

The Commissioner Court of Houston County met in a regular called meeting on September 23, 2014 with the following members present to wit:

Erin Ford	County Judge
Roger Dickey	Commissioner Precinct #1
Willie Kitchen	Commissioner Precinct #2
Pat Perry	Commissioner Precinct #3
Kennon Kellum	Commissioner Precinct #4

Also present

Bridget Lamb	County Clerk
Melissa Mosley	County Auditor
Daphne Session	County Attorney
Carolyn Rains	District Clerk
Sarah Clark	County Court at Law Judge
Morris Luker	Constable Precinct #1
Ronnie Jordan	Justice of The Peace, Precinct #2
Kenneth Red Smith	Constable Precinct #2
Dina Herrera	County Treasurer

Media

Will Johnson	Grapeland Messenger
Kelly McChesney	Houston County Courier

Visitors: Bill Cawley, Todd Hancock, Jimmy Hickman, Donnita Patrick, Maurine Fiveash, Norma Fiveash, Steve Fiveash, Perry Corder, Jim Balkum, Alvin Cook, Ashley Perry, Jo Smith, Mr. McElhany, Christina McElhany, Roberta Mason, Billy Groves, Elizabeth McCoy & Mandy Patrick

County Judge Erin Ford called the meeting to order

Commissioner Roger Dickey opened the meeting with a prayer

Pledge Allegiance

Recognition of guests

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Pat Perry to approve the minutes of the last regular called meeting held on September 9, 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve payment of bills and expenses. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to receive as information the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Willie Kitchen to receive as information the compensatory time report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Roberta Mason and Billy Grove addressed the court concerning having a voter registration drive on the courthouse lawn on Friday and Saturday. County Attorney Daphne Session stated that the statute in the election code says that the voter registration volunteers may occupy the courthouse lawn only during the business hours of the voter registrar. Ms. Roberta Mason said they will probably set up a voter registration table on the courthouse lawn on weekday and elsewhere on the square on Saturday. She also told the commissioner she was concerned about education of the students in Crockett Independent School District, and was doing a campaign to encourage students to do well, KIVY Radio Station has agreed to allow people in the community to make one to three minutes public service announcement why education is important.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to adopt a proclamation proclaiming October 5-11, 2014 National 4-H Week. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Commissioner Willie Kitchen presiding over the meeting to hear discussion from land owners and representatives from EOG Resources, Inc. discussing work in Porter Springs in preparation for the well located in that area. Judge Ford abstained from leading the discussion because he is a landowner on that road and that it would be a conflict of interest. The court heard from residents Perry Corder and Steve Fiveash concerning the damages that is being done. EOG Representative said he will take all the concerns back to their office.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the salary of Chyrrl Smithhart as Office Assistant in the County Attorney's Office at a pay rate of \$870.00 bi-weekly. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Willie Kitchen to approve the salary of Tasha Brent Administrator Assistant/Office Manager for Agrilife Extension office at a pay rate of \$900.02 bi-weekly effective September 22, 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the salary of Charles Barton as a full time jailer at a pay rate of \$975.62 bi-weekly effective September 23, 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the salary of Ashley Perry as the Environmental Officer a new position at a pay rate of \$1,136.89 bi-weekly effective October 1, 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the salary of Jacque Fleming from part time to full time Administrative Assistant for County Judge's Office at a pay rate of \$890.78 bi-weekly effective October 1, 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the salary of Brent Williams as Information Technology Director at a pay rate of \$1,576.92 by-weekly effective October 1, 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the salary of Ashley Lamb as a Part-time Clerk II in the District Clerk's Office at a pay rate of \$405.96 bi-weekly effective October 1, 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the salary of Jenny Kay White as Part-time Clerk I in District Clerk's Office at a pay rate of \$7.25 per hour effective September 19, 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Pat Perry seconded by Willie Kitchen to approve the salary of Kenneth Wiley as part-time Road and Bridge road hand at a pay rate of \$10.00 per hour. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Kennon Kellem seconded by Pat Perry to adopt the official holiday schedule for calendar year 2015. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Pat Perry to adopt the Longevity Policy for Fiscal Year 2015. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Pat Perry to adopt the retiree medical benefit package and establish eligibility policies. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Pat Perry to raise the minimum number of days to five for military leave. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Pat Perry seconded by Kennon Kellum to update Houston County Pay Scale for Fiscal Year 2015 and make the necessary budget amendments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to appoint Commissioner Kennon Kellum as liaison on designating the future use of current Aging Services Offices located in the Old Justice of the Peace Building and bring information back to court. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Pat Perry died for lack of second to not concur with the road closure at Big Creek Tributary on County Road 3480.

Motion made by Pat Perry seconded by Kennon Kellum to concur with road closure at Trib. Of Tantebogue Creek on County Road 3615 (Sims Rd). Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Willie Kitchen to concur with road closure at San Pedro Creek on County Road 1585. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Roger Dickey to concur with road closure at Neches River Relief on County Road 1155. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Kennon Kellum to accept donation of \$400.00 from Lions Effort Against Drugs, Inc. for the Sheriff's Office Drug Awareness Program. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve employee benefit rate of 7% for 2015 plan provision for the Texas County and District Retirement System. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the 2015 employees contribution rate to the Texas Association of Counties Unemployment Fund. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Judge Ford to receive as information an affidavit to voluntarily reduce an elected official's salary;(LGC 152.052) and accept a donation of that salary reduction to be allocated to a county employee (LGC 152.002, 81.032). Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to adopt resolution approving application for the 2015 Indigent Defense Formulary Grant Program. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded Willie Kitchen to accept Emergency Management performance Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve contract extensions between Houston County and Deep East Texas Council of governments for the Senior Center Operations and the Home Delivered Meal Program for Fiscal Year 2015. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to adopt a proclamation designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Houston County. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to receive as information Fiscal Year 2014 Code of Criminal Chapter 59 forfeiture reports for the District Attorney, County Attorney, Sheriff's Office, Constable 1 and Constable 2. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to appoint Donna Drum as election Judge in voting Precinct 16. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to make contribution to the biennial Deep East Texas Legislative Reception January 12, 2015 at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Kennon Kellum to amend the Sheriff and Constable fees on Writ of Attachment to include out of county mileage at fifty-six cent per mile for Fiscal Year 2015. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to receive as information the 2015-2016 Reappraisal Plan by the Houston County Appraisal District. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Willie Kitchen that this meeting be adjourn.

Erin Ford, County Judge

Roger Dickey, Comm. Pct. #1

Willie Kitchen, Comm. Pct. #2

Pat Perry, Comm. Pct. #3

Kennon Kellum, Comm. Pct. #4

Attest:

Bridget Lamb, County Clerk