judge
Al Riddle	Commissioner Precinct 1
Mike Fields	Commissioner Precinct 2
Phillip Hinton	Commissioner Precinct 3
Thomas Hockaday	Commissioner Precinct 4
Sheryl Preddy	County Treasurer
Dianne Norris	County Clerk
Tim Ingram	County Sheriff
Judy Cook	Tax Assessor/Collector
Debra Abston	District Clerk
Kay McNutt	Justice of the Peace Precinct 1,3,4
Paula Dyke	Justice of the Peace Precinct 2
Chris Durant	Constable Precinct 1,3,4
Clevie Johnson	Constable Precinct 2

Public Attending Meeting:

C A Renell	Sue Smith	Brad Fosdick
Gerry & Sue Evenwell	Larry McRae	Janice R. Chism
Leonard Rockwell	Norma Narramore	Jimmy Parker
Judy Kent	Bill McNutt	Dorthey West
Patricia Scarborough	Jane & Jeff Parchman	Gwen Dunn
Ted & Emily Aikman	Renee Morgan	David Horton
Carolyn Norman	Mishelle Livingston	Michelle Woodruff (CASA)
Irma Ayala	April Bliss (CASA)	Tonya Buck
Curt Beadle (CASA)	Maxine Patton	Rex McGee
Danny Cook	Judy Lee	E. J. & Brenda Kemp
Janice Buchanan	Daisy Brooks	Troy Sellers
Lene Haley	Renee Blanton	LeAnn Oglesby
J C Hurrington	Lisa Riddle	Barbara & Eric Bruechner
Joyce Simpson	Lou Antonelli	

Pledge of Allegiance led by: Judge Lee
Invocation by: Judge Lee

1. Public Comments and/or Requests for Information on Non-Agenda Items in Accordance with Section 551-042, Texas Open Meetings Act (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Those who turned in Public Comments and/or requests asked to be able to speak during the agenda item pertaining to their comments.

2. Consider and Possibly Approve Minutes from August 12, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Commissioners Court. (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to approve minutes from August 12, 2013 regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Status Report on Titus County Pass Through Projects (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Judge Lee read a brief status update report from Pate Transportation on the progress of the Titus County Pass-Through Program. ([See Attachment #1](#)) Commissioner Fields informed the public that the City Police and Sheriff's department were giving warnings due to people not adhering to the "Road Closed Signs" and traveling in a live construction zone on Tenneson Road or FM 4000. He stated that the warnings were over and the City would start giving tickets on the west side and the County would give tickets on the east side.

4. Presentation by Chief McRae, Emergency Management Coordinator, Regarding the Local Emergency Planning Committee (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Chief Larry McRae informed the court that a Local Emergency Planning Committee is made up of a variety of organizations in the County from local officials; media; law enforcement; EMS and Fire Department. Judge Lee has appointed a committee and it has been approved by the State. An organizational meeting was held in July and officers were elected as follows: Chairperson - Chief Larry McRae; Vice Chair - Judge Brian Lee and Informational Coordinator/Secretary – Lindy Rogers. A meeting is scheduled in a few weeks to approve the By-laws.

Chief McRae also informed the court that he had participated in a conference call today and that Titus County has a high threat of fire due to the lack of rain in our area and very dry conditions. ([See Attachment #2](#))

Judge Lee issued an Emergency Proclamation setting a Fire Ban for Titus County effective immediately and will revisit the situation in a week. ([See Attachment #3](#))

5. Presentation by Lanny Walker, CPA, Arnold, Walker, Arnold & Company Regarding Titus County Accounting Practices (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Lanny Walker, CPA with Arnold, Walker, Arnold & Company, came before the court at the request of Judge Lee to explain Titus County's policy of carryover of fund balance, especially the Road & Bridge Fund. When asked his recommendation, he stated that he is an individual and independent auditor, and therefore cannot tell the County what their policy should be. County Auditor, Carl Johnson, explained the reasoning for having a Capital Reserve and carryover of fund balances.

Comments and concerns were heard from the Commissioners, Patricia Scarborough and Eric Bruechner. ([See Attachment #4](#))

6. Presentation by Michelle Woodruff, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) with a Status Report on the Titus County Based Organization that is in Formation (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Michelle Woodruff updated the court as to the current status of CASA in Titus County. On 5/18/2013, they were told that they would no longer be under the Hopkins County umbrella due to no funding. At this time, she met with District Judges Robert Rolston and Danny Woodson who in turned contacted TEXAS CASA in Austin who agreed to let them start up their own Chapter in Titus County to include Camp and Morris Counties. Since that time, the following has been accomplished: startup application filed; formed a Steering Committee and nominated a Board; gone to community support meetings; met with County Commissioners in Morris County who have agreed to give some funding; obtained EIN number; adopted Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; created a budget and applied for Grant funding through TEXAS CASA. The switch over date is 11/01/2013 and they need \$25,000 by that time. Currently, they receive \$2400/month from Titus County and are requesting that this be raised to \$3000/month.

7. Presentation by Titus County Cares (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Judy Lee, interim Executive Director, reminded the court that Titus County owns the building in which TCC and also pays for insurance on the building. Utilities, upkeep and Workman's Compensation are paid by Titus County Cares. She then proceeded on giving an overview of the programs they support.

8. Consider and Possibly Approve Proposal of the 2014 Tax Rate (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Comments were heard from Commissioner Riddle, Leonard Rockwell and Judy Kent regarding tax increase. Carl Johnson stated that the tax rate is now set at 40.00 and needs 43.34 to meet the same as what was collected last year and in order to meet expenditures. He also stated that an additional \$1.08 was needed to cover the I & S rate (debt service fund that has to remain in that fund).

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Judge Lee to approve Proposal of 41.08 for the 2014 Tax Rate. Motion passed three to one with Commissioner Riddle and Fields voting nay. A copy of the proposed budget will go to the County Clerk's office on Friday.

9. Consider and Possibly Approve Raising the District Court Juror Rate for the Second Day up to the State Mandated Minimum of \$40.00 (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Debra Abston, District Clerk, informed the court that as of September 01, 2013, the reimbursement rate for jury service after the second day of service will change. This will affect the County and JP jury as well as district. ([See Attachment #5](#))

Motion made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Judge Lee to approve raising the District, County and JP court juror rate for the second day up to the State Mandated Minimum of \$40.00. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Consider and Possibly Approve Cleaning out Drainage Ditch on Private Property to Aid and Assist Upkeep of County Road in Accordance with Section 254.008, Transportation Code (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve cleaning out drainage ditch on private property to aid and assist upkeep of county road in accordance with Section 254.008, Transportation Code. Motion passed unanimously. ([See attachment #6](#))

11. Consider and Possibly Approve Payment of Pauper's Funeral for Charles Jones in the Amount of \$900.00 (Listen to audio track 1 and/or video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to approve payment of Pauper's funeral for Charles Jones in the amount of \$900.00. (See [Attachment #07](#)) Motion passed unanimously.

12. Consider and Possibly Approve Travel and Seminars for Titus County Employees and Elected Officials (Listen to audio and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Riddle to approve travel and seminars for Titus County Employees and Elected Officials. Motion passed unanimously. (See [Attachment #8](#))

13. Approve Oral and Written Reports of County Officials (Listen to audio and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to approve oral and written reports of County Officials. Motion passed unanimously. (See [Attachment #9](#))

14. Consider and Possibly Approve Treasurer's Report (Listen to audio and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously. (See [Attachment #10](#))

15. Approve Budget Amendments (Listen to audio and/or see video)

There were no Budget Amendments.

16. Sign Pay Orders and Approve Payments (Listen to audio and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to sign pay orders and approve payments. Motion passed unanimously. (See [Attachment #11](#))

17. Closing Comments by County Judge and Commissioners, if any (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

- a. Judge Lee reminded everyone that the Commissioners' Court meeting which was scheduled for Monday, September 9th had been moved to Friday, September 6, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.
- b. Commissioner Fields told the court that the County Park would hold their annual Jam Fest the week of October 12, 2013 for which he will be coming back before the court asking permission to adjust the fees for water and electricity during that week.

ADJOURN (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.