

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court

Hamilton County Workshop – Law Enforcement/Jail Issues
Friday, October 23, 2015
10:00 A.M.



Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met on Friday, October 23, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. in a workshop about law enforcement and jail issues. The following members of the court were present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Allen Curry and Dickie Clary. Commissioner Lloyd Huggins was not able to be there as he had a prior meeting in Hico that he needed to attend.

Judge Tynes called the workshop to order and established that a quorum was present.

Tynes opened the meeting stating that the purpose of this workshop was to obtain information regarding law enforcement. The rumor of shutting down the jail was just that; a rumor that he did not know where it originated. More specifically, the meeting was to discuss the inmate housing invoice that the county had received in an amount of approximately \$19,800.00 for the housing of inmates which would require a line item transfer. Tynes continued saying that he wanted the court to be informed about the issue and how it could possibly impact the current budget. If the current issue of housing inmates continues it will impact the county's contingency fund and if necessary lead to a budget amendment.

Sheriff Gregg Bewley, Chief Deputy Kenneth Lovell, Investigator Justin Caraway and Jail Administrator Brandi Graham were present to answer questions for the court. There were a lot of questions asked and answered which allowed for a good exchange of information.

Bewley confirmed that the jail facility was operating on a skeleton crew; more help was needed as well as more income for the employees.

The inmate population was a major topic of conversation during this meeting which addressed three other subtopics: (1.) Bond Process (2.) District Attorney's Process and (3.) Pre-Indictment Pleas (in which our district attorney does not like to do)

There was emphasis on the increase in jail activity; an unusual amount because of an arrest of multiple illegals which has also impacted the current jail population/housing issue.

Dispatching services to other agencies was also touched upon at this workshop. It was also stated that Hamilton County was in no way obligated by statute to offer these services to the other agencies. A consideration of assessing a monetary amount to this service was discussed.

After a long discussion, Tynes emphasized that communication was of the utmost importance for the success of our county government and to continue the unity and teamwork we strive to maintain.

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

County Judge

Attest: _____

County Clerk