

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT
SPECIAL MEETING**

12.22.2016

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**COMMISSIONERS' COURT
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 22, 2016**

The Titus County Commissioners' Court, after notice posted in the manner, form and contents as required by law, met in Special Meeting on Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the Titus County Courtroom, Room 205, located at 100 West 1st Street 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
Tim Ingram	-	County Sheriff
Carl Johnson	-	County Auditor - Absent

PUBLIC ATTENDING

Alford L. Flanagan	E. J. Kemp
Michael Hall	Sue Evenwell
Dana Applewhite	David Bird
Rodney Glenn	Paula Dyal
Rachel Dyal	John Gatherer
Karen Gatherer	Judy Kent
Nigel Christopher	Lou Antonelli
Marty Bachman	Christie Davis
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

David Bird came to the podium and directed his concerns to Commissioner Fields regarding the extended budget item and why he overspent his budget on road repairs. Commissioner Fields answered in that we had the worst flooding that he had ever seen and that his precinct probably had more damage than any other precinct. He had 15 bridges that needed repair plus extensive water damage. His crews spent the whole summer trying to get roads back to where people could travel safely on them. He went on to say that if a topping is not put on before the winter, then the roads will get worse. All of this was done prior to the Road Unit System being voted into place. Mr. Bird told Commissioner Fields that there was an election in the upcoming year and that the road unit system could work with or without him.

2. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 9, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve minutes from December 9, 2016 special meeting of the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously.

3. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 12, 2016 REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve minutes from December 12, 2016 regular meeting of the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE A RESOLUTION AND LETTER IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO US 271 BETWEEN TYLER AND PARIS

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve a resolution and letter in support of certain improvements to US 271 between Tyler and Paris. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 01](#))

5. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY EXIT ONLY ALARMED PANIC BARS FOR THE TWO DOORS AT THE BACK OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX AT A COST OF \$925.24 PLUS INSTALLATION

Closing the back door at Courtroom B and by the annex break room will eliminate the general public and employees from entering or exiting through these doors. They will have to enter and exit through the front entryway located on 1st street. Signage showing Emergency Exit Only will be put up and alarms will sound when someone is trying to exit. A bid for parts only has been received in the amount of \$925.24. A local glass company had given a bid of \$2500.00 for labor and materials, but Judge Lee feels that this can be done cheaper by getting the company that is cutting the doorway to the Adult Probation office to do the work.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve the purchase of parts for the installation of emergency exit only alarmed panic bars for the two doors at the back of the courthouse annex at a cost of \$925.24 from JMAC. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 02\)](#)

6. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE HIRE FOR PRECINCT 3

Commissioner Hinton explained to the Court that he was under the understanding that the Court could hire someone with Commissioner-Elect's approval and wants to clear this before the Court. At one time, he had four (4) employees but one sought employment elsewhere. He chose not to hire someone at that time. He stated that it had been very challenging but had wanted to give Commissioner-Elect Applewhite the opportunity to hire who he wanted. He will need help and is trying to get the process started before the 1st meeting in January, 2017.

Commissioner Riddle reminded the Court that they had voted to hire no new road crews until the road engineer was hired and feels that this is another way to use the county's money. He pointed out that Commissioner Hinton had hired two (2) part time people to replace the one (1) full time person. He feels that an individual has already been picked out the same way he heard the custodial position was picked out prior to interviews. Judge Lee informed Commissioner Riddle that he had never met the person who replaced the custodian prior to the interview.

Comments were heard from Rodney Glenn, David Bird, Judy Kent and Fred Harkrider from the audience who were all in support of waiting for the new road engineer to hire a replacement if needed.

Alford Flanagan came to the podium and asked Commissioner Riddle what would happen if all of his people quit tomorrow? Would he hire someone to replace them? Commissioner Riddle stated that he was not sure but would probably hire someone part time with the understanding that the engineer would have the final say. Mr. Flanagan went on to say that he had studied the Local Government Code pertaining to the Unit Road System and did not find anywhere in the code where the engineer had to be full time. He feels that the county should consider hiring a part time retired engineer to oversee the construction and maintenance of the road from April through September of each fiscal year as this would limit budget costs. Each county is different because they have different road mileage and base of roads. Each county should implement the best system and budget that will best fit their needs. It might set a precedent for other counties to look at.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton to approve hire for Precinct 3. Motion died due to lack of second.

7. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPOINT SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR HIRING OF ROAD ENGINEER

Judge Lee presented the names of those individuals that are interested or have been recommended to serve on the committee for the hiring of a road engineer. He told the Court that neither he nor Commissioner Fields was interested in serving on the committee. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 03](#))

Mike Hall was present and presented his credentials for serving on the committee to the Court. He is currently the Business Manager at Chapel Hill ISD. His background includes over 20 years of working with the Public Transportation system. He worked on the I-27 Corridor in the Lubbock area. He has worked with TxDOT and other professional engineers and is familiar with the process of reviewing and interviewing applicants. As a concerned tax payer, he is interested in the success of the unit road system.

Secret ballots were turned in and tallied by the County Clerk. Motion was then made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to appoint the top five (5) nominees: Bill Ratliff; Darrell Grubbs; Mike Hall; Commissioner Parker and Commissioner-Elect Applewhite to serve on the search committee for hiring of Road Engineer. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 04](#)) Their first task will be to run ads with the most appropriate verbiage and place where it will attract the most attention for this position.

8. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE TRAVEL AND SEMINARS FOR TITUS COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to approve travel and seminars for Titus County employees and elected officials. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 05](#))

9. APPROVE ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

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 06](#))

10. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve Treasurer's report. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 07](#))

11. APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve budget amendments #3 and #4 for FY17. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 08](#))

12. SIGN PAY ORDERS AND APPROVE PAYMENTS

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker to sign pay orders and approve payments. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 09](#))

13. CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNTY JUDGE AND COMMISSIONERS, IF ANY

Judge Lee invited the public to attend the Retirement Party for Commissioner Hinton and for custodian, Ernest Green, at 2:00 p.m. at the annex to thank them for their service and wish them well. Judge Lee and each commissioner expressed their appreciation and thanked Commissioner Hinton for his service to Titus County. Commissioner Hinton expressed his appreciation for the support of the Court and the people of Precinct 3 for allowing him to represent them for 12 years.

Judge Lee informed the Court about a scuffle between two (2) inmates at the County Jail which resulted in one (1) inmate being injured and going to have to have surgery.

Both Commissioner Parker and Fields thanked officers Smith and Cooper from the Sheriff's department for saving the life of a man who was drowning in an icy pond. Titus County is proud of them for a job well done.

Commissioner Parker commented on a comment that was made by Fred Harkrider about the Commissioners feeling threatened by having less responsibility due to the hiring of a road engineer. Commissioner Parker stated that he did not feel threatened and that he will work and do what needs to be done.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made at 10:20 a.m. to adjourn by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Parker. Motion passed unanimously.