

# COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

September 8, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED That the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 8th day of September, 2020 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 9:06 a.m.

Commissioner Johnson gave the invocation.

Commissioners Underwood and Gillette made the motion and second to approve the Minutes of the August 31, 2020 Commissioner Court Minutes as presented. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Johnson and Underwood made the motion and second to rescind the motion approving the minutes of the August 31, 2020 Commissioner's Court Meeting. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Johnson and Underwood made the motion and second to approve the following correction to the Minutes of the August 31, 2020 Commissioner's Court Minutes; the record vote from Judge Davis of "For" was added to the approval of the motion to approve the proposed tax rate for 2020. All approved. Motion carried. The Motion restated reads as follows; Commissioners Underwood and Johnson made the motion and second to propose a tax rate of 0.629960 per \$100 valuation for the 2020 tax year. A record vote was taken; Judge Davis-For, Commissioner Underwood-For Commissioner Gillette-For, Commissioner Sides-For and Commissioner Johnson-For. Motion carried.

No public comments.

Lisa Blanton with Globe Life Insurance presented information on insurance available to county employees. This plan would not replace county insurance already in place. The plan would be funded by the employee with pre-tax money. The premium would be frozen at the time of enrollment. Everyone receives an accidental death benefit and discount card. Globe Life also has final expense and critical illness insurance. Everything is portable; when the employee leaves employment the policy follows the employee.

Commissioners Gillette and Underwood made the motion and second to approve Globe Life making a presentation to county employees concerning Globe Life benefits. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to retain Sheriff and Constable Fees for 2021 the same as 2020 and approve reporting to the Texas Comptroller by October 1, 2020. All approved. Motion carried.

Patsy Phifer, County Treasurer reported on the option to defer payroll tax obligations for the period of September 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020 in light of the ongoing COVID-19 disaster. These taxes are not forgiven. The employee will be required to repay these taxes that have been deferred. Employees are eligible for this deferment if compensation payable during any bi-weekly pay period if pay is generally \$4,000 calculated on pre-tax basis.

Commissioners Underwood and Johnson made the motion and second for Comanche County to not participate in the Internal Revenue 2020 program deferring payroll tax obligations pursuant to the Presidential Memorandum issued August 8, 2020. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Johnson and Sides made the motion and second to acknowledge the Order from the 220<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge Shaun Carpenter appointing Lisa Lambert as Director of the Community Supervision Office for the 220<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Community Supervision and Corrections Department. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Johnson and Sides made the motion and second to approve the Joint Election Agreement between Comanche County and the City of DeLeon for the conduct of their November 3, 2020 General Elections. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Underwood and Gillette made the motion and second to approve the Joint Election Agreement between Comanche County and the DeLeon Independent School District for the conduct of their November 3, 2020 General Elections. All approved. Motion carried.

Sheriff Pounds discussed the need for Brown County to house inmates in the Comanche County Jail. This is mainly due to the backlog of Texas Department of Criminal Justice inmates held in the Brown County Jail.

Commissioners Johnson and Sides made the motion and second to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Comanche County and Brown County for inmate housing. All approved. Motion carried.

Judge Davis is encouraging everyone to complete their 2020 Census. Comanche County is below the state average for completion of the responses from residents of Comanche County. It is important to count everyone. This information determines what benefits Comanche County and Comanche County residents may be eligible for. Some rural areas may not have received the census form. Census information will be available at the local food banks and information will be mailed with your water bill. 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". The Census will end one month early, September 30, 2020. Texas officials are concerned counties will lose federal funding and loss of legislative representation due to the low response to the census. Comanche County is below the Texas average for response to the census. Census representatives are going door to door trying to complete census data.

The Komatsu Architecture Firm has finalized the Master Plan for the Comanche County Courthouse and Old Cora.

Mike Berry and Alan Lesley met with the Court to discuss the Texas A & M University Community Planning Project. The project will perform research, design and/or development of a comprehensive plan for Comanche County to ascertain the current condition and identify community assets, establish community vision, goals and objectives, and determine strategies to guide future development. The project will run from September 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021. A stakeholder group consisting of 8-12 county members will need to be appointed to provide input to the project. Cost of the project to be paid by Comanche County is \$37,500. Cost of the program can be funded with Capital Credits received from the Texas State Comptroller. Capital Credits are a result of funds sent to the State Comptroller by Electric Co-ops in the state as unclaimed funds. The comptroller holds these funds for three

years before allowing counties to apply for the funds. These funds can only be used pursuant to Section 381.004 of the Texas Local Government Code. Funds may be used for community and economic development programs. Alan Lesley, Manager of the Comanche Electric Co-op, stated this project is an ideal use of capital credit funds.

Commissioners Gillette and Sides made the motion and second to approve the Capstone Agreement between Comanche County and the Texas A & M University for the Community Planning Project. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Underwood and Sides made the motion and second to approve funding of the Community Planning Project with funds from the Capital Credit Fund pursuant to the Local Government Code Section 381.004 . All approved. Motion carried.

Judge Davis contacted Charlie Kearns with the Komatsu Architecture Firm to inquire about the cost of a floor plan to renovate the County Annex at 215 N. Houston Street to make it usable for office spaces. Kearns recommended setting up the mechanical part of the building for long term use and install portable partitions for use by offices from the Annex at 211 S. Austin. Partitions could be removed to accommodate offices from the Courthouse when repairs are made to the Courthouse. Kerns suggested meeting with the offices that will occupy the building to obtain their needs. It was also recommended local contractors be invited to participate in a walk-thru of the building in order for them to submit bids for the renovation. Kearns suggested his cost of the assessment would be \$7500.

Commissioner Underwood reported the carpenter contracted to make repairs to the County Annex at 211 S. Austin Street will commence work shortly.

Covid-19 updates are available on Judge Davis's Face book page.

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.

No updates on FEMA Projects. Work is underway to finalize the last projects.


The Burn Ban remains in effect.

There was a brief budget workshop. Joey Boswell, County Auditor, discussed setting up the HAVA Grants in the budget.

There being no further business to come before the Court, Court was adjourned this the 9th day of September, 2020 with a motion by Judge Davis and a second by Commissioner Johnson. All approved. Motion carried.

The foregoing minutes approved by the Comanche County Commissioners' Court on the 14th day of September, 2020.

  
Stephanie L. Davis, County Judge

Attest:   
County Clerk

