

COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

March 28, 2022

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 28th day of March, 2022 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 9:02 a.m.

Commissioner Underwood gave the invocation.

Commissioner Underwood made the motion to approve the Minutes of the March 14, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. Commissioner Sides made the second to the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sides made the motion to approve the Minutes of the March 24, 2022 Special Meeting as presented. Commissioner Johnson made the second to the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Public Comments; None

Donie Strube met with the Court to request a speed limit be established on County Road #335 in Proctor. It was stated heavy traffic and commercial traffic driving too fast cause a safety issue.

Commissioner Sides and Johnson made the motion and second to find 2100 feet between the coordinates 31.9864 and 98.4395 on County Road 335 meets the definition of a Residential District pursuant to Section 521.102 of the Texas Transportation Code. All approved, Motion passed.

Commissioners Johnson and Gillette made the motion and second to enter an Order of Commissioners' Court pursuant to Section 545.355 of the Texas Transportation Code to designate County Road #335 in Proctor is unsafe and should be lowered to the maximum speed limit of 20 miles per hour due to heavy commercial traffic. All approved. Motion passed.

Commissioners Sides and Johnson made the motion and second to rescind the motion to lower the speed limit to 20 MPH on CR #335 in Proctor as a Public Hearing is suggested. All approved. Motion passed.

Commissioners Sides and Johnson made the motion and second to set a Public Hearing for April 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Court Room to give public notice to lower the speed limit on CR #335 in Proctor. All approved. Motion passed.

Judge Davis made the motion to acknowledge the Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention/Awareness for the Public. Commissioner Sides seconds the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Representatives from CASA in the Heart of Texas stated a great need for Volunteer Advocates in Comanche County. Comanche County commemorates Child Abuse Prevention Month by highlighting Child Abuse Prevention and recognizing its valued Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), CASA Volunteer Advocates and the Comanche County Child Welfare Board. If you have a heart for helping children contact CASA or the Child Welfare Board.

Fain McDaniel presented the Annual Comanche County Historical Commission Report. The Commission is in compliance with the number of Commission meetings for the year, that being 4. Volunteers worked 2000 hours during the year. The County has 68 Historical Markers. The Amity Cemetery Marker was inspected after the wild fire that burned the cemetery. No damage was reported. Markers for the Comanche Depot, Sand Hill Cemetery, Old DeLeon Cemetery and the Board Church Cemetery markers were dedicated or awaiting designation. Markers will continue to be cleaned and maintained in the coming year. McDaniel was commended for the dedication of the members and their continued preservation efforts.

The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension update was presented by Donald Kelm, District Extension Administrator for the Central District 8. Dr. Kelm commended Mike Berry and Amanda DeAx for their work on all the programs during the year such as the Central Texas Dairy Day which was attended by 450. The Texas 4-H Youth Development Program awarded an estimated \$2.2 million in scholarships to high school seniors. In 2021, 36 youth from the Central District 8 were awarded \$421,500 in scholarships. The Texas 4-H Scholarship program began in 1959. Mike was recognized as wearing many hats, for his help on the Strike Team and helping with the wildfires.

Jeff Stewart, Spirit of Texas Bank and Jonathan Huseman, Stockman's Beef Processing, LLC appeared to request a letter of support for Stockman's Beef Processing, LLC project for the construction of a new beef processing facility through the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program. The facility will be located near Gustine, Texas and will be important for stabilizing our nation's meat supply. The facility will support economic growth and expand employment opportunities in the County. The facility will employ 80 workers. The facility will process beef only. The facility will provide a local slaughter house for local producers and cattle shipped in. The construction phase is estimated at 10 months.

Commissioner Sides made the motion to issue a letter for an Intergovernmental Support for Stockman's Beef Processing, LLC. Commissioner Underwood seconds the motion. All approved.

Commissioners Underwood and Gillette made the motion and second to approve Fire Protection Agreements with the following Volunteer Fire Departments, Comanche, DeLeon, Energy, Proctor, Promontory, Sipe Springs and Gustine. All approved. Motion passed.

Comanche County will contribute \$139,151.13 to the seven fire departments beginning October 2021 for a period of 12 months..

Commissioners Johnson and Underwood made the motion and second to approve the purchase of a F150, 4X4 Super crew pickup for Precinct #2 for \$45,755. All approved. Motion passed.

Commissioners Johnson and Sides made the motion to approve a Joint Election Agreement between Comanche County and the Cities of Comanche, DeLeon, Gustine, Comanche ISD and DeLeon ISD for election services for the May 7, 2022 Election. All approved. Motion passed.

This Joint Election Agreement allows these entities that normally hold elections on the second Saturday in May to have joint elections with the County which will have a Constitutional Amendment Election at that time.

Sheriff Pounds discussed the staff shortage. Staffing is not critical at this time but is approaching the critical stage. Employees are leaving to go to counties that offer a higher pay scale. Pounds proposed an incentive plan to help attract new employees and retain the current employees. Each current employee and new employee would receive a quarterly increase of \$250. Up to \$2000. Increase Certificate pay for a Masters Certification \$3000, Advanced Certification \$2400 and Intermediate Certification \$1800 until the next budget. Certificate level is determined by years of service plus level of training attained. Other Day, receive time and half for holidays. Comp time is unavailable at this time due to staff shortage. Funds for the incentive pay increases would come from the current budget and Covid Grant funds. Other days incentive is not in the current budget.

Commissioners Sides made the motion to proceed with Sheriff Pound's salary proposals. Judge Davis seconds the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

No update for the Texas A&M Community Planning Group.

There are no updates for the Annex at 215 N. Houston or the CCMC property at 211 S. Austin.

There is no update for the Corona Virus Relief Fund Grant (Cares Act).

There are no changes have been made to the Administrative COVID-19 leave policy.

The Burn Ban remains in effect as requested by the local fire departments.

Sheriff Pounds reported calls for service thru Dispatch increased by 50% during the wildfires in March.

Commissioners Underwood and Gillette made the motion and second to approve Officers Reports. All approved. Motion passed.

Commissioners Gillette and Underwood made the motion and second to approve Budget Amendments. All approved. Motion passed.

There were no emergency amendments to the budget.

Commissioner Sides made the motion to audit accounts due and owing and approve payment there of in the amount of \$224,287.11. Commissioner Underwood made the second to the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Court, Court was adjourned this the 28th day of March, 2022 with a motion by Commissioner Johnson and a second by Commissioner Gillette. All approved. Motion carried.

The foregoing minutes approved by the Comanche County Commissioners' Court on the 11th day of April, 2022

Attest



Kubyl Lesley
County Clerk

Stephanie L. Davis
Stephanie L. Davis, County Judge