

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court
Regular Session
Monday, August 24, 2009
9:00 A.M.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in Regular Session on Monday, August 24, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. with the following members present: County Judge Randy Mills, Commissioners Jim Boatwright, Mike Lewis, Jon Bonner and Dickie Clary.

The meeting was called to order and Judge Mills opened with prayer.

Judge Mills closed Regular Session and opened the public hearing on the proposed Hamilton County Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2010.

Damon Chumney read the opening statement on the proposed budget and stated that of the increase, \$150,000.00 has been budgeted to reduce debt service on the Hamilton County Annex. Mr. Chumney stated that there was no town hall meeting to discuss the purchase of the annex. The voters did not get to vote on the purchase of the annex and for this reason he was opposed to the tax increase.

Mr. Chumney further stated that the auditor received a salary supplement and wanted to know why? Was this a back door approach for salary increases?

Judge Mills closed the public hearing and went back into Regular Session.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Bonner to approve the minutes of August 10, 2009 and August 17, 2009 Commissioner's Court Meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Boatwright and seconded by Clary to rescind the budget amendment which was approved on August 10, 2009 executed by Extension due to a wrong code. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 34 Page 24)

A motion was made by Boatwright and seconded by Lewis to approve the budget amendments. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 34 Page 26)

A motion was made by Bonner and seconded by Lewis to approve payment of \$274,117.75 amount of bills submitted for payment. Of that amount \$151,319.51 was Courthouse restoration expense and \$122,798.24 was normal operating expenses. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 34 Page 64)

Tim Gage made a presentation on Liberty National Life Insurance which offers different supplemental insurances that are available to the county employees. The court took no action. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 33 Page 75)

Texas New Mexico Power Company Representative Megan Menefee was present to discuss the TNMP Smart Program. This is a no cost program which provides technical support to the county to help them in the decision they make to be more energy efficient. This program will offer cost savings to the county if the county enrolls. To begin the process the court will need to sign a memorandum of understanding which will be placed on the court's next agenda. Commissioner Clary offered to administer the program and Judge Mills was happy for Commissioner Clary to do.

Commissioner Clary proposed for the court's consideration a policy on county property which had been lost or stolen. Commissioner Clary stated that he was concerned that the taxpayers were subject to the replacement cost of such items and thought that it might need to be an internal accountability. County Attorney Mark Henkes advised the court that this was a very detailed topic and invited any of the court members to come by and discuss this issue with him.

A motion was made by Bonner and seconded by Boatwright to order the County Clerk to conduct the November 3, 2009 Constitutional Amendment election. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 34 Page 75)

A motion was made by Lewis and seconded by Bonner to approve the appointment of David Courtney, Election Judge and Judy Jackson, Alternate Election Judge for the Central Counting Station and for the Early Voting Ballot Board for the November 3, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Clary opened the bids for road base material in Precinct Four as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Steve Watson | \$1.00 per cubic yard |
| 2. Johnny Koether | \$1.00 per cubic yard |
| 3. Gene Robinson | \$1.00 per cubic yard |

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Boatwright to accept all three of the bids submitted for road base material in Precinct Four. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 34 Page 95)

A motion was made by Boatwright and seconded by Bonner granting authorization for Alenco Communications, Inc. to place fiber optic communications cable in and along the public county road right-of-ways in Hamilton County, Texas. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 34 Page 101)

A motion was made by Bonner and seconded by Lewis ratifying the appointments of Ms. Nancy Holle of Bell County, Ms. Ann Ding of Milam County and Ms. Sue Faulkner of Lampasas county for two-year terms as Board Members of Central Counties Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority (MHMR). The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bonner and seconded by Lewis to accept the bid submitted to Hamilton County Appraisal District by Freddie Medina for property located at 201 South Taylor in the amount of \$800.00. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Box 34 Page 105)

A motion was made by Lewis and seconded by Clary to approve the participation by Hamilton County in The Texas Association of Counties Retiree Medical Program. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Bonner to authorize and to maintain Hamilton County at 6.72% contribution fee (same amount as previous year without a cost of living increase) to the Texas County and District Retirement System (TCDRS). The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 34 Page 56 and Pages 107)

The court was asked to clarify Hamilton County's Policy for holiday pay at the time of termination. Upon an employee quitting and terminating their job the policy does not address the payment of holiday after a termination. County Attorney Mark Henkes stated that if the policy does not state if the county is not obligated to pay it but if the county pays the employee then they by their action are establishing policy. The court took no action on this item.

Judge Mills and Commissioner Lewis gave a brief summary on the courthouse restoration.

A motion was made by Boatwright and seconded by Lewis granting authorization for the county to request a utility easement from the city of Hamilton for drainage purposes related to the Courthouse restoration. The motion carried unanimously.

The court discussed the removal of the District Clerk records, Extension Service supplies and material and other county property from the third floor of the Hamilton County Courthouse. The court stated that there was about three weeks till the roof would be removed.

A motion was made by Boatwright and seconded by Lewis to ratify the District Court Order which establishes the budget for the office of the County Auditor. County Auditor Marliessa Clark stated that the salary supplement was due to the courthouse construction. The auditor moved the money within her budget and did not increase her

bottom line. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Book 34 Page 118)

Commissioner Boatwright stated that Gov Deals was a success. A motion was made by Boatwright and seconded by Lewis to approve the departmental reports submitted. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Book 34 Page 121)

The court recessed for a few minutes and reconvened in Budget Workshop at 11:20 A.M. The court made a few corrections to give for preparation of budget approval.

A motion was made by Lewis and seconded by Clary to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

County Judge

Attest: _____
County Clerk