

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 8, 2014**

**[AGENDA](#)**

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Notice is hereby given that the Titus County Commissioners' Court met in a Regular meeting on Friday, August 8, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Titus County Courtroom, with the following members present:

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
Dianne Norris	County Clerk
Sheryl Preddy	County Treasurer
Carl Johnson	County Auditor - Absent
Tim Ingram	County Sheriff
Debra Abston	District Clerk
Kay McNutt	Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, 3, 4

**Public Attending Meeting:**

Larry McRae	Mike Ahrens	Sue Evenwel
Kathy Koon	Renee Blanton	Sue French
Elodia Chapa	Aileen Lindsey	Christie Davis
David Bird	John Gatherer	Karen Gatherer
Judy Kent	Jill Tucker	Emily Aikman
David Janakes	Leonard Rockwell	John Kelley
Paul Lindsey	Troy Sellers	Lou Antonelli
Carolyn Norman	Joyce Simpson	

**Invocation: Judge Brian Lee**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Judge Brian 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)**

There were no public comments and/or requests for information on non-agenda items in accordance with Section 551.042, Texas Open Meetings Act.

**2. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE MINUTES FROM JULY 28, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve minutes from July 28, 2014 special meeting of the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. PRESENTATION BY LARRY MCRAE REGARDING COUNTY PARTICIPATION IN THE COST OF A REPLACEMENT FIRE ENGINE AND BRUSH TRUCK (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Mount Pleasant Fire Chief Larry McRae came before the Commissioners' Court asking the county to share the cost of \$400,000 with the city in purchasing a new fire engine. He went on to explain that both the city and the county own a fire engine and they are used interchangeably on fire calls. One engine is a 2002 and the other is a 2003 and Chief McRae feels that we need a reserve for when one goes down. By buying a new engine, he could then rotate the older engines, thus extending the life of the current engines. According to the records for the past five (5) years, 58% of the fires are in the county.

Chief McRae is also asking that the county share in the cost in paying for a replacement cab chassis and bed on a 1999 one-ton brush truck which was a joint city/county purchase. The cost of this would be approximately \$28,000.00.

Judge Lee is to put this on the 8/25/2014 agenda for approval of purchasing a replacement fire engine and chassis and bed for the brush truck to be taken out of the next fiscal year's budget.

**4. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE TIME EXTENSION #2 FOR WILLIAMS BROTHERS FOR THE US 271 PROJECT (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

There is no money involved in this request for time extension from Williams Brothers for the US 271 project due to additional work required for the CR 2040 Overpass. This will take us into the end of September, 2014. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #01](#))

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to approve Time Extension #2 for Williams Brothers for the US 271 Project. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #5 ON THE FM 1000 PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,302.50 (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

This change order is for James Construction Group, LLC for installation and removal of 150 LF of temporary guardrail barrier with two end treatments. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #02](#))

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve Change Order #5 on the FM 1000 Project in the amount of \$5,302.50. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #06 ON THE FM 1000 PROJECT AS A NO ADDITIONAL COST TO THE COUNTY (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

This Change Order is necessary for James Construction Group, LLC to provide bonded fiber matrix seed, an alternative to straw/hay mulch seed, for seeding remaining small bare areas and addressing storm water pollution prevention plan best management practices. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #03](#))

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve Change Order #06 on the FM 1000 Project as a No Additional Cost to the County. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY APPROVE AN AUDITOR FOR THE 2013-14, 2014-15 AND 2015-16 COUNTY AUDIT (TABLED 7-14-14) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve Arnold, Walker & Arnold as Auditor for the 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 County Audit. Motion passed four to one with Commissioner Riddle voting nay. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #04](#))

**8. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON PURCHASE OF FURNITURE FOR ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT (TABLED 7-28-14) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Kathy Koon from Firmin's Office City came before the court with her quote stating that because Firmin's is part of the State Purchasing Co-op, they have the lowest prices available. She quoted the same furniture as previously quoted from Cary Evans with TLC Office Systems of Longview with the exception of the chairs. Her quote was for Hon chairs instead of Global and feels that the warranty is much better since it is a lifetime warranty. They have a 4-6 week delivery time once the furniture is ordered. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #5](#))

Motion was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday authorizing Adult Probation an expenditure of \$30,000.00 with Firmin's Office City for purchase of furniture for the Adult Probation Department. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE A CHANGE TO CADDO TRACE SUBDIVISION (TABLED 7-28-14) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Mr. Edwards was not present but had sent an email with a copy of the revised plat of Caddo Trace showing one tract of 4.777 acre in lieu of seven (7) lots. He has agreed to reimburse the county \$326.32 for the cost of certified letters and ads relating to his request in changing the Caddo Trace subdivision. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #06](#))

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve changes to Caddo Trace Subdivision to include the revision of northern most 7 lots contingent upon the receipt of the original copy of plat and reimbursement of \$326.32 from Mr. Edwards. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE WAIVING THE ENTRY FEE TO THE MONTICELLO COUNTY PARK DURING THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TITUS COUNTY TWIN LAKES JAM FEST OCTOBER 10-18, 2014 (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve waiving the entry fee to the Monticello County Park during the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Titus County Twin Lakes Jam Fest October 10-18, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

**11. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON MODIFICATONS TO THE TWO INTERSTATE 30 WEIGH STATIONS TO MINIMIZE RODENT PROBLEMS (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to table taking action on modifications to the two interstate 20 weigh stations to minimize rodent problems. Motion passed unanimously.

**12. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY MAKE CHANGES TO RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Discussion centered on questions and employees' concerns on establishing minimum retirement age and changes to the retiree health insurance policy. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #07](#))

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Fields to go into Executive Session on Thursday, 8/21/2014, at 10:00 a.m. to discuss changes to Retiree Health Insurance Policy. Motion passed unanimously.

**13. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON UTILITY REIMBURSEMENT FROM TENANTS AT THE SENIOR MEAL CENTER (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

North East Texas Opportunities (NETO) has notified Titus County that they no longer have the funds to provide an office in Mt. Pleasant for utility assistance and are assisting these clients from their office in Franklin County. This leaves the county with \$150.00 for utilities that they were to pay.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Fields to leave \$325 with each tenant for one (1) year and reevaluate at that time. Motion passed unanimously.

**14. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE A PLAN TO EXPAND THE COMPUTER ROOM AT THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

David Janakes from Kaybro Technologies came before the court explaining to the court that they need to enlarge the present computer room which is located at the courthouse annex. This could be done by realigning interior walls and eliminating the hallway and storage room which would give them one large room in which to work.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to seek bids at an appropriate time. Motion passed unanimously.

**15. PRESENTATION BY KAYBRO TECHNOLOGIES REGARDING COUNTY INTERNET FIREWALL IN LIGHT OF CHANGES REQUIRED BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM (C.J.I.S.) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

David Janakes informed the court that our current firewall system does not have the technology or functionality to recognize a threat. It is a requirement of C.J.I.S. (Criminal Justice Information System) that we upgrade to Next Generation firewall specifications which allows you to identify possible threats or attacks. C.J.I.S. is getting ready to audit Titus County and can cut us off and impose sanctions if we do not pass inspection. The IT committee met and it is their recommendation that the county purchase two (2) sonic walls at a cost of \$7687.00. Kaybro recommends purchasing a third sonic wall to have as a backup but does agree that it is not a necessity since a replacement unit would not be hard to obtain. Kaybro's cost for installation is estimated at \$18,000.00. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #08](#))

Christie Davis from the Auditor's office is to check and see if this could be paid out of the Courthouse Security and/or Technology Funds.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday to authorize Kaybro to begin immediately with the non-hardware installation and to purchase two (2) Sonic Wall NSA 3600 hardware units with yearly service subscriptions. Motion passed unanimously.

**16. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE TRAVEL AND SEMINARS FOR TITUS COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve travel and seminars for Titus County employees and elected officials. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #09](#))

**17. APPROVE ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS (Listen to audio track 1 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 #10](#))

**18. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #11](#))

**19. APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENTS (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve budget amendments #56-58. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT #12](#))

**20. SIGN PAY ORDERS AND APPROVE PAYMENTS (Listen to audio track 1 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 #13](#))

**21. CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNTY JUDGE AND COMMISSIONERS, IF ANY (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)**

Judge Lee informed the court that there would be a Special Meeting on Monday, 8/18/2014 at 9:00 a.m.; Executive Session on 8/21/2014 and normal Special Meeting on Monday, 8/25/2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hockaday informed the court that the Texas Department of Transportation had approved that Hwy 67 did not require the fog seal which would save the county \$40,000.00.

Commissioner Riddle explained that he voted nay on Item 7 because he felt that the county needed to change audit firms and not because he had anything against Arnold, Walker & Arnold.

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

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