

# COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

May 11, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED That the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 11th 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 the Courtroom. Gary "Corky" Underwood, Commissioner Precinct #1 and Jimmy Dale Johnson, Commissioner Precinct #4 were present virtually thru Zoom. Tricia Grimshaw, Emergency Management Coordinator was also present thru Zoom.

Judge Stephanie L. Davis opened the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Commissioner Underwood gave the invocation.

Commissioner Underwood made the motion to approve the Minutes of the April 27, 2020 Commissioners' Court Meeting as presented. Commissioner Sides seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sides made the motion to approve the Minutes of the May 1, 2020 Special Commissioners' Court Meeting as presented. Commissioner Underwood seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

No public comments.

Jordan Perry, TXDOT Engineer Assistant for the Eastland Area Office, informed the Court that three bridges have been scheduled for replacement in 2020 in Comanche County under the Texas Department of Transportation Bridge Replacement Program. The intent is to upgrade these bridges to current standards. The bridge columns will be moved from the creek bed to help with erosion. This upgrade will give an additional 75 years of service for the bridges. Construction will start in September and take three months to complete. The three bridges include; CR 167 at Rabbit Creek, CR 327 at Nash Creek and CR335 at Walnut Creek. Perry requested the commissioners talk to the land owners to get an ok to extend the bridge five feet. TXDOT will make minor fencing realignments in conjunction with replacing the bridges. Temporary fencing will be installed during construction and will be replaced with permanent fencing when construction is complete. Perry also informed the Court the Duncan Creek Bridge on CR 419 has also been previously scheduled for replacement in 2020.

Grace Everhart, Tax Assessor/Collector requested approval to grant a pay increase for her Supervisor of Vehicle Registration and Title Department. Everhart stated money for the increase is in her present budget.

Commissioners Underwood and Sides made the motion and second to approve the pay increase for the Supervisor of Vehicle Registration and Title Department. All approved. Motion carried.

No action was taken on the Order for Sale of Fireworks for Memorial Day fireworks. No request has been made to sell fireworks for the Memorial Day holiday.

Sheriff Pounds informed the Court that the 2020 Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool Employee Safety Equipment Program has been delayed.

Bids for the purchase of two Sheriff's Office patrol pickups were opened. Two bids were received. Bayer Ford Mercury and Bayer Motor Company submitted bids. Sheriff Pounds stated the language of the advertised bid was not worded correctly. The bid specs stated the bid was for a greater than 5.0 liter engine. The language precluded Bayer Ford Mercury, Inc. from the bid process and did not allow competitive bidding.

Commissioners Gillette and Sides made the motion and second to reject all bids and re-advertise for bids with revised specs. All approved. Motion carried.

The Third Amended County of Comanche, Texas County Judge Declaration of Local State of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency was presented for approval. This Declaration eliminated conflicting language in the Second Amended Declaration. Governor Abbott removed the provision of confinement for up to 180 day for violation of the order for compliance with COVID-19 guidelines. The provision relating to confinement for 180 days was removed in the Third Amended Declaration.

Commissioners Gillette and Sides made the motion and second to approve the Third Amended County of Comanche, Texas County Judge Declaration of Local State of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency. All approved. Motion carried.

Judge Davis is encouraging everyone to complete their 2020 Census. It is important to count everyone. This information determines what benefits Comanche may be eligible for. Some rural areas may not have received the census form. The delay in mailing the forms has been due to COVID-19 and employees not being able to work. The census can be completed on line or by phone. The telephone Number to complete the census by phone is 844-330-2020. The website to complete the form online is "my2020census.gov".

No changes have been made to the Administrative COVID-19 leave policy. Each elected official may grant employee leave due to COVID-19 without Commissioner Court Approval.

County budget worksheets for the upcoming fiscal year have been distributed to each county office. Completed worksheets are to be completed by June 5 and returned to the County Judge.

The Comanche County Courthouse offices remain closed except for appointment only. Transactions are encouraged on line or by mail. Transactions with the Comanche Assessor Collector may be deposited in a drop box at the door to the Tax Office.

Work on the Master Plan for the Courthouse and Old Cora has been delayed by the current COVID-19 restrictions.

County Annex at 215 N. Houston Street and 211 S. Austin was not discussed.

Emergency Management continues to monitor COVID-19 in the county. As of this date the county has five or less positive cases.

All entities in the county are in regular meetings to receive updates on COVID-19.

The Comanche County Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs have recommended the Burn Ban remain in force.

Judge Davis made the motion to leave the burn ban in effect until the next meeting on May 26, 2020. Commissioner Underwood seconds the motion. All approved.

Sheriff Pounds presented the April, 2020 Sheriff's Report.

The jail had 1041 Inmate Days, 0 Contract days,

26 Book in/Release and 15 Sentenced.

Patrol; 432 Calls for Assistance,

56 Offense Reports and 10 Arrests.

Jail/Patrol; 210 Training Hours.

Employment; Openings; Jailer 1, Deputies 0 and Dispatchers-2 hired.

Sheriff Pounds reported a favorable report from the State Jail Commission after an unannounced visit. Every effort is being made to keep the jail sanitized to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Officers Reports will be considered at a later date.

Commissioner Sides made the motion to enter an Order approving the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month of April, 2020 with the total amount of cash and investments in the custody of the County Treasurer as of the period covered by this report was \$9,940,034.78. Judge Davis seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

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

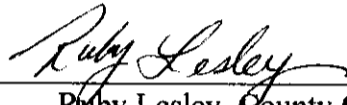
There was no Emergency Amendment to the budget.

Commissioner Sides and Underwood made the motion and second to audit accounts due and owing and approve payment thereof in the amount of \$94,967.91. All approved. Motion carried.

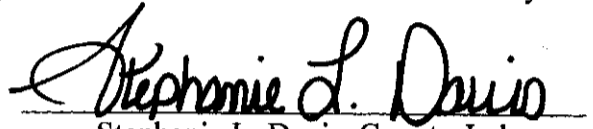
There being no further business to come before the Court, Court was adjourned this the 11th day of May, 2020 with a motion and second by Commissioner Johnson and Underwood. All approved. Motion carried.

The foregoing minutes approved by the Comanche County Commissioners' Court on the 26th day of May, 2020.

Attest:



Ruby Lesley, County Clerk



Stephanie L. Davis, County Judge

