

COMMISSIONERS' COURT
04.13.2015

[AGENDA](#)

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**COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 13, 2015**

Notice is hereby given that the Titus County Commissioners' Court met in a regular meeting on Monday, April 13, 2015 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
Jimmy Parker	Commissioner Precinct 4
Joan Newman	County Clerk
Sheryl Preddy	County Treasurer
Carl Johnson	County Auditor
Tim Ingram	County Sheriff
Judy Cook	Tax Assessor-Collector

Public Attending Meeting:

Daniel Schmeling	Kay Holloway	Judy Lee
Kim Hedges	Imelda Tatsch	Elmer Patton
Maxine Patton	Mike Ahrens	Jack Anderson
Michelle Cobern - CASA	Renee Morgan	Judy Kent
Krystal Hosmer – CASA	Troy Sellers	Sue Evenwell
Chris Basham	Hudson Old	Robb Sidebottom
Jennifer Lide	Patty Lamb	Judy Kunkel
Marcia Davis	Carolyn Norman	Joyce Simpson

Invocation: Judge Lee

Pledge of Allegiance: 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)

There were no public comments and/or requests.

2. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 23, 2015 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 Parker to approve minutes from March 23, 2015 special meeting of the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously.

3. PRESENTATION BY ROBB SIDEBOTTOM WITH TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS REGARDING AN OPPORTUNITY RELATED TO PURCHASE OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Robb Sidebottom from the Texas Association of School Boards explained the process of the BuyBoard stating that it is already procurement secured and complies with state bidding requirements. Membership to the Cooperative is free and open to all local governments, nonprofits and other political subdivisions of the state of Texas. It is endorsed by the Texas Municipal League, the Texas Association of Counties and the Texas Association of School Administrators. The daily activities are administered by the Texas Association of School Boards.

Mr. Sidebottom said he could see no change in doing business with local vendors and encourages their participation. Fuel prices are locked in but delivery fees are not. He would like to run numbers on gasoline and diesel usage, tank sizes and get some history before coming back to the county.

4. PRESENTATION BY MICHELLE WOODRUFF, CASA, COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Michelle Woodruff Cobern, Executive Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Titus, Camp and Morris counties reported that April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month and encouraged everyone to wear the blue ribbon in support. They are a nonprofit organization whose mission is to train and supervise volunteers to be a leading voice in advocating for safe, permanent, nurturing homes for abused/neglected children in need of their services. These volunteers have an FBI check and go through extensive screening plus go to 30 hours of intense classroom training in order for them to work with these children. They serve as a Guardian Ad Litem appointed by the court rather than an attorney which saves the county money. One year of CASA costs less than one month of attorney's fees. Each volunteer stays with a child until they are placed in a forever family. At the end of 2014, they had 17 volunteers and on April 22, 2015 will be swearing in another 7 volunteers. In addition, they have 40 new applications. Last year, they served 85 children with 15 cases being closed.

5. PRESENTATION BY IMELDA TATSCH WITH NORTHEAST TEXAS CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Imelda Tatsch from the Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center stated that their office is located in Winnsboro and serves Titus County. They work together with a Multidisciplinary Team of professionals with children between the ages of 2-17 who allegedly have been sexually or severely physically abused or have been a witness to a violent crime. They offer intervention, counseling and parenting classes and programs for families who want to get their children back. They work together with CASA and the Titus County Cares Food4Kids Program. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 01\)](#)

Jennifer Lide, co-director of Titus County Cares Food4Kids Program (aka Backpack Program) informed the court that students that qualify for this program receive a backpack full of nutritional, child friendly food each Friday of the school year with the purpose of feeding them through the weekend. Sometimes, this is the only food that child will have to eat. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 02\)](#)

Ms. Tatsch said she came across the idea of the vehicle registration fee as a way of funding child safety programs and would be helpful to agencies such as the Advocacy Center, CASA and the Backpack Program. An additional \$0.50 to \$1.50 fee could be added to vehicle registration.

6. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE ADDITION OF TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, TxDMV, CHILD SAFETY FEE (TRANSPORTATION CODE SECTION 502.403) RELATED TO VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Sue Evenwell approached the Commissioners' Court with her concerns about imposing this fee. She stated that the court would need to consider the administrative cost of collecting the fee. Judy Kent, a CASA volunteer, reinforced what Ms. Evenwell said and agrees that this is a hidden tax and not right for charitable organizations. Commissioner Fields is in favor of adding the vehicle registration fees and feels that if we don't help them now, we will pay for it later. Commissioner Riddle is against the additional fee as we are an economically-distressed county. Judge Lee informed the Court that we already support with our budget and funds to CASA, the Child Advocacy Center and indirectly to Titus County Cares.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields to approve the addition of Texas Department of Motor Vehicle (TxDMV) Child Safety Fee (Transportation Code Section 502.403) related to Vehicle Registration Fees. After further discussion, motion was withdrawn. Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker to table this item and give them more time to research since it doesn't begin until September 1, 2015. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 03\)](#)

7. STATUS REPORT FOR TITUS COUNTY PASS THROUGH PROJECTS (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Judge Lee read the report that was submitted from Mark Heidaker from PTP Transportation. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 04\)](#)

8. UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (CHRIS BASHAM) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Chris Basham gave an update on the construction on the Ratliff building and anticipates the end of May for completion. He expects the construction on the Computer room to be complete by the end of April or the first week of May. The moving of the computer cable is scheduled for Wednesday evening after 5:00 p.m. and should be finished by midnight. Shawn Bryan recommended that we get this done by an outside vendor as he does not feel comfortable his staff moving the cable. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 05\)](#)

9. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR COMMUNICATION CABLE RELOCATION FOR COMPUTER ROOM (Listen to audio track 1 and/or view video)

Two bids were received for Communication Cable Relocation for the Computer room: Cross Country Communications - \$615.00 and Lantana - \$660.00. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 06\)](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve expenditures for communications cable relocation for Computer room to Cross Country in the amount of \$615.00 with all work to start at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday night, April 15, 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

10. UPDATE ON MODIFICATIONS TO BATES COOPER SLOAN FUNERAL HOME DRIVEWAY MODIFICATIONS (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Both the County Attorney and the Texas Association of Counties advised the county that they could not move forward on the entrance and driveway modifications at Bates Cooper Sloan Funeral Home due to this being private property and needed to look at other options. The county is working with Mike Lightfoot with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in Atlanta as to the appropriate and legal way to proceed with modifications. Roger Ledbetter with TxDOT agrees that this is a safety issue. Both funeral home and contractor have been notified.

11. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF MT PLEASANT RELATED TO THE JOINT PURCHASE OF ONE PIERCE SABER PUMPER TRUCK (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve an Amendment to the Fire Protection Service Agreement with the City of Mount Pleasant related to the joint purchase of one Pierce Saber Pumper Truck in which the county will pay for one-half (1/2) of the purchase price in the amount of \$346,272.00 plus one-half (1/2) of the actual cost of equipment up to a maximum total expenditure of \$400,000.00. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 07\)](#)

12. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY CLAIM THE COUNTY'S ALLOCATION OF EXCESS CAPITAL CREDITS FROM THE STATE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE (PROPERTY CODE 74.602) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve claiming the County's allocation of excess capital credits from the State Comptroller's office (Property Code 74.602). Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 08](#))

13. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE THE SALE OF TRACT 1, LOT 11, BLOCK 6, TOWN OF TALCO, 418 BROAD STREET (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Parker to decline the offer of \$30.00 on the sale of Tract 1, Lot 11, Block 6, Town of Talco, 418 Broad Street. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 09](#))

14. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE THE SALE OF LOT 4, BLOCK 14, TOWN OF TALCO (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to accept the bid of \$500.00 from K. M. Sloan on Lot 4, Block 14, Town of Talco. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 10](#))

15. DISCUSS PRESENTATION BY TxDOT, TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CIVIC CENTER (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

In a public hearing beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21st, in the Walnut Room of the Civic Center, Texas Department of Transportation officials from the Atlanta District office are scheduled to discuss traffic problems at the north end of the new Hwy 271 Loop. Judge Lee encouraged the public to attend.

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 Parker and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve travel and seminars for Titus County employees and elected officials. Motion passed unanimously. ([ATTACHMENT 11](#))

17. APPROVE ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve oral and written reports of county officials. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 12](#))

Carl Johnson, County Auditor, pointed out that the Park Fund was overdrawn due to bad weather keeping revenues down. Commissioner Fields stated that there are normally 10-12 fishing tournaments but there have only been two (2) this year.

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 Parker to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 13\)](#)

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve Budget Amendments #19-20. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 14\)](#)

20. SIGN PAY ORDERS AND APPROVE PAYMENTS (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker to sign pay orders and approve payments. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 15\)](#)

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

Dumpsters have been placed in each precinct of the county through Saturday for the spring cleanup. Items not accepted include tires, batteries and oil.

Judge Lee informed the Court that a Workshop would be held on Friday, April 17th beginning at 10 a.m. on the subdivision regulations.

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

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