

# COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

**December 23, 2019**

BE IT REMEMBERED That the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 23rd day of December, 2019 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; and Jimmy Dale Johnson, Commissioner Precinct #4.

Judge Stephanie L. Davis opened the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Commissioner Underwood gave the invocation.

Commissioner Sides made the motion to approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2019 Commissioners' Court Meeting as presented. Commissioner Gillette seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

No public comment was received.

Officers Reports will be considered at a later date.

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

There were no Emergency Amendments filed.

Commissioners Gillette and Johnson made the motion and second to audit accounts due and owing and approve payment thereof in the amount of \$166,675.40. All approved. Motion carried.

Rachel Hackman presented information about the 40 Days for Life Campaign. The organization started in 2007 in the Bryan/College Station area with the goal to end abortions. The campaign offers prayers and information for those individuals considering abortion. The campaign is not in protest but rather offers prayers and healing. The 40 day for Life Campaign is for the period beginning February 26 thru April 5, 2020 and will be conducted in approximately 505 cities. Hackman is requesting permission to hold a 40 Day for Life outreach in front of the Courthouse.

Judge Davis stated she is in the process of updating the application to request events to be held on the Courthouse square and suggested no decision be made on this request until the uniform application is updated.

Judge Davis made the motion to consider this request on January 13, 2020 after the application is updated. Commissioner Sides made the second to the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Sheriff Pounds gave a brief s statement saying everything was going well at the Jail before leaving the meeting. Deputy Henson assumed Sheriff Pound's place in Commissioners' Court.

In an update to the County purchase of the Ranger College property at 215 N. Houston Street and the Mazurek property described as a portion of Block 6 Original Addition, Judge Davis reported both deeds have been signed.

Commissioners Gillette and Johnson made the motion and second to ratify the payment to Comanche County Abstract in the amount of \$125,321.50 and \$187.50 surveyor fees for the purchase of the property at 215 N. Houston Street, Comanche, TX from Ranger College. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Sides and Underwood made the motion and second to ratify the payment to CIMA Abstract in the amount of \$16,434.00 for the purchase of property, a portion of Block 6, Original Addition, Comanche, TX from Charles Mazurek. All approved. Motion carried.

Judge Davis gave an update on the progress of the Master Plans for the Courthouse and Old Cora. A Structural Engineer will be here January 10, 2020 to make an evaluation of the Courthouse.

Texas Association of Counties clarified the County insurance regarding the use of portable heaters in some Courthouse offices and the Annex. Radiator type heaters could be allowed. A policy for the use of these heaters will be developed and presented to Commissioners' Court for approval at a later date

Commissioner Johnson made the motion to approve the Commissioner Court calendar days and venue for 2020. All approved. Motion carried.

Meetings will be conducted on the second and fourth Mondays of each month except for the months of July, August and September when meeting will be held every Monday of these months. Commissioners' Court will convene in the County Courtroom except for four meetings during the year then the Court will convene once at the Comanche ISD, DeLeon ISD, Gustine ISD and Sidney ISD.

A discussion of S.B. 944 which became effective September 1, 2019 concerning the Public Information Act for county elected officials and employees. This specifically relates to data retention of county business on personal phones or other devices. Under S.B. 944 everything on your personal phone is discoverable. A method must be developed to retain all calls, texts, emails, photos, and search engine history that relate to county business. Comanche County Commissioners' Court has considered a new policy to alleviate the burdensome requirement of S.B. 944. The county will provide a cell phone to all elected officials and each employee designated by their supervisor as a person that uses their personal phone for county business. The new phone will only be used for county business. Any request under the Public Information Act will require the employee to turn over the phone to the requestor.

Commissioner Underwood made the motion to approve the cell phone policy and the agreement to be signed by each person receiving a cell phone. Judge Davis seconds the motion. Judge Davis, Commissioners Underwood, Gillette and Johnson voted for the motion. Commissioner Sides voted against the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioners Johnson and Gillette made the motion and second to approve the Officials Bond for Craig Willingham, County Attorney. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Underwood and Gillette made the motion and second to reappoint Bill Lane as a Director to the Cen-Tex Rural Rail Transportation District for the term of 2020-2021 and authorize Judge Davis to draft the letter to the Cen-Tex Rural Rail Transportation District designating Bill Lane as Director. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Sides and Johnson made the motion and second to amend the list of members to the County Historical Commission, The names of Alfred Evans and M. Caroline Pinkard will be added. Removal of several names is also approved. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Johnson and Sides made the motion and second to approve the request from Central Texas Telecommunication for the proposed installation of a utility line on CR #254 in Precinct #2 at a depth of 42 inches. All approved. Motion carried.

