

REGULAR SESSION MEETING MARCH 13, 2023

Be it remembered on the 13th day of March 2023 at 10:12 o'clock A.M., there was Begun and Holden a Regular Meeting of the Commissioner's Court in the Courthouse, in the town of Farwell, with the following members present,
To-wit:

Isabel Izzy Carrasco	Judge
Kirk Frye	Commissioner Pct. #1
Kenny White	Commissioner Pct. #3
Charles Wilkins	Commissioner Pct. #2
Sharon May	County Treasurer
Susie Spring	County Clerk

Absent: Casey Russell Commissioner Pct. #4

Also Present:

Eric Geske, Sheriff
Awyna Sanchez, Tax Assessor-Collector
Amy Dudley
Honorable Kathryn Gurley, District Judge
Jackie Claborn, District Attorney

When the following was had and done, To-wit:

Call to Order

1. Prayer

Commissioner White led the Court in prayer to begin the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Texas Flag

The Court pledged their allegiance to the flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas.

3. Open Forum for Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

4. Consider and Discuss the Court Reporter's Salary

Judge Gurley informed the Court that she had a good applicant for the Court Reporter's position. She researched salaries in our area and found that we were paying significantly under the area salaries. Salaries ranged from \$80,000-\$108,000. We have been paying \$50,000 for the past two

years. As she had previously told the Court, there is a pressing need for a Court Reporter for the Counties of Parmer and Bailey. She stated that we have been "surviving" by using contract reporters but they were hard to find and limited by schedules.

She would like to offer the position to this candidate but us asking to raise the salary to \$89,000. She would offer \$85,000 and if the court reporter's performance was acceptable over three months, raise that to the \$89,000. This would be paid for by Parmer County at 60% and Bailey County at 40%.

A discussion ensued in regard to benefits and insurance and to whether both Counties were paying their fair share. The increase would be \$23,400 for Parmer County and \$15,600 for Bailey on top of the \$50,000 60-40 split budgeted this year for the salary only.

The discussion continued that all expenses, including the benefits and retirement should be split 60% and 40%. Judge Gurley agreed to discuss this with the Bailey County Commissioner's Court.

Commissioner Frye made the motion to increase the Court Reporter's salary to \$89,000 with Parmer paying the increase at their 60% which would be a \$23,400 increase for this budget year. Commissioner Wilkins seconded and the motion passed by majority vote.

5. Consider and Discuss Request from District Attorney for Funding for a Forensic Accountant for Parmer County Felony Case

DA Jackie Claborn discussed a pending case that has been under investigation by the Texas Rangers. It involves possible fraud from a housing authority in Bovina. In order to have an accountant testify before the grand jury and in court, it must be a forensic accountant.

He was given a recommendation by the Rangers and has obtained a cost for engagement from that individual. Initial cost of \$4000 is needed to start the investigation with additional costs not to exceed \$7500. See attached.

After discussion and an agreement from the DA that he ask the City of Bovina to contribute half of the cost, Commissioner White made a motion to pay the \$7500 out of ARPA monies with the possibility of the City of Bovina contributing also. Commissioner Frye seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote.

6. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

Upon motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 27, 2023, by Commissioner Frye seconded by Commissioner White, the motion passed by majority vote.

7. Consider Approval and Payment of Accounts Payable-Sharon May

Sharon May reported the Accounts Payable List for March 6th and 13th 2023. Motion by Commissioner Wilkins, seconded by Commissioner Frye to approve Payment of the Accounts Payable as presented. Motion carried by majority vote. See attached.

8. Consider Treasurer's Payroll Report-Sharon May

Commissioner Frye made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Payroll Report for February 28th 2023, Commissioner White seconded and the motion passed by majority vote. See attached.

9. Update on Legislature and Election Issues

County Clerk, Susie Spring reported that 221 Election Bills have been filed so far this Legislative Session. All these bills are unfunded mandates. She referenced several that were of particular interest and one that makes the County Tax-Assessor and County Clerk responsible for all elections in the county. (HB 1306 and SB 742).

10. Update on Plats

County Clerk, Susie Spring, informed the Court that due to building in the County, plats were being filed occasionally. She stated that these plats would be brought to the Court for approval.

11. Discuss Security State Bank Providing Financing/Lease Arrangement for Procurement of Equipment

Judge Carrasco presented a letter from Carl Hahn at Security State Bank confirming their willingness to finance equipment purchases for the County. See attached.

12. Consider and Discuss Water Line Under County Road

Ricky Barnett made a request to place a water line at the intersection of CR J and CR 11 running diagonally from SE to NW. Commissioner Frye

made a motion to approve the water line, Commissioner Wilkins seconded and the motion passed by majority vote. See attached.

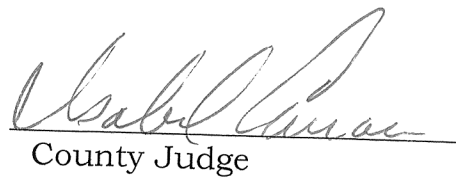
13. Consider Any and all Matters Concerning the Parmer County Law Enforcement Center

Sheriff Geske stated that the Parmer County jail is housing 18 inmates. Two are from Dawson County.

He stated he had nothing further to report and there were no questions.

With no further business to come before the Court, Commissioner White moved to adjourn. Commissioner Frye seconded and adjournment was called at 11:31 o'clock A.M.


County Clerk


County Judge

