

# COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

April 27, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED That the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 27th day of April, 2020 with the following members present: Judge Stephanie L. Davis, Presiding in open court. The following Commissioners are present virtually thru Zoom; Gary "Corky" Underwood, Commissioner Precinct #1 and Jimmy Dale Johnson, Commissioner Precinct #4. Russell Gillette, Commissioner Precinct #2 and Sherman Sides, Commissioner Precinct #3 were present in open court. Others present virtually include Craig Willingham, County Attorney, Johnny Conine, Justice of the Peace and Tricia Grimshaw, Emergency Management Coordinator.

Judge Stephanie L. Davis opened the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

Commissioner Sides gave the invocation.

Commissioner Underwood made the motion to approve the Minutes of the April 13, 2020 Commissioners' Court Meeting as presented. Commissioner Sides seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

No public comments.

The application for use of the Courthouse Square for the Sisters-On-The-Fly event was considered. The event was originally scheduled for April 17 and 18, 2020. However, the event has been postponed until October 9-10, 2020 due to COVID-19. Members of The Sisters request to park their travel trailers around the Courthouse Square and make their trailers available for touring. Additionally food vendors and vendors selling merchandise will be available.

Commissioners Gillette and Sides made the motion and second to approve the application for The-Sisters-On-The-Fly Event to be held October 9-10, 2020 All approved. Motion carried.

Jo Ann Hohertz, Chief Appraiser, Comanche Central Appraisal District, addressed the Court with information concerning time lines for due dates for property appraisals based on its market value as of January 1 each year. Notices of appraised values are sent to property owners in April or early May and property owners have a 30 day window to talk to the Central Appraisal District informally concerning their appraised value and request a formal protest before the Appraisal Review Board if needed. Hohertz expressed her concern related to the current economic status of the county related to the Covid-19 pandemic and property re-appraisals. The Legislature passed a "Disaster Exemption" law in the last session that would allow for exemptions of between 15% and 100%, but the Texas Attorney General has issued an opinion that the exemption is only for disasters that cause physical damage to property not like what is happening with the pandemic. Currently there is nothing in the property tax law that will allow the Covid-19 pandemic to factor into this year's property appraisal valuation or change deadlines. The real estate market was still appreciating as of January 1, 2020 and this means that property values may be higher this year compared to last year, possibly increased by 5% to 10%. According to the most recent study by the Comptroller's office Comanche County appraised values are lower than what is reflected in the market.

Jo Ann Hohertz suggested Comanche County follow the action by other counties by approving a resolution to the Governor encouraging the Legislature to enact a freeze on property valuations at the rate set in January 1, 2019 and not in any way implement increased property tax appraisal valuations as determined on January 1, 2020. All New property values would have to remain at the January 1, 2020 valuation. It was also suggested we contact our state representatives and leaders in Austin and encourage them to grant some type of property tax relief to counties. Any relief will have to come from Austin. All citizens are encouraged to do the same.

Judge Davis will call a special meeting of Commissioner's Court for Friday, May 1, 2020 to consider a resolution to the Governor for relief for the Appraisal District and the property owners of Comanche County by requesting property values be frozen at the valuations set at January 1, 2019.

Mark McDonald, Comanche County Constable submitted a request to purchase vehicles for the Constable's office. Currently the office has two vehicles, a 2010 Ford 150 Pickup and a 2013 Ford F150 Pickup. The 2010 is a must for replacing this fiscal year. The 2013 will need replacing within the next budget year. Bayer Motor Company provides quotes for two pickups, a 2020 GMC Double Cab Pickup for \$21,136.18 and a 2020 GMC 1500 Crew Cab Pickup for \$18,341.45. The price is with the government discount pricing and with trade in. The quote would provide two pickups for the price of one. The funds are budgeted in the Constable's budget.

Judge Davis made the motion to approve the purchase of the 2020 GMC Double Cab Pickup VIN #1GTR8AEH6LZ236592 for \$21,136.18 and a 2020 GMC 1500 Crew Cab Pickup, VIN# 3GTP8AEH4LG311636 for \$18,341.4 with financing thru Spirit of Texas Bank. Commissioner Sides made the second to the motion. Judge Davis, Commissioners Sides, Underwood and Gillette voted for the motion. Commissioner Johnson voted against the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to acknowledge that Gary Matthew Steele and Yancy Tandy Perkins have been officially designated as Eagle Scouts following their Board of Review. All approved. Motion carried. Congratulations to these two young men.

Yancy Tandy Perkins and Gary Matthew Steele have both had years of involvements in Cub Scouts and Boy Scout Clubs in which they gained many merit badges. Matthew, a senior at Comanche High School, cleaned, gated and fenced Martin Creek/Branch as his Eagle Scout Project. Yancy, a junior at Comanche High School, completed a Disc Golf Course at the Comanche City Park as his Eagle Scout Project.

Sheriff Chris Pounds presented a contract with the United States of America, United States Army Corp of Engineers, for increased law enforcement services at Lake Proctor. The service begins May 15, 2020 and ends September 12, 2020. The contract calls for 464 hours of patrol hours at a cost of \$40.30 per hour. Included in that cost is labor \$25.82, vehicle cost of \$10.81, other cost of 3.67 per hour. Cost will be reimbursed under the terms of the contract and will be at no cost to the county.

Patsy Phifer re-stated administrative leave may be granted by an elected official for employees in their office at their regular pay rate, as long as funds are in their budget, without Commissioner Court approval and it relates to the COVID 19 pandemic. A blanket county administrative leave has been granted by Commissioner Court for

