

COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

February 24, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED That the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 24th day of February, 2020 with the following members present: Judge Stephanie L. Davis, Presiding; Russell Gillette, Commissioner Precinct #2; Sherman Sides, Commissioner Precinct #3 and Jimmy Dale Johnson, Commissioner Precinct #4. Gary "Corky" Underwood, Commissioner Precinct #1 was not present.

Judge Stephanie L. Davis opened the meeting at 9:02 a. m.

Commissioner Sides gave the invocation.

Commissioner Johnson made the motion to approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2020 Commissioner Court Regular Meeting as presented. Commissioner Gillette seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Randy Smith, United States Department of Agriculture, District Supervisor of Animal and Plant Inspection Service/Wildlife Services, informed the Court that Comanche, Erath and Eastland counties have been selected to participate in a pilot program for the eradication of Feral Hogs. The Farm Bill designated \$75 million to the United States Department of Agriculture for the eradication of Feral Hogs in the United States. The funds will be divided between the USDA and Natural Resource and Conservation Service. The NRCS will provide hog traps and corn to land owners who wish to participate. The USDA Wildlife Services will provide a helicopter and actually kill hogs from the air. Land owners will be required to give permission for the helicopter to fly their property. USDA has allotted 200 flight hours for this three county project. The project will be a 2-3 year project. Smith requested permission to stage their equipment and corn at the Commissioner's Precinct yards. This project is not related to the County Trapper Program. If you wish to participate contact Thomas O'Donnell or Brianna Graham with USDA. Thomas O'Donnell Office, 817-978-3146, cell# 254-842-4259 or Brianna Graham at 830-326-1429. You may also contact Mike Berry, County Extension Agent for more information and to sign up.

Virginia Fleming presented an application for the approval from the Chamber of Commerce for events to be held on the Courthouse Square during 2020. The events include Comanche Farmer's Market on the first Saturday of each month during March – October 3, 2020. Sisters on the Fly-April 18 & 19; Wild Hog Cook-off, May 1 & 2; Jams in June 4, 11, 18 and 25; Comanche Open Rodeo Parade, June 20.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to approve the Application by the Chamber of Commerce to hold events on the Courthouse Square during 2020. All approved. Motion carried.

The sale of Fireworks for San Jacinto Day was discussed and no action was taken. Drought conditions will be evaluated at a later date before approving.

Commissioners Johnson and Gillette made the motion and second to approve the following amendments to the County Travel Policy; Expenses for meals will be limited to \$40 per day. Remove the restriction that no meal may exceed \$20. Tips and snacks will be reimbursed. Alcohol is excluded from reimbursement. Lodging and meals shall not exceed \$300 per day. All approved. Motion carried.

No action was taken on the Order Regulating Temporary Signs on County Property.

Commissioner Johnson made the motion to approve a request from Littlejohn Farms, Inc for a utility line in the county right of way of CR 232 in Precinct #2. Judge Davis seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

House Bill 3834 as it relates to cyber security training for county employees was discussed. Training will begin soon and must be completed by June 14, 2020. All county employees that use county email and computers are signed up to take the training.

The Texas A & M University -2020 Community Planning Projects was discussed.

An update on the development of the Master plan for the Courthouse and Old Cora. The plan is 60% complete. An evaluation of structural, plumbing, wiring and AC/heating of the Courthouse have been made. Old Cora was reported to be in reasonably good shape.

Judge Davis discussed allowing community service workers to clean the County Annex at 215 N. Houston.

The County Annex at 211 S. Austin was discussed.

Commissioners Johnson and Sides made the motion to enter into Executive Session at 10:45 a.m. to discuss real estate. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Gillette and Johnson made the motion to return to Open Session at 11:22 a.m.. All approved. Motion carried.

No action was taken on items discussed in Executive Session.

The FEMA Clerk/Commissioner's Secretary job description and title was discussed. No action was taken.

Tricia Grimshaw, Emergency Management Coordinator reported she will be attending Public Information Training. Work is ongoing for FEMA payment request.

The Burn Ban remains lifted. It is recommended that you 1.) Call Dispatch at 325-356-2222 to tell them you wish to burn and to check the weather conditions. By informing Dispatch of your burn the fire departments will not be required to respond to unneeded calls. 2.) Winds must be 10 mph or under and the humidity 50% or above. 3.) There should be onsite water or equipment to control the fire. 4.) The burn may be started one hour after sunrise and be in the smoldering stage one hour before sunset. 5.) Trash may be burned in a covered barrel or container without calling.

Commissioners Johnson and Sides made the motion and second to approve the contract with Mills County for housing inmates in Mills County Jail. All approved. Motion carried.

Sheriff Chris Pounds reported the jail inspection is upcoming. The Commissary audit is pending.

Commissioners Gillette and Johnson made the motion and second to approve Officer's Reports. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Johnson and Gillette made the motion and second to approve Budget Amendments. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to audit accounts due and owing and approve payment thereof in the amount of \$289,035.49. All approved. Motion carried.

