

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

05.11.2015

[AGENDA](#)

[AUDIO](#)

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SCROLL DOWN FOR MINUTES AND/OR ATTACHMENTS

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 11, 2015**

Notice is hereby given that the Titus County Commissioners' Court met in a regular meeting on Monday, May 11, 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
Carl Johnson	County Auditor
Sheryl Preddy	County Treasurer
Judy Cook	Tax Assessor-Collector
Tim Ingram	Titus County Sheriff

Public Attending Meeting:

Judy Kent	Sue Evenwell	Chris Basham
Ronnie W. Moore	Dianne Owens	Judy Lee
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)

Judy Kent inquired about the Emergency System stating that she had received four (4) calls the night before telling us that we were under a severe storm warning. She wanted to know if the system still needed some tweaking. She was glad to be notified but felt that the repeated warnings were not helpful. On the old system, you would only receive one (1) phone call. Judge Lee responded in that this was through the Mount Pleasant Fire Department. He will get with Chief McRae and ask him to come speak to the Court concerning this new system.

2. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE MINUTES FROM APRIL 27, 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 April 27, 2015 special meeting of the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously.

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

No formal report was received from PTP. Judge Lee reported that the base coat was supposed to be done on Thursday. According to James Construction Group, they will be finished with everything around May 22, 2015.

4. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE OPTIONS FOR RATLIFF BUILDING (CHRIS BASHAM) (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Chris Basham presented the Court with the remaining list of renovations and costs on the Ratliff building. Judy Cook, County Tax Assessor-Collector, was also present to answer questions pertaining to the renovations.

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve Options 4, 8, 9b and 12. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 01](#))

5. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE PLAT FOR CASON RANCHETTS, PHASE FIVE, J. PEACOCK SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 430, TITUS COUNTY, COUNTY ROAD 4950 (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve Plat for Cason Ranchetts, Phase Five, J. Peacock Survey, Abstract No. 430, Titus County, County Road 4950. Motion passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO STUDY FUTURE OF COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Judge Lee explained to the Court that he felt the need to initiate the formation of a Fire Protection Committee after Mount Pleasant Fire Chief Larry McRae had spoken to the court regarding the problems that the city and county were having with getting volunteer firefighters. Judge Lee met with City Manager, Mike Ahrens, and Chief McRae on this matter. The county has a contract with the city to provide support but due to having a hard time getting volunteers, the city has to pick up the slack. Judge Lee is concerned where county fire protection is going and wanted to make the court aware of the problems that are being faced.

Commissioner Fields doesn't know of any other county our size that has the protection, the training for volunteers, the trucks and equipment that Titus County has to fight fires. He understands that people want fire protection and that we have to pay for it.

Judge Lee suggested that Commissioners Parker and Riddle meet with Chief McRae and Mike Ahrens and bring the information from that meeting back to the Court in order to begin the process.

7. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY RATIFY A CONTRACT WITH KOFILE PRESERVATION TO COMPLETE THE RESTORATION OF 27 VOLUMES OF TITUS COUNTY HISTORICAL HANDWRITTEN DEEDS (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

County Clerk, Joan Newman, brought the Court up to date on the restoration project which was started prior to her taking office. There is one last part that needs to be done and that is where the historical deeds are linked by Grantee, Grantor and date into our system making it electronically possible for people to search our computers. The Records Management Fund balance is \$21,071 and the cost to finish this project is \$10,916.45. This fund can only be used for Records Managements.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to ratify Contract with Kofile Preservation to complete the restoration of 27 volumes of Titus County Historical handwritten deeds. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 02](#))

8. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 2 TRACTORS FOR PRECINCT 4 (Listen to audio track 1 and/or see video)

Commissioner Parker explained that he had gone through the State BuyBoard and therefore, did not have to obtain sealed bids. Only two bids were received. Conroy Tractor's bid was for 2 New Holland tractors for a cost of \$75,934.00 and John Deere's bid was \$75,170.68. Even though the bid from Conroy Tractor was higher, Commissioner Parker felt that it was a better bid because the New Holland tractors had extra options on them and included freight and delivery.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve the purchase of 2 New Holland tractors for Precinct 4 from Conroy Tractor in the amount of \$75,934.00. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 03](#))

9. 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 Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve travel and seminars for Titus County employees and elected officials. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 04](#))

10. 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 Parker to approve oral and written reports of county officials. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 05](#))

11. 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 06](#))

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

There were no budget amendments.

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker to sign pay orders and approve payments. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 07](#))

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

Commissioner Fields wanted to correct some things that were said at the last meeting and where he stood on moving the Tax Office to the Ratliff Building. He presented the Court with copies of the Commissioners' Court minutes for August 12, 2013 and December 23, 2013. In the minutes for August 12th, the motion was made by Commissioner Hockaday and seconded by Commissioner Riddle to approve combining the Elections and Tax Office. This motion passed four to one with Commissioner Fields voting nay. Once that was approved, the Court voted in December to approve the general conceptual plan of the use of these two buildings and approve the demolition of the empty Annex space after completion of the asbestos removal. This motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Hockaday and passed unanimously. Commissioner Fields encouraged everyone to go back and listen to the tapes. ([SEE ATTACHMENTS 08](#))

Judge Lee told the Court that we were real close to saying we have completed the loop and being able to open it up.

Commissioner Parker updated the Court on the auction regarding surplus equipment for Precinct 4 and that it is going well on Auctioneer Express. It will run in the paper on May 13th and 17th with the bidding ending on May 27, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

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

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