

# COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

August 17, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED That the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 17th day of August, 2020 with the following members present: Judge Stephanie L. Davis, Presiding; Gary "Corky" Underwood, Commissioner Precinct #1, Russell Gillette, Commissioner Precinct #2; Sherman Sides, Commissioner Precinct #3. Jimmy Dale Johnson, Commissioner Precinct#4 was present by phone.

Judge Stephanie L. Davis opened the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Commissioner Underwood gave the invocation.

Commissioner Sides made the motion to approve the Minutes of the August 10, 2020 Commissioners' Court Meeting with corrections to the date of the meeting and to the hours required of continuing education for elected officials. Some elected officials are required to receive either 17 or 20 hours of continuing education after the first year in office. Commissioner Gillette seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

No public comments.

A Budget Workshop for entities that receive contributions from Comanche County was held.

The Comanche City County Library Budget was presented by Hollis McCright, Librarian. McCright reported trimming the budget for Repair/Maintenance from \$2000 down to \$500. No major maintenance is anticipated. A decrease in book purchases will also lower the budget. The Librarian also lowered her request for the Librarian's salary. The overall decrease to the Library Budget amounted to \$4252.00. It was reported the line item for yard work could be trimmed if the County would maintain the yard.

Margaret Dudley gave an update from Friends of the Library concerning the parking lot being constructed west of the Library. Friends of the Library funded the project. This project will allow more parking that can be utilized by the City and County of Comanche and provide access to the Library from the west. A west door and covered entrance will be constructed on the west side.

Doug Bowden and Robert Cobb discussed the City County Airport funding from the County. Their request was for an increase in funding in the amount of \$5000. This increase would help with the match portion of certain future major projects. An up grade to lighting and a high fence around the airport are among the future projects. There is also a need for an additional hanger.

Dion White and Danny Armstrong discussed the Center for Life Resources (MHMR) discussed their county funding and services provided to Comanche County. There were 88 crisis services provided to Comanche County this past year. They also provide counseling services to adults and juveniles.

Tim Beaty representing Community Rehab reported they were unable to go forward with the projects this year due to the COVID Pandemic. However, they are providing some immediate needs for smaller projects. It is anticipated the Community Rehab Project will go forward next year and requested continued donation of \$4000 from the county. They already have 35-40 application for home repairs. Since the beginning of this yearly project some 350 have received repairs. Donations pay for most of the repairs. Volunteers provide the labor and more volunteers are needed. Cities of Comanche, DeLeon and Gustine also contribute funds.

Carolyn Merworth, secretary Treasurer on the Comanche County Welfare Board requested the \$3000 contribution from the County be continued. This organization provides essential services to children that have been removed from their families. Other services are provided such as providing coats to school children during the winter.

Mike Barry, AgriLife Extension Agent requested full time funding for the Youth 4-H Assistant. This would increase the salary from \$14,230 to \$29,548. A fulltime assistant is needed since the AgriLife Home Agent position had been cut. Mike Barry has additional duties added to his job.

Brenda Dickey, District Clerk, discussed the District Clerk's Budget. The budget remained the same as the prior year except an increase of 3% for deputy salaries was requested.

Judge Davis reported the Emergency Management budget had been reduced by \$3125.

The Agency on Aging has shown an increase of almost double in meals provided during this Pandemic while keeping their budget unchanged. Agency on Aging receives funding from the County, Cities of Comanche, DeLeon and Gustine.

Commissioner's Administrative Assistant budget was submitted.

Joey Boswell reported the General Fund will report a deficit of approximately 600,000 this year and will likely reflect a reduction of the deficit to \$360,000 to \$380,000 deficit after the remaining unused amounts from the budget are returned to the General Fund

9-1-1 Central Dispatch requested no increase in budget.

Michelle Wells representing CASA requested the County continue the \$5000 annual donation. CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates, are appointed by the courts to assist the children when children are removed from their homes. Due to the reduction to the number of children taken into the Foster care system CASA is called upon to be a special advocate for these children. In 2019 there were 42 children in the system.

Tim Cox discussed the Trapper Program funding. No increase was requested.

All budget request will be considered during final budget preparation.

It was recommended application to the County Feral Hog Grant be pursued at a later date.

Grace Everhart, Tax Assessor Collector, presented 2020 Submission No New Revenue Rate and Voter Approval Rate. No new Revenue Rate is the same as the former Effective Rate. This language was changed due to a state legislative change to the Property Tax Code. The No New Revenue Rate for Comanche County General Fund would be \$0.412061 per \$100 value with Sales Tax Adjustment included. The 2020 No New Revenue Rate for Road and Bridge would be \$0.182599. The Total No New Revenue Rate would be \$0.594660 per \$100 value which includes the Sales Tax Adjustment Rate of \$0.59278 per \$100. The Voter Approval Rate which was formerly Rollback Rate adjusted with Sales Tax Adjustment would be \$0.641955 per \$100 value.

Commissioners Johnson and Underwood made the motion and second to approve payment of an invoice from Pate's Hardware for the purchase of four impact wrenches for DPS vehicles at a cost of \$916.00. The cost is to be split equally between the four precincts All approved. Motion carried. These will help Troopers who assist motorist on the highway.

There was no update on Redistricting. Documents were sent to Allison, Bass & McGee, L.L.P. pursuant to a letter of request related to elections.

No action was taken on the development of a Comanche County City of Comanche Library Agreement.

Judge Davis is encouraging everyone to complete their 2020 Census. Comanche County is below the state average for completion of the responses from residents of Comanche County. It is important to count everyone. This information determines what benefits Comanche County and Comanche County residents may be eligible for. Some rural areas may not have received the census form. Census information will be available at the local food banks and information will be mailed with your water bill. The census can be completed on line or by phone. The telephone number to complete the census by phone is 844-330-2020. The website to complete the form online is "my2020census.gov". The Census will end one month early, September 30, 2020. Texas officials are concerned counties will lose federal funding and loss of legislative representation due to the low response to the census. Comanche County is below the Texas average for response to the census. Census representatives are going door to door trying to complete census data.

The Komatsu Architecture Firm is in the process of finalizing the Master Plan for the Comanche County Courthouse and Old Cora.

There is no update for the Texas A & M University Community Planning Project.

There is no update to County Annex at 215 N. Houston St., Comanche.

Commissioner Underwood reported a contractor has been engaged to make repairs to the Annex at 211 S. Austin in Comanche. Repairs to the ceiling where racoons damaged the building are needed. Five places were found where racoons could enter the building and they will be repaired.

No changes have been made to the Administrative COVID-19 leave policy. Each elected official may grant employee leave due to COVID-19 without Commissioner Court Approval.

Covid-19 updates are available on Judge Davis's Face book page.

No updates on FEMA Projects. Work is underway to finalize projects.

The Burn Ban remains in effect.

There being no further business to come before the Court, Court was adjourned this the 17th day of August, 2020 with a motion by Commissioner Sides and a second by Commissioner Gillette. All approved. Motion carried.

The foregoing minutes approved by the Comanche County Commissioners' Court on the 31st day of August, 2020.

*Stephanie L. Davis*

Stephanie L. Davis, County Judge

Attest:

*Ruby Lesley*

Ruby Lesley, County Clerk

