

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT
REGULAR MEETING**

APRIL 9, 2018

[AGENDA](#)

[AUDIO](#)

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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, April 9, 2018 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
Dana Applewhite	-	Commissioner Precinct 3
Jimmy Parker	-	Commissioner Precinct 4
Joan Newman	-	County Clerk
Sheryl Preddy	-	County Treasurer
Tim Ingram	-	County Sheriff - Absent
Carl Johnson	-	County Auditor

PUBLIC ATTENDING

O. M. Blums	Pattie McClung
Roger Ledbetter	Debora Mears
Philip Hoffman	Janice R. Chism
Alvin R. McGee	Henry F. King III
Larry Joe Reynolds	John Fitch
Michelle Cobern	T. W. W. Buffalo
Ange Higueros	Don Burrows
Clint Bain	Christie Davis
Steve Austin VSO/TCHC	Carolyn Norman
Baxter Friend	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

There were none.

2. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 26, 2018 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Motion was made by Commissioner Applewhite and seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve minutes from March 26, 2018 special meeting of the Commissioners' Court. Motion passed unanimously.

3. REPORT FROM ROAD ENGINEER (ROGER LEDBETTER)

Mr. Ledbetter reported that they had five (5) locations with trees down due to the storm and are working on clearing them. Also, they are fixing potholes, replacing drainage structures and working on base failures.

All dumpsters were picked up by Wednesday of last week at all locations with all locations free of trash by Friday afternoon. Alternatives for dumpsters are to be discussed in Item 10.

The price on the water truck went up to \$55,000.00 range due to the tariff that is being imposed on all imported steel and aluminum. Commissioner Applewhite has located a 2000 model water truck with cab and chassis for \$20,000.00 that will work for the county.

4. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) PHYSICAL UP TO \$75.00

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Riddle to approve the payment of the Department of Transportation (DOT) physical up to \$75.00. Motion passed unanimously.

5. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE HIRING OF ADDITIONAL ROAD HANDS AND SET THEIR PAY RATE

Motion was made by Commissioner Applewhite and seconded by Commissioner Parker to approve hiring of three (3) applicants at \$17.00/hour pending outcome of physical and contingent upon passing physical and drug test. Motion passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON PROVIDING A UNIFORM SERVICE FOR ROAD AND MAINTENANCE CREW (JEFF CATES)

Jeff Cates came before the Court asking for them to consider providing uniforms for Road and Maintenance crew as he feels this will provide a more professional look and recognition for county employees and save wear and tear on their own clothes. Don Burrows with UniFirst presented a Uniform Service Proposal for the county stating that this would be a three (3) year agreement with no upfront or hidden charges as they are regulated by the Texas Buy Board. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 01\)](#)

Commissioner Riddle read to the Court his opposition to providing uniforms for employees. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 02\)](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Parker to not provide a uniform service or purchase uniforms for Road and Maintenance crew. Motion failed three to two with Commissioner Fields and Commissioner Applewhite voting nay.

Commissioner Applewhite asked if the employees would be willing to purchase their own uniforms and be payroll deducted and was told that they would.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite to offer to employees for Road and Maintenance Crew the option for all to utilize the Uniform Program by purchasing their own uniforms through payroll deduction with the county providing bookkeeping services and payroll deductions. Motion passed three to two with Commissioner Riddle and Commissioner Parker voting nay.

7. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE THE USE OF RONNIE MCCOO, A THIRD PARTY VENDOR, TO FIX TRACTOR FLATS DURING BUSY MONTHS (JEFF CATES)

Jeff Cates informed the Court that this would be only on an as needed basis during the busy season on flats on tractor equipment out in the field. He projects that it would take a truck 2-3 hours of labor time to go out in the field and this would take time off of the equipment they are working on in the shop.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite to give Jeff Cates the authority and latitude to approve the use of Ronnie McCoo, a third party vendor, to fix flats on tractors and large equipment in the field during the months of June, July, August and September on an as needed basis and to contact Roger Ledbetter when contacting Ronnie McCoo. Motion passed four to one with Commissioner Riddle voting nay. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 02 FOR COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONER RIDDLE\)](#)

8. PRESENTATION BY MICHELLE COBERN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (CASA) COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE

Ms. Cobern told the Court that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and thanked the Court for allowing them to display 195 pinwheels on the court house lawn with each pin wheel representing a child that CASA of Titus, Camp and Morris County served in 2017. She went on to explain that CASA works to ensure that all children placed in the foster care system, due to abuse or neglect, can have a safe, permanent and nurturing environment that children need to thrive.

According to the Texas Family Code, an Attorney Ad Litem must be appointed to each child, or a volunteer can be utilized. Volunteers from the community are recruited and trained to speak up for the best interests of child in court to ensure that they are placed

in loving, permanent homes as quickly as possible. These people are called Court Appointed Special Advocates “CASA” volunteers. Ms. Cobern presented the Court with a handout showing the cost savings that the volunteers have saved specific to our county as opposed to having an Attorney Ad Litem. When CASA was started in September 2013 in our county, there were three (3) volunteers. That number has now grown to 70. These volunteers visit the children wherever they are placed and some have been placed as far away as Austin and San Antonio. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 03\)](#)

The Court was invited to attend a CASA luncheon to hear guest Speaker Bishop Aaron Charles Blake Sr. on Tuesday, April 17, 2018. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 04\)](#)

9. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE THE TITUS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION FOR STATE ANTIQUITIES LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF TX000781 FOUND IN THE SMITHSONIAN ART/SCULPTURE INVENTORY. FEES AND OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NOTICE AND APPLICATION TO BE PAID FROM THE DONATIONS HELD IN THE TITUS COUNTY COMMISSION’S MARKERS, MEMORIALS, MONUMENTS AND STATUES FUND (STEVE AUSTIN)

Steve Austin explained that this was for informational purposes only and did not require any action by the Commissioners’ Court. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 05\)](#)

Mr. Austin recognized Debora Mears from Talco regarding the Talco Cemetery. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 06\)](#)

10. DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES TO PROVIDING DUMPSTERS DURING CLEAN UP WEEK

Comments were heard from both the Court and public regarding the abuse that was seen this year. Comments were in support of eliminating the dumpsters. Suggestion was made to do a voucher 2 x year to go to the Pleasant Oaks Landfill instead of providing dumpsters. Judge Lee asked for a total cost for this year for providing dumpsters along with how much it would cost to give vouchers to the landfill be brought back to Court and a decision to be made at that time.

11. APPROVE ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

Motion was made by Commissioner Parker and seconded by Commissioner Riddle to approve oral and written reports of county officials. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 07\)](#)

12. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE TREASURER’S REPORT

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite to approve treasurer’s report. Motion passed unanimously. [\(SEE ATTACHMENT 08\)](#)

13. APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENTS

There were no budget amendments.

14. SIGN PAY ORDERS AND APPROVE PAYMENTS

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

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

Judge Lee gave approval for Community Service Organization to pick up trash along the county roads.

ADJOURN:

Motion was made at 10:12 a.m. to adjourn by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Applewhite. Motion passed unanimously.