

**Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court  
August 14, 2023**

Be it remembered that the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Hemphill County, Texas met in a regular meeting on this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

Those present and presiding were:

Lisa Johnson	-	Hemphill County Judge
Dawn Webb	-	Commissioner Precinct #1
Tim Alexander	-	Commissioner Precinct #2
Dale Schafer	-	Commissioner Precinct #3
Nicholas Thomas	-	Commissioner Precinct #4
Sylvia Guerrero	-	Clerk and Ex Officio Member of Commissioners' Court

Others present were: Sheriff, Brent Clapp, Treasurer, Kay Smallwood, Tax Assessor/Collector, Chris Jackson, Jail Administrator, Shannon Woodrum, County Attorney, Kyle Miller, Laurie Brown.

**Call to Order.**

Judge Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. She noted that all members of the Court were present.

**Approve Minutes from July 31, 2023.**

Dawn moved to approve the minutes from the July 31, 2023 meeting. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Burn Ban.**

No action was taken.

**Public Comments.**

No public comments were made.

**Budget Workshop**

Judge Johnson said the proposed budget was filed in the Clerk's Office on August 3, 2023 and posted on the County website. She said that the only change to the proposed budget was the salary to the Juvenile probation officer increased from 3% to 5%. She said it was brought to her attention that the State had approved a 5% increase to Juvenile Probation Officer's salaries. Judge Johnson said that the increase is offset from the supplement the county gets from the state.

**Set Salaries for Elected Officials for 2023-2024**

Tim moved to set salaries for Elected Officials for 2023-2024 as presented. Dawn seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Approve TCDRS contributions rate for 2023**

Tim moved to approve the TCDRS retirement contribution rate of 8.00%, employee deposit rate of 7.00% and Group Term Life rate of 0.13%. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Public Hearing on Proposed Hemphill County Operating Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024**

Judge Johnson opened the hearing at 9:12 a.m. She asked for public comments or questions concerning the proposed budget and none were made. The hearing was closed at 9:13 a.m.

**Adopt 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Operating Budget.**

Nicholas moved to adopt the proposed 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget which will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year by an amount of \$774,417 which is a 7.9% increase above last year's income. The property tax revenue to be raised from the new property added to the tax roll this year is \$26,841.36. Tim seconded the motion which carried unopposed with all Commissioners and the Judge voting "For".

**Public Hearing on Tax Increase that exceeds the No-New Revenue Rate but does not exceed the Voter Approval Rate.**

Judge Johnson opened the hearing at 9:17 a.m. She asked for public comments or questions concerning the Tax Increase that exceeds the No-New Revenue Rate but does not exceed the Voter Approval Rate proposed budget and none were made. The hearing was closed at 9:18 a.m.

**Adopt the 2023 Tax Rate that exceeds the No-New Revenue Rate but does not exceed the Vote Approval Rate.**

Tim moved that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of .3300 on M&O and .12 on Road and Bridge for a total tax of .4500, which is effectively a 7.9% increase in the tax rate. Dawn seconded the motion which carried unopposed with all Commissioners and the Judge voting "For".

**Approve 2024 Sheriff and Constable Fees**

Judge Johnson said the Sheriff is not requesting any changes for 2024. Dale moved to accept the 2024 Sheriff's and Constable's fees as presented. Tim seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Consider Sheriff's request for agreement with RCI Advance Recruitment Solution to recruit potential candidates for employment.**

Dale moved to approve the agreement with RCI Advance Recruitment Solution to recruit potential candidates for employment as presented. Judge Johnson seconded the motion. The motion failed with 3 votes in apposition.

**Approve 2023-2024 Commissioners Court meetings Dates and County Holidays.**

Dawn moved to approve the 2023-2024 Commissioner Court Meeting Dates and County Holidays as presented. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Announcements**

Judge Johnson noted that Hemphill County Library had donated stuffed bears that were created in one of the summer reading programs to the Perryton Sherriff's office. Perryton had lost all the bears during the tornado. The bears are provided to law enforcement so when dealing with kids they can hand them out.

**Future Agenda Items**

None were proposed.

**Approve Bills, Budget Amendments**

Tim moved to approve the July, 2023 budget and financial Report/Treasurer's Report. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Judge Johnson presented 2 budget amendments:

- 1) Trees-Other Complexes, 005-5-7018-0183, will increase by \$16,200.00  
Public Facilities R&M, 005-5-7001-0185, will decrease by \$16,200.00  
to cover the cost of removing the dead trees in the rec complex and across the street in front of the walking bridge.
  
- 2) Capital Outlay, 005-5-7001-0510, will increase by \$5,000  
Public Facilities R&M, 005-5-7001-0185 will decrease by \$5,000  
to cover the roof repair for the clerk's office.

Lisa moved to approve the computer-generated bills. Dawn seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Dale moved to approve the hand stamped bills. Tim seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Tim moved to approve invoices from Schafer Services for \$108.95 and \$200.00 Nicholas seconded the motion which carried with Dale abstaining.

**Adjourn**

Tim moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

The meeting took place at the city of Canadian, Texas on August 14, 2023.

ATTEST *Lisa Johnson* COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST *Stephen Green* COUNTY CLERK