

JULY 25, 2019

WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

On this the 25th day of July, A.D., 2019 at 9:00 A.M. came on to be had a Special Meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Wise County, Texas held in the County Court at Law Court Room (3rd) Floor in County Courthouse of said County in the town of Decatur with the following members present and presiding:

J.D. Clark	County Judge
Danny White	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Kevin Burns	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Harry Lamance	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Gaylord Kennedy	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

Sherry Lemon, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners' Court when and where the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

All attachments referred to in the minutes of the Wise County Commissioners' Court are designated original or copy and are provided at the time of action by the Court unless otherwise indicated by provider.

County Judge Clark votes aye on all agenda items unless otherwise indicated.

- 1) Clark called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. All court members were present.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Moment of Silence
- 4) Community Forum: None
- 5) County Correspondence:

Clark presented information from Wise Hope Shelter thanking the county for the generous contribution of donated jury reimbursement fees.

- 6) Precinct Cooperation/Coordination:

Burns discussed the need to get mowing done in county right-of-way due to grass growth from spring rains that has resulted in complaint calls from residents due to the visibility/safety issue.

Clark asked County Engineer Chad Davis to speak to the court about stop sign issues? Davis told the court that the county has received information from the TxDOT Wise County Area Office assistant maintenance foreman regarding TxDOT's interest in turning over stop sign maintenance to the county for signs where county roads intersect with FM or US highways only.

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Davis expressed great concern because these signs are approved by both TxDOT and the Texas Highway Commission; have high maintenance cost; devastating liability to the county; and, are in the state right of way (state responsibility).

Davis told the court that he spoke with the Fort Worth District Office yesterday and was advised there might have been some initial miscommunication. Kennedy discussed an issue with signage at Cuba Road. Davis continued telling the court that TxDOT is indicating that they may wish municipalities to take over signage with documentation of cost requested.

The court continued to discuss regulation of signage as well as right-of-way maintenance.

White asked how precincts can get help with mowing stating that he is receiving a lot of complaints?

Clark told White that there is some room budgetarily to hire some part-time help. Clark continued that funds can be shuffled and some could be used for part time or temporary help. Clark stated that funds could be used for full-time help, too, and it is the commissioner's prerogative.

White commented about staffing road crews and difficulty in finding part-time or temporary help. Clark commented, again, about fund availability and not know any other answer for helping the issue.

White commented that precincts mow year-round but when it is time to work on roads (seasonal) the grass has gotten out of hand.

The court briefly discussed contracting mowing. Burns commented that the contractor would have to be insured like any other contractor. Commissioners Court Attorney Thomas Aaberg commented that dependent on how much is spent mowing the work might have to be bid.

Wise County Emergency Management Coordinator Cody Powell commented that the Texas Forest Service is seeking controlled burn projects and told the court he could reach out to them and ask if that would be a possible solution.

The court discussed this further discussing the hazards of controlled burns near county right-of-ways; times; school traffic, etc.

7) Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the Re-Plat of Nickell School Oaks, Lots 8R-1 and Lots 8R-2, Block 2, Precinct No. 2, as presented, granting a variance on the drainage study, and including a letter of general conformance from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (See attachment)

8) Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the replat request to change the name from Rolling Hills Ranch to Ranches at Rolling

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Hills located in Precinct No. 2, including a letter of general conformance from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (See attachment)

Clark confirmed this is done through re-platting the subdivision.

9) No action taken by the court regarding approval of the Final Plat for Ortman Acres, Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, located in Precinct No. 3, as no plat was provided for court approval. (See attached letter of general conformance from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.)

10) Motion made by Kennedy seconded by Burns and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the Replat of LP Subdivision, Lots 7R-1AA and 12R-2A, located in Precinct No. 4, as presented, including a letter of general conformance from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (See attachment)

11) Stephens, Bastian & Cartwright President Brian Stephens appeared before the court to discuss the FY2020 proposed insurance renewal information.

Stephens reviewed the Wise County 2018-2020 Employee Benefits Review. (See attached)

Stephens noted the following medical renewal results:

- Medical Renewal was 5% increase
- Significantly below MLR
- Negotiated to 3% if the county moves to a single plan (offering current base plan)
- Promote voluntary hospital protection plan through AFLAC (currently available) for those wanting out-of-pocket liability.

Stephens outlined the following goals for Wise County insurance benefits:

- Preserve persistency
- Make positive impacts on group utilization
- Reduce catastrophic claimants
- Improve marketability on a stand-alone basis
- Eliminate ineligible dependents from the plan
- Contain costs while preserving the ability to pay 100% for employees

Stephens made the following recommendations:

- Stay with TAC; move to single plan offering
- Continue to pay 100% of employee
- Review contribution strategy
- Accept dental proposal increase of 4% but market next year

Stephens presented three scenarios as stated on the 2019-2010 Plan year Employee Benefits Analysis worksheet for a base plan only (See attached):

- Scenario 1 – County cost increase 1%
- Scenario 2 – County cost stays approximately equal to current

- Scenario 3 – County contributes 100% to employee only and flat 30% to each dependent tier and county cost decreases by 1.4%

The court discussed removing the buy-up plan option and offering other supplements to offset that removal. The court discussed the yearly increase in insurance cost to both the county and to the employee.

Clark stated that he and County Auditor Ann McCuiston have a place holder in the budget for insurance and can make any of the three scenarios work in the current budget. Clark discussed previous action when the court agreed to reduce dependent coverage benefits from 50% to 40%. Clark discussed the plan to reduce county-paid dependent coverage, and the process of implementing a benefit stipend for all employees to apply to dependent coverage or other pre-tax designated options.

Clark told the court that there is a pay increase for all employees proposed in the FY2020 budget. The court briefly discussed Scenario #3 where the county contributes 100% for the employee and a flat 30% to each dependent tier and county cost decreases by 1.4%. Kennedy commented that if the county chooses to continue the path to a designated disbursement (stipend) then that is the best scenario to do.

The court discussed the idea that any savings the county saves from Scenario #3 need to roll the savings toward the designated disbursement. Clark asked for comments/thoughts from department heads.

Both Sheriff Lane Akin and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director Randall Preuninger commented. County Treasurer Katherine Hudson commented that there are very few counties that pay dependent coverage. Stephens commented that some municipalities pay toward dependents but that is uncommon in most industries. The court discussed Scenario #3 further. Stephens commented that another way to help renewal rates in the future is to help claims. Stephens told the court the Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 75% of healthcare claims are preventable through changes toward healthy behavior.

Kennedy asked when a decision has to be made regarding insurance renewal? Clark told Kennedy that Hudson must have an answer by August 2, 2019.

Burns recommended Scenario #3 and wants concrete numbers for the stipend even if it comes out of a pay increase. Clark stated the savings will be rolled back to the employees, and the county will have to start out small.

Clark commented again about a possible pay increase. Lamance commented about pay increases and insurance increases. The court discussed this further. Stephens and Hudson discussed pre-tax monies with the court. Hudson commented there is no increase in life or vision insurance costs.

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Clark told the court that the proposed budget contains a 3% pay increase for employees and asked if the court wants to see that more as a benefit stipend? Burns told Clark he doesn't want to see that as a benefit stipend because that doesn't give the employee a choice. Burns discussed the cafeteria plan for insurance benefits. Burns commented that whatever the county saves needs to go to that stipend. Clark confirmed that this will start tiny and will grow as things change. Clark and Burns discussed this further.

Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the Scenario #3 being one (1) base plan; no structural changes to the base plan; 30% dependent contribution level; savings to the county will implement benefit stipend even with a small amount that will grow over time.

Hudson commented that she supports the benefit stipend.

12) Donations:

Motion made by Burns seconded by Lamance and unanimously adopted by the Court to accept the donation of \$40.00 to the Wise County Sheriff's Office from Ray and Axle Haubold with the court's thanks. (No attachment)

13) Bids:

Asset Control Officer Diana Allen requested approval to dispose of an icemaker from the Wise County Sheriff's Office by scrapping it to the scrap metal bin.

Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy to transfer a backhoe loader and any equipment attached to it from Precinct No. 2 to 911 Addressing/Lakes and Dams.

Fire Marshal Jeff Doughty requested to purchase a new truck with capital expenditure funds for his office.

Fire Marshal Jeff Doughty told the court that the new truck would replace the 2013 Ford F-150 which would go to Doughty's reserve fleet. Doughty continued that the 2007 Chevrolet Duramax would go to Information Technology Department to replace the van currently being used.

Motion made by Burns seconded by Lamance and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the purchase of a 2019 Chevrolet ½ ton 4WD truck by the Fire Marshal for a total cost of \$38,040.00 out of capital expenditure funds via Tarrant County cooperative bid with the truck (\$26,840.00) being purchased via coop; the equipment (\$6,700.00) via coop from an approved vendor and the fiberglass shell (\$4,500.00) as straight purchase from Rhino.

Elections Administrator Sabra Srader discussed the upcoming purchase of new election equipment via Buyboard.

Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to authorize Clark, staff and Elections Administrator Sabra Srader to purchase election equipment as needed using capital expenditure funds.

14) Consent Agenda Item:

- a) Minutes: July 8, 2019 (No attachment)
- b) Department Head Reports: None
- c) Budget Amendments: FY19-11 for various line items (No attachment)
- d) Capital Expenditures:

Clark discussed the need to add tonnage to the air conditioner unit at the Wise County Animal Shelter. Clark told the court the county received a quote from Ary Air to install a Trane 5-ton heat pump system for \$12,775.00 to be paid out of Building and Grounds capital expenditures. Clark discussed the air flow issue at the animal shelter for the staff, volunteers, and animals.

Clark discussed a requested reconfiguration of the front entrance at the Finance Building. Clark received an estimate from Richey Wilkerson for work to be done at the Auditor's Office and Treasurer's Office for just over \$6,000.00 each office. Clark stated the project is not to exceed \$13,000.00 to be paid from Buildings and Grounds capital expenditures.

The court further discussed the HVAC issues at the Wise County Animal Shelter.

- e) Claims/Payroll: Registers as presented to the court in the Dropbox (No attachments)
- f) Utility Requests: Davis mentioned a request that is not being presented today. (No attachment)
- g) Contracts and Interlocal Agreements:
(Original Interlocal Agreements and Contracts are filed in the Asset Control Office by Diana Allen.)

- Stenograph renewal invoice for County Court at Law #1 (See attachment)
- Stenograph renewal invoice for County Court at Law #2 (See attachment)
- NCTTRAC Memorandum of Agreement between NCTTRAC and Wise County (No attachment)
- Quetel Corporation for Sheriff's Department (See attachment)
- District Clerk Agreement between Tarrant and Wise County District Clerks (No attachment)
- CovertTrack Group for Wise County Crimestoppers (See attachment)
- Helen Farabee MHMR Memorandum of Agreement (See attachment)
- Fully Executed – City of New Fairview Ad Valorem (See attachment)
- Renewals – Novacopy Emergency Medical Services (EMS) copier (See attachment)
- Contract Renewals FY2020 (See attached list)
- Interlocal Renewals FY2020 (See attached list)

- Verbal re: TxDOT equipment Interlocal Agreement for equipment at the Wise County Tax Assessor Collector's Office – a resolution is required (No attachment)

Clark requested court authorization to executed the resolution once all items are squared away.

Wise County Systems Administrator Steven Melton told the court that Powell was approached by Devon about an agreement for tower lease for \$1.00 for all Wise County Devon towers if the county is interested. Melton stated that nothing is ready yet and requested court authorization to possibly amend the existing tower lease agreement.

Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve all items listed under item 14, as presented, with the additions noted.

15) Project Agreements for Road Repair:

Motion made by Kennedy seconded by Burns and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the project agreement for road repair for Paradise ISD to pothole a parking lot located in Precinct No. 4. (No attachment)

16) Right-of-Way Improvement Requests: None

17) Burn Ban: None

18) Committee Reports:

Clark told the court that the Wise County Development Rules and Regulations Committee needs to meet to discuss legislative changes.

Burns requested to return to agenda item 5: County Correspondence.

Back to agenda item 5: County Correspondence

Burns told the court that a room block is about to open for the annual Texas Association of County Road Engineers (TACRE) meeting in San Antonio October 28-31, 2019. Burns said that it is a \$245.00 three day school.

19) Clark announced the next meeting as Monday, August 12, 2019. Clark told the court that he will get the FY2020 preliminary budget to the County Clerk by July 30, 2019. Burns thanked Clark for his work on the annual budget.

Clark reminded the court of the hotdog lunch for those who helped with the Fairgrounds and parks work from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

20) Clark adjourned the meeting at 10:31 AM. There being no further business to be had by the court.

Minutes approved this 12 day of August, 2019, as printed.

J.D. Clark, County Judge, Wise County

Danny White, Commr. Pct. No. 1

Kevin Burns, Commr. Pct. No. 2

Harry Lamance, Commr. Pct. No. 3

Gaylord Kennedy, Commr. Pct. No. 4

ATTEST:

Sherry Lemon, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners' Court,

The Wise County Commissioners' Court adopted revised *Rules of Procedures, Conduct & Decorum at Meetings of Wise County Commissioners' Court* on March 25, 2019.

