

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Regular Session
Monday, September 23, 2013
9:00 A.M.



Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in Regular Session on Monday, September 23, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. with the following members present: County Judge Randy Mills, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Mark Tafel, Lloyd Huggins and Dickie Clary.

The budget hearing was called to order and Clary opened with prayer.

Damon Chumney addressed the following items in the proposed budget:

Page 2:

Certificate of Obligations – Do away with the longevity and reduce the debt to eliminate interest

Page 3:

Fund balance of \$973,867 – Since we owe a debt take some of the fund balance and apply to the debt reduce interest

Increase in fund balance \$400,000 2011-2012

Certificate of Obligations were cram down our throats because we did not get to vote on them.

Page 4:

\$39,000 increase in taxes

503-Motor Vehicle Sales Tax/Terp-Why are we projecting a decrease

400 County Attorney Supplement-State supplement

Page 5:

Health Insurance and Retirement 5.3% increase

County Judge 571-Non Capital Equipment –Why the increase?

Appraisal District increase in their budget

Insurance at the courthouse went down but the annex went up.

Page 7:

County Attorney -\$3000 state supplement attached to his salary which is based upon the District Judge's salary.

District Attorney-New line item Appellant Briefs -\$5000.00

Page 9 :

Sheriff's Office- Insurance and Retirement Increase

Gas and Water – 0

570 Capital Equipment- increase

Page 11: Environmental Inspector-State Inspector – He questions the need for this position?

Community Hog Abatement-\$10,000.00 need to use wisely

Page 13:

Nearly all line item sees increases.

Once again Chumney reemphasized indebtedness and nix longevity pay.

Clary responded to Chumney and answered the items above.

Richard Layne commented that the General Fund looks good; the \$458,000.00 one-time receipt. The state auditors want three months operating money. There is also money coming in for the pipeline crossings. I would like to see the longevity increments done away with and like for the county to retire debt and then see if they could give salary increases.

Mills replied to the county attorney salary which is state mandated and tied to the district judge's salary.

Mills also replied that he felt strongly that the pipeline cost and income should stay in the precincts to allow them to fix the things that will come up in the precincts and roads.

Marion Striegler commented that the budget was set. October 1, 2008 four years ago was the last time the employees received a raise that that was not acceptable to the employees nor myself. You should be willing to give them a three % bonus no change to the base salary. Road hands salaries were adjusted in 2010. Striegler also stated that he thought that the money for this longevity pay should come from the precincts. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 47 Page 301)

Mills closed the budget hearing and recessed for a fifteen minute break and opened the Regular Session of the Commissioner's Court.

Damon Chumney spoke in public comments stating that there was no one currently on the board that had a conservative attitude. Chumney stated that he was not opposed to approving a resolution allowing the Hamilton County Auditor and the Hamilton County Treasurer to pay employees according to the budget without Commissioners Court approval for each pay period but did want to know what the pitfalls would be. Chumney supported agenda items nine and eleven. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers book 47 Page 270)

A motion was made by Tafel and seconded by Mills to approve the order to sell mixed drinks and or beer between midnight and 2:00 A.M. in the unincorporated portions of Hamilton County. Mills, Tafel and Huggins voted; Clary and Wagner voted against. The motion carried by a majority vote.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Huggins to approve the following budget amendments: End of the Year Budget Amendment to close out the Courthouse Restoration Project, End of the Year Budget Amendment to cover the end of the year expenditures, and the City of Hamilton Contract Reimbursement to budget repayment of unexpended funds due to the City of Hamilton. Clary, Huggins, Tafel and Wagner voted for and Mills abstained. The motion carried by a majority vote. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 47 Page 272)

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

- A. Minutes of 9-5-2013 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- B. Minutes of 9-9-2013 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- C. Minutes of 9-11-2013 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- D. Minutes of 9-16-2013 Commissioner's Court Meeting
- E. Approve Department Reports (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 47 Page 296)
- F. Approve bills submitted for payment \$132,848.49 (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 47 Page 279)

The motion carried unanimously.

The court made the following nominations to the Hamilton County Appraisal District Board Member(s) as provided by Section 6:03 of the Texas Property Tax Code:

James "Butch" Caldwell, Ricky Mauney, and John Galindo

The court recessed for ten minutes to allow Mills to go to the Hamilton County Appraisal District to inquire about the number of votes the county had.

The court was reconvened and Mills stated that Hamilton County has 1491 votes and it takes 850 to place a member on the board.

A motion was made by Mills and seconded by Tafel to approve a resolution allowing the Hamilton County Auditor and the Hamilton County Treasurer to pay employees according to the budget without Commissioner's Court approval for each pay period. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Mills to adopt TCDRS to maintain plan provisions for plan year 2014 at the required rate of 7.17%. The motion carried unanimously. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 47 Page 299)

Wagner read the following Champ Hog Abatement Grant:

Hamilton County in cooperation with the Texas Department of Agricultural and Bell, Milam, Falls and Coryell Counties is participating in the Champ Hog Abatement Grant. This grant is for the implementation of feral hog abatement technologies at the county level.

Hamilton County in compliance with the Champ Grant Program will sponsor 2 educational programs through the Leon River Watershed Management and Texas Extension Service. One in Coryell County on November 22, 2013 at the Coryell County Civic Center and on in Hamilton County at the Hamilton Commission Company (Sale Barn) on January 18, 2014.

Hamilton County Will also offer a Bounty Program to the Public wherein a five dollar bounty will be offered in return for the tails of any feral hogs killed in Hamilton County during a period beginning October 1, 2013 and continuing until the funds allocated for the project are depleted. Land owner confirmation of the location and time/date of the harvest of the animals will be required. Times, dates and locations of the Bounty collections will be determined in the future and disclosed to the public on the county's website and in the local newspapers.

All federal and state game laws will apply. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers book 47 Page 278 & 300)

The court will discuss this and prepare for the program at the next commissioner's court meeting.

A motion was made by Huggins and seconded by Clary to approve the resolution supporting proposed revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards. The motion carried by a majority vote. Wagner, Tafel, Huggins and Clary voted for and Mills abstained. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 47 Page 298)

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Tafel to approve Amendment No. 2 for CWA 319(H) Agreement No. 10-10A entitled "Implementation of the Leon River Watershed Protection Plan through Technical and Financial Assistance to Repair and Replace on-Site Sewage Facilities in Hamilton County. The motion carried by a majority vote. Wagner, Tafel, Huggins and Clary voted for and Mills abstained. (Recorded in Commissioners Court Papers Book 47 Page 380)

A motion was made by Clary and seconded by Mills to approve the Amended Hamilton County Law enforcement Contract. The motion carried by a majority vote. (Recorded in Commissioner's Court Papers Book 47 Page 303)

There were no future agenda items stated.

The court took a brief minute for budget workshop. Clary asked County Auditor Marliessa Clark what the status of the bank reconciliation was. Clark replied that the treasurer's account which was the largest was reconciled up until June 2013. Clark stated that the District Judge had advised her not to go beyond her scope of work. Clark stated that she was available on Fridays and willing to help the county treasurer when need. The county treasurer will begin bank reconciliations with July 2013. The court was also advised that the quarterly reports were up to date. Clark was working on the little funds.

Fund balances are as follows:

General Fund	\$1,194,299.00
Precinct One	\$ 75,200.23

Precinct Two \$ 32,562.93

Precinct Three \$ 108,501.69

Precinct Four \$ 43,219.31

A motion was made by Wagner and seconded by Mills to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

County Judge

Attest: _____

County Clerk