

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session

Monday, March 12, 2012

9:00 A.M.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Monday, March 12, 2012 at 9:00 A.M. with the following members present: County Judge Randy Mills, Commissioners Jim Boatwright, Mark Tafel, Jon Bonner and Dickie Clary.

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

Hamilton General Hospital's Chief Executive Officer Michele Cathey was present to inform the court about a new program called Texas Medicaid 1115 Waiver and Regional Health Partnerships. The 1115 Waiver is a proposal that Texas submitted to the federal government that will allow the state and local communities the opportunity to draw down additional federal funds designated for health care which are currently being "left on the table" because Texas has not traditionally provided enough matching funds to pull down the maximum amount available.

Specifically, the waiver proposes to:

- Expand the definition of "matching funds" so that state and local funds currently being spent on health care can count as additional match to "draw down" more federal health care funding;
- Convert the state's Medicaid programs to a managed care system;
- Create a state "reform incentive" pool from the money saved through the redesign of state programs and provider reimbursements to prompt further health care reforms local; and
- Establish regional health partnerships (RHPs) that will pinpoint local health care priorities and develop a 5-year plan to address the priorities, which will be funded through the state innovation pool matched by local dollars.

What are regional health partnerships and who can participate?

- A Regional Health Partnership (RHP) is a collaboration led by public hospitals, hospital districts, academic health science centers, and local governments that are already providing or willing to provide matching local funds to "pull down" federal dollars that can be used to improve local health care.
- The state has proposed RHP boundaries, but counties may choose which RHP they will participate in so long as the county is contiguous with other counties in the proposed RHP. The state wants RHP boundaries finalized by March 2012.
- RHPs will collectively develop 5-year plans that will outline local and regional health care reform through the proposal of innovative initiatives that will be funded through the state's reform incentive pool and matched by local governmental entities.

What is the cost to participate?

- Local governmental entities that wish to participate must provide local funding each year for five years which can be used as match to “draw down” funds to support the RHP’s planned activities. If a local governmental entity is already providing match funding as part of an agreement with a health care provider, that governmental entity is already considered a member of the RHP.

What is the benefit to my community?

- Local governmental entities participating in an RHP will have the opportunity to determine which health care strategies will be funded and implemented within their communities. These strategies could include initiatives such as increased access to ambulance service, mental health care, medication assistance, and programs to reduce preventable hospitalization and inappropriate ER usage.

Ms. Cathey stated that there was nothing that the court needed to do but once Central Texas Council of Governments has their meeting the court might need to do a resolution. (Recorded in Commissioner’s Court Papers Book 42 Page 540)

Richard Layne stated that during a break of the Commissioner’s Court on February 13, 2012 Commissioner Tafel said to Mr. Layne that I pray every night that you drop dead with a massive heart attack.

March 6, 2012 Commissioner Tafel entered Fulton Firearms and spoke at Greg Fulton stating a long line of profanity followed by I want to see the pictures of me that you took of Commissioner Tafel at the beer store in the county truck. That action received a warning for criminal trespass and a citation for disorderly conduct.

Damon Chumney stated that he thought that there were other uses for the annex other than just for storage. Chumney stated that he thought it would be a good ideal for the court to have a town hall meeting to discuss this.

A motion was made by Bonner and seconded by Clary to approve the following budget amendments:

Sheriff’s Office from Deputy Four to Overtime, from Clothing Allowance to Uniforms, Environmental Inspector from Travel Expense to Schools and Conferences and Auto Repair and Maintenance, Debt Service from Interest Expense to Principal, Non Departmental from Health Insurance Retirement to Redistricting Fee, District Clerk Records Preservation, Courthouse Security – Capital Equipment, and Non Departmental from Insurance Claim Reimbursement to Insurance Claim Repairs/Replacement . The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner’s Court Papers Book 42 Page 542)

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Boatwright to approve the following consent agenda:

- A. Minutes of February 27, 2012 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- B. Approve the Departmental Reports -)Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 571)
- C. Approve bills submitted for payment-\$134,629.60 (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 558)

The motion carried unanimously.

Hamilton County Courthouse Restoration – The following items were discussed briefly: Landscaping, Owner's Meeting, Carl changed the filter and purchased over \$1,000.00 of air filters for the year, floor –making a determination of how to handle to maintenance, Geo Thermal a damper needs to be installed, security cameras installed and working well, the locks for the offices will be provided by Tom Woody, Tafel will prepare the channel out in the yard within the next three weeks.

The court passed on Item 9.- Discuss and/or approve a bid for property located at lot # 4 at the corner of South Reagan Street and Third Street

County Clerk Debbie Rudolph briefed the court that we would not be able to get the forty year project on the new digital system as planned. When KOFIL picked up the film they found out that it was not all consecutive deeds, etc. Rudolph stated that none of the records money had been spent that the court had previously approved. Continuing the county clerk wants to make inquiries before moving forward with the project.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Tafel to approve the use of county equipment and personnel to dig holes for Hamilton FFA land judging contest. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bonner and seconded by Boatwright to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Hamilton County and Education Service Center, Region 13 and 20 to join Pace Purchasing Cooperative. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 605)

A motion was made by Bonner and seconded by Boatwright to approve the resolution to participate in the Pace 2013 Purchasing Agreement. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 42 Page 604)

The court discussed at length the future use of the Courthouse Annex. Richard Layne stated that he thought he was critical to make some type of repairs. We paid our insurance and we received the claim money. It is a necessity to maintain the building.

The court agreed that the building could be used for storage and that they did not want the annex to incur any extra cost to the county.

The future agenda items: Judge Mills will get Charlie Wilson's assessment of the annex and then the court will have another workshop to try to make a determination of the buildings usage.

A motion was made by Boatwright and seconded by Tafel to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

County Judge

Attest: _____

County Clerk