

COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

May 1, 2020

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

Judge Stephanie L. Davis opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Commissioner Gillette gave the invocation.

No public comments.

Mark McDonald, Comanche County Constable request to purchase vehicles for the Constable's office was considered and approved On April 27, 2020. 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 provided 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 Constable's budget for FY 2020 included purchasing new vehicles. The value of the new pickups plus the value of the trade-in exceeds the \$50,000 requirement for competitive bidding.

Today Commissioners Sides and Underwood made the motion and second for approval of a Discretionary Exemption from competitive bidding process pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code 262.024 (a) (2), an item necessary to preserve the public health or safety of the residents of the county. Judge Davis, Commissioners Underwood, Gillette and Sides voted to approve the exemption. Commissioner Johnson voted against the motion. Motion carried

Commissioners Sides and Underwood made the motion to approve the financing of the 2020 GMC Sierra Double Cab Pickup VIN #1GTR8AEH6LZ236592 for \$21,136.18 with Spirit of Texas Bank for a term of 48 months at a rate of 4% interest. Judge Davis, Commissioners Underwood Gillette and Sides voted to approve the motion. Commissioner Johnson voted against the motion. Motion carried. Judge Stephanie L. Davis and Mark McDonald, Constable are authorized to sign the financing agreement.

Commissioner Gillette and Sides made the motion to approve the financing of the 2020 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab Pickup, VIN# 3GTP8AEH4LG311636 for \$18,341.4 with Spirit of Texas Bank. Judge Davis, Commissioners Sides, Underwood and Gillette voted to approve the motion. Commissioner Johnson voted against the motion. Motion passed. Judge Stephanie L. Davis and Mark McDonald, Constable are authorized to sign the financing agreement.

Hollis McCright, Librarian for the Comanche Public Library presented the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019. The Comanche Public Library receives its major funding from the City of Comanche, County of Comanche and the Comanche Public Library Foundation. Some income is received from memorials, donations, book fees and copies. There is no Federal funding.

McCright reported an increase in use of e-books during this recent period when the library was mandated to be closed to maintain social distancing. The library provides access to 6,372 e-books and 1,620 audio downloadable units. The total electronic collections/databases include 63 and physical volumes include 28,725. The library is normally open 35 hours a week.

Commissioners Sides and Underwood made the motion and second to approve the Annual Report from the Comanche Public Library and the Application for Accreditation to The State Library System, Local Fiscal Year 2019. All approved. Motion carried.

Judge Davis made the motion to approve the Second Amended County of Comanche, Texas County Judge's Declaration of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency (May 1, 2020). Commissioner Gillette seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Judge Davis presented a Resolution to the Governor as suggested by Jo Ann Hohertz, Comanche Central Appraisal District encouraging the Legislature to enact a freeze on property valuations at the rate set in January 1, 2019 and not in any way implements 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.

Commissioners Gillette and Sides made the motion and second to approve the resolution to Governor Abbott 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. All approved. Motion carried.

Sheriff Pounds reported increased cost at the jail due to having to hold inmates longer because the state is not accepting inmates due to COVID-19. Some increased cost due to COVID-19 for personal protection may be reimbursable.

The county budget as it relates to COVID-19 was discussed. The timeline for the budget as it relates to Senate Bill 2 remain in place. The county does qualify for a disaster exception that allows the county tax rate to exceed the 3.5% rate as set by Senate Bill 2. Sales tax receipts will be down due to business closures which will also affect the County Budget.

The Comanche County Courthouse offices remain closed except by appointment only. Transactions are encouraged on line or by mail. Transactions with the Comanche Tax Assessor Collector's Office may be deposited in a drop box at the door to the Tax Office. Entrance to the Courthouse is permitted thru the north door or Grand Street entrance. These restrictions are for the protection and safety of employees as well as individuals coming to the Courthouse on business. There will be no in-person court sessions at least until June 1, 2020.

