

# COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

August 30, 2021

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 30th day of August 2021 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 Zoom.

Judge Stephanie L. Davis opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Commissioner Sides gave the invocation.

Commissioner Underwood made the motion to approve the Minutes of the August 23, 2021 Commissioner Court as presented. Commissioner Sides seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Public Comments; None

The Comanche City County Library roof and air Conditioning was discussed. Deborah Hanson, Librarian reported several water leaks were coming into the building from leaks from the roof. Comanche County notified the County's insurance provider to report damage to the roof from storms. Judge Davis was notified of the results of the insurance inspection as provided by Abercrombie, Simmons and Gillette. The report and photos indicated the leaks have been ongoing since 2016 and 2019 and show substantial aging and deterioration of the roof and revealed the roof condition has worsened. The insurance claim was denied because of damages from faulty or inadequate maintenance in addition to wear and tear or deterioration. Condensation lines from the AC system are broken and allowing condensation to drain on the roof. This provides adequate moisture to support the vegetation growing on the roof, which causes further damage. The Library has a maintenance agreement that should have provided for cleaning of the roof, but the photos indicated proper maintenance had not been done.

Two estimates for repair to the roof and AC were received. Texas Insurance Restoration Solutions, LLC recommended a full roof replacement as opposed to temporary patches or repairs. The total cost would be \$101,150.39. Vertical Roofing suggested cleaning the roof of all debris and gravel, use an emulsion to smooth the roof and then seal it with a silicone based roof coating. There are other systems that could be used but this is the most cost effective and easy to maintain. The Cost would be \$31,650.00. It was recommended to seek bids for the roofing project at the library since the cost will likely be over \$50,000.00. The City of Comanche will have to be consulted since they are half owners of the facility. No action was taken.

Locking the Courthouse dumpster was discussed. The public is dumping household trash in the Courthouse dumpster. The trash removal truck is also having issues getting to the dumpster due to vehicles and trailers blocking the passage to the dumpster. Clint Tunnell suggested the dumpster be moved to the County Annex at 215 N. Houston Street as it is an eye sore. The Court discussed moving the dumpster to a different location inside the square that would allow for more direct access to the dumpster by the trash truck.

Commissioner Gillette made the motion to place a lock on the dumpster. Commissioner Sides seconds the motion. All approved. Motion passed. No action was taken on relocating the dumpster without consulting with the driver of the trash truck to get the recommendation for a location of the dumpster to allow better access.

Public Hearing on the 2021 Tax Rate for the 2022 Budget was opened at 10:00 a.m. The proposed 2021 Tax Rate for the 2022 Budget is \$0.625729 per \$100.

William Richardson addressed the court with the question of how appraised values are determined. Judge Davis explained the Comanche Central Appraisal District sets the Appraisals and the only authority the County has is to appoint a portion of the directors to their board. Richardson also expressed concern over the influx of rural land owners, stating they are driving our property values up and will hurt low to middle income families. Richardson also expressed opposition to tax abatements stating long term abatements do not serve the county.

Peggy Moon and Jon Awbrey representing the Comanche County Tax Payers Co-Op spoke in the Public Hearing. Peggy Moon asked what the County needed the extra revenue of \$300,000 for. The discussion was the increased cost of every thing from office supplies to fuel. Judge Davis stated there is the possibility of 6% inflation rate next year. The only other option stated Commissioner Gillette was to cut services. And where do you cut from a lean budget.

Jon Awbrey stated he understood the position the State of Texas placed counties in. It forced counties to increase taxes to their highest limit or lose the possibility of future revenue due to the way percentage limit would act over a long period of time. Awbrey stated his production cost had increased 100% since 2009. Small businesses and families will be facing the same increase in inflation and effect to their business. He stated he opposed the tax increase and the county should understand the dangers that county business and citizens face and act accordingly.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to retain the optional Texas Department of Motor Vehicles road and bridge fee at \$10. All approved. Motion passed.

Commissioners Underwood and Sides made the motion and second to approve the Texas Department of Transportation County Road Inventory at 744 miles. All approved. Motion passed.

Commissioners Gillette and Sides made the motion and second to acknowledge the completion of mandated continuing education for 2 & 4 year cycles ending August 31, 2021 for Chris Pounds, County Sheriff. All approved. Motion passed. Pounds received a Triple Masters Peace Officers Certification, Telecommunications and Jailer.

Commissioners Sides and Underwood made the motion and second to approve the request for a Waiver of Local Match Fund Participation Requirement on Federal Off-System Bridge Program Project-CSJ 0923-17-091 Road CR 461 NBI Str, No 230470AA0216002 Local Desig. No. 050. All approved. Motion passed.

Commissioners Underwood and Gillette made the motion and second to schedule and announce setting the Commissioner Court Meeting on September 7, 2021 to adopt the Tax Rate. All approved. Motion passed.

Comanche County Planning; Notification has been received from the Texas Historical Commission that the Comanche County Courthouse Master Plan has been approved for the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program and will be eligible to submit a grant application in the upcoming rounds of the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. The next grant period opens November 5, 2021 and closed May 13, 2022.

a. The Texas A & M University Community Planning Core Group; No update

Comanche County Property:

- a. 215 North Houston Street, Comanche. No update.
- b. 211 S. Austin Street (CCMC Property); No update

COVID-19 Update. Contract Tracers are hard at work.

- a. Corona Virus Relief Fund Grant (Cares Act) No update.

Interlocal Agreement with City of DeLeon for CARES Act Grant. No Update.

- b. American Rescue Plan; Comanche County has been approved to receive Federal funds from the American Rescue Plan. No update

- c. Administrative COVID-19 Leave policy; No update

Courthouse COVID-19 Policies and procedures. No update.

Emergency Management Operations.

- a. Emergency Management, Homeland Security, FEMA Grants. No update
- b. Burn Ban; the Burn Ban remains in effect.

Sheriff & Jail Operations:

Sheriff Pounds reported employment openings for 6 jailers, 1 dispatcher and 2 deputies.

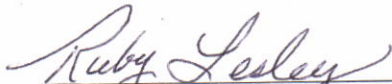
Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to approve the Comanche County Paid Quarantine Leave Policy for Peace Officers and Detention Officers. Eligible employees who are on qualifying paid quarantine leave shall receive all employment benefits and compensation, including leave accrual, retirement and health benefits for the duration of the leave; and, if applicable, shall be reimbursed for reasonable cost related to the quarantine, including lodging, medical and transportation. An employee on qualifying paid quarantine leave will not have their leave balances reduced. The qualifying employee should discuss the above benefits with their supervisor, and supervisor approval will be final. Off duty exposure will not be covered under this policy. All approved. Motion passed.

The Budget Workshop was conducted for all budgets/departments.

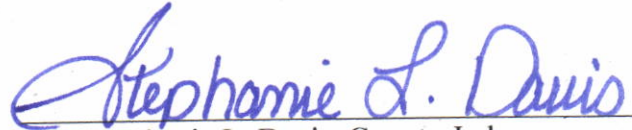
There being no further business to come before the Court, Court was adjourned this the 30th day of August, 2021 with a motion by Commissioner Sides and a second by Commissioner Underwood. All approved. Motion passed.

The foregoing minutes will be considered for approval by the Comanche County Commissioners' Court on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

Attest:



Ruby Lesley, County Clerk



Stephanie L. Davis, County Judge

