

The Commissioner Court of Houston County met in a regular called meeting held on December 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
Danette Millican	Tax Assessor-Collector

Media

Will Johnson	Grapeland Messenger
Lynda Jones	Houston County Courier

Visitors: G. P. Shearer, Jo Smith, Mandy Patrick, H. D. Buell, Harriett Buell, Tommie Ellis, Corey Hicks, Rebecca McManus and Greg Poole

County Judge Erin Ford called the meeting to order

Chief Deputy Sheriff G. P. Shearer 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 December 9, 2014. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Motion made by Kennon Kellum seconded by Pat Perry to accept as information the County Treasurers Report. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

Judge Ford reported that there was a high probability the county would not be receiving any timber allocations as part of the Secure Rural Schools Act, the approval for extending the funds for 2015 was disapproved. They have not been approved by the Congress.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the salary of William Ruland as the Crime Victim's Deputy grant position at a pay rate of \$1,211.54 bi-weekly plus phone allowance. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Willie Kitchen to approve the salary for Willie Spurlock as Maintenance supervisor at a pay rate of \$1,057.69 bi-weekly. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Willie Kitchen to accept as information the Tax Assessor-Collector Continuing Education Transcript as evidence of compliance with Texas Property Tax Code Section 6.231 (d). Motion carried 5 to 0.

Agri-Life Extension Agents, Mandy Patrick, Jo Smith and Corey Hick presented to the court a presentation of their 2014 Annual Report.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to enter into a lease purchase agreement with Citizens National Bank for the purchase of a new John Deere 6105D tractor and Tiger Bengal 22' boom mower for Road and Bridge 2 in an amount not to exceed \$107,752.00 for a period of 5 years and a renewal of 5 additional years and make the necessary budget amendment. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Judge Ford seconded by Willie Kitchen to approve payment to Texas County and District Retirement Systems (TCDRS) to return employee-contributed retirement funds withdrawn due to voided application when the employee was rehired less than 30 days later in the amount of \$5,798.39 and make the necessary budget amendments. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Roger Dickey seconded by Willie Kitchen to approve a contract with a Houston County Employee for an installment repayment plan towards the voided withdrawal application under Texas County and District Retirement Systems (TCDRS). Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to indemnify the Houston County Treasurer for the payment to Texas County and District Retirement Systems (TCDRS) as authorized under Local Government Code 157.903. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Judge Ford seconded by Willie Kitchen to define in the Houston County Employee Handbook resignation as voluntary separation of employment and approve holiday pay if the employee had to work in lieu of the holiday, regardless of separation type. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to received bid in the amount of \$702.00 from Paul Caesar for lot 3, Block 15 being a part of the Smith Brothers Estate in the City of Crockett. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Pat Perry seconded by Willie Kitchen to renew the contract with Buell Sanitation Service, LLC for household garbage service in rural areas of Houston County. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to renew the contract with Progressive Waste Solutions for household garbage service in rural areas of Houston County. Motion carried 5 to 0

Dr. Greg Poole, representative from Jigsaw School Finance Solutions, LLC and the superintendent of Barbers Hill Independent School District discussed the possibility of the County retaining his firm to assist in tax abatement negotiations. Poole explained that the county fee would be less than \$50,000.00 because of the differences between value limitations and tax abatements and the school finance system.

Motion made by Judge Ford seconded by Willie Kitchen to enter into a consulting contract with Jigsaw School Finance Solutions, LLC to provide guidance and assist with negotiations for Tax Abatement application, policy and possible economic development expansion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Kennon Kellum to approve the bonds for newly elected officials: County Judge, Commissioner Precinct 2, Commissioner Precinct 4, County Clerk, District Clerk, County Treasurer, County Surveyor, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 and County Court at Law Judge. Motion Carried 5 to 0.

Motion made by Willie Kitchen seconded by Roger Dickey to approve the mileage reimbursement rate for official county travel to 57.5 cents effective January 1, 2015 as updated with the IRS rate. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Judge Ford addressed the March 2015 termination of the East Texas Medical Center Emergency Medical Service (ETMC EMS) ambulance service in the County, and said he would provide more updates as they become available.

Motion made by Pat Perry seconded by Kennon Kellum 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

