

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 27, 2016**

The Titus County Commissioners' Court, after notice posted in the manner, form and contents as required by law, met in Special Meeting on Monday, June 27, 2016 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
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

**PUBLIC ATTENDING**

Claretna Vaxter	Milton Worthen
David Horton	Troy Sellers
Hudson Old	Judy Kent
Christie Davis	Corey Burgin
James Spears	Rodney Glenn
Steve Austin	Carolyn Norman
Joyce Simpson	

**INVOCATION:** Judge Brian Lee

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Judge Brian Lee

**8. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AT THE MONTICELLO COUNTY PARK**

Sheriff Ingram updated the court on criminal activity that had been taking place at the Monticello County Park. Two weeks ago a couple of trailers were broken into and arrests were made. One trailer had to be impounded. All issues were drug related. He proposes adding to the rules that a camper has to be currently registered and legal before they can come into the park. Sheriff Ingram would like to have Sgt. Wayne Minor look over the current rules and see if there are any other changes needed.

Commissioner Fields told the Court that campers are supposed to be given a tag when coming into the park with a set time limit and all campers should have a license plate.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Parker to give Commissioner Fields the authority to meet with Sheriff Ingram and Sgt. Minor to come up with additional rules to avoid criminal activity and to bring back to the Court to be voted on and enforced. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON ASSISTING ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER NEXT TO ANNEX WITH DRAINAGE ISSUES**

James Spears owns the property next to the annex and shares the parking lot. A couple of offices in his building have had water coming into their offices due to the heavy rainfall. He contacted a structural engineer from Priefert who told him that the problem was that the dirt was 2 ft. above the foundation. He recommended removing the soil and to build a retaining wall. He has gotten a quote from BobKat to add a French drain but they will not guarantee that this will fix the problem. Mr. Spears feels that it is the county's responsibility to pay to have this done since it is their shrubs and soil that is causing the problem.

Judge Lee asked which came first, the building or the landscaping. If his building was built last, it might have been built too low. Therefore, it would not be the county's responsibility. Commissioner Fields recommended removing the shrubs and letting someone look at it. Concrete possibly could be put in there.

Motion was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Commissioner Riddle for Mr. Spears to find out the ages of the respective buildings and to determine whose building was there first and to get a bid for concrete, removing dirt and shrubbery with a guarantee that this will fix the problem and to put on the next agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**

The Titus County Commissioners' Court, after notice posted in the manner, form and contents as required by law, met in Regular Meeting on Monday, September 12, 2016 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
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

**PUBLIC ATTENDING**

Krissy Lytle	Janice R. Chism
Jennifer Arnold Wildman	Johnny Vinyard
Troy Sellers	Lanny Shultice
Steve Austin, CVSO/TCHC	Larry McRae
Mike Ahrens	Christie Davis
Clint Bain	Alexis Spencer
James Spears	Jerry Clark
Ron Fischer	Carolyn Norman
Joyce Simpson	

**INVOCATION:** Judge Brian Lee

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Judge Brian Lee

**5. PRESENTATION BY TITUS COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD**

Johnny Vinyard has been on the Child Welfare Board for 11 years. Currently, the board has nine (9) members, all of whom have to be approved by the Titus County Commissioners' Court and are all volunteers. They are considered as an extension of county government. Mr. Vinyard presented to the Court an overview as to what the function of the board is and how they work with the Child Protective Services (CPS). The board acts as a go between for the children and the foster care system. They help provide for emergency items such as clothing and bedding and with enrichment activities such as graduation rings, cheerleading uniforms, birthdays and Christmas in order to help them function as normal children. At this time, they are working with approximately 50 children.

Jennifer Arnold Wildman explained about the financial aspect of the board. In December, 2014, Titus County went from funding \$1300.00 per month to \$650.00 per month due to the board having excess funds. They have now depleted those funds and would like to ask the Court to consider increasing their funding back to the \$1300.00 per month. Total receipts for the year equal \$9,000 to \$10,000 per year and Titus County funds approximately 80% of the funding. They were told that this would have to be considered during budget approval. It was also suggested that the Child Welfare Board consider going back to general public sponsorships for additional funding.

The question before the Court now is what to do about the requirement for non-profit agencies to provide the Auditor's office with a yearly tax statement. The Child Welfare Board does not file a tax return because they are not a 501©3 organization. The possibility of auditing the financial reports was looked at but would be expensive and could be considered a conflict of interest for one of the current board members who is the daughter of the county's external auditor.

**6. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TITUS COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD AS IT RELATES TO ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTY**

Motion was made by Commissioner Riddle and seconded by Commissioner Fields to get a copy of the Child Welfare Board's financial statements at the end of each year. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON ASSISTING PROPERTY OWNER NEXT TO ANNEX WITH DRAINAGE ISSUES**

James Spears presented the Court with a proposal from Sure Tree Landscaping in the amount of \$1750.00 which was expanded from the previous proposal submitted to include clarification of adding plastic lanyard against the wall, treating the wall with sealant and installing a French drain with fabric fill with gravel. (SEE ATTACHMENT 03)

Motion was made by Commissioner Fields and seconded by Commissioner Hinton to assist property owner next to the Annex on the north side with drainage issues by approving the payment of \$1750.00 to Sure Tree Landscaping. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE OFFERING AN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CAFETERIA PLAN THROUGH GARY OLIVER, DBA HEALTHY TRANSFORMATIONS, TO BEGIN JANUARY, 2017**

Presently, Titus County offers a Cafeteria Plan through Colonial Life Company through the year 2018. Mr. Oliver was not present but had stated that his plan has enough differences to offer both plans. Ron Fischer from Colonial Life was present and expressed his appreciation to Titus County for allowing his company to represent a tax savings for supplemental policies through payroll deductions. Open Enrollment is October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and possibly the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to remain with Colonial Life through the end of the agreement period. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON DISTRICT COURTHOUSE ANNEX SECURITY (KEN WILSON)**

Ken Wilson was unable to be present due to docket call. He is asking to eliminate all entrances to the Annex except for the front entrance and converting other doors to emergency exit only with emergency crash bars.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hinton and seconded by Commissioner Fields to table taking action on District Courthouse Annex security at this time. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. DISCUSS PROPOSAL FROM CITY OF MT PLEASANT RELATED TO CITY/COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION**

Judge Lee directed the Court's attention to a letter from Mike Ahrens, City Manager, offering a proposal from the City of Mount Pleasant related to city/county fire protection. The proposal has the potential for a significant increase in Titus County's budget with the cost growing throughout the implementation of the plan. Ultimately, Titus County would be responsible for gradually funding 9-12 additional firefighters and 50% of the cost of a new pumper truck and two new brush trucks. Each basic firefighter position costs approximately \$60,000.00 in salary and benefits. The City would later build a new fire station in the southwest area of the city and assume all "soft" costs of any newly funded position. As additional firefighters are added, the City of Mount Pleasant would agree to changes in the contract to ensure a faster response from the city to each fire call – based on the type of call. (SEE ATTACHMENT 04)