

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

**[AGENDA](#)**

**[AUDIO](#)**

**[ATTESTATION](#)**

**SCROLL DOWN FOR MINUTES AND/OR ATTACHMENTS**

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**The Titus County Commissioners' Court, after notice posted in the manner, form and contents as required by law, met in Regular Meeting on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Titus County Courtroom, Room 205, located at 100 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street with the following members present:**

Brian P. Lee	-	County Judge
Al Riddle	-	Commissioner Precinct 1
Mike Fields	-	Commissioner Precinct 2
Dana Applewhite	-	Commissioner Precinct 3
Jimmy Parker	-	Commissioner Precinct 4
Joan Newman	-	County Clerk
Sheryl Preddy	-	County Treasurer
Tim Ingram	-	County Sheriff
Carl Johnson	-	County Auditor

**PUBLIC ATTENDING**

Shirley Ramey	Maggie Traylor
Dorothy Brightwell	Bobbie White
Dorisula Hawkins	Shane Pennington
Kirthell Roberts	Tim Dale
Lasedria Traylor	Barbara Brown
LaKeitra Brooks	Nigel Christopher
Emily Aikman	Kathy Peoples
Sherry Luster	Betty Norman
Helen M. Rockwell	Leonard Rockwell
Charles L. Smith	Sue Evenwell
Mary Glover	Janice R. Chism
Constance Rhymes	Debora Mears
Trish Scarborough	Krissy Lytle
J. C. Harrington	Rosie M. Hardge
Neal Jones	Dana Cannon
Melma Brown	Kohelia Allen
Minelle Paloff	Bettye Brannon
Florence Brannon	Claretna Vaxter
Darrell Grubbs	Melady Thompson
Christy 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**

Minelle Paloff addressed the Court regarding Pilgrim's Pride applying for an Air Control Permit and the health issues pertaining to the pollution.

**2. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 23, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve minutes from January 23, 2017 special meeting of the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF MELADY THOMPSON, DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR REPRESENTATIVE COLE HEFNER**

Judge Lee introduced Melady Thompson, Deputy District Director for Representative Cole Hefner, who will be housed at the Adult Probation office. Ms. Thompson wanted to assure the Court that they were glad to be here and wanted to establish a strong relationship with the community.

**4. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON ONGOING HIRING EFFORTS FOR A ROAD ENGINEER**

Darrell Grubbs, Chairman of the Road Engineer Selection Committee, informed the Court of the committee's recommendations of Dan Graham and Roger Ledbetter for final interviews for the position of Road Engineer for Titus County. The Court expressed their appreciation for the committee's efforts in helping to find a Road Engineer.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite to proceed with a second interview with Dan Graham and Roger Ledbetter for the position of Road Engineer. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY GRANT PERMISSION OF ASSIGNMENT OF THE TAX ABATEMENT GRANTED TO SWEET SHOP CANDIES, INC. TO NEW OWNERS OF THE COMPANY (CHARLES SMITH)**

Charles Smith came forward asking that the Court approve the request to alter the Tax Abatement Agreement initially granted to Sweet Shop Candies, Inc. on October 6, 2015 to reflect new ownership of Michael Moss and Steve Stallard. The Mount Pleasant City Council approved this request on January 17, 2017.

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Fields to grant permission of assignment of the Tax Abatement granted to Sweet Shop Candies, Inc. to new owners of the company, Michael Moss and Steve Stallard. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 01\)](#)

**6. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR REGARDING A REDUCTION IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTING BOX LOCATIONS**

Prior to hearing public comments, Judge Lee told the audience that the Court was trying to be more efficient with tax dollars and that one of the ways to do this was by combining voting boxes. It was not their intention to cause division or hinder voters regardless of race, age or location.

Comments were heard from: Minelle Paloff; Trish Scarborough; Constance Rhymes; Leonard Rockwell; Claretna Vaxter and Debora Mears who were all opposed to reducing the voting boxes. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 02 – LETTER FROM CONSTANCE RHYMES & THE NAACP; ATTACHMENT 03 – PETITION FROM CLARETNA VAXTER TO STOP VOTER SUPPRESSION AND ATTACHMENT 04 – LIST OF PEOPLE FROM TALCO WILLING TO WORK ELECTIONS IN TALCO\)](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Parker to discontinue efforts to reduce the number of voting box locations and leave boxes as they are. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE HIRING AN INSURANCE CONSULTANT FOR RENEWALS OF PROPERTY, COMP AND RELATED INSURANCE COVERAGE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite to remain with Texas Association of Counties for three (3) years thus eliminating the need for an insurance consultant for renewals of property, comp and related insurance coverage. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH FLEETMATICS TO PROVIDE SATELLITE AND CELLULAR BASED VEHICLE MONITORING SERVICES FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE (SHERIFF INGRAM)**

Sheriff Ingram explained to the Court the benefits of entering into a contract with Fleetmatics which provides satellite and cellular based vehicle monitoring services for their patrol vehicles. The contract runs from March to March for a three (3) year period. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 05\)](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Riddle to give Sheriff Ingram the flexibility to check on prices and services of other providers and allow him to contract with the best company to provide satellite and cellular based vehicle monitoring services for the Sheriff's office. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE REPAIRS AND TREE MAINTENANCE AT THE RIDDLE STREET BUILDING**

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite to approve repairs and tree maintenance at the Riddle Street building to include clearing vegetation in back of the building and allowing Judge Lee to get prices on removing rain

gutters and installing down spouts in front. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 06](#))

**10. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE APPLICATION FOR 2017 HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDS GRANT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve application for 2017 Homeland Security Funds Grant. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 07](#))

**11. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE RETURN OF TITUS COUNTY REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Judge Lee to approve return of Titus County Revolving Loan Funds to the Texas Department of Agriculture. Motion passed unanimously.

**12. DISCUSS NORTHEAST TEXAS REGIONAL COALITION TRIP TO AUSTIN MARCH 8-9**

Judge Lee made the Court aware of the Northeast Texas Regional Coalition Trip to Austin on March 8-9, 2017. Elected, business and community leaders from nine Northeast Texas counties will make the trip to Austin in order to make a collective impact regarding issues that concern our counties. Judge Lee encouraged the Commissioners to go.

**13. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE A ONE YEAR LEASE OPTION EXERCISED BY WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR THE RIDDLE STREET BUILDING FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 1, 2017 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2018 AT AN ADJUSTED MONTHLY RATE OF \$3,338.00**

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite to approve a one year lease option exercised by Workforce Solutions for the Riddle Street building for the period March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018 at an adjusted monthly rate of \$3,338.00. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 08](#))

**14. DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTY PARK AT MONTICELLO LAKE IN LIGHT OF LUMINANT'S OBJECTIVES**

Kevin Kent, Real Estate Agent for Luminant, and Brad Watson, liaison from the Dallas Corporate Office, are discussing with other governmental entities the possibility of taking responsibility of the County Park at Monticello Lake as they do not have the resources to keep it open.

**15. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE REAPPOINTMENT OF FRANCES NEAL TO THE LAKES REGIONAL MHMR BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR A 2-YEAR TERM**

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite to approve reappointment of Frances Neal to the Lakes Regional MHMR Board of Trustees for a 2-year term. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 09](#))

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

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. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 10](#))

**17. APPROVE ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Fields to approve oral and written reports of county officials. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 11](#))

**18. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite to approve treasurer's report. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 12](#))

**19. APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Judge Lee to approve budget amendment #5. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 13](#))

**20. SIGN PAY ORDERS AND APPROVE PAYMENTS**

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite to sign pay orders and approve payments. Motion passed unanimously. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 14](#))

**21. CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNTY JUDGE AND COMMISSIONERS, IF ANY**

Judge Lee informed the Court that Dale McGonagill from Auctioneer Express has been unable to get any bids on the law books located on the third floor. The Sheriff's office will help move the books and dispose of them.

Christie Davis, Sharon Reynolds, Judge Lee and Toni Melton from Capps Insurance will meet with Texas Association of Counties (TAC) regarding health insurance.

Commissioner Fields directed the Court's attention to the Results of the 2016 Unfunded Mandates Survey which was conducted by the Texas Association of Counties in cooperation with the Texas Association of County Auditors, the Conference of Urban Counties and the County Judges & Commissioners Association of Texas during the summer and fall of 2016. ([SEE ATTACHMENT 15](#))

Commissioner Fields also reminded the Commissioners to get their 500 cu yards of material which was provided by TxDOT.

Commissioner Applewhite thanked Sheriff Ingram and his department for assisting in picking up trash off the roads. Sheriff Ingram stated that they are to get to the other precincts as well.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion was made at 11:04 a.m. to adjourn by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite. Motion passed unanimously.